

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

8-1991

Volume 20, Number 2

Post Amerikan

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POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Volume 20

25¢

Number 2

August/September 1991

July 1990: Sculptor Sheila Oettinger of Skokie, Illinois, is selected by the Town of Normal Citizen's Committee to receive a \$10,000 commission. Oettinger's original concept includes figures of a woman and two children. However, the Citizen's Committee desires a more traditional portrayal and requests the addition of a male figure. Oettinger's commission is increased to \$16,000. **September, 1990:** *The Normal Family*, a terra cotta sculpture, arrives in Normal and is assembled by Oettinger. **September 19, 1990:** *The Normal Family* is dedicated in a ceremony in front of Normal City Hall, 100 E. Phoenix, Normal, Illinois. **October, 1990:** *Post Amerikan* features on its cover a satirical portrayal of the sculpture. **October 28, 1990:** *The Normal Family* is vandalized. The legs of both the adult male and adult female figures are broken off at the knees. The limbs are missing from the area of the sculpture. Original estimate to repair *The Normal Family*--\$6000. City officials cite cost at \$3000. **November 1990:** The local community is outraged at the act of vandalism. A reward of \$1500 is raised for information leading to the arrest of the vandals. Oettinger returns to Normal to repair the sculpture. **December 1990:** The Town of Normal installs a surveillance camera focused on *The Normal Family*. Camera and videotaping equipment costs approximately \$1500. **May 3, 1991:** *The Normal Family* is vandalized for the second time. The leg of the adult male is broken off at the knee. The act is captured on videotape using the earlier installed surveillance camera. The vandal is identified as a white male. Two friends accompanied him. **May 10, 1991:** City officials claim that *The Normal Family* vandal appeared to be intoxicated and that the destruction of the sculpture appeared to be an accident, not a malicious crime. However, officials are unable to make a positive identification of the suspect as the camera's lens did not reproduce a clear enough image of the man's face. Officials discuss installing a telephoto lens on the camera and a motion-activated light near the sculpture. *The Normal Family* can be repaired for less than \$200 without the help of the artist. **August 1991:** *Post Amerikan* publishes its second cover featuring *The Normal Family*.

A year in the life

The Normal Family



Hey!
Quit pulling my leg . . . off!

Cover photo by Debra Risberg
Cover design by Scott

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

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



POST AMERIKAN 2



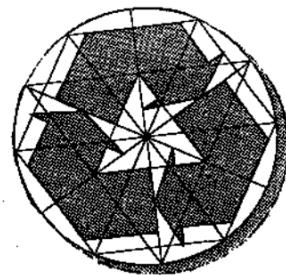
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Volume 20, Number 2

August/September 1991

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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 *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

The Back Porch, 402 N. Main
 Bakery Banc, 901 N. Main
 Biasi's Drug Store, Main St.
 Bloomington Public Library (front)
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main
 Front and Center Building
 Law and Justice Center, W. Front
 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 Morrisey
 Red Fox, 918 W. Market
 Stars & Stripes Video, Main St.
 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

Normal

Amtrak Station
 Avanti's, 407 S. Main
 Babbitts Book Store, North St.
 The Coffeehouse, 114 E. Beaufort
 Hovey Hall, ISU (Front)
 Manchester Hall, ISU
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North
 North and Broadway
 White Hen, 207 Broadway
 Stbway, 115 E. Beaufort
 Zorba's, Main St.

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

Deborah and Scott D. (coordinators),
 Pete, Vince, John C., Sue, Carloyn,
 Laurie, Lisa, Jane, John G., Scott B.,
 Peter, Bill, Bumper, Ralph, and the
 many others who keep us going with
 their endless support.

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 | 827-4005 | |
| Dept. of Children/Family Services | 828-0022 | |
| Draft Counselling | 452-5046 | |
| Gay & Lesbian 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 | |

Deadline

The next deadline for submitting *Post* material is
Monday, September 23, 1991
 Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed in the next issue.



Community news

Anti-war coalition is back

The Bloomington/Normal Anti-war Coalition, after a brief post Gulf-war slump, is again meeting regularly. The Coalition's last meeting before press time was July 7, and two new projects were discussed as possible Coalition actions.

The first project involves Gulf war conscientious objectors. Currently COs, including two from Illinois, are being held by various branches of the military. The Coalition has contacted the Chicago office of Amnesty International to explore the possibility of the Coalition's adopting one or more of these prisoners of conscience. Amnesty groups do not adopt prisoners within their own countries, but Amnesty USA may be able to put the Coalition in contact with any group which has adopted a CO.

Other CO actions would include letter-writing campaigns to both the prisoners and the appropriate government agencies in the hopes of effecting the COs' release. A committee has formed to formalize a proposal for the Coalition.

The second potential action involves raising funds for, and consciousness of, war relief for the Iraqi people. A report from the Centers for Disease Control, described as a "conservative estimate," calculates the number of deaths among Kurds and Iraqi refugees as at least 6,700 during the month of April alone. Two-thirds of the dead were children age five and under.

The Coalition wants to raise funds for use in material relief efforts. At least as important--if not more so--is the Coalition's desire to educate Gulf war supporters to the real consequences of their support. The American Friends Service Committee (a Quaker relief group), the Mennonite Central Committee and local church groups are being contacted for possible concerted relief efforts.

The consensus of the Coalition is to begin with the conscientious objector project and employ that as a method of consolidating the war relief drive.

To contact the Bloomington/Normal Anti-war Coalition, call 829-3701.



New HIV newsletter

A new publication for HIV-positive people in downstate Illinois has begun production. The publishers of *Positive Downstate* hope the newsletter will serve as a voice for the concerns of HIV-positive people and promote a sense of community among PWHIV in downstate Illinois.

To obtain a copy of *Positive Downstate*, contact:

Positive Downstate
PO Box 1225
Springfield, Illinois 62705-1225

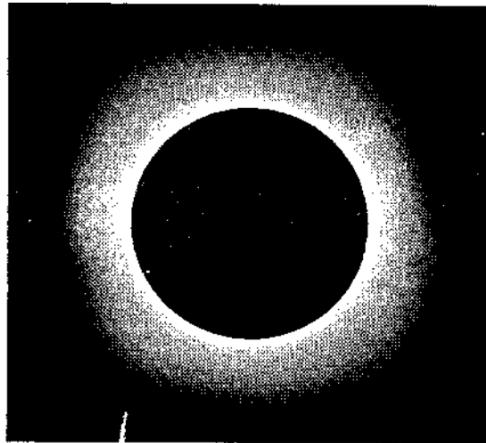
Local activist in El Salvador

Members of Citizens in Support of the People of El Salvador (CISPES) journeyed recently to that country as a Freedom Brigade. For the first time, a B/N activist is a member of the Brigade.

Freedom Brigades travel to El Salvador to work on projects sponsored by CISPES's Freedom Fund. The Freedom Fund serves as a counter to U.S. government aid to the Salvadoran Armed Forces. It directly supports the pro-democracy movement and provides funds and material aid to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Some of the projects aided by the Freedom Fund include the Alejandro Bravo Field Hospital and the FMLN Women's Paramedic Training Project. Additionally, Freedom Fund grants go to provide health care and training for marginal communities and to supporting agricultural cooperatives.

Gina Olson, who has been a fixture in numerous local activist groups, has travelled to El Salvador representing Bloomington/Normal. At press time, Olson's two-week stint in-country was nearing a close. She has promised to give the *Post Amerikan* an exclusive.



Confidential: For subscribers' eyes only Eclipse confuses Post subscription distribution

Okay, we're sorry. We're sorry that you got your April/May *Post* in June. We're sorry that you may not yet have received your June/July issue of *Post Amerikan*.

Truth is, it wasn't our fault. It was the eclipse. Under the new free trade agreement with Mexico, we send the paper to our distribution center in Mexico City for mailing, and eclipse mania has all but shut down our previously timely and courteous service. But now that the eclipse is over and we have made new arrangements to run the subscription center a little closer to home, you can be assured that your *Post* will now be arriving sooner than you expected (though that's not saying much).

McLean County Human Rights Coalition targets local election

BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL -- Human rights activists here are claiming a victory after a successful campaign that targeted the July 2nd Special 15th Congressional election. The McLean County Human Rights Coalition sent their message loud and clear that our politicians must begin listening to the people of our community.

In a press conference held at Normal Public Library on Thursday, June 27, 1991, the MCHRC described itself as "a community watchdog organization dedicated to the protection of civil rights."

The MCHRC was concerned with where the two candidates, Republican Tom Ewing and Democrat Gerald Bradley, stood on a variety of different issues. Ewing opposes reproductive rights for women, the family medical leave act, and has rated "zero" from state senior citizens organizations. Even more concerned were they, though, with Bradley's campaign on the Democratic Party's ticket. Bradley is anti-choice, anti-woman, and pro-nuke, stances which conflict with the National Democratic Party as outlined in their 1988 Platform.

Weeks before the election, the MCHRC mailed both candidates a questionnaire covering questions about civil rights, Roe v. Wade, health care, AIDS, the environment, gay rights, and social security. Both candidates refused to answer the survey questionnaire.

The Coalition, at their press conference, referred to the Kettering report entitled, "Citizens and Politics: A View from Main Street America" that says that people feel disengaged from the political process "because they lack the requisite criteria of power, influence, and first and foremost, money." Therefore, the MCHRC's main goal was to empower the people in the community to try to influence the election.

It was at the press conference that the Coalition announced its "Vote None of the Above" campaign against Ewing and Bradley in which voters could turn in blank ballots or write in "none of the above." Whereas the Coalition admitted that such a campaign may be perceived as controversial, it argued that when people are forced to vote for the lesser of two evils, they are voting to "perpetuate the system and keep us isolated by keeping those who isolated us in a position of power and privilege."

