

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

2-1991

Volume 19, Number 5

Post Amerikan

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WAR STORIES



POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Volume 19

25¢

Number 5

February / March 1991

ORDER NOW!

George Bush's

NEW WORLD ORDER

With Special "Kinder, Gentler" Feature

Yes!

I think anyone who hates war and suffering is anti-Amerikan and ought to move to Iraq! Please send me my own personal 'George Bush New World Order' so I can show the World my new found patriotic pride. Also, please personalize my Order with the following custom features:

I would like the following at-home crises to be overshadowed by events in the Persian Gulf

- The Deficit
- The Recession
- The Environment
- Poverty and Homelessness
- Persistent Racial Injustice
- The AIDS Epidemic
- The Abortion/Choice Issue
- other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Payment enclosed

Please add payment to the Deficit

Send order for New World Order to:
George Bush's Read My Lips Clearing House
Walkers Point
Kennebunkport, Maine 04046

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

McLean Co. Historical Society
201 E. Grove
Bloomington
IL 61701

BUY RATE
US
GE PAID
PERMIT NO. 168
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702



PAGE

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BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Volume 19 Number 5

February/March 1991

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NOW USING RECYCLED PAPER

Good numbers

ACLU	454-7223
ACT UP/CI	827-4005
AIDS Hotlines:	
National	1-800-AID-AIDS
Illinois	1-800-243-2437
Local	(309) 827-4005
Alcoholics Anonymous	828-5049
Bloomington Housing Authority	829-3360
Childbirth and Parenting Information Exchange (CAPIE)	827-6672
Clare House (Catholic workers)	452-0310
Community for Social Action	452-4035
Connection House	829-5711
Countering Domestic Violence	828-4005
Dept. of Children/Family Services	828-0022
Draft Counselling	452-5046
Lesbian and Gay Resource Phonenumber	438-2429
HELP (transportation for senior citizens, handicapped)	828-8301
Ill. Dept. of Public Aid	827-4621
Ill. Lawyer Referral	1-800-252-8916
Kaleidoscope	828-7346
McLean Co. Center for Human Services	827-5351
McLean Co. Health Dept.	454-1161
Mid Central Community Action	829-0691
Mobile Meals	828-8301
Narcotics Anonymous	827-3898
National Health Care Services—abortion assistance	1-800-322-1622
Nuclear Freeze Coalition	828-4195
Occupational Development Center	452-7324
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
<i>Post Amerikan</i>	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

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 new 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 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*.

What's your new address?

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: _____

Post sellers

Bloomington

Amtrak Station, Normal
 The Back Porch, 402 N. Main
 Bakery Banc, 901 N. Main
 Bloomington Public Library (front)
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main
 Emerson and Main Streets
 Front and Center Building
 Law and Justice Center, W. Front
 100 N. Lee Street
 Main and Miller Streets
 Medusa's, 420 N. Madison
 Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
 Pantagraph, 301 W. Washington
 The Park Store, Wood and Allin
 Reliable Drugs, Oakland and Morrissey
 Red Fox, 918 W. Market
 Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
 U. S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
 U. S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
 Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
 Washing Well, E. Front

Normal

Avanti's, 407 S. Main
 The Coffeehouse, 114 E. Beaufort
 Hovey Hall, ISU (Front)
 Midstate Truck Plaza, U. S. 51 (north)
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North
 North and Broadway
 White Hen, 207 Broadway
 Subway, 115 E. Beaufort

This issue of *Post Amerikan* is brought to you by...

Scott (coordinator), Vince, Angela, Pete, Peter, Deborah, Dino, Torri, John, Susie, Bill, Bumper, Ralph, and many, many others who keep us going with their endless support.

Deadline

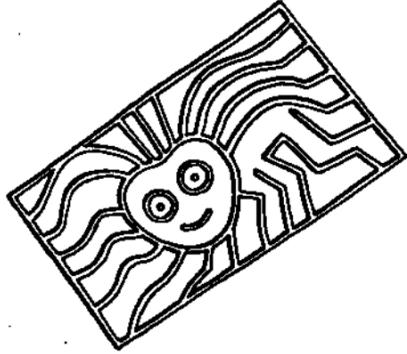
The next deadline for submitting *Post* material is

Monday, March 25, 1991

Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed in the next issue.



Community News



Keith Haring exhibit opens at University Galleries

Keith Haring: *Future Primeval* is an exhibition of 100 works by contemporary artist Keith Haring showing at ISU's University Galleries until February 24, 1991.

Despite his untimely death in February of 1990, Keith Haring's images of barking dogs, radiant babies, flying saucers, and endless permutations of the human figure continue to delight viewers of all ages and backgrounds. Haring's goal was to create an art that would speak to all people. His vibrantly colored paintings and energetic drawings offer both a playful view of contemporary life and an analysis of society through symbolic images.

While Haring's work is often discussed in relationship to Pop Art, the exhibition demonstrates that the artist drew on many influences, including ancient non-Western art, urban graffiti and abstract painting.

Drawing Connections: African, Peruvian and Melanesian Art, also at University Galleries until February 24, 1991, offers a demonstration of the visual and conceptual correspondences between Haring's work and the art of these earlier cultures.

Help bring Pacifica Radio to WGLT

In order to encourage WGLT in its decision to broadcast Pacifica Radio News, we are announcing the formation of Friends to Pacifica Radio.

Why Support Pacifica Radio News?

PRN is on the air 5 days a week, Monday through Friday, with Pacifica's special perspective on the news.

Pacifica Radio News has covered:

- AIDS: public policy and private pain
- The Salvadoran air war
- Lesbian and gay rights
- The Reagan Courts: Are civil rights and Roe vs. Wade history?
- Realities of the Contra war
- Apartheid on the West Bank

Considering the long months of war in the Middle East that may be our fate, accurate, critical news reporting is crucial to our ability to respond to events in an informed way.

A 128-page catalogue with 64 color plates and 120 black/white illustrations accompanies *Keith Haring: Future Primeval*. Catalogues and four-color exhibition posters are available at University Galleries and by mail order.

Many special programs have been organized in conjunction with *Keith Haring: Future Primeval* and *Drawing Connections*. As always, these events are free and open to the general public as well as all members of the University community.



February 5, 7:30 p. m.
Keith Haring: Primitive Influences. Lecture by Maarten van de Guchte, Curator, Krannert Art Museum.

February 9, 1-3:00 p. m.
Storytelling and drawing activities. For children ages 5-10. Please call for reservations.

February 19, 7:30 p. m.
A presentation by artist Kenny Scharf who attended the School of the Visual Arts with Keith Haring.

February 21, 7:30 p. m.
Primal/Neo-Primal: Music/Dance. Performed by faculty and students from ISU's departments of music and dance.

For more information, contact Peter Spooner or Barry Blinderman : (309) 438-5487



Pacifica's news programming has broadcast the heart of difficult and sometimes disturbing issues and includes perspectives not otherwise heard on the airwaves. Pacifica's commitment to world unity, intellectual and artistic growth, and the preservation of free speech has often brought the network strong creative and legal challenges. Yet, perhaps because of challenges successfully met, Pacifica has set new standards for quality and variety of programming and for innovation and courage in broadcasting.

So, please help to welcome Pacifica Radio News to our community with a tax deductible check made out to Friends of Pacifica Radio. As an additional benefit, all Friends of Pacifica Radio will become Friends of WGLT and receive WGLT's monthly program.

McLean Co. AIDS Task Force plans phonline training

The McLean County AIDS Task Force will hold a volunteer training session for phonline volunteers on Sat., Feb. 16th and Sat., Feb. 23rd. The sessions will run from 9am to 5pm and will be held in Fairchild Hall Lounge on ISU's campus. Attendance is required at both sessions.

Persons interested in attending the training should phone 827-4005 and ask for the Task Force. Trained PEER counselors are on duty 24hrs a day, 7 days a week to answer questions and provide information and referrals concerning AIDS and HIV infections. Calls are completely confidential.

LIFE-CIL has outreach for visually impaired

If you or someone you care about is 55 or over, has a vision problem, and lives in McLean, Ford, Livingston, or DeWitt county, help is available.

LIFE-CIL has an outreach worker who has been trained to teach independent living skills to individuals with visual impairments. Living with a vision loss doesn't have to be difficult.

For more information, call Kim at LIFE-CIL, (309) 663-5433.

The 2nd Annual Women's Choice Dance

The "If I can't Dance I Don't Want To Be A Part Of Your Revolution" Prom

A Fundraiser Sponsored by McLean County Voice for Choice and Rape Crisis Center

Tickets are available at the door or in advance from members of VFC or RCC. Suggested donation \$4.00 per person.

Saturday, February 9, 1991, 8pm-12am
Unitarian Church, Fell Room
1613 East Emerson Street, Bloomington

This is a Safe Place.

Since the basic membership level at WGLT is \$30, we would like to suggest that you contribute at least this amount. However, any contribution will be gratefully accepted and keep you a Friend in good standing.

Thanks!

Please make me Friend to Pacifica Radio

I contribute \$30 other

Name

Address

Phone

*Make Check Payable to ISU Foundation/Friends of WGLT

Send your checks to Friends to Pacifica Radio, c/o Curtis White, Dept. Of English, ISU



New bigotry

Just over 25 years ago, my father, George LaPrade, of Phoenix, Arizona, became concerned over a rising activist group that was growing rapidly in his home city. That group was the John Birch Society.

Dad was concerned about the group calling its opponents Communists and sending crank calls to ministers and others who challenged the Birchers.

In my teens at the time, I didn't really comprehend the menace such a group could foreshadow.

At least not until this year, when I read The Silent Brotherhood by Kevin Flynn and Gary Gerhardt. The book told of a racist and anti-Semitic hate group that robbed banks and armored cars and murdered Denver talk show host, Alan Berg, a Jew.

Reading the book, I was stunned to learn the group's founder, who ultimately was killed in an FBI shootout, got his start in hate politics by joining the John Birch Society in Phoenix! The Phoenix paper, the Arizona Republic--run by Dan Quayle's grandparents--not only refused to expose the Birchers but even ran a special Birch advertising section in its Oct. 25, 1964, issue. It was that insert that caused Bob Mathews, at 11, to get into right wing politics and ultimately start his murderous Silent Brotherhood.

Now a new rise of hate is on the move. And, as with the Arizona Republic, the news media is ignoring it. Even worse, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has said it will ignore this new wave of hate against a religious group.

The target group under assault is Catholics. In the past, Catholics have been denounced by the Ku Klux Klan. But now the hate is being fired up by Fundamentalist groups counting on the media to ignore what's

happening. Ironically, many of these Fundamentalists are more hateful and anti-abortion than many Catholic bishops ever dreamed of being. But since the media, perhaps out of support for abortion rights, tends to ignore attacks on Catholics, the Fundamentalists can attack without fear even though such attacks on blacks or Jews would trigger massive media outrage.

I first learned of this hate when, as a member of the Church of Christ--not to be confused with United Church of Christ--I received the bookstore catalog of Oklahoma City Christian College of Science and Arts (hereafter called by its better known original name of Oklahoma Christian College).

The Oklahoma City-based college, affiliated with the Church of Christ and heavily financed by Edward Gaylord, publisher of the Oklahoma City paper, was offering a pamphlet, "A Dangerous Doctrine."

I ordered it and found it to be really an anti-Catholic diatribe...not a mere comparison of beliefs, but a hate tract such as:

1. "If the Roman Catholic Church should ever become large enough and strong enough to dominate the United States of America, the rest of us would lose our religious freedom."
2. "Not only would a Catholic dominated America be in danger of losing religious freedom; it would also be in danger of losing political freedoms, such as freedom of speech and freedom of the press."
3. "The percentage of leadership in America under Catholic control is alarmingly high."
4. "Every non-Catholic needs to be vigilant on every front to keep the Roman Church from gaining further advantage."

The pamphlet carries the implication we should vote against any Catholic for any office and not promote Catholics who work in our businesses.

Then I learned the hate had reached Fort Worth. I got the catalog of Calvary Publishing Company. On pages 25 and 26 of the catalog are anti-Catholic books. One blames the Jesuits for starting World War II--a claim that would startle Adolph Hitler.

Another book states, "The Catholic Church triggered the Vietnam war and convinced a Catholic President to help."

Which raises the obvious question of whether Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon were paid agents of the Vatican.

Blaming our nation's problems on religious groups is nothing new. The Klan has done it with Jews, just as Adolph Hitler blamed Jews for Germany's loss of World War I.

A prominent Independent Baptist paper out of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, carried an ad for "The Vatican Holocaust," so I sent to the publisher, Ozark Books, for their catalog.

It carried books claiming John Wilkes Booth was a paid Vatican agent who was in a Catholic plot to murder Abe Lincoln.

I sent a letter to Billy Graham asking about this rising hate. The executive assistant of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association replied, saying, "Mr. Graham has attempted to present positive truths and refrain from the numerous conflicts which exist in our society... You will find that Mr. Graham will continue preaching the love of Christ and the way of salvation rather than become involved in the conflict to which you refer in your letter."

But this hate should concern Graham. It definitely concerns the Center for Democratic Renewal (CDR), which monitors hate groups including skinheads, neo-Nazis, and the Klan. I sent copies of the material I collected to CDR, which responded:

"We would like to encourage your efforts to monitor persons or groups that espouse such beliefs about people of different faiths... If you notice a continuation or an increase in such behavior, please contact us again."

I sent a letter to Sword of the Lord urging them to drop the ad for Ozark Books, but the managing editor replied, "We do feel that it is important to expose the absolute corruption of the Vatican system."

Maybe this is because Sword of the Lord gets full page ads from fundamentalist Bob Jones University (BJU) of Greenville, South Carolina. BJU supports Ian Paisley, the Presbyterian minister who helped ignite the Belfast violence more than 20 years ago with his anti-Catholic efforts. In 1988, Paisley denounced Pope John Paul II as the antiChrist during the Pope's speech in France.

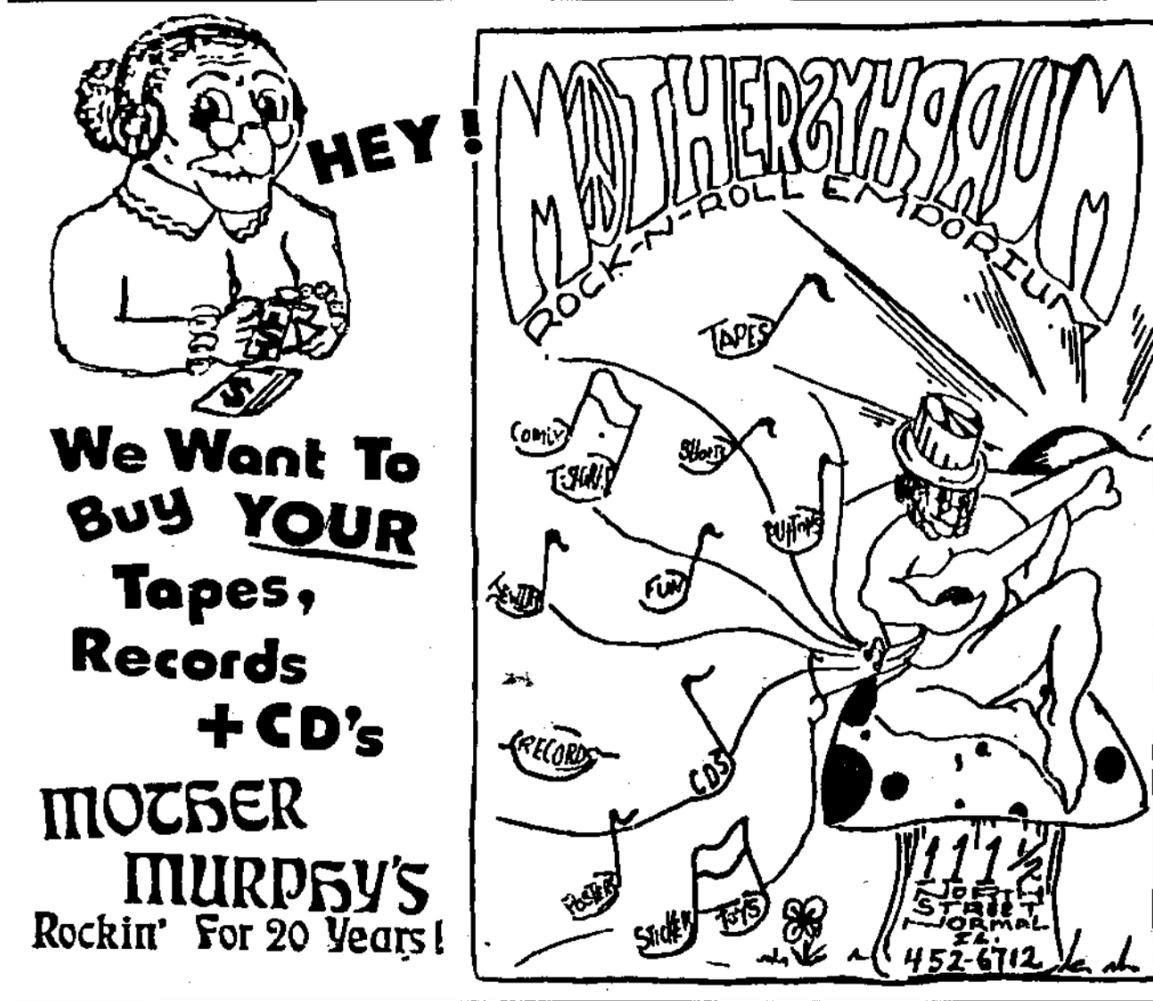
Paisley has been invited to speak at BJU on several occasions. A columnist of Sword of the Lord praised Paisley in his book, What Every Preacher Should Know.

Interestingly enough, when Wyn Craig Wade wrote his 1987 Klan book The Fiery Cross, he discovered that the Robert Jones for whom the college is named accepted a \$1500 donation from the Klan after a revival in Alabama. He also allowed the Klan to circulate their fliers at a revival in Dallas. Both events occurred in the early 1920s.

Since many Catholics, including bishops and groups like the Benedictines in Oklahoma City, are opposing George Bush's warlike efforts, there is a real chance the anti-Catholic hatred could be fanned into violence against a big part of America's anti-war movement.

--Steve LaPrade

Post note: Welcome back, Steve. We've missed you.



HEY!

We Want To Buy YOUR Tapes, Records + CD's

MOTHER MURPHY'S

Rockin' For 20 Years!



Peace through reconciliation

How would you feel if, at the age of twelve, you found out that you were going to spend part of the summer with two French professors in a town called Normal? This is a question which I kept asking myself last spring after my husband and I decided to host a child from Northern Ireland through the Irish Children's Fund, an organization which seeks "peace through reconciliation" by bringing Protestant and Catholic children together in a new environment.

As it turned out, it was a match made in heaven, and we all coexisted very happily together. Alex was the perfect child: happy, funny and thoughtful. I read feminist criticism at the pool while Alex swam, and he spent not a few mornings whiling away time at ISU while we tended to various administrative duties. It was a very rewarding experience for all three of us, and we learned much more than we had expected to.

The first surprise was that Michael and I experienced culture shock as well: the first day seemed endless, because even the most ordinary things were new to Alex. Nearly everything we ate was unheard of to him, but Alex was very adventurous, gave everything a try and liked it all, with a few exceptions. He thought our 1940s bathroom was "high tech" and later mentioned that it wasn't until two years ago that his family moved to a house with an indoor toilet. He was fascinated with the fireflies ("do I need a flash to take a photo of them?") and had never seen squirrels or blue jays. In the first few hot weeks of July, he was undone by both the heat outside and the air conditioning in most buildings ("I'm either roasting or freezing").

One of the first challenges was helping Alex cope with the firecrackers being set off in the days before the 4th of July. When you live in a neighborhood where there are regular shootings, kneecappings, riots, bombs and even the occasional rocket launcher, loud bangs tend to give you a heart attack. Thunderstorms remained very difficult for him to get through.

Although a little tentative at first, Alex soon revelled in the freedom to walk or ride a bike around; he loved the park and the pool. He told us that the playground in his neighborhood was very small and without much grass. He and his friends mostly play in the streets (though only certain streets). His gold hoop earring caused a small stir among the junior high crowd, and Alex would come to report to us with a smile how "those wee girls" had commented on it.

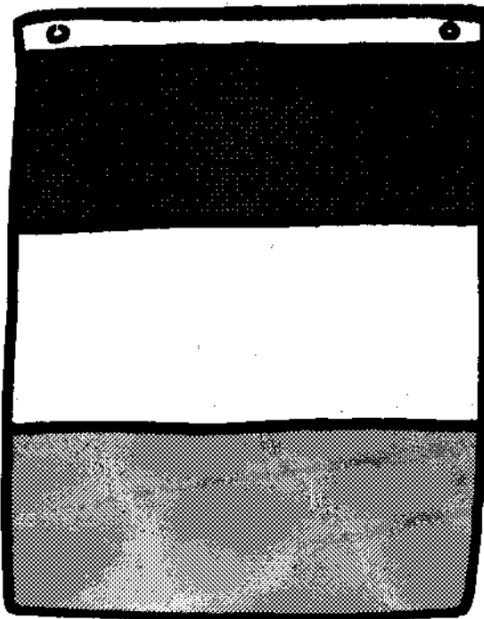
One of the most amusing aspects of his visit was the occasional (mis)interpretation of American culture. He was very excited about travelling to see "Saint Louise versus the Cardinals," and mystified us when he told us that the older Irish kids were not allowed to "detach". We eventually worked out that they were not allowed to take jobs detassling corn (because of the heat).

Upon catching a glimpse of a man in a suit in the corridor at ISU, Alex asked if that was the headmaster; another time he couldn't believe that we didn't dispense with unruly students by making them "write lines". Cultural exchange went in both directions, of course. One day soon after he arrived, I asked Alex whether when he said "yous" he meant just me, or me and Michael. He looked at me incredulously, and patiently explained, "I mean yous."

Although it was a pleasure to see Life in Normal through Alex's eyes, getting to know Belfast (which we had visited in 1989) through his sensitive and thoughtful perceptions was an even more rewarding experience. He loved to talk after dinner on the sunporch, and would make us a cup of tea. He was interested in

religious differences, and wondered why it was that if you married a Catholic your children had to become Catholic, but for Protestants the children were brought up in the religion of the father. He was interested in (but not shocked by) the fact that Michael and I are not only Catholic and Protestant, but English and American.

Oddly enough, he had never heard the word "prejudice". He talked about the gangs in his neighborhood ("it's daft, really"), the route he takes to school, the one street which leads out of his neighborhood "so you know anyone coming out of that gate is Protestant". Hints of the pervasive violence in Northern Ireland would come out at unexpected moments. Once we saw a Rolls Royce in a McDonalds parking lot. As we were wondering who would go to McDonalds when they could afford a Rolls, Alex said, "There's one way you could find out. You could go inside and say: 'Whoever owns the blue Rolls Royce outside, your car's just been petrol-bombed.'"



In general the attitude of the children in the group (there were 18 of them in the Bloomington-Normal area last summer) seemed to be that, outside of the context of Northern Ireland, religious differences were not a problem. However, once back home, any crossing of the boundaries was difficult to imagine. Alex became friends with another Protestant boy, Gary. There was a tragi-comic scene at breakfast one day after a very happy overnight visit. We asked them if they would see each other when they got back. They both denied this energetically, and each told us that the other was Catholic. Whereupon they simultaneously turned to each other and tried to prove that the other one was Catholic; and a moment later each was arguing that no, he was Protestant. (The proof of religion hinged mostly on neighborhoods and schools.)

Finally, at a loss, they turned to the two adults present, and asked us to reveal the truth of the situation. When we told them that indeed they were both Protestant, they were very pleased and immediately started making plans to visit each other. The interesting thing was that this discovery was a chance one; they had developed a friendship under the assumption that the other was of "the opposite religion," but had both fully expected to lose contact (apart from ICF-organized activities) once they were back in Belfast, although living only a short distance apart.

Establishing these kinds of connections is the first step which the ICF hopes for in bringing children to the U.S. Once they return to Northern Ireland, they continue to meet weekly (usually in community recreation centers). If after three years they have attended regularly, they return to the U.S. for a second visit.

There seemed to us to be a subtle difference in outlook between the 12 year old group and the 15 year olds. The younger children, while very street smart, seemed not to have a certain guardedness and cynicism which the older ones had acquired. No doubt life in Northern Ireland requires a deadening of the nerves after a while. This is something which we had noticed when visiting our friend Ciaran in Belfast. Every day there was news of a killing, sectarian shootings and bombings, and yet life went on. People have parties, wear the latest fashions, and drive nice cars which are routinely searched by soldiers carrying machine guns. In the three years that we have known Ciaran, he has calmly reported, at somewhat regular intervals, the murders of people he knows.

When we saw Ciaran in England just last week, our New Year's celebrations were not very optimistic. I was surprised at his nonchalance at the thought that his and our nations were on the brink of war. But then I realized that Ciaran and Alex have lived all their lives with the euphemistically-named "Troubles": while the world has largely lost interest in the ongoing butchery in Northern Ireland, war is indeed a way of life for them. And yet in quiet moments, both Ciaran and Alex have shed tears of pain and grief for what their country is doing to itself, and to them.

The ICF hopes to help the future generation of Northern Ireland to see that violence is not the best solution to differences of opinion. Studies done with the now-adult children who first came 8 years ago show that, slowly, these exchanges are making a difference. At the moment, as we ourselves are at war for economic gain, it seems more than ever that those children -- who take a very real risk in building positive relationships with the other side -- have a lot to teach us.

--Christine Moneera Laennec

For more information on the local chapter of the ICF, contact: Mary Jo Wulf, 662-5495. (They need host families for next summer.) To learn more about Northern Ireland, check out:
Dervla Murphy, *A Place Apart* (1978)
John Conroy, *Belfast Diary: War as a Way of Life* (Beacon Press: 1987)

UP FRONT g a l l e r y EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Feb 2-28 **David Stratton**
David Harvey
Peter Howells

March 2-28 **Anna Maria Watkin**
Laura Zinngrabe

March 30- **Mandy Morrison**
April 25 **Barb Burdett**
Judith Mason-Macomber

CALL FOR ENTRIES

"Pushing the Photo: A Juried Exhibition"
April 27-May 23

An exhibition of photographs manipulated in any manner, by any process.
Slides due March 9
\$5 per slide, no size limit.

For prospective, send SASE to:
UP FRONT Gallery
P.O. Box 4036
Bloomington, IL 61702

UP FRONT gallery
102 N. Center, 2nd Floor
Downtown Bloomington

Phone 827-3457
Gallery Hours:
12 - 4, Tues. thru Sat.



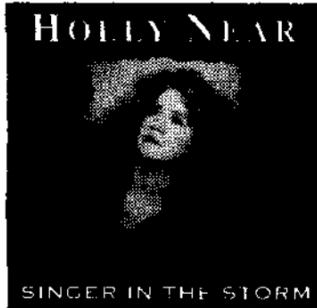
GALA plans spring events



The Gay And Lesbian Alliance (GALA) is once again holding weekly meetings at ISU. Tentatively scheduled topics for the semester include a discussion of hate crimes, guest speakers from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a poetry reading by ISU Professor of English James Elledge, and many others. Meetings are held Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. in 112 Fairchild Hall on ISU's campus. Meetings are a safe space and everyone is welcome.

The "main event" of the semester is Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week. Events scheduled for that week include the "Gay/Straight Rap," the infamous Gay Blue Jeans Day, and a discussion of "gay marriage."

Awareness Week will culminate with a concert by noted feminist singer Holly Near. Near will be performing March 29 at 8:00 at the Bone Student Center ballroom. Tickets are \$10 and will go on sale around February 1st.



Concert information on page 14.

Last semester GALA tried to establish a "lesbian caucus" to focus on and create programming that was lesbian-oriented and/or addressed lesbian issues. We are continuing that effort this semester and the caucus has had its first meeting. Please contact us if you want to share your input.

Also on GALA's agenda this semester is to increase participation by the various ethnic minority populations. There has been a general lack of interest from the African- Latin- and Asian- American communities and GALA has suffered for it. We need your input!

Also, toward the end of last year, many people expressed an interest in more social activities (picnics, parties, etc.) away from the weekly meeting. To that end, we would like to form a social committee to develop some events.

With your help we can continue to move GALA in the positive direction we began last year. If you are interested in serving on a committee or would like more information about any of GALA's programming, please call the Gay and Lesbian Resource Phoneline at 438-2429.

Information is being sought on "marriages" (commitment ceremonies, Holy Unions, etc.) within the gay/lesbian/bisexual community to develop the program on gay marriage for Awareness Week. If you are involved in such a relationship or have strong feelings either for or against "gay marriage" and would be interested in filling out a survey, please contact us at the Phoneline or at 146 Braden, Normal, IL, 61761. All responses will be kept strictly confidential.

The lawsuit alleges the defendants have violated First Amendment guarantees of separation of church and state. Plaintiffs further contend the standards violate New York's Patient Bill of Rights and were illegally developed without adherence to the provisions of the New York Administrative Procedures Act.

Former UPI reporter sues UPI and Christian broadcaster for sexual orientation discrimination

Lambda, along with District of Columbia law firm Bernabei & Katz, filed on November 29, 1990 a \$12.5 million lawsuit on behalf of Julie Brienza, a reporter for United Press International (UPI) who was fired after a right-wing Christian broadcaster brought pressure on the news company to terminate her because of her sexual orientation.

The suit charges UPI, Milwaukee religious broadcaster Vic Eliason, and the Voice of Christian Youth, Inc. with unlawful employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, intentional interference with her contract of employment, invasion of privacy and violations of the "hate crime" law of Wisconsin, where the Voice for Christian Youth is based.

Brienza worked for UPI for over four years, most recently in UPI's Washington bureau. In March 1990, after ensuring that freelancing work was authorized, Brienza agreed to write an article about the influence of the religious right on broadcasting for *The Washington Blade*, a D.C. lesbian/gay news weekly.

Brienza learned of Eliason's efforts to defeat a proposed Wisconsin civil rights law extending protections to gay men and women. Eliason is Vice President and Executive Director of Wisconsin Voice of Christian Youth. Brienza contacted Eliason to interview him. Upon discovering Brienza worked for UPI, Eliason began a campaign to have Brienza terminated.

Eliason contacted UPI officials to complain about Brienza's writing for a lesbian/gay newspaper. He then asked listeners of his radio show as well as of a nationally syndicated show on which he was a guest to jam UPI phone lines demanding Brienza's termination. In April 1990, despite its initial support for Brienza, UPI fired her for alleged violation of freelancing rules.