The Coalition printed over 1000 flyers promoting their "None of the Above" campaign, and members planned to make yard signs for their own homes. However, after the press conference was covered by WJBC and *The Pantagraph*, people began to make requests for the flyers and yard signs (a woman at Woodhill Towers asked the Coalition to drop off about 200 flyers, and over 25 people asked for yard signs). Also, callers to WJBC's "Problems and Solutions" asked for directions how to vote "None of the Above."

On election day, five days after the Coalition's press conference, the County Clerk's office tabulated 475 votes cast as "None of the Above."

Whereas Republican Tom Ewing beat Gerald Bradley by a landslide at the polls, the Coalition argues that the election results have sent a powerful message to the community and local politicians. First of all, the Coalition was able to gather support of 475 concerned voters in only five days. Secondly, Bradley lost only by less than 5% of the votes in McLean County. The Coalition's "None of the Above" campaign received 5% of the vote in the county.

The McLean County Human Rights Coalition's future plans include voter registration drives and creating future candidate questionnaires similar to that sent to Ewing and Bradley. They are especially interested in keeping a close eye on Illinois Senator Alan Dixon who will be up for re-election. Anyone interested in contacting the McLean County Human Rights Coalition can write: MCHRC, c/o Voice for Choice, PO Box 905, Bloomington, IL 61701.

--S. Lloyd DeWitt



ACT UP/CI now meeting at Up Front Gallery

The local chapter of the international AIDS activist group ACT UP will now be holding their general meetings at Up Front Gallery, on the corners of Front and Center Streets in downtown Bloomington.

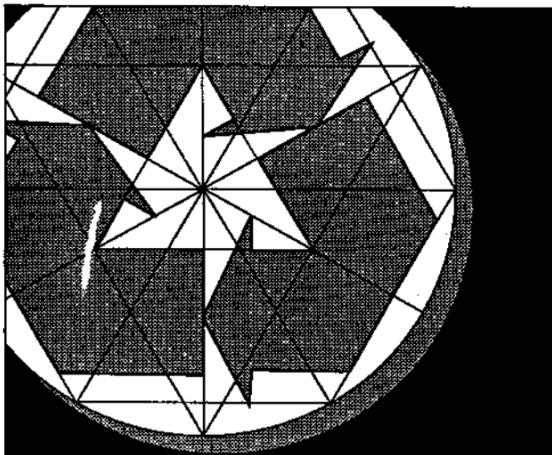
In the past, the group has had a difficult time finding a safe, accessible, and affordable space to hold their bi-weekly meetings, and they hope that the new arrangement will bring in new members.

Other ACT UP/CI plans

The group continues to work on funding the distribution of a comprehensive survey on AIDS awareness in McLean County and other collar counties. Currently they are working with the ACT UP Network in acquiring funding from the AIDS benefit album, *Red, Hot, & Blue*. The Network is set to receive over half a million dollars, and the money will be divided among the many national ACT UP affiliates. The group hopes that once these funds are received, plans for the survey will go ahead.

ACT UP/CI is also working with AIDS activists in Decatur to help those in need of AZT and other drugs for PWA's and HIV+ s. The current state budget crunch has severely restricted the qualification for drug assistance, and the group hopes to help those most affected by the cutbacks by making these drugs more accessible and affordable.

ACT UP Central Illinois meetings are held every other Thursday evening at 7pm. Tentative dates for the next few meetings are August 8, August 22, and September 5. Anyone who is interested in joining ACT UP in the fight against AIDS is welcome (except police and FBI infiltrators). Meeting dates and times may change, but you can reach ACT UP Central Illinois at P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.



**OPERATION
RECYCLE**

WE RECYCLE:

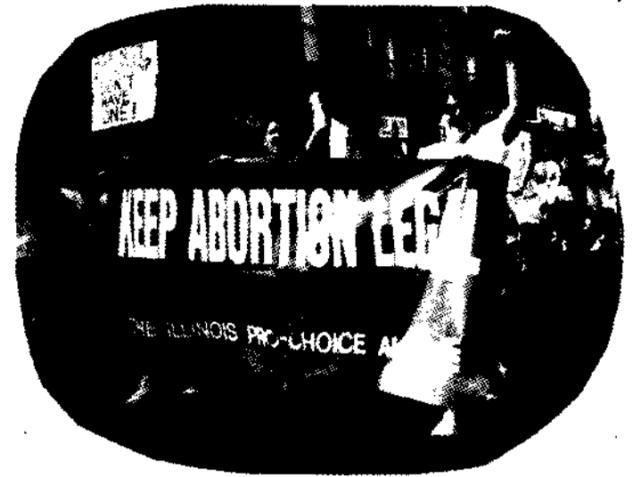
Container Glass
Beverage Cans
Plastic Soda Bottles
Plastic Milk Jugs
Office Paper
Cardboard and more

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

829-0691

923 E. Grove
Bloomington, IL

■ DROP OFFS
■ RECYCLE DRIVES
■ BUYBACK



News from Voice for Choice

Recent voting

On May 23, 1991, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Reagan/Bush administration's "gag rule." The rule prohibits workers in federally funded family planning clinics and hospitals from even mentioning the word "abortion" to a woman, even if the woman's pregnancy is a threat to her health or life.

On June 26, 1991, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly (353 to 74) voted to approve the HHS Appropriations Bill (H.R. 3707). This bill contained an amendment which prohibits funds for enforcing the gag rule on clinics that receive Title X funds; basically it overturns the gag rule. Several Illinois Congress people voted incorrectly: Some of these votes were expected—Henry Hyde, Phil Crane. Others may be moveable.

Illinois Reps. voting against the bill overturning the gag rule were Terry Bruce of Champaign, Harris Fawell, Martin Russo, Dan Rostenkowski, Frank Annunzio, and William Lipinske. Please contact these white boys and let them know that you expect them to vote to override a presidential veto of this bill. This is their chance to redeem themselves with their constituencies.

On July 16, 1991, the U.S. Senate, in a voice vote, accepted SB 323 with parental notification laws attached. Senator Dixon supported the parental notification clause; Senator Simon did not. Senator Dixon is up for re-election next year—let him know what you as a voter feel about his vote.

The U.S. Senate has also approved the Labor HHS Appropriations Bill, which is the Senate equivalent of the House bill overturning the gag rule.

George Bush has threatened to veto the legislation. Call the White House at (202) 456-1111 and let George know that you are opposed to the Title X gag rule.

Source: Illinois Pro-Choice Alliance

BOYCOTT LOUISIANA!!!

On June 18, 1991, the Louisiana legislature overrode Governor Buddy Roemer's veto and passed this country's most restrictive abortion law.

The Louisiana law outlaws all abortions except in cases of rape or incest promptly reported, or to save the woman's life. The law makes no provision for the woman's health.

The law will send doctors who perform abortions to prison for up to 10 years, with fines of up to \$100,000. The fact that the law has no stated penalties for self-induced abortions apparently means that it's okay to abort yourself.

Both pro-choicers and Governor Roemer have criticized the bill for its tough reporting requirements for rape and incest cases: rape would have to be reported to the police within seven days, long before the woman would know whether a pregnancy had occurred. She would also have to be examined within five days of the rape by a doctor to determine if she were pregnant before the rape occurred.

CALL: 1-800-33-GUMBO. This is the Louisiana Tourism Bureau. Let them know you're boycotting their state and why. The call is free to you and costs the state of Louisiana money.

Source: Feminist Caucus of Madison, WI, & Insider

Operation Rescue

Operation Rescue struck on June 1, 1991, at the White Plains headquarters of Planned Parenthood of Westchester and Rockland Counties (N.Y.). About 70 Operation Rescue protesters arrived around 8:30 a.m. and were greeted by 75 police officers. The protesters remained on public property, and there were no arrests.

Also on June 1, Operation Rescue targeted the Repro Associates and Preterm Health Services in Brookline, MA, defying a temporary injunction against clinic protesters in Boston. At Repro Associates, police arrested more than 200 demonstrators. One protestor chained himself to one of the axels on the bus police brought to transport the arrested protesters. There were fewer protesters at Preterm, but they were able to briefly stop clients from entering the clinic.

Source: Insider

Planned Parenthood funding

The Wooster United Way, located in North Central Ohio, in a show of cowardice decided to cave in to pressure from anti-choice business leaders who had threatened to withdraw their support. The United Way, which had previously funded Planned Parenthood at slightly over \$18,000, decided to give Planned Parenthood a "non-funded" status: the affiliate would not receive a share of the United Way donations but instead would receive only those contributions specifically designated for it by donors. Planned Parenthood was the only organization given this special status.

The plan backfired. The United Way had expected to see an increase in their contributions based on their decision to drop Planned Parenthood. Quite the opposite occurred. Pro-choicers rallied together, many of them designating their dollars to Planned Parenthood, so many in fact that the amount more than doubled what Planned Parenthood had been receiving from the United Way. An additional \$12,000 came from contributors who decided not to give to the United Way at all but directly to Planned Parenthood. To finish it off, the United Way came up \$20,000 short of their fund-raising goal.



Pregnancy testing

According to the receptionist at the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Bloomington, the pregnancy test used by the Center is not your average "over the counter" test; it is, instead, one provided to them by a local physician.

We at Voice wondered what would happen if every woman receiving the *Post Amerikan* or our newsletter (somewhere between 500 and 800 people) went to the Crisis Pregnancy Center for a free pregnancy test at least once a month, every month. Let's find out. Starting this month, go to the center and get your free test. If you're not pregnant, you won't have to stay for the anti-choice counseling session. How long will this doctor want to pay for that volume of tests? Only time will tell.

Source: Insider

Clarence Thomas

Judge Clarence Thomas is a 43-year-old Black Catholic conservative, currently serving on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Thomas's appointment to the Court of Appeals drew concern from several Senate Judiciary Committee members who were concerned about his views on affirmative action and age discrimination.

Of interest to the pro-choice community is the fact that Thomas delivered a speech to the Heritage Foundation in 1987 where he praised an article by Lewis Lehrman, a trustee of the Foundation, which has argued that an "unborn child" has an inalienable right to life under the Constitution and that a woman's right to abortion is "a spurious right born exclusively of judicial supremacy, with not a single trace of lawful authority."