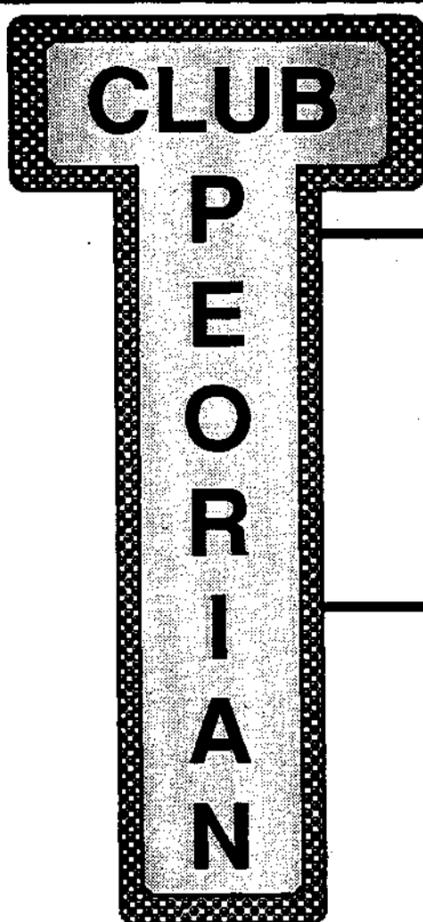
"It is ironic that UPI fired me because of Eliason's hate campaign against me, when I was writing about Eliason's First Amendment right to use the airwaves to propagate his campaigns," stated Brienza.

New York court upholds rent codes protecting gay family members from eviction

A New York appellate court ruled December 4, 1990 that a lower court erred in issuing a preliminary injunction against rent regulations that protect lesbian and gay surviving partners from eviction on the same basis as other surviving family members. The ruling left in place the broad protections established by the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) earlier in the year.

The Appellate Division, First Department, issued its decision in the case of *Rent Stabilization Association v. Higgins*, (N.Y. State Division of Housing and Community Renewal). The case now goes back to the lower court for further proceedings.

The court's decision followed last year's landmark ruling by the state's high court in *Braschi v. Stahl Associates*, which established criteria which define "family" according to the reality and diversity in which people live. In response to the *Braschi* decision, DHCR moved to implement regulations that apply to all rent-regulated housing.



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Lambda news

Lambda challenges New York State health care regulations

Lambda and others filed suit November 26, 1990, in New York State Supreme Court against State Health Commissioner David Axelrod and the New York Public Health Council. The suit alleges the State has abdicated its proper public health role in developing health policy for persons with AIDS or HIV to accommodate the views of a single religious group.

At issue are the standards of care which will govern State-supported residential health care facilities for persons with AIDS/HIV. Two of the facilities are to be operated by the Terrence Cardinal Cooke Health care center, which functions under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York. Plaintiffs allege the standards of care were weakened by the defendants at the urging of Terrence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center.

The standards permit residential facilities to refuse to distribute condoms or dental dams or to provide on-site numerous critical services, such as reproductive options counseling and appropriate gynecological care for women. The standards fail to obligate residential facilities to provide comprehensive HIV prevention counseling and to ensure that services are provided in a non-judgmental, non-discriminatory manner.



**Lambda
Legal
Defense
and Education
Fund, Inc.**

The Silver Mitre Awards

Essence refuses gay/lesbian ads; Lambda files complaint

Lambda announced November 27, 1990 that it has filed a complaint with the New York City Human Rights Commission on behalf of the Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum (BGLLF) against *Essence* magazine, a New York-based monthly publication aimed at African-American women, with over four million readers. The complaint charges *Essence* with discrimination based on sexual orientation, in violation of New York City's human rights ordinance, because the magazine at the last minute pulled an ad placed and prepaid for by BGLLF, fearing that "conservative advertisers might not approve."

BGLLF contracted to place a half-page ad in the January 1991 issue of *Essence*, publicizing BGLLF's Fourth Annual Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference. An order for the ad and a check in excess of \$6,000 was accepted by *Essence* and a contract was signed in Los Angeles. At the last moment, *Essence* Chief Executive Officer Ed Lewis refused to run the advertisement.

The text of the ad in question reads, "COME OUT! COME HOME!" and "TAKE PRIDE—with pride in yourself you can appreciate the difference in others." The ad included four photos of lesbian and gay African-Americans and announced the conference and its dates.

"It simply amazed us," stated Deborah Johnson, spokesperson for BGLLF. "Year after year and page after page, *Essence* illuminates the oppression of black people. It's untenable that this same magazine would turn its back on thousands of its readers by not allowing another part of our community a voice."

HIV-infected pharmacist wins precedent-setting job discrimination fight

The New York State Division of Human Rights on December 12, 1990 held that a major medical center had discriminated against a pharmacist when it refused to hire him because he is HIV positive. The decision orders his full reinstatement without restrictions, the first such decision ever nationwide on behalf of a health care worker with HIV.

Rejecting the Medical Center's claim that even a "theoretical" remote risk of transmission justified severe limits on the pharmacist's performance of certain job duties, Human Rights Commissioner Maragrita Rosa ruled that discrimination based on HIV status violates the state Human Rights Law, which prohibits discrimination based on disability.

The ruling comes on the heels of a recent incident in Florida where it has been alleged that a female patient became infected after being treated by a dentist with AIDS. Commissioner Rosa condemned as "comparing apples and oranges" the hospital's attempt to "misuse this tragic incident" as a basis for discrimination.

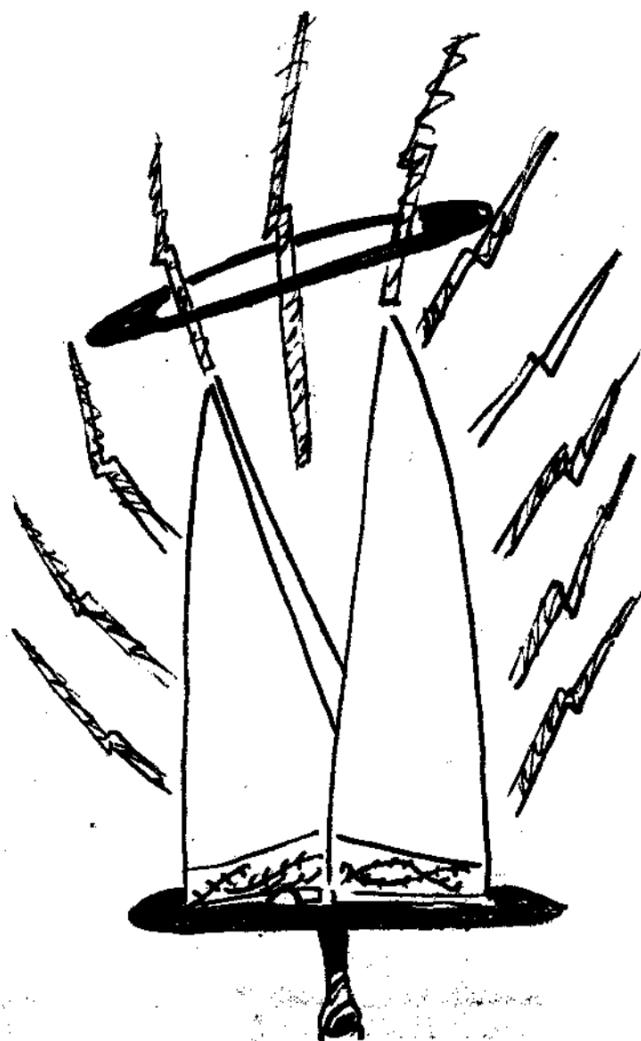
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is a national advocacy organization with offices in New York and Los Angeles. Lambda is dedicated to protecting the legal and civil rights of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons and persons with HIV/AIDS.

A couple of issues ago I wrote a piece on some of the problems I have with the institutional hierarchy of the Catholic Church. From the response I got from ex-Catholic friends and Catholic ex-friends, I'd say it was an interesting read. And so I have decided to inaugurate the Silver Mitre awards, a new semi-regular feature here in the P/A detailing the wild and wacky in the world of papism. And off we go.

The "Reach out and touch someone" award goes to the Vatican. According to Reuters news service, anyone with a telephone can dial a special number and hear recent papal speeches in English, Spanish or Italian. Calls cost \$5 for a two-minute recording, and proceeds go toward paying for the world travels of the head of the world's richest church. The number for the English language version is 1-900-230-POPE. And kids, get your priest's permission before dialing.

The "I believe that children are our future" mitre is awarded to Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. In that country, suffering through its worst economic depression in 30 years, the president spent \$140 million to \$300 million to build a huge basilica. That amounts to \$14-\$30 for each person in this country of 10 million, only 10% of whom are Catholic. Critics accuse the president of misappropriating state funds for the project and charge that the money would have been better spent on health care or education programs. Honorable mentions go to Pope John Paul II, for blessing the structure last September during a tour of Africa (paid for by whom, d'you suppose?), and to the police who clubbed worshippers as they left the first services.

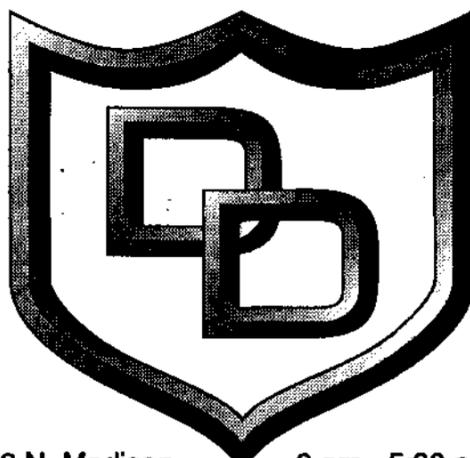
A very special "True Confessions" award goes to, from the looks of it, about half the priests in Georgia. Now stay with me, this gets complicated. Apparently a priest (name withheld by the church) allegedly had an affair with a parishioner named Vicki Long. According to Long, she bore that priest's child. The church denies this of course, yet for some reason pays Long a hefty amount of child support. The priest, racked by guilt, then allegedly revealed the affair to another priest in confession. This second priest then also allegedly had an affair with Long. Well, when the Archbishop of Atlanta hears about all this, of course he's beside himself because nobody invited him. He then allegedly starts an affair with Long which lasts over a year and culminates in the Archbishop's resignation in disgrace and Long's hospitalization from a drug overdose. I'd make some snide comment here, but it's just too damn easy.



The "Not in my back yard" silver mitre is awarded to the Archdiocese of Chicago for its unfortunately successful attempts to regulate the type of health care available in that city. The Archdiocese on December 19 sold a plot of land to Illinois Masonic Medical Center, one of only a few facilities in Chicago offering second-trimester abortions. As a condition of the sale the hospital was required to sign a pledge to refuse to perform elective abortions. I don't know, the way Vicki Long and the Georgia priesthood have been going at it, the church may change its mind about unwanted pregnancies in the future.

And that'll close out this edition of the Silver Mitres. Until next time, pax vobiscum!

—Horney Dilemma



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Peta News

What's In A Hot Dog?

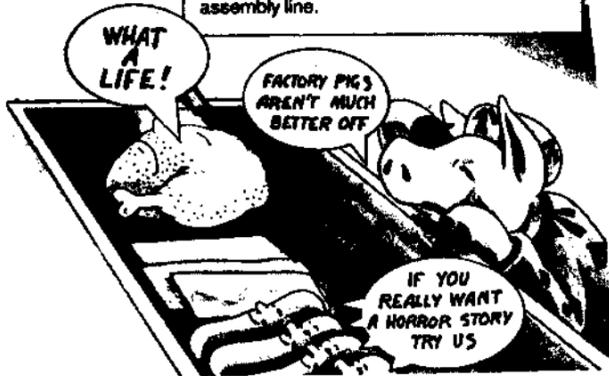
A typical hot dog contains 13 grams of fat and 145 calories, but what else is in that sinister cylinder? When neither the USDA, the Pork and Sausage Council, nor the Beef Council could provide PETA with a straight answer, PETA put the question to people on the street. The answers were great!

"Cows' brains. Anything they don't want to put on a plate," "Uh, the feet?" and, "Besides the roach eggs and pig feet, any other kind of slime" are some of the off-the-cuff responses captured by a roving PETA cameraman and played at vegetarian tailgate parties at sports events around the country.

Also on display at these popular parties were clear cylinders containing replicas of the best guesses of hot dog ingredients: lips, tongues, eyelids, and other unmentionables, floating with cockroaches and flies in a fatty, pink-tinged, chemical-laden stew.

The tailgate parties got sports fans thinking about the yuck-factor of hot dogs and other meat, introduced them to Tofu Pups, and encouraged them to lobby their local sports arenas to follow the lead of San Francisco's Candlestick Park, which provided vegetarian "dogs" at ballgames.

The broiler chicken is the most industrialised of all animal foods. It's a little meat machine, bred to live just six months in a giant factory, sitting in a cage, scarcely moving, almost always eating, under constant medication, pumped with growth hormones and, if it survives the stress, finally slaughtered by an assembly line.



Vegetarian PSA

Grammy Award-winning singer k.d. lang lent her sensational voice to PETA in the first-ever vegetarian television commercial. Said k.d., "If you knew how your dinner was made, you'd lose your lunch. I know--I grew up in cattle country. That's why I became a vegetarian. Meat stinks, and not just for the animals, but for human health and the environment."

k.d.'s words irked the North American "beef belt" so much that some radio stations banned her records. As activists demonstrated outside radio stations in support of k.d.'s right to free speech, other veggie rock stars like Chrissie Hynde and members of the B-52's, lent their support with telegrams and public statements. Paul and Linda McCartney said, "We support her 100 percent. Ban meat, not k.d!"

Beef consumption in the U.S. has dropped 25 percent in the last 15 years. And k.d.'s record sales are up. Ask your local television stations to air k.d.'s PSA (available free from PETA).

To Subscribe to PETA Send \$20 and your address to People For the Ethical Treatment Of Animals, PO Box 42516, Washington, D.C. 20077-4865.

(Anti-Vivisection Society News)

Boy Scouts to Benefit From Dove Hunt

The Central Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America has come up with a novel--and cruel--fund-raising idea: a dove shoot. Since public dove-shooting fields are practically non-existent in that part of the state, the scouts thought that they could make money from charging hunters for use of a 200-acre private lot.

For \$25/day, or \$75 for five days, hunters will be entitled to fire away at as many doves as they can bring down. The offer is limited to 100 hunters for the first five days of the state's season. If open fields in that area are truly limited, hunters could possibly wipe out all the doves in that part of the state.

If you are outraged at the Boy Scouts sponsoring an event designed to destroy our symbol of peace, please write to the following:

Mr. Ed Dore
Central Florida Council of the Boy Scouts
1215 Nebraska St.
Orlando, FL 32853-1084

Mr. Ben Love
Boy Scouts of America
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
PO Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Hunter Acquitted In Killing Of Woman.

You aren't safe from hunters--even in your own backyard. Two years ago a hunter in Maine mistook a woman hanging laundry in her yard for a deer and shot and killed her. A county Superior Court jury recently found the hunter innocent of manslaughter.

The victim, Karen Wood, 37, of Hermon (a suburb of Bangor), was the mother of twin 1-year-old girls. She was standing 130 feet from her home at the time of the shooting. Donald Rogerson, the hunter, testified that he saw a deer in the scope of his rifle and shot once. He fired again when he thought he saw the white underside of a deer's tail. Karen Wood was wearing white mittens.