Thomas also wrote that the Supreme Court's reliance on the Ninth Amendment in the 1965 *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision to establish a right of privacy to use contraception "would seem to be a blank check. The Court could designate something to be a right and then strike down any law it thought violated that right."

Over the years, Judge Thomas has also spoken out against minimum wage laws, rent control, and enterprise zones, as well as a number of other programs designed to counteract decades of racial discrimination.

Source: Pro-Choice Alliance



One Bloomington church

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington has taken a "pro-life" stance as a congregation. We are curious about this stance since the church also has a policy against marrying couples who have been living together and against baptizing in front of the congregation children born out of wedlock. We find their positions contradictory, to say the least.

Source: a Lutheran from the community

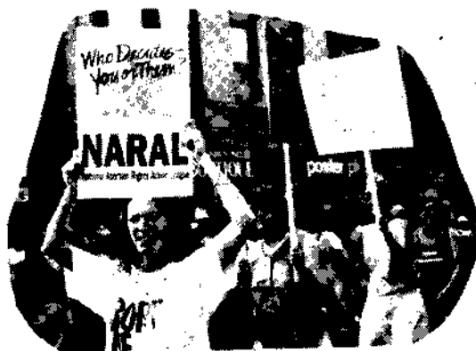
Norplant

Norplant misuses continue throughout the country. In Louisiana, Klansman and Representative David Duke has introduced a bill to provide \$100 to women who are on public assistance if they are implanted with Norplant. After all, like most good right-to-lifers, Duke wants to make sure that white babies outnumber babies of color. And, of course, as the Klan will tell you, it's minority members who are on welfare.

Some Ohio legislators tried to pass legislation that would have required that mothers of infants born testing positive for controlled substances be implanted with Norplant.

Governor Wilson in California intends to make Norplant available to low-income teenagers and women who use drugs. He wasn't sure if he would make it mandatory for drug users.

Source: Pro-Choice Alliance



RU 486

The state of New Hampshire Legislature passed a resolution on May 17 offering the state as a testing ground for the drug RU 486. The non-binding resolution does not require the governor's signature.

The resolution, which was sent to Congress, federal regulators, and the manufacturer, Roussel Uclaf, invites the FDA and Roussel to use New Hampshire facilities to test the drug. The FDA has banned the importation of the drug for personal use, and Roussel will not market RU 486 in the U.S. because of anti-abortion opposition.

Source: Insider

Christian cops

According to *The National Rescuer*, the right-wing, anti-choice newsletter put out by Operation Rescue, there are now two organizations of "Christian Cops." These anti-choice fellows are busy holding prayer vigils. The names of the two organizations are the Officers for Life, made up of law enforcement, correctional officers, judges, court officers, and emergency personnel; and Cops for Christ. Officers for Life are attempting to expand the Conscience Clause "to cover police officers who understand that by arresting or removing pro-lifers, they are aiding and abetting the deaths of the unborn children." Cops for Christ are holding prayer vigils asking God to "be merciful on America for the innocent shed blood in our land." We were a bit curious as to whether or not they held similar prayer vigils for all of the innocent blood shed in the Gulf War.

Source: The National Rescuer



Choice and Congressional votes

Catholics for a Free Choice recently issued a report which finds that members of Congress who vote to restrict abortion rights are, by and large, the same Congresspeople who vote against legislation that would make abortion less necessary. Conversely, those who vote pro-choice generally vote to create social and economic conditions that welcome childbearing and support childbearing. Copies of the report are available from CCFC, 1436 U St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Bombings

Three firebombs were thrown at the Founder's Women's Health Center in Columbus, Ohio, around 5:00 p.m. on April 14, 1991, the third attack in Columbus this year. The firebombs bounced off plastic-reinforced windows and fell harmlessly to the ground. No one was in the building at the time. The two previous attacks caused extensive damage to a clinic of Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio and the Northwest Women's Center. No one was injured in either fire.

Source: Insider

Upcoming events

Demonstration for reproductive rights. August 26, 1991, at noon, outside of the old county courthouse, Center Street side. Street theatre and more. Sponsored by Planned Parenthood, Reproductive Rights Action Network, and Voice For Choice. Please show your support for the struggle and attend this demonstration.

Labor Day Parade. Monday, September 2, 1991. March with Voice For Choice in the parade. Call 828-3108 for details on when and where to meet for line-up.

Reproductive Rights debate. September 6, 1991. Greg Cunningham, anti-choice legislator from Pennsylvania will debate Mark Siderits of the Planned Parenthood board. Call Lainie at the Women's Studies Department at ISU for more details, 438-7963. Sponsored by the Christian Action Council (so you know they'll be out in force) and Planned Parenthood.

Ewing Arts Festival. Look for Voice For Choice when you attend the Festival. We'll be there with information on issues of importance to human rights, and of course we'll be accepting donations which we desperately need (yes, the old bank balance is down to \$80.00, not even enough for another newsletter).

Lefty Follies. Sometime in October. Do you have talent? Are you talent free? Either way, you're invited to participate in the first ever "Lefty Follies" fund raiser for Voice For Choice. We are looking for acts for real or fun to combine into an evening of entertainment. Entry fee is \$4.00 for acts. Prizes awarded. Judges with real talent will score the contestants. Contact 828-3108 for more information. We hope to hear from you.



PC: Mankind's Final Frontier

The following article is mostly about Star Trek

Time for a quiz. It's an easy one with one question. Ready?

What was your reaction when you read the title to this article?

(a) PC? What's that?

(b) I can't believe Post Amerikan used the word "mankind" to generalize for our species. How sexist!

(c) Ooh, is this article about Star Trek?

If you replied (a), "What's that?", you expressed confusion over the topic of the article, political correctness (PC). Since you obviously have not been keeping up on the mainstream media's bashing of PC, I will tell you that PC comes in many forms.

The most obvious form of political correctness is the use of non-"ism"-ist language. The following is a brief list of PC and not PC conventional language, and you can usually deduce the relative awareness of a person to PC issues by the use of the following terms.

| PC | Not PC* |
|------------------|-------------|
| woman | girl, lady |
| person with AIDS | AIDS victim |
| disabled | crippled |
| international | foreigner |
| humanity | mankind |

(*Of course, context affects the PC-ness of any word. Many blacks/African Americans refer to each other as nigger, gays and lesbians to each other as queer. This reclaiming of derogatory terms by a group can be empowering.)

And not coincidentally, PC words refer to oppressed segments of our society, culture, and planet. PC tries to equalize the level of respect and dignity of each of these groups by removing the negative connotations of traditional language.

Complete PC-ness goes way beyond language, and tries to incorporate these for all areas of life. Ending discrimination based upon one's identification with one particular group is one of the goals.

Giving equal consideration to every view point based upon these categories and making sure each is given a voice goes even further. The ultimate goal of PC-ness, as I see it, is to obtain multiculturalism on the one hand, in which all groups have equal control over their own destiny and are still able to celebrate their diversity, and on the other hand to insure the future of the planet by fostering a respect for all individuals and life on earth.

This is an ambitious goal, and probably not obtainable for any of us in this lifetime. While, as persons of the left, we all may hope to be non-"ism"-ist, we certainly at the very least are only sensitive to the issues of "isms" to which we are exposed, while all but ignoring the issues which we never experience. For instance, most Post readers are sensitive to the sexism of western politics, but are less qualified to speak out against the discriminatory caste stratification of India. Does this mean that we are not completely politically correct?

Are you PC?

That brings me to response two. Yes, number two is the PC answer. Of course the use of mankind is unnecessary and therefore sexist. The word "humanity" is all but interchangeable with the increasingly archaic word "mankind" and does not contribute to the exclusion of women from language.

Those who are not PC, like, for instance, my parents, argue that it makes no difference to them if one uses the term mankind and it does not make one sexist to do so. They are defiant in the face of change in use of language, even though language has always been changing, new words being added, old words being discarded (prithiee, so7).

The next generation

If you answered (c), then you may be familiar with quite possibly the most PC show on television (besides the Simpsons). No, I'm not talking about the 1960s Star Trek, with Spaceman with a dick, James T. Kirk. I'm talking about "The Next Generation." Set in the 24th century, the show attempts to show culture as it would evolve into complete equality. The familiar opening "The final frontier" has been made PC by replacing "where no man has gone before" to "where no one has gone before."

In many other ways the show strives to portray the 24th century as a embodiment of PCness, almost without realizing it. Authority figures of the Federation come in all shapes and colors. Women are allowed to do anything is never questioned based on gender. Even sexual innuendo and harassment are allowed to play in the 24th century. Lusty characters (male and female) are portrayed as childish.

Even more astonishing and subversive is the show's attitude toward religion and spirituality. The show goes beyond political correctness, which encourages the celebration of diverse beliefs. On Star Trek, religion (and the accompanying fear/love of death) are a thing of archaic cultures. When represented on the show, religion is more often than not portrayed as a tool of oppression or a shield for ignorance. Sure, they refer in passing to religious and cultural ceremonies, but the religious identities of the main characters is a blank, as secular and humanist as one could possibly imagine.

Something's still not right here

The strong lefty political strengths of the show are formidable. But things are not perfect. Although the show portrays secondary character authority figures from both sexes, the three top in command among the main characters are all men. The only main character woman who defied 1990s sexual stereotypes is Lt. Tasha Yar, who was security chief. Unfortunately, she was killed off after a couple of seasons, being replaced in her post by macho, violent, hair trigger alien (oh, I mean intergalactic), Lt. Worf, a Klingon. The other main character women are still a bit stereotyped: Counselor Troi is the ship's shrink, showing incredible empathy and nurturing in every episode where it seems appropriate; and Dr. Crusher, a woman doctor who is, in my opinion, the most versatile and appealing character on the show, but still the show's only parent.

Another complaint about the Next Generation is the lip service paid to racial equality. Once again, secondary characters come from all areas of the world (and galaxy) but among the nine main characters, seven are white and euro-amerikan, one is black, and one a black man made up as a Klingon.