Kevin Wood, the victim's husband, said he was "stunned" by the verdict. "I'm shocked that at least one of the 12 jury members couldn't, after hearing all the evidence, come to the conclusion that Rogerson was guilty."

In fact, not only was the hunter acquitted, but it was even suggested by some in the community that Karen Wood was at fault for wearing the mittens during hunting season.

Kevin Wood, who has since moved back to Iowa, criticized the way the case was handled. "I think more than Donald Rogerson was on trial here. I think the community standards of morality and integrity were also being tested. I feel sorry for the community because I feel they failed that test. Perhaps people outside the state of Maine will view this as I do, that Donald Rogerson was criminally negligent in killing my wife," said Wood, his voice breaking.

Three Deaths--So Far

The opening day of wild turkey season in Pennsylvania resulted in the accidental "harvesting" of three hunters by their fellow sportsmen. The Game Commission said it was one of the worst days for hunting fatalities that it could recall.



Last year in Pennsylvania, there were six accidental shootings of humans in all of the various hunting seasons. The Game Commission's statistics for turkey hunting between 1982 and 1989 numbered nine fatalities.

To Subscribe to the AV Magazine send \$10.00 to The American Anti-Vivisection Society, Attention Membership Dept., Suite 204, Noble Plaza, 801 Old York Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046-1685.

Leave home without it

In a recent newsletter, McLean County's Voice for Choice listed American Express as a company to support because of their pro-choice stance. Unfortunately, American Express does not consider the choices of animals. The company sells fur.

People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has been sponsoring a boycott of American Express for some time now. PETA suggests people cut their AE cards and not reopen their accounts until "the company stops peddling cruelty." If you do not have a AE card you can still send the company a message by writing FUR IS DEAD on one of their postage paid application forms.

Please don't think that by not supporting American Express you are endangering women's choice. It does not have to be one or the other! The oppression of marginalized groups is all connected. Send a SASE to the Post if you would like to receive an article about the connection between feminism and animal rights. Or read the book The Sexual Politics of Meat by Carol Adams.

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I never thought that I would miss the 1980's

I admit it. I did my share of badmouthing the 80s. I threw darts at my inflatable Reagan doll and dreamed of escaping to Sweden, but this, this crap makes the 1980s seem like a wet dream.

Welcome to the 1990s, my fellow oppressed, half-crazy friends. Hope you're all having fun. After all, what could be more fun than war, recession, governmental dishonesty and domestic unrest?

When this decade started, I remember dreams of a better world. King Ron was gone (way, wayTM gone), the Cold War seemed to finally be over, recycling was starting to become a favorite pastime nationwide, Justice William Brennan was adequately healthy, nobody knew or cared who the hell the Emir of Kuwait was, and the name Marion Barry still referred to one of the most respected civil rights leaders of our time.

But those happy days are over. And a sudden end it has been. It only took George two days after we all celebrated the dawning of this "kinder, gentler" decade to show exactly where he stood on the rights of a nation to protect its sovereignty when he ordered the invasion of Panama. During the invasion a stray U.S. bomb accidentally hit a hospital, U.S. soldiers were mistakenly hit and killed by friendly fire, and an undetermined number of Panamanian civilians and soldiers ranging from several hundred to several thousand were murdered. Surgical strikes can be such a sloppy undertaking. I think Dr. Bush deserves a malpractice suit for this one.

Trickling Down All Over The Place

As if that was not enough fun for one decade, the 90s have also brought us the budget blues that liberal economists have been predicting since the Voo Doo days of the 1980s. Bush reneged on his "no new taxes" pledge, out of desperation to cure our debt. Even Alan Greenspan is starting to call this nasty recession a recession, and unemployment is at a three-year high of 5.9 percent.

The unholy budget deficit was inflated by imperialistic wars (we'll get to Kuwait in a bit, don't worry) and haphazard international loans, but will undoubtedly be trimmed by burning the taxpayer and cutting social programs in future years.

Taxpayers will also be picking up the \$500 billion tab for the bailout of the savings and loans that folded in this fine decade. U.S. banks don't seem to be too far behind, and with Washington filled with folks like the Keating Five and Neil Bush's dad, it seems apparent why.

Preserving The Great White Male

Race relations have returned to national attention, but this time it is white, middle class Americans who are complaining about Affirmative Action and "reverse racism." This 90s style white rights movement, led by David Duke, Jesse Helms, members of Bush's education department, and a handful of *Daily Vidette* columnists, has done nothing except spawn further agitation, hatred and suspicion between people of color and the soon-to-be minority of white Americans.

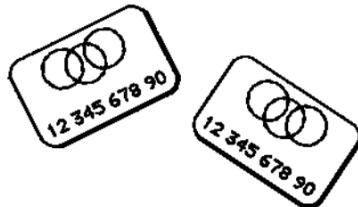
The feminist movement received the scare of the decade when one of the all-time great Supreme Court justices and overall human beings, William Brennan, was forced to call it quits for health reasons, ending an incredible career of judicial activism in which he

consistently defended a woman's right to a safe abortion and other feminist issues. New Hampshire nerd David Souter, long time ally of White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, has taken over. So far no real damage has been done, but there is no guarantee that Roe V. Wade will still be standing when you read this column. Let's just hope that Thurgood's health holds up, or better yet a feminist woman is appointed to court in place of, say, William Renquist.

Who's Sane

Internationally, the picture just gets uglier. Mandela was freed and Thatcher was chased out, but the Soviet government, longing for the good old days of Stalinism, has called in the "Black Berets" to crack down on the Baltic states' attempts for independence. Native Americans have had a rough going in the 1990s losing some crucial treaty rights cases in the high courts and facing off against golf fanatics in Oka, Canada. Starving Central American governments have learned the hard way that the only time they can receive U.S. support is if they are fighting some sort of "communist menace." And bloody revolt is still the method of choice for liberating a people. Which brings us to the moral of our story...

It's January, 1991. Only one year after Panama, less than twenty years since Vietnam, and here we are again. Like we never left. Like we never learned. Vague, hypocritical causes, sad, brutal deaths. Murder on foreign soil, war for peace, death for oil.

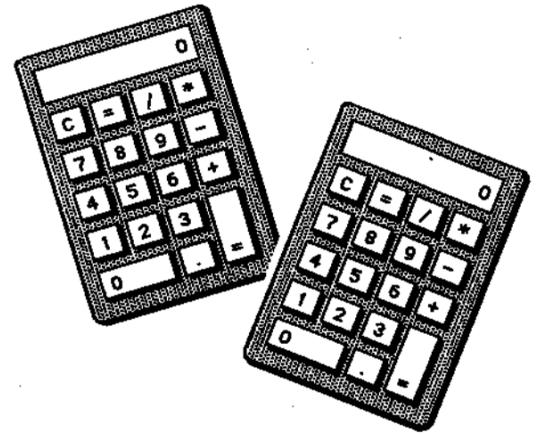


Depravity, fear, callousness, imperialism, hatred, violence, propaganda, confrontations, ignorance, and lies. And that is just what is going on over here in the United States - I can't even begin to guess what it is like for those Iraqis, Americans, and other humans following orders in the gulf or trying to stay alive in Baghdad or Tel Aviv.

To top it all, a domestic war between flag-wavers and protestors has erupted stateside, further confusing the troops and the American public as to who is really concerned about the welfare of the women and men in the gulf. Furthermore, the war has become Ted Turner's exclusive property, and this is a guy who can't even bring the Braves out of the National League West cellar.

Ghosts Of Christmas Past

And, oh yeah, the troubles of the 1980s are still haunting us. The Death Squad government of El Salvador and the apartheid government of Israel still receive millions in U.S. military aid. The U.S.A. infant mortality rate continues to be one of the highest amongst industrialized nations because U.S. health care is too expensive for the 37 million Americans lacking health insurance. Around 4 million Americans are homeless (one million of whom are under the age of 18), and the forgotten veterans of Vietnam constitute a disgusting portion of these homeless and institutionalized Americans.



There is still no cure for AIDS, and gay-bashing and woman-hating are still at the height of fashion. But it doesn't really matter much because the environmental destruction of this planet will soon bring an end to all of humankind as we know it.

So, I guess in retrospect, what I'm trying to say here is, "Have a nice day."

-Shadd

ACT UP/CI: One year of AIDS activism in B/N

ACT UP/CI, AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/Central Illinois, is celebrating one year of AIDS activism in Bloomington-Normal.

On Thursday, 14 February 1991 at 7:00 p.m., ACT UP/CI will be holding a meeting and informative gathering at University Galleries, Center for Visual Arts, on the campus of Illinois State University.

ACT UP/CI is a local chapter of the internationally known AIDS activist group that is taking responsibility to change the course of the AIDS epidemic. The group is made up of women and men from a variety of backgrounds and experiences who are united in anger and who are transforming that anger into constructive action.

The evening will begin with a short informative meeting about ACT UP/CI and the workings of the organization. Also, we will continue working on our current project, a proactive examination of health care available in McLean County for people living with AIDS. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved with ACT UP/CI is welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting.

Following the hour long meeting, people who are interested in AIDS and AIDS activism will have the opportunity to gather informally. Members of ACT UP/CI will be on hand to talk about the year in review and the year ahead. Also, ACT UP merchandise will be for sale.

ACT UP/CI organized and held its first meetings one year ago at University Galleries in conjunction with artist and AIDS activist David Wojnarowicz's *Tongues of Flame*. This year's anniversary meeting will be held during Keith Haring: *Future Primeval*. Haring, who died from AIDS related illness in February 1990, was actively involved in AIDS education and ACT UP/New York ▲



Through the bubble blindly

[Note: Much of the content presented here has been gathered from UPI wires (between 1/15/91 and 1/20/91) and rearranged for purposes of insightful juxtapositions and in hopes of provoking folks to realize much of the absurdity surrounding this war]

--The strangeness of it all begins with the boots...the soldiers don't have boots that are appropriate for the desert. Troops complained that sand leaked through their regular boots and that the boots' steel shanks burned their feet. So, while the government can get the batplanes together in plenty of time, they can't get enough boots over to the desert for the troops, much less get boots that are appropriate for the environment/climate. Boots aren't the only seemingly simple supply that the U.S. is short on. Watch footage of the troops and you'll notice that some are in desert gear, and some are in forest gear. A sudden rise of greenery in the Middle East, you ask? No, the U.S. simply ran out of desert colors and had to resort to using forest garb. More gear still needed by the military includes chemical suits, desert camouflage and battle dress, anti-chemical warfare injectors and anti-germ vaccine. A small note: Camel Mfg. Co. of Knoxville, TN, agreed to make 81,835 anti-chemical suits in time for Operation Desert Storm but government inspectors took nearly four months to approve the materials, leaving the firm a month behind in its production schedule.

--Transmissions, too (as in the kind that go in the trucks that drive the missiles around) are in short supply in the desert. Employees of GM's Allison Transmission Division in Speedway, Ind., are "working around the clock to supply the Army with transmissions for vehicles in the Persian Gulf." Plant spokesperson Dollyne Pettingill said Allison employees were working three shifts and overtime to fill orders.

--Given the recessionary state of the U.S. economy, a surge in wartime industry is certainly helpful. But wartime industry represents such a small sector of the national economy that increased business there can't really compete with the continuance of layoffs at larger U.S. plants. For instance, Ford Motor Co. suspended production for an additional week on Friday, 1/18, at its Dearborn, MI, assembly plant. Ford said Thursday it would suspend production at its Lorain, Ohio, Thunderbird/Cougar plant and its St. Paul, Minn., light-truck facility for an additional week starting Monday. Ford has already idled almost 27,000 U.S. and Canadian workers during early January.

--Anti-war sentiment increases proportionately to the number of wartime casualties (as with Vietnam and Korea). The results of a study by a University of Rochester political scientist show that "the number of casualties, rather than the length of war, has been historically the most important factor in the opposition to fighting." During Korea and Vietnam, opposition increased by 15 percent once casualties hit 1,000 and another 15 percent once the number increased to 10,000 casualties. This information, coupled with the military/media machine's reluctance to give numbers of casualties and fatalities--beginning on the day the U.S. attacked Baghdad--can only fuel cynicism towards those directing this war. In fact, a friend of mine who caught Radio Yemen on shortwave heard, from that source, that there were 25,000 casualties in Iraq on the first day of the war.

--News from your gas stations, where twinkies snuggle on shelves next to dusty candy bars: Although Chevron and Amoco, two of the major oil companies that put ceilings on wholesale fuel prices have now lifted the freeze, why did they freeze oil prices that were sharply dropping to begin with? It seems to be a "we'll freeze the price and hold it there for you, at more than it's worth" theory. Listen to the chair of Chevron, Ken Derr: "The suggestion by some that we froze prices to keep them higher than the market is the most ludicrous, irresponsible thing I've heard in a long time." Defensive? A bit.

--Ooops!! Paranoia is on the rise...in the wee hours of morning on the 19th, the U.S. Navy called a "high-status alert" twice because a swimmer was spotted in restricted areas at the Long Beach, CA, Naval Station. Navy divers embarked on what proved a futile search of the surrounding waters; spokesperson Steve Chesser said it was "unlikely an errant swimmer wandered into restricted waters accidentally."

--In more than one instance, the press, too, willingly takes up its chances to get in on the absurdity game. In a story reeking of inane/unfounded anti-Arab paranoia, UPI wire services reported on the increase of anti-terrorism security programs stepped up by the U.S. in China. The story runs like this: "The Chinese are also working to protect American and other Western nationals after reports that Iraqi diplomats made general threats and held long indoctrination meetings with Arab exchange students in Beijing, U.S. officials said." And two paragraphs later, it is reported that: "About 1,200 Americans live in Beijing and another 1,800 around China. Diplomats and journalists live in apartment compounds in close proximity--sometimes next door--to Arab nationals."



--You can't forget Bush's metaphor for war, blared into more than a few living rooms. He sort of "took over" an American euphemism used to degrade women, and applied it to the war: "It's never cheap, nor easy." Compare his statements to those of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The official Islamic Republic News Agency reported: "In a meeting with a group of common people...Rafsanjani described Thursday's attack on Iraq by the United States and its allies as a historical disaster." And more Iranians than one are speaking rationally (as it were): Mehdi Karubi, the hard-line speaker of the Iranian parliament, said the U.S. "has entered the Persian Gulf region to safeguard its vested interests and not regional peace and security."



--Before the Iraqi scud even hit Tel Aviv on the 22nd, Israel radio reported a 3-year old child suffocated from using a gas mask. Wartime panic also caused some Israelis to prematurely inject themselves with atropine, an antidote to poison gas which is toxic when used too soon; medical workers reported at least 74 cases of shock from unnecessary use of the antidote.

--Sick? but true...pride is abundant in the hometown (Watersmeet, MI) of Air Force Capt. Steven Tate, who is credited with shooting down the first Iraqi jet only moments into Operation Desert Storm. "Ever since he was a young kid, he liked planes," according to his father. Tate, who won the good citizenship award in his high school, joined the Marines immediately afterwards, graduated first from his boot camp and was promoted to sergeant in 15 months. In 1985, he graduated first in his Officers Candidate School class. In an interview on the 17th, he said, "I feel good. I never experienced this before. It's unfortunate that we had to go to war but I guess there was no other way."

--Jacki Pennoyer, in collaboration with Richard Jones

Statement: Bloomington/Normal Anti-war Coalition

An open letter to the people of Central Illinois:

We are people deeply concerned about the U.S. government policy which has led to this war. We are your neighbors, friends, relatives and co-workers. Above all we are people concerned about our troops. We do not support Operation Desert Storm.