Actually, people of African descent are pretty well represented on the show, with Whoopi Goldberg making many appearances as an intergalactic philosopher/entity, Guinan. In no way, though, does the cast represent the complete diversity of earth. I'm sure most of the bias behind the casting is the fact that even though the show is set in the 24th century, the show is filmed in Amerika of this century, and racism and xenophobia in hiring actors is still very real. Many times, when non-European, human characters are shown, they still cling to their cultural heritage of earth to the dismay of their shipmates (for instance, a Japanese woman still eats sushi, which astonishes her new Irish husband who wants some corn beef). Pretty dumb, I say.

Oh, and one last thing. Apparently alternative sexuality will be "cured" in 400 years. I have seen nearly every episode, and same-sex relations have only been alluded to once. In the particular episode, Dr. Crusher (a woman) falls in love with a man, who is actually just a host for a shriveled alien being. When the "host" human dies, the alien being, who she is still in love with, is temporarily implanted into another crewperson's body, a man. After much soul-searching, she decides she can still be in love. However, another switch is made, this time to the body of a woman. Faced with the perfect chance to address 24th century attitudes towards lesbianism and the possibility of same-sex relationships, the writers balked. They didn't step on any toes by making the scene homophobic. But they were disappointing when they didn't have the two characters have a "relationship of uncertainty" were they to be together. Gays and lesbians have become invisible or have been banished to another galaxy.

Can anyone be PC?

I consider myself reasonably PC, so I could have a number of reactions to the lingering racism, sexism and homophobia of my favorite TV show. I could, and probably should write a letter to the show's producers and writers. But is this the show on television that most deserves my criticism? It is probably one of the last shows that deserves criticism, but it's the one I watch. I know more about it so I am most qualified to compliment it or criticize it.

I think that PCness is a challenge and our individual ability to meet that challenge is undeniably connected to our experiences and surrounding. We are all in the end, "centrists", addressing the issues and situations to which we are exposed. And since we are centrists, trapped by our experience in a culture built with bigotry, we therefore all exhibit lingering degrees of bias based on race, sex, size, ability, sexuality, age, religion, etc...

So the quest for the politically correct goes on and it is indeed the final frontier. But as long as the experiences of person "A" are different from person "B", PC will continue to be where "no one has gone before..."

—Peter Doubt



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A couple of good eggs: or, Bird and Q's Journey to the Appreciation Dinner and What they found There

The following article is brought to you by roving Post agents, Bird and Q to show that Voice for Choice doesn't have a lock on all that fun undercover reporting stuff.

We knew we were in trouble when the elevator doors opened wide to reveal dozens of men voluntarily wearing plaid pants. As they turned to face us, our worst fears were realized. They were wearing plaid shirts as well, and clashing plaids at that! It was then we knew for certain we had arrived at Blair House retirement home for the Town of Normal Appreciation Dinner.

We drifted through the plaid haze in search of our name tags. A dreadfully chipper woman behind a small table searched through the pairs of clipped together tags, and soon our identities were revealed. Our true names, that is. But not even the chipper woman could know that we were really...The Bird and Agent Q!

Unbidden, the memories of how it all began flooded back to us. How The Bird had received a mysterious card in the mail; "You are cordially invited to the Town of Normal Appreciation Dinner." How she was mystified trying to figure out what it was she was being appreciated for. But, being both a practical gal and a starving college student, The Bird was quick to RSVP.



"Hello, I'd like to RSVP for the Dinner, but my guest and I are both vegetarian. Is that a problem?"

"Oh no, not at all. It's an hors devours thing."

An hors devours thing? The Town of Normal Appreciation Hors Devours? "We appreciate you. Have a Ritz Bits."

Into the lair



Now our joyous time had come. The Bird was decked out in her "Catholic School Reject" deep camouflage, while Agent Q was resplendent in green and grey shirt, light blue slacks, and purple and black flip-flops. As we reconnoitered the room in search of food and drink, one of the first things we noticed was that all the Afrikan-Amerikans were clustered together on one couch. Ya know, it's kind of sad when all the Afrikan-Amerikans the Town of Normal appreciates can be clustered on one couch.



Finding ourselves in the buffet line, we shunned several types of dead flesh (the Town of Normal appreciates that, too) and moved on to perhaps the greatest devilled eggs ever made. Yum! We ate many. For as The Bird wisely noted, eggs contain almost exactly the pattern of eight amino acids the human body can most efficiently process into usable protein.

We were nibbling at our satanic ova when we felt the hair on the backs of our necks rise in alarm. Our eyes darted about the room like startled hummingbirds, seeking the source of our distress. Slowly it dawned on us that it was not a visible stressor, but an audible one. The organist had stopped!

Cruisin'...on a Sunday afternoon



After playing for 45 minutes without actually completing a song, the organist now sulked on a nearby divan. The Bird insisted that he was staring furtively at Agent Q; Agent Q, normally highly attuned to cruising phenomena, missed it entirely. Of course, Agent Q was having difficulty distinguishing between the organist and the large ceramic pooch that stood nearby, wearing a similarly glazed expression.

We decided to test the veracity of The Bird's hypothesis. Agent Q suggested a quick reconnaissance of the bookcase as an excuse for a closer look. The organist was quickly forgotten as The Bird and Agent Q found themselves confronted by shelf after shelf of yellowing Harlequin Romances. Was this all they had for the seniors to read? Where were the Gray Panthers when you really needed 'em?

Flora and fauna



We encountered many other fascinating creatures that day, including the Matching Fuchsia Couple, Pinched Woman and Mr. Insecurity, who nervously patted his belly with one hand while constantly reaffirming his identity by tracing it over and over on his by now tattered name tag with the other.

Suddenly, a chill dampened the room and the party chatter ebbed. We spun as one to face our arch-enemy, The Kindly Grinning Goof. We slowly backed away from his fully loaded pocket protector, little realizing the true source of our peril. Was it the menacingly plaid shirt? The "Herb Tarleck Look" white shoes with matching belt? No! It was the evil alien symbiote masquerading as a floral print bowtie. This was no Paul Simon!

Rather than risk a pitched battle that could obliterate the fabulous devilled eggs for all time, we retreated under the bowtie's rosebud applique glare. We had almost made good our escape when we came face to face with the most terrifying sight yet; it was Normal Mayor Paul Harmon, looking for all the world like Snoopy doing his vulture impersonation. Apparently his spine had fused with the Blair House central support pillar, for he had not stirred from his slouched position to greet a guest in some time. We bolted for the elevator, traces of the exquisite Mephistophelean henfruit clinging to our trembling fingers, and ascended into the daylight.



Unanswered questions

As we reflected on the day's adventures, far from the plaiding crowd, some unanswered questions arose. For instance, for what was The Bird being appreciated? Just what was in those delicious devilled eggs? And did the Town of Normal really think that a once a year hors devours buffet made up for things like Councilwoman Lucille "Water Cannon" Miller?

--Bird and Q

Uppers 'n' Downers

UPPERS ... to the 5% who voted "none of the above" in McLean County in the July 2 special Congressional election. In a race with no difference between two bad candidates, "none of the above" was the only way to vote.

DOWNERS ... to the Pantagraph, for displaying staggering racial insensitivity by announcing the tragic retirement of Thurgood Marshall under the headline, "Black justice retiring." Thurgood Marshall. Is he the crusading attorney who won the Supreme Court case invalidating the "separate but equal" doctrine? Is he the Supreme Court Justice who consistently stood for the rights of the individual, and against the barbaric death penalty? Nope, he's just black.

DOWNERS ... to Senator Alan Dixon, for apparently abandoning what meager commitment to human rights he may have had. In recent action, Dixon voted to add dozens of new crimes to the federal death penalty list, including such fiendish acts as killing a federal poultry inspector. An amendment on the same bill, which Dixon supported but thankfully was defeated, would have legalized police searches which would have all but gutted the 4th Amendment. What is it with these Illinois "Democrats?"

UPPERS ... to Women, AIDS & Activism, produced by the ACT UP New York Women & AIDS Book Group. This outstanding book comes close to addressing every aspect of the AIDS epidemic as it relates to women, from lesbians and AIDS to prostitute's rights to sex-based differences in HIV manifestation to female prisoners with AIDS. The book is available from ACT UP Central Illinois.

UPPERS ... to the U.S. House of Representatives. Every legislative day is opened with a prayer. In June, for the first time ever recorded, the opening prayer was delivered by a Muslim clergyman. While any opening prayer is questionable in this supposedly church/state separated country, this at least represents an attempt by the House to recognize religious diversity.

DOWNERS ... to the whole friggin' world. According to the World Bank, the nations of the Earth now spend a combined total of in excess of one trillion dollars a year on military troops and hardware.



Two African women win 1991 Africa prize

Local simulcast at IWU

For the first time in its five-year history, the Africa Prize for Leadership in the Sustainable End of Hunger has been awarded to two women: Mrs. Maryam Babangida, the First Lady of Nigeria, and Professor Wangari Matthai. The prize is awarded annually to a distinguished African who has exhibited exceptional leadership in bringing a sustainable end to the persistence of hunger at the national, regional or continental level.

The prize was announced July 18 on an international TV simulcast viewed locally at Illinois Wesleyan University. The local event was sponsored by The Hunger Project of McLean County. Dr. Steven Schimelpfenig, Director of the local Hunger Project, was director of ceremonies.

The program featured a short presentation by Dr. Karl Weingartner, Assistant Professor from the University of Illinois. Involved with the International Soybean Program, Dr. Weingartner demonstrated for the audience of about 100 the role that soybeans are playing in African agriculture. He also emphasized the importance of educating African women in the use of the soybean, since it is a vital source of supplementary protein for a continent with many areas of food and nutritional shortage. The women of Africa dominate the domestic agricultural and food preparation economies and for that reason are a powerful force in the dynamics of African culture. The goal of the projects that Dr. Weingartner is involved with is to help these women to understand and use soy products like soy milk and soy flour in the foods they prepare.

After the keynote speech, a video of the international announcement was played. Charlene Hunter Gault was MC for the United Nations event, emphasizing the importance of visibility for the prize since Africa is threatened by increased marginalization.

The speech by Joan Holmes, Executive Director of the Hunger Project, was synopsised by ISU student and Mali nationalist Mohamodou Houssouba. In his synopsis, Houssouba told of Holmes' recognition of the government of Nigeria for their work; hailed the formation of the African Economic Community, a thirty-year project; and emphasized the empowerment of women for the future of Africa.

And the winners are . . .

Chester A Crocker, Chair of the Africa Prize Jury, announced the two winners.

The first winner, Mrs. Babangida, won the award for founding the Better Life Program for the Rural Woman (BLP). The BLP seeks to empower women's social, economic and political status, and has achieved dramatic results since its founding in 1987. To date the program has launched 7,635 co-operatives, 997 cottage industries, 1,751 new farms and gardens, 487 new shops and markets, 419 women's centers and 163 social welfare programs.

Under her leadership, Nigerian women are being empowered to improve their lives through programs in adult education, primary health, agriculture, trade, crafts and food processing. These women are not only moving toward self-sufficiency, but in some instances, they are in the vanguard of agricultural production in their districts, making significant progress in increasing production and reducing post-harvest waste.

The second winner, Professor Matthai, is one of the leading environmentalists of the continent. She founded the Green Belt Movement, one of the world's most successful programs to combine community development with environmental protection. The movement has built the self-reliance and self-confidence of tens of thousands living in poverty, convincing them that planting

trees will make a difference in their struggle to improve their lives and those of future generations.

To date, the movement has planted 10 million trees, has established 1,500 nurseries and has involved 50,000 women who plant seedlings and distribute and care for the trees. Because it is inexpensive and replicable, the Green Belt Movement has proven to be an effective method for rural development and has spread quickly to twelve other countries in Africa. The movement has also attracted the attention and support of people and governments throughout the developed world.

The future of the continent

World news tends to focus on Africa's problems: international debt, degraded environment, wars and refugees, and its extraordinary health problems including AIDS. The Africa Prize is designed to focus attention instead on the positive actions within Africa by Africans. Through programs like The Hunger Project, real progress is being made in making Africans self-sufficient and the group hopes to obtain what was once thought an unobtainable goal: the end of hunger by the turn of the century.

This year's Africa Prize laureates exemplify the growing number of African women taking on and taking charge of Africa's development. Both women forged their roles outside of traditional lines and both women have used their roles to empower rural women, seen by many as crucial to ending hunger in Africa.

—Peter Doubt (with the help of The Hunger Project press packet)



Left: Professor Wangari Muta Maathai

Right: Her Excellency Mrs. Maryam Ibrahim Babangida



Photo credit: The New York Times/Janet Healy



African-American Primer

I is for . . . Interracial dating

The spotlight still directs its relentless gaze at the couple mixing black and white skin in the act of holding hands. Even those who believe that they are comfortable in the presence of "mixed" couples find it difficult to turn their eyes away from the two walking down the sidewalk or sitting in the theatre, sharing popcorn. What do they see in each other? How can this be?

Interracial relationships—a phenomenon so inconceivable that it must be written about, discussed by panels, must involve issues of some deeply rooted self-hate...

It's just curiosity. Just a passing phase. Now that he's had "black," he'll come back to his senses. It's just curiosity. Just a passing phase. She has nightmares about white masters raping black women slaves. She awakes and removes her hand from his blonde, curly locks.

Interracial relationships—It's chic. It's IN! You'll be the talk of the town. All your friends will want one, too. Try one today!

A simple walk, a little night on the town becomes a confrontation with the horrors of racism. He is always uneasy. You sense this in his kiss hello and goodnight but would much rather pretend that the wall between you doesn't exist. Women of his race flirt overtly, seeing you as no threat, no competition. "You need to get yourself a brother!" comes from the lips of a total stranger. Some angered "brothers" shout at the both of you like sidewalk preachers, telling you that you have forsaken your race. "You must really hate being black!" The words hit harder than stones, embedding themselves in your back.

You ignore that fact that you have both excluded each other from the major parts that make up your life. You alienate this one you love. Keeping them far from family and friends. It's easier than holding your breath and praying that no one will tell a black joke, that no one will break into a speech about "the man."

Interracial relationships—We heard all of the myths about each other throughout our entire lives. Now here's the chance to find out what's true...

We catch eyes more than twice. It's more than a coincidence. He approaches me. I am impressed by his bravery. I study the way in which he speaks, gestures, sees the world. I wonder if I will be "too black" for him, if my thighs will be



too big. I wonder if he will crave blonde hair and blue eyes just when I have gotten used to him being there.

I begin to doubt myself, wonder if he is "too white" for me, if all the anger and silence and grief is worth any relationship. I wonder if we are strong enough, if love is strong enough to allow us to cope with our differences. I begin to doubt us.

Interracial relationships—It's not right. It goes against nature. What about the children? It was against the law, you know. Where's your sense of pride? Keep the race pure...

She's a nigger. He's a redneck. He's the enemy. She's a coon. He's the Klan. He's the man who lynched my daddy...Don't you know how much we hate each other?

And still...I am able, after we have closed the doors around us, locking ourselves inside...I am able, after we have thoroughly convinced each other that "they" don't matter...still I am able to take your hand, mixing black and white skin.

—Alice Y. Jackson, *Black As We Wanna Be*

Clarence Thomas: No Thurgood Marshall

The nomination of Clarence Thomas to retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall's seat on the Supreme Court is an insult to Marshall's 24-year tenure on that judiciary body, as well as an insult to the entire history of the civil rights movement. The Bush Administration's efforts to foist on the citizenry a simplistic equation—one African-American justice equals another African-American justice—show a lack of respect for all Americans' ability to comprehend the complexities of a nominee's positions on domestic issues. Such blatant tokenism should not obscure Thomas' real power, if appointed, to carry out Bush's program for "righting" America. Thomas' appointment would shift the conservative-to-liberal ratio on the Supreme Court to 6:3.

Thomas' adherence to a concept of "natural law" as an appropriate mechanism of judicial interpretation is problematic enough by itself. In the context of his affiliation with certain radically conservative organizations, his bias against the social evolution of legal paradigms raises grave questions about his ability to sit on the highest court in the country.

Thomas did not declare on disclosure forms that he has sat on the editorial advisory board of the *Lincoln Review*, a journal of black conservatism published by the Lincoln Institute of Research and Education, since 1981. Between Thomas' written opinions in the *Review* and the journal's general editorial stance (which Thomas

has never opposed), it becomes clear that he would not continue Marshall's campaign to further empower women, minorities, and American workers.

In 1982, Thomas construed government establishment of a minimum wage and protection of labor unions as counter to minorities' and others' freedom. In 1988, he confirmed his strong opposition to affirmative action, his weariness with "cliches" about discrimination against women in the workplace, and his general aversion to seeing social inequities as anything but excuses to clear the way for a supposedly ideologically neutral "free enterprise." He was quoted in the *Review* as saying, "Because we Americans are a commercial people, we express our freedom most typically in the diverse means by which we take to gain wealth. And this wealth can in turn serve as a means to higher ends."

Statements like this one put Thomas squarely in the camp of those radical rightists (masquerading as liberals) who cherish the ideal of abstract social and economic equality without ever stopping to think about how we're going to get beyond our present point of material social and economic inequality. Like the anti-PC people who dream of a world free of the unpleasant realities of racism, sexism, homophobia, and the other burdens of daily life in our society, Thomas takes a clear stand against collective resistance to discrimination and for individual responsibility for climbing the class ladder.

The *Lincoln Review* extends individual responsibility to cover parenthood and presents its flipside, individual blame, as the correct answer to the nation's rising crime rate: it is both adamantly anti-choice and pro-capital punishment. It sees the former as part of a plot to decimate the African-American population through legalized "murder"; conversely, it says court-ordered death is "an idea whose time has come" and denies that race plays a role in sentencing decisions.

The *Review* has encouraged judicial activism to strengthen a conservative national agenda; criticized the Reagan Administration for failing sufficiently to undermine affirmative action; consistently offered capitalism as a solution to racism; trivialized race discrimination as a factor in high unemployment of Latinos and African-Americans; and approved the notion that the world's evils (adultery, murder, abortion, homosexuality, and communism) can be directly traced to the work of the Antichrist.

A tendency to interpret political issues in light of religious dogma is the most disturbing item on Thomas' resume. He has already promised the nuns of the

Catholic schools he attended to "have no part of this *orgy of self-indulgence* that is running rampant in our society. . . . I will not forsake you." Thomas' insistence on making his religion a public spectacle is reminiscent of Bush's own; early in the nomination process, he appeared in newspapers in photographs with those same nuns to whom he vowed allegiance.

But Thomas has abandoned his nuns to the extent of leaving the Catholic church to attend Truro Church, a charismatic Episcopal church in Fairfax, Virginia. If this church has its way, "natural law" could acquire entirely new meaning with Thomas' appointment. A former rector of Truro, the Rev. John Howe (who endorsed Pat Robertson's presidential bid in 1988), advocated a theocracy with "judges speaking in tongues on the bench." Interpretation could become a two-phase process, first by Supreme Court justices, then by those demonstrably in the state of grace which gave them understanding of the justices' pronouncements. But what would constitute evidence of ability to translate? Literally, God only knows—in Thomas' church, according to its charismatic principles, "When the Father tells you to do something, you don't argue with Him. . . . You don't need to know why."

Just as in the dream-world of right-wing policy makers, abstract ideals make concrete people irrelevant: "The Kingdom of God is not a democracy," says the Rev. Brian Cox of a sister charismatic church. More words of sweeping wisdom available on audiocassette in Truro's bookstore inform practicing charismatics of the U.S. Constitution's failure to achieve "transcendence," a result of its not being grounded in Christian values.