To us, supporting our troops means returning them home as soon as possible. They are our friends, family and loved ones, and we need them here.

We are also concerned about the mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, and soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait, and in all of the Middle East. We believe a peaceful and just solution to this war can still be achieved. Sincere communication, negotiations and compromises are all better alternatives than continuing death and destruction.

To achieve peace, this diverse community group has joined together to voice out concerns by: organizing peaceful demonstrations, questioning military and governmental policy decisions, and educating the public and ourselves on the realities of this war. We will continue to devote all the time and energy necessary to realize a just peace in the Middle East and the safe return of our troops.



Twenty reasons to oppose the Storm

Do you think the war in the gulf is wrong? So do I. Here are some of the reasons why.

1) It gives false justification for the continued and unnecessary existence of a military-industrial complex that bleeds our budget and our psyches. Science and technology that could benefit our people is bumped by research and development for defense contractors.

2) It diverts public attention from the pending economic crisis, racial conflict, civil liberties and human rights violations, failing education and ecologically disastrous policies of this and other countries.

3) It reinforces the tyrannical notion that the executive office can act in foreign affairs as it pleases without need for approval of subject to debate, however there are those who believe that not only is it more efficient for the country if the president has sole authority in bringing us into war, but that this also was the intention of the believed that Bush was going to follow the UN Resolution no matter what our legislators voted for-he just wanted Congress to show Hussein that he was "supported" by the American people. No matter what the vote was. the fact remains that the "inflexible" approach to the crisis

making. In this world one ego is not enough to decide the fate of everyone.

4) The UN assumes the role as the deciding power in Arab affairs, when none of the five nations having veto power are Arab.

5) The theory that the United States must act as the police force of the world receives greater public acceptance. This type of thinking is what many Arab people fear and suspect as imperialist tendencies.

6) Once again the inconsistency of US foreign policy and the empty rhetoric of the current administration is clearly demonstrated. We insist upon democracy and free elections in East Europe and Central America (hardly), yet we run to the support of a feudal monarchy in order to return Kuwait to its "legitimate status." Kuwait and Saudi Arabia both oppress women and accumulate gross amounts of wealth within a small percentage of the population. Where were we in Afghanistan? What about the immoral government in South Africa or China's atrocities in Square and Lhasa, Tibet? What about Israel's continued use of violence to control the people it has displaced and segregated?

7) It profanes the word coalition. Coalition implies cooperation between equal partners in order to make decisions in the interest of everyone involved. The U.N. Coalition Forces are barely more than The U.S. Coercion Forces.

8) Our dependence on oil is perpetuated, in effect keeping with the status quo of unrenewable energy systems. In other words, we fight to keep cheap oil so the petro-chemical-automobile industries can continue to pollute and destroy the biosphere, while alternative renewable energy systems are marginalized.

9) It opens up a foothold for the Bush administration to argue its presence in the Middle East even after the smoke clears. We are now in a position to intimidate the Arab world with our proximity.

10) If the war is "successful" (in terms of pounding Iraq into submission) then George Bush will probably get re-elected (somebody help us).

11) It taxes the US Budget immensely (the key word here is tax). You and I will pay for Operation Desert Storm. Returning to economic sanctions now that the command and supply links are almost destroyed would be much cheaper monetarily and the needless loss of life would be avoided. The sanctions were working!

12) It breeds needless and avoidable fear in the lives of people everywhere.

13) It opens up the possibility of renewing the draft, coercing unwilling citizens to kill. But there is no draft, you say. Remember selective service? That was created for the sole purpose of having a pool of eligible 18+ year olds on file.

14) It perpetuates the myth that nations are defined by military prowess and international law (an oxymoron in itself) instead of by the people making up the society as a whole.

15) It reinforces the illusory distinction between self and other, us and them, Patriots v SCUDS, CNN v NBC, human being

16) Once you're gone you can never come back...

17) We are only pouring salt into a wound that has been festering since the crusades of times. At the root of this war, beyond all the political rhetoric, is the religious conflict between Judeo-Christianity of the West and Islam of the Middle East. Although our reasons have changed (from freeing the "holy land" from Moslem rule to protecting one country from

another) it seems that the outcome will be the same: western values and culture asserting

18) Violence breeds violence. When children watch adults behave aggressively they imitate such behavior. When so many parents try to teach their children constructive and peaceful ways of dealing with conflict, the war that we are faced with every day contradicts this message with the theme that it is ok to kill and that might-makes right.

19) There really is no suprise that a culture which freaks out over sexually explicit lyrics but sells violence wholesale would enjoy all the nitty gritty details of the war machine (minus the casualties of course). The media is engrossed with its role of being the Pentagon's puppet. We are being fed piece by piece the realities of war under the guise of a glorious and awesome war machine. Sometimes they just shove it down our throats, like the footage from a camera attached to one of the missiles as it hits its target. The effect is intoxicating. The kind of feeling you might get from eating raw meat dripping with blood, fresh from the kill. SEIT IT BACK OUT!

20) Fill in the blank...

--Philip



Reflections on war

All my life I have heard people older than myself say they will always remember where they were when they heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor or when JFK was shot or when Martin Luther King was killed.

Well, Pearl Harbor was bombed almost three decades before I was born. Kennedy predated me by five years. Martin I missed by just two weeks.

Now I have a moment to always remember. To my dying day I will recall that of all the ridiculous things I could have been doing, I was listening to Judy Garland singing "San Francisco" when the United States began dropping bombs on Iraq.

As I watched the first few hours of this war unfold, I was struck by the dichotomy between the sense of immediacy of the television reports and the sense of unreality created by the physical distance. In rapid fashion some of the other clashes of opposites followed.

The most immediate was the contradiction between those like myself who were and are working for peace and those who literally cheered when the war came. The most telling was the makeup of the demonstrators on both sides, with a near-total absence of people of color supporting the war. The eeriest was the calm on the streets of Israel in those first hours as opposed to the chaos in Boston and New York.

The one that frightens me the most is the ongoing division within myself as I hoped for a swift end to this conflict with minimal loss of life while at the same time hoping the war would drag on and that finally another hundred thousand Amerikan deaths would finally teach us the truth.

Ten years from now, assuming this stupid useless war doesn't escalate further out of control, the network news shows will do their anniversary retrospectives and perhaps I'll be on one and I'll tell my funny story about listening to Judy while the bombs fell. Suddenly I feel older than myself.

jmc



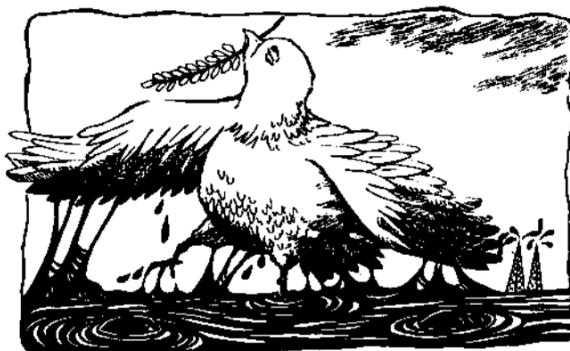
An ecological war

The year 1990 certainly was mixed when it came to environmental issues. On the one hand, there had been some incredible successes. Earth Day 1990, for example, educated people worldwide about the damages being done to the environment by humans. Soon after that we saw the passage of the Clean Air Act by Congress. Redwood Summer made the destruction of old-growth forests a nationwide issue. Most surprising was the announcement by MacSlaughter that they would phase out Styrofoam.

Has Amerika gone Green? Have we finally realized that humans are a part of this world and not apart from it? Are we seeing the beginning of serious efforts to save this planet?

Hell no!! How many Earth Day concert attendees are practicing deep ecology, or even know what it is? What does it avail if MacSlaughter stops using Styrofoam but continues its throw-away fast food philosophy? And all the demonstrations in the world won't stop George Bush from fighting for our right to waste a non-renewable resource faster and cheaper than anyone in the world.

The damage was not slowed down one bit through 1990. Trees are still being cut, greenhouse gases continue to blanket our planet, toxic wastes are still an acceptable by-product of our non-sustainable society and non-human animals are still being cruelly raised, tortured, murdered, and eaten for the benefit of one species of primates which hails intelligence above compassion and love.



As Amerika and Iraq continue their idiocy and the death toll continues to mount, I find it hard to understand why hundreds of thousands of protesters speak out against these very few deaths but have been silent about the many deaths that have resulted and will continue to result from our systematic slaughter of this planet. This conflict is puny compared to what we will face in the next few decades once the oil is used up, once our lakes have dried up, once crops have failed, once the rainforests turn to desert, once the ozone hole resembles a canyon, and once the oceans rise and 10 billion or more people are forced to compete for whatever is left.

The future has never been so uncertain. We may destroy Iraq, but we will soon create another problem to take our attention away from the real problems facing this world. And still as you were reading this article, thousands of animals have been slaughtered, thousands of trees have been cut down, thousands of humans have starved to death, and the world has gotten just a little bit hotter.

Happy New Year!

--Nature Boy

Judge not

Why do you see the stick in your neighbor's eye, but not the log in your own?

Jesus

We have seen the enemy, and he is us.

Pogo

George Bush has tried to make it clear that this conflict with Iraq is not about oil, but about Naked Aggression. He has tried to portray Iraq as a country which has committed incredible atrocities, and has shown blatant disregard for international law by invading a helpless country in an unprovoked attack. Furthermore, the leader of Iraq has proven his Hitlerian character through his cold and calculated use of chemical weapons on his own people--the height of barbarity. Given all of this, it is only reasonable to assume that this "butcher of Baghdad" will develop nuclear weapons and use them on Israel and the United States.

Certainly these are very powerful arguments. It is therefore not at all surprising to me that the Amerikan public has gobbled them up. But it is very important to realize that these arguments are also very typical. Throughout Amerikan history, Amerikans have tried to justify their violence by creating some sort of moral crusade (not unlike the Islamic Jihad). The tactic is simple. First you turn your opponent into a vicious seemingly undefeatable manifestation of evil. Then you hop on the moral high horse and beat the shit of him. The end result--Evil fails and Good triumphs, nice and simple.

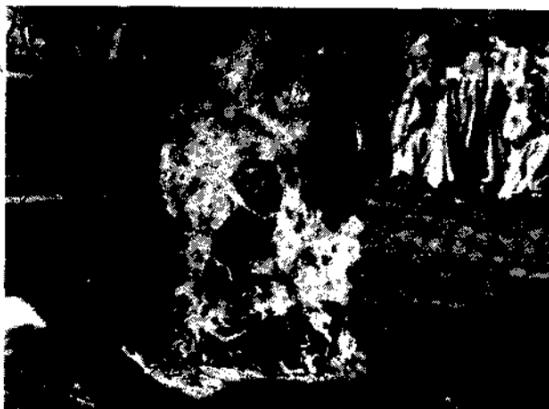
Certainly one can see the psychological reasons for this. Committing mass murder, as well as being victimized by it, is so traumatic to the human psyche that it cannot be done unless there is a damn "good" reason for it.

The problem with this simplistic analysis of the world is that things are rarely this black and white. Is the united world coalition one hundred percent good, and Iraq one hundred percent evil? Of course not! Many countries in

this coalition have committed unspeakable atrocities that Saddam Husein can only take notes from. Witness the Chinese suppression of the democratic movement in Tiananmen Square. And what of our new-found friend Uncle Assad in Syria? Is not blowing up innocent civilians in a passenger plane a form of Naked Aggression? And what do you call what Russia is doing in Lithuania--dressed aggression?

Amerika keeps trying to treat Hussein as the worst thing since Hitler. The fact is that there have been many people as bad as Hitler since World War II. This should be no surprise to Amerika, since Amerika created many of them, or at least supported them. The good people of the Samosa dynasty in Nicaragua were a fine example of this. To see what kind of lovely Amerikan-created manifestation of goodness they were, check out the book *Samosa*.

Other "good" Hitlers included people like Ngo Dinh Diem in Vietnam. His wife was not much better. She was the one who wanted to offer the Buddhist protesters in her country matches and gasoline so they would continue their self immolations in protest of this repressive American supported regime.



And how about Noriega and Hussein? They were not so bad when they were on our side. Finally, let's not forget everyone's favorite republican fuehrer, Ronald Reagan. Among other things, this man was one of the driving forces behind the CIA-created and -funded terrorists (Contra freedom fighters) in Nicaragua. And he certainly had no problem in supporting financial aid to the death squad government of El Salvador. If these are the good guys, who needs friends?

Any serious discussion of Hitler cannot fail to mention the attempted genocide of Jews, homosexuals, gypsies, Slavs and others by the Nazis. Certainly this is unprecedented? Actually, it bears a faint resemblance to the genocide committed by the Amerikan newcomers against the Native Amerikans. Although we have a better name for it; we remember it as "Thanksgiving!"

And now once again Amerika has jumped on the moral high horse and screamed bloody murder at the possibility that this madman could develop nukes. Never mind the fact that this technology was first developed by the God-fearing nation of Amerika, and to date has been the only country to use them--against its own people (Humans are all Humans! Killing people anywhere is killing one's own people!).

Even if he does not develop nukes, he has chemical weapons. Never mind the fact that the CIA has been performing psychological experiments on innocent people by putting chemicals in their bodies--without their knowledge. When I first heard this, I thought it was impossible. I never thought that even the CIA could be so barbaric. Until a CIA spokesperson interviewed on Larry King proudly admitted it. His justification was that the Russians were also doing it. When Larry King responded with, "So two wrongs make a right?", the CIA dude gave the Euphemism of the Decade. He said, "I don't like to look at it in terms of right and wrong. Rather, I like to look at it in terms of weapons development." God bless Amerika! It seems almost to be a compliment to be declared "mad" or "evil" by such people, let alone by the former head of the CIA, President George Bush!

No one is innocent of evil in this world. To put it in Christian terms, we are all sinners. We all have the potential of being Hitlers when we allow ignorance, hatred, and bigotry to run our countries. The sooner we realize this, the safer this world will be and the more likely we are to see that our enemies are not really all that different from us. Hopefully, this understanding will make it more difficult for us to obliterate each other.

--Bean Head



African-American Primer

D is for . . . Dusahaq

The Dusahakan are a nomad group in the West African Sahara. They speak Dusahaq, a language that is particularly interesting to study.

Dusahaq vocabulary contains words from all origins: African, Asian, European. In a single sentence, it is possible to find a Turkish subject, a Peulh verb, a Tamasheq preposition and a Russian object.

Very little is known about Dusahaq; as a matter of fact, no entry for it can be found in the most expansive encyclopedias. Even West-African linguists have not paid much attention to it so far. The non-Dusahakan are traditionally aware of the particularity of Dusahaq word-stock. The Songhay folklore, for example, contains many proverbial references, which only imply that it is impossible for a non-native speaker to learn Dusahaq.

--Mahomodou Houssouba

E is for . . . Education

Expecting exclusive coverage as he tries to read and write in ever-ever land, my boy Johnny isn't too dumb to realize that the world is full of error.

Yes, yes, yes, the world is full of excitement, encores, ecstasy and earthworms.

But, hell, Johnny's off to war.