Clarence Thomas' association with both the *Lincoln Review* and Truro Church are not private matters. Any affiliation with an organization whose positions are as controversial as the *Review*'s is an issue of judicial integrity in a Supreme Court nomination. And when Thomas advocates "natural law" as a basis for judicial decision making, he makes his metaphysical views everybody's business. The NAACP, Congress' Black Caucus, and national women's groups, among others, have opposed Thomas' nomination. That should indicate to Bush that he isn't going to be able to impose his rightist will on the country without having a fight on his hands.

Sources: *The Nation*, 7/29-8/5 1991 & 8/12-19 1991

--Sue

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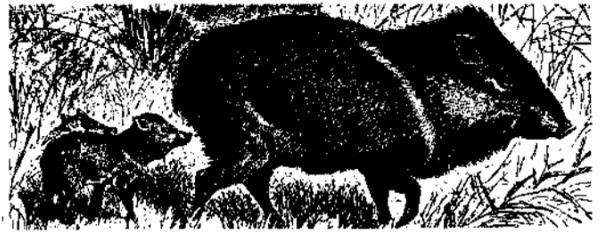
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Animal magnetism



After the War: A Final Update

As most attentive and concerned people know, the Kurdish plight is not the only holocaust in the Gulf. Over 11 million barrels of spilled oil and more than 500 burning oil wells have wreaked vast damage to both wildlife and environment. In fact, there is a very real danger that entire sections of the Persian Gulf could become permanently contaminated.

These man-made eco-disasters are exacerbated by certain natural physical features of the Gulf. It is a shallow sea which is virtually landlocked. Even in optimal conditions, it maintains a highly stressed marine environment that serves as critical habitat to several species.

The Gulf islands serve as important nesting and feeding areas for endangered sea turtles such as the hawksbill and the green turtle, and to the dugong. The dugong, a marine animal related to the manatee, has already become extinct in many parts of its former range due to hunting. In addition, whales and dolphins frequent these waters.

Over 14,000 migratory birds are known to have perished on the Saudi side of the Gulf. This number may be deceptively low since tens of thousands more may have perished at sea. Also, because of Iraqi-mined beaches, the death toll of birds and marine life on Kuwaiti shores remains unknown.



Instead, some "stop gap" relief efforts are now underway. A Saudi-financed bird hospital cleans oil from the feathers of oil-soaked birds. Some scientists who are concerned about the fate of the Gulf's coral reefs have suggested moving pieces of them to aquariums. Similarly, some marine biologists have recommended the live capture and removal of dugongs.

Meanwhile, on the domestic animal front, the worst seems to be over. Most of the animals that were starved or purposely harmed have already died. Now the main job is to rehabilitate the survivors.

Much of this damage could have been avoided by using floating booms to keep the oil away from sensitive nesting and feeding areas. However, all of the available booms were amassed in front of the desalinization plants that provide two-thirds of the area's fresh water supply.

Some of you may remember from the last illustrious Animal Magnetism that the animals in the Kuwait City Zoo have had it the worst. Many were killed for sport, transported to the Baghdad Zoo or left to starve by fleeing zoo staff. As a result, only 21 of the original 442 animals have survived. Thanks in large part to the efforts of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), these animals are now receiving much-needed food, water and veterinary care.

In spite of these efforts, much work remains to be done in the Persian Gulf if humans hope to atone to the environment and to the animals for this war.

(source: AV Magazine)

"Atrocities are not less atrocities when they occur in laboratories and are called medical research."

—George Bernard Shaw

Animal action

The North Atlantic right whale, one of the most endangered whales in the world, is in very real danger of becoming extinct. Early years of indiscriminate hunting have driven the population of the right whale to alarming lows. In fact, the right whale got its name because it is big, slow and placid, making it the "right" whale to kill.

In spite of a 50-year-old ban on commercial hunting of the species, only about 300 right whales still live.

The New England Aquarium houses a collection of photos of the right whale in which almost 60% of the photos show signs of entanglement with fishing gear. In addition, it is speculated that 1 in 10 living whales has survived a collision with a boat.

"I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being."

—Abraham Lincoln

According to Scott Kraus of the government-appointed Right Whale Recovery Team, such "human-induced factors" may account for the right whale's inability to recover from the years of hunting. In an attempt to reduce these human-caused hazards to the right whale, the Recovery Team has petitioned the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service to establish three areas as "critical habitat."

Greenpeace urges you to write letters of support to your congressional delegation as well as to Dr. William Fox, Assistant Administrator of Fisheries, NMFS SSMC 1, Room 9334, 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910.

(source: Greenpeace magazine)

Silver Spring monkeys dead

Titus and Allen, two of the remaining Silver Spring monkeys, were destroyed just hours after the National Institutes of Health received clearance from the Supreme Court to euthanize them. The two macaques were among the 17 primates seized nearly 10 years ago from the Silver Spring, MD lab of Dr. Edwin Taub on the grounds of animal cruelty.

As part of Taub's experiments, the nerves in the primates' arms were severed. This prompted the monkeys to mutilate their own arms by biting and scratching them without feeling any pain.

PETA, the group that originally blew the whistle on Taub, has been trying for years to obtain legal custody of the primates. PETA also tried to stop the euthanasia by appealing to the federal court. (source: AV Magazine)

Montana Passes Facility Protection Bill

The Montana House of Representatives approved a bill to protect research and agricultural facilities from illegal activities of the animal rights movement. HB 120 prohibits illegal entry into an "animal facility" to damage or destroy the facility, animals or property or to have the intent to do so. It also prohibits photographing the facility by a person illegally on the premises and intending to damage the facility.

Since breaking and entering is already illegal, the purpose of this legislation is obviously to protect such facilities from whistleblowing and other activities aimed at exposing animal cruelty, misuse of taxpayers' dollars and so on.

The maximum penalty of HB 120 is 20 years in a state prison, \$50,000 or both. HB 120 has been referred to the Senate Agricultural Committee.

(source: AV Magazine)

For your information

In 1987 alone, it is documented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that 554,385 rabbits, 180,169 dogs and 50,145 cats were used in official U.S. labs.

(source: Health and Humane Research magazine)



Scout law

Scout law

The Boy Scout motto is "Be Prepared." In a series of recent court cases, the Scouts have indeed shown themselves to be prepared. Prepared to fight for their right to exclude people on the bases of sexuality, religion and gender.

"They'll make a man outta ya!"

The Scouts recently won a court battle against Tim Curran. Curran is an Eagle Scout who wanted to give something back to the Scouts by volunteering to be an adult leader. Curran is also openly gay.

The Scouts maintain that Curran's "moral values conflict with those implicit in scouting," and that "the implicit purpose of scouting is to transmit the moral values to young people." Judge Sally Disco agreed with the Scouts' assertion (imagine somebody named Disco ruling against a queen!) that they have the right to "get across [their] preferred message in [their] preferred way."

Oh please! As if hundreds of thousands of adolescent gays haven't gotten their starts at circle jerks around the campfire! How amazing that the Scouts were so unsuccessful in teaching Curran the immorality of homosexuality. How much more amazing that the gay Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, would now find himself barred from leadership in his own organization.

Back in his less-than-hip days, my pop worked as a fundraiser for the Scouts. The Curran story originally broke while I was visiting, so naturally I asked dear old Dad about his thoughts on the matter. My straight father told his gay son that young children needed protection from negative influences. I try to give him the benefit of the doubt, and so I assume he was under the control of alien beings.

We didn't have a lot of time to debate the issue. I had to get back to my job at Scout camp.

The question Dad was never able to answer to my satisfaction was: who is the better influence; someone who lies every day of his life or someone who is, as the Scout Law says, "trustworthy," and tells the truth about his sexuality? I'm happy to report that Father has been successfully deprogrammed and is well on his way to achieving hipness.

"This...is god"

The Scouts are on the receiving end of another lawsuit, this one brought by an atheist whose son was denied membership in Cub Scouts. The Boy Scout oath reads in part, "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God..." Additionally, the boy's father wanted to volunteer as an adult leader, only to be refused because he could not sign a statement reading in part "...no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God." Take that, Madalyn Murray O'Hair!



Writing your name in the snow

As I was preparing this article, yet another lawsuit was filed against the Scouts. This time the Plaintiff was a young girl who was refused membership. The Scouts have lost gender-based suits before, but only when there is no equivalent Girl Scout troop in the area. This report did not mention the Girl Scouts, but it did say why she wanted to join up. She has two slightly older brothers in the Scouts, and she wanted to spend time on camping trips with these members of her family.

This case is reminiscent of one of several years ago. A grandmother wanted to act as scoutmaster for her grandson's troop. The Boy Scouts told her to go join the Girl Scouts, so she sued for the right to volunteer her time for her grandson. In each of these cases the Boy Scouts, those guardians of morality and family values, fought the suits and won them both.

The plaintiffs contend that these antics represent illegal discrimination based on religious belief. The Scouts contend that they are a private religious organization with the right to exclude those who do not conform to their belief standards.



That's all well and good, but for decades now the Scouts have been using public school facilities for meeting sites and recruitment centers. Granted, a recent Supreme Court decision held that religious groups could use school property for meetings when school is not in session. But cynical as I am, I find it hard to believe that even the Reagan/Bush Court would sanction the active recruitment of members for a religious organization during school hours, which is stock-in-trade for the Scouts. Like so many other discriminators, the Scouts want it both ways.

I can't deny that Scouting had a positive influence on me. I think I'm a better person in terms of personal morality and ethics at least in part because of the Scouts. I hope future Scouts are as fortunate in their experience as I was. I just wish the experience would come without the bigoted baggage.

--jmc

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G A L A
 GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE
 ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

NEWS

Tentative schedule set

The Executive Committee has put together a schedule for the Gay And Lesbian Alliance for fall 1991. They're trying a new approach this semester. Each month will have a theme, and the meetings within that month will reflect some aspect of that theme.