Surprised? Shouldn't be. If you'll go back to last issue of the *Post Amerikan*, you'll recall that when we left my boy, Johnny, he still couldn't read. He couldn't write or talk right (right being white) either. You'll recall that *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines exploited the situation and turned Johnny into their top story because he was colored, Negrified and a brother. You'll remember how Johnny actually encouraged little colored girls who thought of committing suicide. These girls have remained confused, thanks to their continued problem in relating to today's fickle black men who see the Patriot as being something inside their pants.

Johnny was a hopeless case as well as a high school dropout. Like many of his homeboys, he was destined to spend the rest of his days doing the do and playin' the nutroll. But then he got the call from Bush one day while he was hoping to do the nasty. He was en route to becoming a black man with nothing (zero, zip), which is the most disturbing thang of all if you are a black female, when The Man came up and gave him his papers. Johnny was leaning up against the pool table looking rea-a-I cool when Uncle Sam came up and gave him some skin.

"Official orders typed on genuine, expensive, white onion-skin paper," the white man said. Like Johnny gave a damn.

Johnny took his papers and flew. First, he went home to his mama, and then he went straight to Saudi Arabia. They cut his curl and everythang, leaving enough oil behind on the barber's floor to keep prices down in United States until the war is speculated to end.

Cable News Network (CNN) was the first to use Johnny's services concerning the Crisis in the Gulf. Johnny was lying in his hammock, chillin' and thinking about women's behinds, when CNN called him up and asked him if he could speak about the war over satellite television. So he did.

They did his make-up first. Then, he went on air and said "hello" to his mama just like he had won the NCAA basketball championship. And, he told her to keep the hot-water corn bread waiting for him on the stove. When Johnny was finished on the air, he wiped the white powder off his face and was sent back to the front of the line where the ground troops stood ready for attack.

In the meantime, when asked about the latest war developments, Bush swore in a press conference that he had been watching CNN himself to get the updated reports. Bush was quick to add that this war would not be without "serious casualties."

A few days later, Johnny was within earshot of a Scud missile explosion and out looking for stray women to have sex with when the Iraqi forces picked him up out of the sand and put him back on television. First, they did his make-up. And then, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein fixed him up with an already-prepared speech. Once again, Johnny said "hello" to his mama, but added: "The war over oil is inhumane and has caused much grief to Afro-American troops in Saudi

who must watch with nappy hair the oil as it burns for naught in the desert." When Johnny was through, he took a clean rag and wiped away the crude oil that had been smeared on his face in order to make him appear even blacker, and Hussein told him that there was no longer a need to keep the sand on his skin since all of America had seen how ashy he was.



When Bush saw the video of Johnny he got hot. In another press statement, Bush said that if Hussein (Who's Sane?) thought that he could use these tapes as a ploy to stir dissension among the Allies he was "dead wrong." Afterwards and off camera, Bush told the Pentagon to keep the tape of Johnny a secret and to find and kill Hussein for using the White House's "nigger" for his own personal stuff. Bush later walks alone in the garden, wondering whether or not he should have shown the video of *Glory!* with Denzel Washington to Johnny before he left the States.

Meantime, Johnny is in Baghdad and he can hear the air forces and missile launches. Only one out of every 20 people in Iraq have television sets, but he is lucky enough to have one. Hussein is sitting behind him giggling with the rest of his staff while over the air the Pentagon reports a low number of casualties and troops missing in action.

"Lawd, save me, and I'll promise that I'll quit wiggling that thang," Johnny whispers to himself. As a Reserve, Johnny knows that he wouldn't be in the war in the first place if it were not for the fact that he was uneducated and had no choice but to sign up for the military in order to survive. This is now the big problem for Blacks. After all, they must now fight to save the hair on top of their heads, thanks to no fault of their own.

--Ricardo Cruz

F is for . . . Freedom

Freedom is one of the main tenets of American society. For the past several hundred years African-Americans have striven for freedom in many areas of our society. Many prominent black leaders have inspired our people to fight for equality and freedom in all arenas of American culture. These leaders have not been the only ones to rally blacks together in the fight for freedom of speech and the right to pursue a fulfilling and happy life.

Parents, grandparents, friends, ministers and other members of the black community have always tried to instill feelings of pride and integrity in black youth. Their message has often been that all African-Americans have the freedom to make choices about the course of their personal lives. The possibilities regarding career choices, personal goals, and community achievements are limitless for African-Americans.

The encouraging words of famous and not so famous black writers have historically motivated our people to action. During times of despair, poverty, and war, motivational messages can help to reinforce the goals and achievements that we must continue to pursue, to persevere, to dream. During this time of war and economic recession we must remember to meet adversity with integrity and establish ideals and goals to strive toward.

The tradition of establishing positive ideals and goals was set down by our forefathers and mothers brought to this country in bondage. Although we no longer languish under the master's whip we remain the beneficiaries of his cruelty. At this time when our young brothers and sisters are being sent to fight a war for a land that has not fully accepted us, we must remember that if we keep our eyes focused on a goal, we can achieve whatever goals we set for ourselves. The following poem is a simple reminder to strive for success.

It must be borne in mind that
the tragedy in life doesn't
lie in not reaching your goal.
The tragedy lies in having no goal
to reach. It isn't a calamity to
die with dreams unfulfilled, but it is a
calamity not to dream. It is not a disaster
to be unable to capture an ideal, but it is a
disaster to have no ideal to capture. It is not
a disgrace no to reach the stars, but it is a
disgrace to have no stars to reach for.
Not failure, but low aim is sin.

--Dr. Benjamin E. Mays

--Soncia Salter and Margot Vance



Feminist Primer

U is for ... Underwear

Underwear: The Personal is the Political

Yes, it is true. Even our underwear are expressions of our inner and outer political selves. Truly, you are what you wear. Underwear is a product of the capitalist economy in the U.S.A. and is presented to consumers in a wide and abundant variety.

Open any magazine or drive through any large city and you will most likely be treated to an underwear advertisement featuring a male athlete in soft cotton, revealing underwear. The ad tells us that we too can be the perfect man - money, fame, nice body, and, of course, appropriate and sexy underwear that will attract women by the droves.



Then we have advertising for women's "underwear" (which has been developed to include almost limitless numbers and types of items). Let's take a Victoria's Secrets catalogue for example (perfectly legal, free, and available for male or perhaps female fantasizing). Now, its name suggests several things: a store of this name is the same in any city - a Victorian woman's bedroom of sorts, with lots of floral patterns, perfumes, bath supplies, and other dainties.



Are we supposed to think that this was the true Victorian woman, and underneath her strict social and public propriety, she was a silky, sweet "whore," complete with erotic underwear? Do you suppose she was doing this for herself - in a self-nurturing sort of way? No dice! Then, as now, women are encouraged to dress like this for men's sexual titillation - she sure makes a pretty little package, don't she? What isn't mentioned though, is that all those sexy synthetics often cause rather unpleasant infections for the women who wear them, women whose bodies don't get enough ventilation.

However, a certain group of women have made a different choice and their underwear are as much a part of their identities as any other wearer. No respectable dyke would be caught dead in het nylon. These women know that cotton promotes better health, it is the natural woman's, the earth mother's responsible choice for her own body. Let lipstick lesbian sisters wear Victoria's Secrets under their fem frills. Dykes wear Jockey's for Women, preferably in shades of purple.

There still remain those women who wear men's underwear. Now these women fall into two very distinct groups. Within the past few years, on college campuses across the nation, young women have taken to wearing men's boxer shorts as shorts themselves. These women aren't laughed

at or accused of being "unnatural." In fact, some of these women have their sorority names monogrammed on their boxers - clearly defining them as not-marginal. There are, however, women who wear men's underwear for reasons other than fashion - as a personal choice and/or because men's underwear, for them, are not only more comfortable but also less expensive. Unfortunately, if anyone knew these women's "secret," they would risk ridicule at least and hatred as monstrous perversions at worst. After all, men's underwear are sacrosanct, and if women are wearing them, then how can we tell who wears the pants?

Then there are those social rebels who refuse to wear any underwear at all. To you brave souls, I send my heartiest salute. In underwear, as in all other things, refusing to choose is indeed a choice in itself.

Personally, I like the chutzpa of that most famous of underwear wearers, that woman/woman who has worn her underwear as outerwear. I'm speaking, of course, of Madonna. At least the political choices she makes in underclothing are an explicit challenge to traditional, conventional definitions. "Balls," said the queen, "if I had two, I'd be king!"

--Torri Thompson



A death in Missouri

Nancy Cruzan is dead.

Almost exactly eight years after a car crash on a Missouri country road put Cruzan into a persistent vegetative state, she died peacefully on December 26, 1990, the eye of a storm of controversy and protest resulting in the Supreme Court's first ruling which acknowledges a right to die.

Following the crash on January 11, 1983, Cruzan was taken to the Missouri Rehabilitation Center. On Feb 5 of that year, Cruzan was attached to machinery which would artificially feed her through a tube implanted in her stomach. Following attempts to convince doctors at the Center to disconnect the feeding tube, Cruzan's parents began a legal battle which culminated in a Supreme Court decision on June 25, 1990.

"Clear and convincing proof"

In that 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. Constitution "would grant a competent person a constitutionally protected right to refuse life-saving hydration and nutrition."

However, the Court further held that the standards of the state of Missouri--that in the absence of "clear and convincing proof" that a person would wish such treatment withdrawn the state has a compelling interest in maintaining that treatment--were

constitutional. The Court upheld a lower court ruling that such proof did not exist in the Cruzan case.

Starting over

In early November 1990, Cruzan's parents returned to court with new witnesses to once again ask for permission to disconnect the feeding tube. This time, the state of Missouri had withdrawn from the case and the only other opposition was Cruzan's court-appointed guardian. On December 14, Jasper County Probate Judge Charles Teel issued an order permitting the disconnection of the feeding tube. Cruzan died shortly thereafter.

Even after the legal battles ended, the personal battles continued. In the last weeks of Cruzan's life, anti-euthanasia and "pro-life" groups, including Operation Rescue, harassed the Cruzan family in and out of court in attempts to have Nancy reattached to the feeding tube. Nineteen Operation Rescue members were arrested as they crawled through the halls of the Rehabilitation Center toward Cruzan's room.

The Aftermath

In the wake of the Cruzan case, legislative and judicial reaction has continued to be mixed. In late November, a new federal law, which takes

effect in November 1991, will require every state to make adult patients aware of their legal options regarding the refusal of treatment should they become incapacitated. A Michigan judge has dismissed all charges against Dr. Jack Kevorkian, who invented a "suicide machine" and last June used it to assist a woman with Alzheimer's to commit suicide.

On the downside, the Missouri Rehabilitation Center is embroiled in another case with another young woman in a persistent vegetative state. This time the woman's father is seeking to transfer her to Minnesota, where it would be easier to remove her from life support. As of January 19, a Missouri appeals court has sided with the Center, barring the transfer.

The right to die will continue to be a complex issue. The best way currently to protect your rights and make your wishes known is through a living will. Contact the Society for the Right to Die to receive free copies of a sample living will and /or to make a tax-deductible donation.

Society for the Right to Die
250 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10107
(212) 246-6973

--Horny Dilemma

sources: Chicago Tribune
Pantagraph
Peoria Journal-Star
La Crosse (WI) Tribune



Dear Ms. Hippie



Note: The following letter was written before the war began. It's obviously even more relevant today.

Dec. 8, 1990

Dear Ms. Hippie:

My friends and I have a problem, and we need your help. We could go to a lawyer for the answer to this problem, but lawyers are expensive, and we don't trust them anyway. Our problem: we are all of military draft age and believe that George and his cronies have a war planned for us quite soon (except for the rich, of course—they get to stay home and play polo and tennis). Well, to make a long story short, we are each strongly opposed to this upcoming war, and would rather spend our lives in a foreign country than to kill and die for a cause we don't believe in. However, we do not know which country to run off to. We don't want to make the mistake of choosing one that will arrest us and ship us back to the loving arms of our dear old Uncle Sam. The prospect of prison is just as bad as war, we feel.

But which country, Ms. Hippie? Which one would be best for our situation? We have heard that Canada would send back American draft dodgers this time around. Seeing that we may very well have to spend the rest of our lives in the country that we eventually choose, we would be quite grateful to you if you could recommend some pleasant, non-aligned countries that we could choose from.

Don't get us wrong, Ms. Hippie. We are not cowards. And we are not unpatriotic. We simply refuse to kill and die for cheap oil (hell, none of us can even afford to buy a car) and George B's reputation and image while the rich boys get to stay home. This war will be in the interests of the rich only, both American and Arab. And speaking of our Arab allies, let's take a look at our dear friends in Saudi Arabia and what it's like over there:

1. Saudi women are not allowed to drive cars, by law.
2. Rock music is banned, by law. No alcohol either.
3. Slavery was not abolished until 1962 (just think--Wally and the Beave could have gone over there and bought a slave girl).
4. And remember Idi Amin? The butcher-dictator who happily tortured and slaughtered thousands of his fellow Ugandans before starting a war with Tanzania? Guess where he is living these days? That's right. In Saudi Arabia under government protection (Bush will treat Noriega like a horrible war criminal and compare Saddam Hussein to Hitler, yet he will send nearly a half a million troops to defend a country which defends Amin. Strange).

And Bush wants us to die for all of that? Sorry, Mr. President, but not us. How about your son, Neil? Maybe if he is over in Saudi Arabia he won't be able to screw up our savings and loans institutions anymore.

So if you could kindly help us with our problem, Ms. Hippie, we would be very grateful. Just the names of three or four countries will do nicely, thank you. And you can be sure that we will take off for one of them the week our draft cards arrive in the mail. Thanks a lot, and remember--Peace, Baby!

Yours truly,
The Peace Kids

Dear PKs,

You have several options open to you, but you'd better get hoppin' right away.

The National Lawyers' Guild hot line number is

1-800-86NOWAR
(1-800-8666927)

The service is for men and women in the military, their families, and those who are concerned about the draft.

The hot line is providing on line counseling about conscientious objection and other discharge options, the risks run by going AWOL, preparation for the draft, networking with other families of soldiers opposed to operation Desert Storm, and a host of other issues. The Guild will provide callers with written materials describing discharge options in more detail and make informal referrals to local attorneys and counselors who can assist them with the specifics of their resistance to deployment.

The numbers for the War Resisters' League are
213-473-9732
213-679-2570
and the number for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors is
415-474-3002
Good Luck!

Dear Ms. Hippie,

Recently I heard a song by a group called Solo entitled "Hippie Chick." The message of the song was basically "no hippie chicks," which was underscored by someone in the video wearing a t-shirt with the word "hippie" covered by that red circle and slash that is the symbol of universal hatred. Do you think this is an isolated incident, or are we riding the crest of a wave of anti-hippie oppression?

Sincerely,
Hippie Chuck

Dear H. Chuck,

What a crude, fossilized point of view. Ms. Hippie, having been a hippie chick herself before she became a rather hip grownup, believes that hippies are admired, even revered, among the more acceptable types of young people today.

And don't believe this guff that all hippies stood around spitting on boys who came home from Vietnam. We protested the war, not the unfortunate boys who got caught in it. In fact, many Vietnam vets became hippies themselves upon return to the States, and many hippies allied themselves with the Vietnam vets' self-help movement when the Veterans Administration proved completely inadequate for the new, bitter, disillusioned, strung-out style of vet.

Dear Ms. Hippie,

When my roommate and I first got together, things seemed perfect. We had similar tastes in clothes, food, movies, politics, everything. Everything, that is, with one minor exception: he is a heavy-metal freak and I prefer new age.

IN CONCERT
HOLLY NEAR
With Jon Buccino, pianist

March 29, 1991
at the ISU Ballroom
Bona Student Center
Tickets available at the ISU Book Store
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For more info call (309) 438-2429

I don't know how we could have missed scoping out each other's CD collections before moving in together. We have separate rooms, so that at least is not a problem. But meanwhile I run screaming into the night when MTV's "Headbanger's Ball" comes on, and he is constantly drafting bomb threats to mail off to Windham Hill. Help!

Yours truly,
Crystal Man

Dear C. Man,

It's clear that you and your roommate haven't got your dominance pattern down thoroughly. Of course, the less aggressive roommate must simply put up with the more macho roommate's style of music. One would expect that the heavy metal fan is more macho, though that might be jumping to conclusions.

If you're not into sweaty territoriality, you might consider a compromise, however unAmerican that may seem. For example, have you thought of sampling sweet silence or the gentle hum of civilized conversation in the common areas of the house? Ms. Hippie highly recommends these relaxing atmospheres. She really is a grownup, and only rather hip.

Rape Crisis Center
of McLean County

We're a non-profit volunteer group whose main purpose is to offer assistance and support to victims of sexual assault and their friends and families.

Female volunteers answer your calls, but both male and female volunteers are available for crisis assistance, information and speaking engagements.

If you want to talk to one of us
Call PATH 827-4005
and ask for the
RAPE CRISIS CENTER



An open letter to Charlotte Bronte

Dear Ms. Bronte,

Well, here I am once again, closeted in my office at the university, trying to prepare a lecture on the first book listed on the syllabus for my "Women in Literature" class. As a matter of fact, we're reading one of your novels, your famous, greatly flawed, extraordinary, once scandalous novel, *Jane Eyre*.

It's eleven in the morning. As I don't have office hours for my students until 2:00 this afternoon, as all the reference books and secondary sources I need are here on my shelves, as this is the third time I've taught *Jane Eyre*, and quite literally the tenth time I've read the book through, you wouldn't suppose I'd have to think all that hard about what I should say to my students.

Mind you, I've absolutely no problem making *Jane Eyre*, although it was first published in 1847, relevant to my contemporary students.

I'm confident that I can walk into my classroom tomorrow afternoon and discuss the literary significance of *Jane Eyre* without even bothering to glance at my lecture notes. I can rattle on for 20 minutes about the Gothic Tradition and Victorian Popular Culture. And because the novel's literary and cultural context are important, I discuss the novel's references to the supernatural--ghosts and vampires and telepathic communication between the lovers, Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester--with some care. I take all kinds of pains to draw all sorts of pertinent connections to contemporary popular culture. A quick reference to television series like "Twin Peaks" and "Dark Shadows" usually makes that point clear enough.

Meat Markets and Economic Injustice

There's a commonly retold anecdote of the Victorian mother, who was asked by her daughter, who was about to marry, what she should expect and what would be expected of her on her wedding night. The mother replied: "Close your eyes, my dear, and think of the empire!" I often retell that anecdote as a preface to discussing *Jane Eyre's* open and unabashed discussion of female sexuality. Jane Eyre, though clearly a virgin until her marriage, struggles constantly not to repress her sexual drive, not to deny its existence or legitimacy. Rather she struggles--successfully--not to allow her powerful sexual needs and desires to lead her into being first a kept mistress, and then later into a bad marriage. She wants to preserve above all else not her virginity, but rather her self-respect. Little wonder the novel caused a sensation when it was first published.

Perhaps I should mention to my class that that scandalous reputation made *Jane Eyre* a best-seller in its time, bringing its shy, retiring author great fame, and as Jane Eyre would say, "some wealth." It made you, Ms. Bronte, that rare Victorian bird, a financially independent woman. God, how gratifyingly ironic you must have found that to be.

I know I can also talk impressively about the social and economic strait-jacket that middle-class women had to wear in 19th century England. After all, if a middle-class woman did not marry, the only "respectable" occupation open to her was teaching--either in a school or as a governess in an affluent and private family home.

However, from what I can gather from other Victorian "governess novels," as well as extant letters and diaries by women who actually worked as either teacher, governess, or both, neither seems to have been exactly a glamorous career option, a pleasant alternative to the marriage market.

And marriage *was* all but literally a market then, as I point out to my students. Marriage was the only really viable career option open to most middle-class and upper-class women. The professions--law, medicine, and generally business--were closed to them. If a woman couldn't marry a man capable of supporting her decently, she really had to scrape and struggle hard and long to survive.

Jane Eyre knows full well, however, that for a commodity to be marketable it must have market value, but that she, in her own words "disconnected, poor and plain," has none. And she says exactly that--not once but repeatedly. Jane Eyre is the original anti-heroine, and her outspoken, forthright criticisms of accepted social customs and institutions--marriage, the Church, male-female relations contributed mightily to this novel's scandalous reputation.

Should Jane Eyre be other than the tough-minded, pragmatic, shrewd reader of her own society that she is, should she forget her lack of beauty after she looks in a mirror, or her lack of money every time she opens her purse, everyone and everything about her would remind Jane Eyre that she cannot offer a prospective husband those things which have any value on the open marriage market: important relatives, a dowry, good looks.



To Your Battle Stations

These plot elements I can and do use to great effect in a classroom where I and my students gather to discuss the status and condition of women as its been portrayed in literature. Your novel, Ms. Bronte, makes a great departure point, precisely because Jane Eyre's first-person narrative lucidly articulates not only her personal pain and anger over her literal status as a poor relation. Rather, she carefully and repeatedly locates her personal predicament in a larger social context.

Her position derives very much from her sex, and her position is a shared one, as she soon learns when she enters the all-female Lowood Institution, that charity school typical of the time, set up to train impoverished middle-class daughters of the clergy as teachers and governesses, modelled on schools you attended and/or taught in yourself. Mr. Rochester refers to Lowood and places like it later as a kind of convent, and it was. Celibacy, sacrifice, ill-pay, low-status were the crosses women teachers were supposed to bear. Uncomplainingly.

But Jane Eyre complains. Loudly. She teaches and she teaches well, as you did yourself, because you knew its real value. And you also both fully understood that because women did it too--in increasing numbers--that teaching was rapidly becoming devalued. Neither you nor Jane Eyre would accept that devaluation and like it. Clearly both you and your heroine, Ms. Bronte, fully understood that the personal is indeed political.

So when I get to this juncture, where I turn my class to questions of individual experiences of sexual and economic oppression with my class, I always direct them to that famous, troubling passage where Jane Eyre, as she walks along the third floor gallery of Thornfield Hall, Mr. Rochester's remote country house, the house to which she has just come to serve as governess to his "ward" (actually, as we and she soon find out, his illegitimate daughter) Adele. She stares out a window looking over Thornfield's vast grounds, delivering a virtual manifesto of women's rights:

"Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties and a field for their efforts as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint, too absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer; and it is narrow-minded in their more privileged fellow creatures to say that they ought to confine themselves to making puddings and knitting stockings, to playing on the piano and embroidering bags. It is thoughtless to condemn them, or laugh at them, if they seek to do more or learn more than custom has pronounced necessary for their sex."

And if that, I tell my students, seems an anachronistic, frivolous complaint, then they should ask themselves how *they* would feel if they were condemned, literally and socially, as had been their grandmothers and even their mothers, to a married life of diapering babies and running car pools, playing bridge or pushing a vacuum from one end of the living room to the other, and generally living their lives for and through other people, measuring personal accomplishment only vicariously. Not just for a few years, say, until all the kids are in school all day, but for the rest of their lives.

So Who's Really The Crazy Lady Here, Anyway?

The mystery then of *Jane Eyre*, one student in my last semester's "Women in Literature" class remarked, after I made that observation, was not *who* the madwoman in Mr. Rochester's attic rooms really is, but *why* she doesn't have more company.

Perhaps I find it troubling because--literary considerations aside--women, even those women as comparatively privileged as myself and my (female) students, have not progressed that much farther afield, 144 years later, than Jane Eyre. Women in the United States, in January, 1991 still only make \$0.61 for every \$1.00 a man makes. They still find themselves struggling harder, longer, often fruitlessly, to break through invisible barriers which seem to magically disappear for their equally or even less qualified male colleagues. And if their circumstances are further limited by other forms of social injustice--racism, classism, and so on--the odds against those women become virtually insurmountable.

These are the issues I discuss with my students: they matter, and how we are to rectify social and economic injustice remains a burning question even now, even while our country becomes hourly more deeply enmeshed in its war with Iraq.



Our world has gone mad, Ms. Bronte; we teeter perilously on the brink of a third World War--we face global ecological and economic disaster as its most immediate and probable consequences.

I must admit now that issues of sexual and economic justice, especially as they relate to this story of an obscure and fictional governess whose life remains forever locked into a rapidly receding historical past, becomes at times for me over-shadowed by current events. For example, there was an instant in class the other day, when I just managed to stop myself from wondering aloud how many of my students--male and female--would be sent to fight in the Gulf War and how many of them would come back to us in body bags. If there are any of us left when this war ends, perhaps then we can all return one day return to that classroom try once again to resolve such significant problems.

Is That What Mom Meant When She Told Me To Close My Eyes and Think of The Empire?

So I draw connections between current events and the reading I've assigned when it seems to me either appropriate or necessary.

Life must go on, and it must be enjoyed.

We must all attend to our duties, for it will not do anyone any good to become obsessed with this issue to the exclusion of all else, and I'm no exception. So even as I contemplate what I can and should do about this insane war, I lead my mind and my class back to the subject of *Jane Eyre*.

I first read *Jane Eyre* when I was 10. I fell in love with your novel and bonded with your heroine then and there with passionate intensity. Even today, that bonding makes it very difficult indeed for me to discuss your book detachedly with my class, to coolly discuss its flaws or point out its defects. I suspect, however, that you would be the first to tell me that if I am to be an effective and responsible teacher, that is exactly what I must do.

I remember that as a child, I immediately identified with ten year-old Jane Eyre, with her overwhelming sense of alienation, with her powerful sense of justice and her furious rebellion at injustice. Adults too frequently forget that children have a powerfully developed sense of right and wrong, of fairness and of unfairness. I suppose it was natural that I should appreciate her righteousness.

However, what Jane Eyre could do that I as a child could not do was articulate the conditions of her oppression, and what's more, articulate them aloud to her oppressors--her aunt, her teachers, Mr. Rochester and St. John Rivers. Because she *could* do that she *would* then say it anyway, knowing all the while that she would have to take the blow. Knowing that she was right depended very much on her ability to express herself fully. In kind, *Jane Eyre* forever impressed upon me the powers of language to shape and affirm your sense of self.

I couldn't do those things at her age, I couldn't pursue my arguments that fully, and of course few children can at that age. But Jane Eyre could do what I could not. So I looked up to her. She became my imaginary best friend. I admired Jane Eyre as much as she admired that older girl she meets when she first enters Lowood, Helen Burns. I wanted to be more like volatile, passionate Jane just as, ironically, Jane wants to be more like stoical, withdrawn, long-suffering Helen.



How I Got A Real Life

Helen Burns provides the first of several models that enable Jane Eyre to grow up, *Jane Eyre* provided for me such a model as I grew up. And each time I return to your novel, Ms. Bronte--as I did when I was 14 and miserable; as I did again when I was 18, insufferable and self-righteous; as I did yet again when I was 27 and newly ambitious, determined, *burning* with professional and intellectual goals; and as I do now at 36, as a professor--struggling to reach new intellectual goals and realize new professional ambitions--I think of what I owe to you for your having written *Jane Eyre*.

Matthew Arnold, that silly ass of a Victorian critic, did not like *Jane Eyre*. He thought it strange and disturbing, a book too full of "hunger, rebellion and rage" for his liking. No doubt he thought it a dangerous thing to leave lying about on the sitting room table, where one's daughter or sister or wife might read it, and find in its pages a name for her discontent.

Arnold is right, though. *Jane Eyre* is full of "hunger, rebellion, and rage." Unlike him, however, I think that those are the very qualities that make *Jane Eyre* such powerful reading, which make it a novel I can return to again and again. In fact, as I re-read this book in preparation for class, I find that Jane's "hunger, rebellion and rage" sustain me vicariously, inspire and encourage me to renewed effort and determination.

Discovering Jane Eyre when I was 10 changed me life. Your novel sent me to graduate school, in successful pursuit of my Ph.D. in English. Your book gave me my career. Your book provided me with a model of female self-assertiveness and self-respect that I've sorely needed.

Your book allowed me to grow up.

In a very real, very profound sense, through your writing of *Jane Eyre* you gave me my life.

That is what I should keep in mind as I deliver my lecture tomorrow, Ms. Bronte. If I do, I won't have to debate about how to begin.

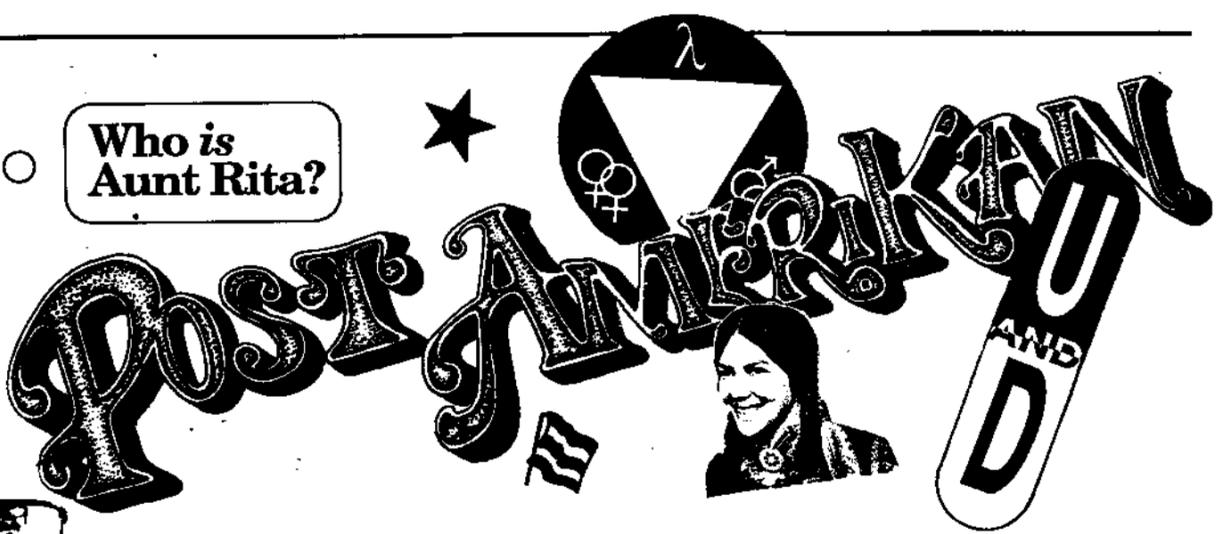
Thank you.

--Yours,

Dr. Attitude



Who is Aunt Rita?



Aunt Rita urges her niece Susie, "Sport a short haircut, let your body hair grow, never eat another living creature, carry a pack of chewing gum in case you happen upon a bourgeois pig in a fur coat-- that's büzh-wä...you can say it--and always read Post Amerikan."