Meetings will be run a little differently, too. To get as many people involved in the meetings as possible, the Execs are looking for volunteers to assume responsibility for coordinating and moderating one of the meetings. So look over the schedule, and if you see something that interests you, call the Phoneline and volunteer. An asterisk * means that a coordinator is still needed for that event.

August: Who are we?

August 21--Welcome! A social gathering for new and returning members. Everyone will get a copy of the new GALA handbook and there will be a few words from the Execs about the purposes and goals of GALA and an explanation of the handbook. With refreshments.

August 28--Constitution. Come exercise your right to democracy. A discussion on proposed changes to your constitution, and your voice and vote count!

September: Physical and Fashionable

September 4--Dressing Different.* A panel discussion on the similarities, differences and meanings of terms like Cross Dresser, Drag Queen and Transvestite.

September 11--Self-defense. What will you do if your lover wants to rearrange your face? If some straight bastard decides to bash you? How can you get yourself out of a bad situation? Basic protection for non-warriors.

September 18--Feminist Fashions.* Is it freedom of expression for womyn to wear dresses, make-up and high heels? Or is it just playing up to Big Daddy? Feminism vs. Fashion Sense.

September 25--Gays and the Parties. Learn where the major political parties stand on the gay-rights issues that concern YOU.

September 27-28--Overnight Campout.* Spend Friday night under the stars at Evergreen Lake. Saturday morning swimming, hiking or canoeing. Or if you're not the outdoors type, come for the Saturday afternoon picnic.

October: History Unlearned is History Repeated

October 2--Crowns to Covens. Learn about the roles we played in ancient times, from Egypt to Greece to Celtic Ireland. Discover the origins of gay words and symbols. Based on Judy Grahn's Another Mother Tongue.

October 9--Movie Night: "Maurice."* Based on the book by E.M. Forster. The book was revolutionary in its treatment of homosexuality as an inherent part of a person instead of mere behaviour. One of The Alyson Almanac's Ten Best Films. We'll bring the popcorn!

October 11--National Coming Out Day. Keep an eye out around campus (and maybe around town) for GALA's NCOD flyers, celebrating the contributions of the gay/lesbian/bisexual community to civilization.

October 16--Gay/Straight Rap. Always one of the most fun meetings of the year. Come participate in an open forum and help us lead those poor disillusioned straights into the prejudice-free light.

October 23--Gays and the Military. Why are gays automatically banned from military service? Why do we all seem to love a man in uniform? What does the Navy really think about lesbians? Find out tonight! Based on Alan Berube's Coming Out Under Fire.

October 25--GALA Masquerade Ball.* Celebrate Halloween and your gay heritage by dressing up as your favorite gay from history. Watch this space for more on time, location, etc.

October 30--no meeting



November: All in the Family

November 6--Family and Friends of Bisexuals.* What special concerns do bisexuals have that may not be shared by the rest of the community? How can monosexuals become more sensitized to their needs? Meet members of the Champaign-Urbana Bisexual Network. Bisexual GALA members are especially encouraged to come out for this one.

November 13--A House Divided.* Various views on gay male-lesbian female separatism within the gay/lesbian community/ies. Is separatism inevitable? Is it necessary?

November 20--The First Gay Americans. The special roles and functions of homosexuality and homosexuals in Native

American cultures before the Mayflower invasion. Current views of homosexuality among Native Americans.

November 27--no meeting

December: Fairie Tales

December 4--Alice's Tea Party.* The final meeting of the semester. Elections for spring 1992 Executive Board. Then come the refreshments. Awards for the fairy tales contest (more on that in a minute) will be presented and gifts will be on sale for that special someone on your Solstice/Hanukkah/ Christmas list!

December 22--Winter Solstice Dinner Party.* As winter reaches its peak of darkness, friends will gather to celebrate the shining of brighter light on the lesbian/gay/bisexual movement. A dinner party by invitation/reservation for those in town for the season. A banquet room will be reserved, with costs divided among those in attendance.

Meetings are subject to change. Call the Phoneline for more information or to volunteer to moderate a meeting.

Tell us a story

Are you frustrated with the low availability of gay-oriented fiction in town? Try writing your own. GALA is sponsoring a "Fairy Tales" contest.

There will be several different categories of fiction, including children's stories, teenage level, and maybe even adult. Entries will be judged anonymously by ISU faculty members, and prizes will be awarded to the best in each category.

If all goes well, GALA will be binding each category into book form for sale. Details of the contest are still in the works, so sharpen up those pencils.

A star is born

Festival ISU will be held Thursday, September 12, from 10 am to 4 pm. GALA will be there with a carnival booth (probably some kind of dart game) and we need people to staff it. We also have the opportunity to perform on stage for up to half an hour. Musical types, especially singers and pianists, are encouraged to come out and fulfill your aspirations to stardom.

"Tongue" lashing

On Sunday, July 21, WILL-TV from Champaign-Urbana televised "Tongues Untied," a wonderful documentary/art piece on the topic of "Black men loving Black men." Unfortunately, the other area PBS station, WTVP in Peoria, opted not to show the film. Chief among their reasons was their fear of losing financial support of viewers whose "community standards" had been violated. I guess WTVP forgot (again!) that we're part of the community too.

Write to the program directors of each station. Let WILL know how much we appreciate positive gay-themed programming. And tell WTVP to get over it. The addresses are:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| WILL | WTVP |
| 1110 W. Main | Box 1347 |
| Urbana, IL 61801 | Peoria, IL 61654 |

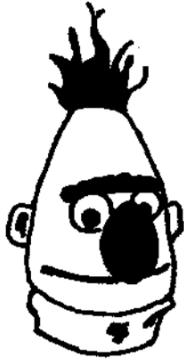
Do it quick before postal rates go up again.

For more information on any GALA activity, meeting times or locations, questions, problems, or just to chat (we Phoneline volunteers get so lonely!), call the Phoneline at 438-2429. Peace.

--jmc



Bert Report I: Lambda letters and laws



Attempting to get on with his life 1 1/2 years after Ernie's sudden death, Bert turns to a life of journalism....

Bert Report:
Lambda Letters and Laws

I took it upon myself to find out exactly what the guys "representing" us guys and gals think about gay rights, so I wrote them all letters. Here's what I found out:

George Bush (President): "The President values the views and suggestions of individual Americans....I hope that you will understand, however, that because of the huge volume of mail the President receives, it is simply not possible to respond to your specific comments and suggestions."

How surprising.

Alan Dixon (National Senator): no response.

Thanks, Alan.

Paul Simon (National Senator): "I do not believe that people should be discriminated against because of their sexual preference. I have fought hard to protect the rights of gay individuals in employment, education, and housing. I believe it is time for the military to eliminate its policy of discriminating against gay men and women. The Department of Defense's own internal study on risks posed by homosexuals in the military concluded that there were no greater risks than those posed by heterosexual individuals."

This guy was elected in *Illinois*?

Tom Ewing (National Rep.): was not yet in office when the letters were mailed out.

Jim Edgar (Governor): Jim forwarded my letter to the Department of Human Rights, who responded: "At the present time, the Human Rights Act protects against discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, financial credit, public accommodations, and sexual harassment in higher education....As of this date, sexual preference is not a protected category, thus the Department is without jurisdiction to investigate any allegations of discrimination based on sexual preference....the Department of Human Rights is unable to take a stand on...the issues you raised...."

The Department of Human *what* ??

John Maitland (State Senator): no response.

Thanks, John.

Gordon Ropp (State Rep.): This was my favorite. Gordon simply wrote short responses to my questions on the letter I sent him and then returned my letter. His "responses":

Me: Do you feel homosexuals should have the right to marry?

Gordon: No.

Me: Should they have the right to raise and adopt children?

Gordon: No.

Me: Should homosexuals be restricted from any careers (such as elementary education or the Supreme Court)?

Gordon: Not by law--just good common sense.

Me: Should homosexual issues be incorporated into sex education programs of public schools?

Gordon: No.

Me: Should health insurance policies be restrictive with (i.e. discriminate against) homosexuals in reaction to the AIDS crisis?

Gordon: No.

There's one point in your favor, Gordon.

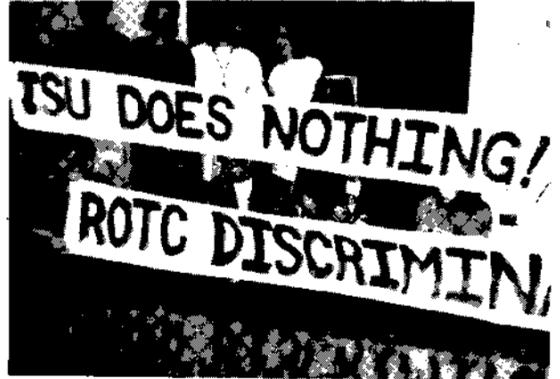
Me: Should the military bar homosexuals from serving in the armed forces?

Gordon: Yes.

Speaking of gays in the armed forces, bill SB 644 passed in the Illinois House 106-2 and in the Senate 51-0. What is bill SB 644? It keeps universities from kicking the Reserve Officers' Training Corps off campus, a response to recent efforts of gay rights activists to get ROTC off campuses because of its gay discrimination policies.

Go ROTC!

(source: Nightlines Weekly/July 17, 1991)



Protestors at ISU's Academic Senate Meeting on April 24, 1991.

Amnesty Update: Amnesty International has been doing some gay rights consideration of its own. The question: Is sex a human right?

At present, AI's mandate only includes those imprisoned for *advocating* lesbian and gay rights. The Amnesty Mandate Review Committee is currently reinterpreting the present mandate to consider including those incarcerated for "expression of sexual orientation."

However, cochair of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission Julie Dorf feels this effort is not enough. She says, "What Amnesty would be saying to governments around the world is: You can't do a bar sweep and imprison gays and lesbians for choosing to socialize together, but you can invade someone's bedroom with impunity and lock them up for the way they love."

The U.S. AI chapter and several other countries are in favor of Amnesty's mandate including sexual conduct in addition to expression of sexual orientation. The matter will be considered at Amnesty's international meeting in Tokyo this September.