YES! I do want to be like Aunt Rita! Enclosed is a \$4.00 check/money order for a 1 yr. subscription.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



Eating vegan in B/N

Mexican and Caribbean



Finding places to eat in Bloomington Normal when you do not eat animal flesh (a.k.a. vegetarianism) can be a challenging experience. Finding places to dine when you choose not to eat eggs and dairy products (a.k.a. veganism) can be next to impossible. Remember, those of you who have given up meat because of animals: The chickens who provide you with eggs, the dairy cows who give you your cheese and milk are treated no better than the animals raised for their flesh.

I have managed however to find restaurants in Bloomington Normal where I can get a good meal without consuming flesh, eggs or dairy products:

Chinese

Great Wall Chinese Restaurant 508 IAA Dr., Bloomington

Although I have not eaten at the Great Wall I have been told that you can make a substantial meal out of the vegetables at their buffet.

House of Hunan 1701 E. Empire, Bloomington

Bean Curd Country Style is a hot and spicy dish containing fried tofu and a variety of vegetables in a brown sauce. Some other selections include Egg Plant Szechwan and Hunan Mixed Vegetables.

The Yellow Dragon 111 W. Monroe, Bloomington

The vegetable fried rice, available without egg, is a delicious and economical selection. Vegetable chop suey and chow mein are also options. The Ma Po Tou Fu (Hot Spicy Bean Curd) can be made without the pork.

Delgados 201 Landmark Mall, Normal

Delgado's beans are not cooked in lard--so any of the selections with just beans are ok. The vegetarian chimichanga can be prepared without cheese inside or sour cream on top. Don't forget potato skins and nachos can be made without cheese or meat.

Nuevo Chimis 503 N. Prospect Bloomington

Chimi's beans do contain lard. They will however prepare beans without it if you ask. The beans made in vegetable oil are just as flavorful as the beans cooked in lard--and are healthier for both you and the animals. A phone call ahead will help. The owner has been very concerned and willing to work with me to provide something I can eat--unlike some other restaurant owners in town. Don't forget, guacamole tacos or tostadas are always an option at Mexican restaurants. Just remember to tell them "no carne, no suiza."

Miscellaneous

Coffee World Coffee House 114 E. Beaufort, Normal

There is little to nothing for a committed vegan to eat at the Coffee House in downtown Normal. They can provide you with a vegan bowl of soup occasionally--but beware of the crackers--they contain animal fat. I'm disappointed to report that all of the bakery products contain eggs--yes, even the seven grain bread and even the bagels have an eggwash on top. So really the only option is a bowl of soup on the days that it doesn't contain dairy products. You can however pick up a loaf of french bread across the street at Vie de France that contains no animal products.

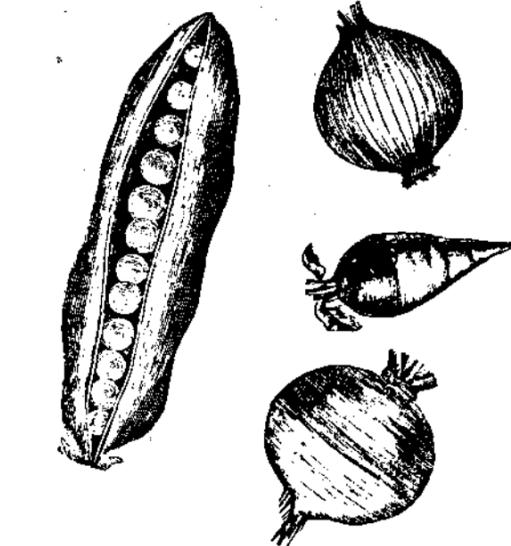
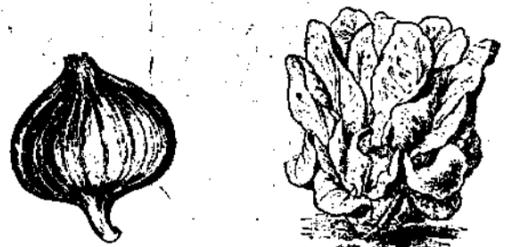
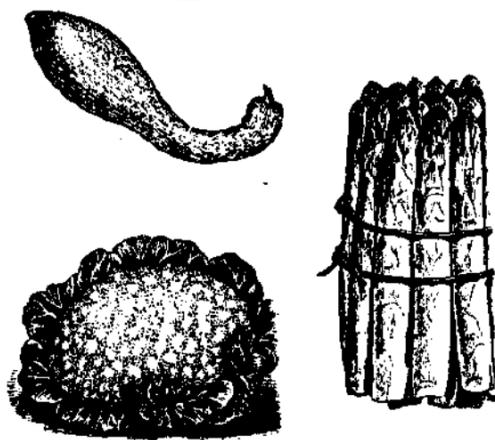
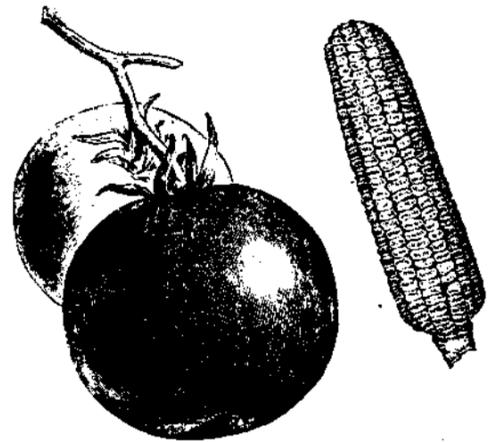
Genuine New York Deli 201 North St., Normal

I am not sure what the bread or rolls are made of but they will make you a sandwich with only vegetables on it.

A tip that my friend shared with me is that you can order a pizza from anywhere without the cheese. Chances are the person taking your order will be a little perplexed but then we are used to that by now. "You want what?" "A pizza, no cheese." "A Pepsi?" "No, no cheese." "A Pepsi..."

It may be difficult at times, but the more vocal we are about our desire to eat without cruelty the more likely it is that some restaurant owners will start listening. So, speak up--let them know that there are more of us out here. It is possible to dine out without consuming the flesh of animals or other animal products.

--ISIS



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Letters

The great JELL-O® debate continues

Vinnie the Flesh Eater—

I was appalled to see you attack one of the most honored items of our dinner tables—JELLO.

Yes, it is frightening that some people eat a substance which behaves like most hair products. But, I suppose this is the price that must be paid to have shapely desserts.

Moms love it, kids love it. It's a nice place to put those nuts and canned fruits which always clog up the pantry. It's colorful, shiny and can make a dazzling display, so what if it involves practices and ingredients most of us couldn't stomach if we had to work at the slaughterhouse?

*The Health Value
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America's most famous dessert*

FOR over twenty-five years, Jell-O has been esteemed for deliciousness, sparkling beauty, economy and ease of preparation. But not until recently have its *healthful* qualities been understood.

Scientific experiments have now proved that Jell-O is a body-building, energizing food of real value—and a food that requires very little digestive effort. Think how important this is! So many desserts tax digestion severely; but the important nourishment that Jell-O contains is given to the body quickly, easily and completely. A Jell-O dessert is not merely a delicacy. It is a real benefit to health.

Because of this, Jell-O should be served frequently—to children as well as adults. The six delicious flavors make possible an almost endless variety of desserts, salads and entrées.



After all, don't we have a right to mutilate for our own temporary purposes any resource our planet has to offer? Do the livestock really care? And if we don't know, or can forget that our food has the abilities of most plastics and undergoes strange chemical transformations, does a problem really exist? Come on, could our moms, the JELLO manufacturers, or tradition really be steering us wrong?

What else would we do with our Bundt pans?

A Concerned Eater/Reader

P.S.: I enclose for your enjoyment and education some copies of a JELL-O promotional brochure done in the 50s. As you can see, George Washington—surrounded by cherry-topped and colored desserts—is on the cover. I hope this reassures you that JELLO is really o.k.

A friend offers response to the Post

Dear Post Amerikan,

When I am actually back in Bloomington it is always interesting to take a careful read on the current status of the *Post Amerikan*.

I get the newspaper in Houston where I work and live, but I rarely spend time actually reading the entire issue.

Waiting for the ever-late Amtrak to Chicago gave me that opportunity yesterday. I will restrict my comments to positive statements which (I hope) come from my heart and not merely my head.

—A "free press" is one of several pillars which distinguish this country from other "political systems"—honor it and you will find an audience who appreciates their freedom.

—Art and humor and caricature are also "standards" of a "free press" and if you honor them (especially when they poke fun at "stuffy" politicians, "religious leaders" and "business leaders," you will find an audience who appreciates their freedom.

—Look for writers who know how to express their outrage and anger and frustration with "the system" but who also are honest and tolerant enough to "listen to their hearts" and get beyond those "bad feelings" to a resolution and practical, honest solutions. Tantrums are expected and tolerated in toddlers and not responsible adults.

—Look for writers who are eloquent and distinguished and educated, who can express moral and emotional outrage and take a firm, solid and honest position on "rights" that is balanced by acknowledging "responsibilities." To be for "rights" without acknowledging "responsibilities" is in my view, to confuse "do gooders" with honest empowerment.

Now for some specific comments on the December '90/January '91 issue:

—I hope Pacifica Radio encourages and cultivates open and honest dialogue on issues (i.e. call in shows where people can honestly voice their own opinions.)

—Publish *more* about the Leger Brosnahans of this world. Sexist, homophobic and anti-semitic prejudice needs to be exposed to the light of public scrutiny. *The Pantagraph* is not likely to be interested.

—Building self-esteem, empowerment, taking responsibility, self-help, 12 step programs, etc. can use all the promotion you can afford to give them. Politicians want you to think that they "take care" of "the people." Watch them carefully. They usually take care of themselves first and then give "the people" whatever time and energy they "have to."

—Expose the anti-abortionists for what they are—sex-hating, women-hating and guilt-loving "do gooders." Thanks to X and Y for exposing just one such "Voice For Choice." Expose guilt-perpetuating for what it really is, self-loathing and fear-inducing. Watch carefully those who "deal" in guilt—they are slick, they are wealthy in many cases, and they prey on the weak, uneducated and unsophisticated who believe "news" is on TV, entertainment is on TV, and happiness is in "avoiding guilt."

—Capitalism may be a "failure" to some but before you burn down someone's house and barn and business ask yourself what you are willing to do (personally) to replace it. Like "democracy" it is a very flawed system but it is the best that currently exists on this planet.—and it has the seeds of reform built in it! If communism or socialism are "better" then let the public debate begin, let the free presses roll, and let the airwaves quiver with honest and open debate and dialogue.

—Thanks to Torri Thompson for speaking kindly about my "adopted" home of Texas. Ma Ferguson was only elected because her husband had political clout—Ann Richards was elected because political clout is not enough in Texas—at least not this time—so misogyny and homophobia will have to "hide out" during her term [as governor].

—Dr. Attitude's "T Is For Tramp" is an honest homage to "tramps." Sanctimonious politicians and religious "leaders" sell their souls daily for power and money and refuse to admit it. Tramps tell the truth and refuse to lie about it, in most cases. Telling the truth is sadly lacking among today's leaders in any field.

Sincerely,

A Texas Reader

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Uppers 'n' Downers



Playing it safe(r)

DOWNERS . . . to Kroger on North Main in Bloomington. Kroger has set up a scale to weigh aluminum cans, which Kroger will buy to recycle. The sign posted warning customers not to touch the scale tells us to "ask office girl for assistance [italics mine]." Funny, the female office workers all looked like women to me.

DOWNERS . . . to "Crime Stoppers" televised on WAND. Every month for the last two years I have seen "Crime Stoppers" profile some felony crime in Macon or Decatur county in the hope that some community member will snitch. In those years, never have I seen a profile where the suspect was alleged to be anything other than a "black male." Evidently white folk don't commit felonies in Macon and Decatur counties.

UPPERS . . . to NBC's "Lifestories." This medical drama anthology recently included an episode detailing the life of an anchor who was both gay and HIV positive, who in the course of the episode develops AIDS. This marks the first time network television has presented a gay man with AIDS without hysterics or melodrama. Here's hoping you saw it the first time around, because the show is "on hiatus" (read "cancelled") and the episode probably won't be repeated.

UPPERS . . . very belatedly to VH-1 who, in conjunction with Greenpeace, have for some time been airing "World Alerts." These 3-5 minute clips document hazards to our environment, from global warming to nuclear winter, and offer suggestions as to how to remedy them. Lately the focus of the Alerts has shifted to detailing specific actions people have taken to combat specific problems, a highly effective way to illustrate the difference every individual can make.

Uppers...

To Terry's Amoco. They recently ran radio ads offering handicapped drivers full-service gas at the self-service price.

UPPERS . . . to "Red Hot + Blue." Released late last year, this album features 20 songs written by gay composer Cole Porter and reinterpreted by various contemporary artists. Proceeds from the album go to fund AIDS research and relief. The album is definitely worth a listen, but... **DOWNERS** to the Jungle Brothers. On their cut, "I Get a Kick," the lead rapper says to his female date, "Babydoll I wanna get close to you / because that's what a man is supposed to do." On an album designed to combat a disease which in this country has killed a great number of gay men, it is unfortunate this kind of heterosexist attitude is present.

UPPERS . . . to Reproductive Rights Action Network (three issues in a row), Rape Crisis Center McLean County Voice for Choice and the Women and AIDS Affinity Group. These groups organized a candlelight vigil on December 1, 1990, World AIDS Day, to remember women with AIDS. The vigil, consisting of the reading of names of women who have died of AIDS followed by the distribution of condoms at the bars of Downtown Normal, was a simple, effective and eloquent memorial. **DOWNERS** to the local media who, despite the sending of nearly two dozen press releases and with the exception of WJBC, chose to ignore the story.

DOWNERS to the College Republicans of ISU. In the past week, signs have appeared around ISU's campus reading "Free Kuwait. Support our troops," with a notation that they were paid for by the CR's. I applaud their exercising their First Amendment rights. However, the signs began appearing following the U.S. bombing of Iraq. Like jackals who feed from the kills of others, the CR's broke their silence on Iraq only after their position was implemented.

1. Putting on a condom doesn't have to be a one man show. Having your partner help you can be a very erotic experience. And, if appropriate, try putting one on each other.

2. Sex doesn't have to involve intercourse. So if you don't have a condom with you, think about how the boy scouts start a fire.

3. Instead of intercourse all of the time (boring!) experiment with touch, it can be very sensual and enjoyable.

4. If you don't like the taste of non-oxynol 9, find a safe, non oil based lubricant that tastes good.

5. If you don't want to be caught in a situation where you wish you had a condom with you, carry one with you. Again those boy scouts were right, always be prepared.



OPERATION RECYCLE WE RECYCLE

Container Glass
Beverage Cans
Plastic Soda Bottles
Plastic Milk Jugs

Make a difference
for our environment.
Call 829-0691
and find out how!

Prix Fixe:
\$25.00 a plate
Reservations Essential



Le menu omnivore

Chicken Liver Pate with Green Peppercorns
Carrot and Orange Soup
Winter Pork and Fruit Ragout
House Salad
Dessert



Le menu herbivore

Vegetarian Pate
Layered Vegetable Terrine
Stuffed Eggplant with saffron rice
House Salad
Dessert



Dessert

Choice of Chocolate or Lime Mousse,
Orange-Lemon or
Pumpkin-Pecan Cheesecake,
or Apple Tart



POST AMERIKAN Dinner Benefit

Saturday, February 16th
&
Sunday, February 17th
1991

For Reservations or more information
call 829-9349 or 828-7232.
Be prepared to specify which menu you prefer.

Feel free to bring the alcoholic
beverage of your choice; we will
serve coffee, tea and yuppie waters