Time will tell....

(source: Mother Jones/July/August 1991)

Save the pigeons.

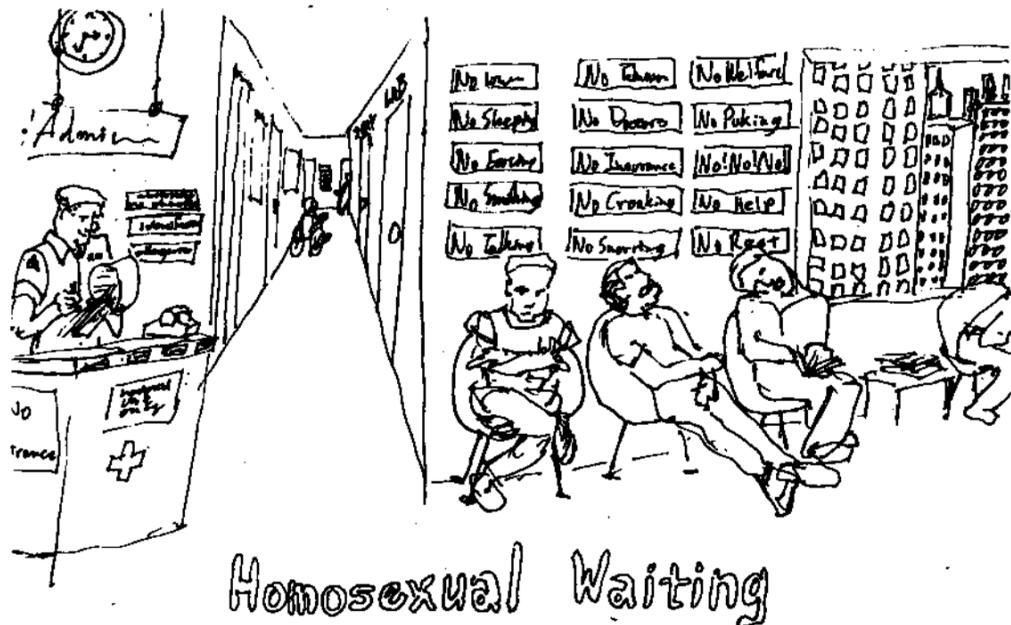
--Bert

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Lambda news

Army memo proposes lifting gay ban

According to a document released by the Justice Department on June 19, the Department of the Army appears to be considering a proposal to reverse its current ban on gay and lesbian service personnel.

The document was released in conjunction with Joseph Steffan's landmark civil rights lawsuit against the U.S. Naval Academy, which discharged him for being gay in 1987. That the document, which propose changes in Army policy, was produced by attorneys defending the Naval Academy suggests that the memo reached the highest levels of military policy administration.

The four page document begins with a critical review of the background of the current policy, citing military research that indicates "homosexual personnel are no greater security risk than are their heterosexual counterparts," making sharp distinctions between sexual orientation and sexual behaviour, acknowledging the great social changes that have occurred in the fifty years since the ban was first instituted, and recognizing that "homosexuality [has gained more acceptance in] society at-large as a viable alternative lifestyle and a valid sexual orientation."

The document then goes on to assure those who may resist changes in the policy that:

"Current changes in Army policy [are] not an abdication to social pressure or pressure from courts, Congress, or special interest groups, or an erosion of the high moral standards expected of military personnel, but a sincere attempt by senior Army leadership to ensure that commanders continue to base their decisions on the time-honored principals of good order, discipline and morale rather than resort to actions predicated on personal moral judgements."

A few sentences later, under the heading of "Justification," the memo states that a change in policy is needed "in order to establish a supportable Army policy that can withstand the inevitable challenge by either the courts or Congress."

The document ends with a proposal to change the current policy and states in part that "The Army shall not discriminate in recruitment, promotion or retention practices based on sexual orientation."

"This document is an absolute admission that the policies mandating the discharge of gay and lesbian personnel is unsupported by any evidence, has always been discriminatory, and is utterly without justification," stated Sandra Lowe, Lambda Staff Attorney and counsel for Steffan. "We're extremely pleased this document has surfaced. Not only is it an internal admission that the ban on lesbians and gay men is based on prejudice and not military necessity, but it's also an indication that the change of the policy is inevitable, if not imminent."

The memo was originally withheld on the basis of a claim by the government that the document was "privileged." The author of the document, the circumstances surrounding its preparation, the date it was written and the status of the proposal are not clear.

To obtain a copy of the memo, contact Lambda at (212) 995-8583.

Lambda files human rights claim against University of Chicago

On June 25, Lambda filed the first case in Chicago claiming that unmarried partners are entitled by law to receive the same benefits as married partners. Lambda's complaint was filed with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations against the University of Chicago. It challenges a U of C policy that prohibits unmarried domestic partners of registered students from having access to university libraries and recreational facilities. The policy allows only legal spouses of students, faculty and staff access to such benefits.

Lambda represents a gay U of C graduate student who asked that his partner, a graduate student from a foreign university, be allowed use of the library and athletic facilities during the portion of the year in which they live in Chicago. If his partner is to continue his studies while they manage the difficulties of living in two different countries, he requires the use of an academic library.

In response to Lambda's written demands that the University allow domestic partners the same access given routinely to spouses, U of C stood by its discriminatory policy, claiming that "[given] the substantial costs and heavy usage of the libraries and athletic facilities by employees and students themselves, we believe the current policies are justified by circumstances and consistent with our legal obligations."

U of C also stated in its May 17 letter to Lambda that it bases eligibility for access "on the objective presence of a legally-recognized relationship by statute or court order, not on any subjective evaluation of the quality or permanence of a relationship." The letter failed to mention that the University does allow "patrons" and corporations to pay a fee to use the recreational facilities and library, despite the fact that they have no other formal relationship with the University.



one in ten are homosexuals



"It's outrageous that an esteemed academic institution like [U of C] would deny a fellow academic access to its libraries because he is not married to his partner," stated Lambda Legal Director Paula Ettlbrick. "Yet they allow free use of all facilities for spouses and any 'patron' who can pay for it. The University has decided to provide privileges to married students and faculty but to deny the same respect and dignity to unmarried students and faculty."

The graduate student Lambda represents met his partner in 1987 in Cambridge, England, where both were studying on academic fellowships. Until one or both finishes his degree, they are forced to commute between Chicago and Germany, where his partner is a graduate student. Both men have the support of their families and share financial and emotional commitment as a couple. The men have asked to remain anonymous because of the recent barrage of harassment, including death threats, against gay students on the U of C campus.

"We are fortunate in Chicago to have a law which prohibits the kind of institutionalized discrimination that this case presents," said Steven Penn, Lambda's Chicago-based Cooperating Attorney. "The University cannot arbitrarily or capriciously decide who will be 'worthy' of what benefits."

Penn pointed out that, aside from the city law, U of C's own policy also bans anti-gay discrimination.

According to Ettlbrick, this case is part of a national effort to establish equality for unmarried domestic partners and, in particular, for lesbian and gay couples. Many businesses and universities use marriage as the only basis for extending benefits to family members.

Cities like San Francisco, Madison and Ithaca [NY] have begun addressing this discrepancy by passing laws which allow unmarried partners to register as domestic partners, providing some governmental recognition of their relationship. Other cities like Seattle, Berkeley and New York City provide some benefits to domestic partners of city employees, such as bereavement leave, family sick leave or health insurance benefits.

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



Letters

Post friend keeps in touch

Dear Post Amerikan,

I have an interesting story for you that occurred at the Darrington Unit in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

On June 2, 1991, an inmate on B line, Row 1, was escorted to the showers. To give your readers a little more detail, there are three rows, and at the beginning of each row are two showers. This inmate (I do not have his name at this

time) was placed in a shower on Row 1 where the water was scalding hot. The inmate told an officer that, for medical reasons, he would need to go to the hospital.

The officer placed handcuffs on the inmate and unlocked the shower. He scratched the inmate, hit him on the head, and had another officer unlock his cell door. He then picked up the inmate and threw him against the cell back wall. The inmate sustained injuries so bad that he had to be flown to John Sealy Medical Hospital where he stayed until he died on June 5, 1991.

I would love to give you the officer's name that was involved but it might be threatening to my health.

This is just another one of the cases that these prisoncrats are going to try to cover up or make it seem as if the inmate was in the wrong. (Just because we are convicted felons doesn't mean we are all trash).



If you and your readers want more to read on this case, please let me know. One way or another we have to get the word out to the public about how the brothers in prison are being killed. It is bad enough that there are already so many people on Death Row, but some who aren't even on Death Row are being killed by prisoncrats.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dominic McConnell



Explore the Twisted World of the NAZIS

Amerikans know all too well the shocking history of the German Nazi bigwigs who ran roughshod over the innocent women, men, children, puppies and kittens of Europe. Haven't the countless Time-Life series books, Hogan's Heroes episodes and Indiana Jones movies been enough to keep us ever-vigilant of those suspicious, overweight, squinty-eyed, steely-sphinctered pedantic types who lurk around street corners speaking English with heavy German accents?

But... Did you know Nazis come in all shapes, sizes and colors? And there's Trouble in the Twin Cities, with a capital 'T' and that rhymes with 'G.'

Fact: The founder of the American Nazi Party, George Lincoln Rockwell, was born right here in the Twin Cities. Know anybody else named George who admires Lincoln? That's right, our President. Now it may not come as a tremendous surprise that our sources tell us Bush has a secret bungalow in Argentina where he serves tropical drinks decorated with little umbrellas and papier maché Patriot™ missiles to certain totalitarian dignitaries, living and, ahem, dead. Likewise, other high-ranking U. S. officials have been linked with the Nazi cause.

Fact: Did you know the name 'Nixon' is simply an anagram for Noxin™--Hitler's favorite brand of skin cream for softening those problem areas like elbows and knees? (It's a little-known fact that Hitler had "combination skin." Guess what--so does Nixon.)

Fact: You know those masks that people wear around Halloween and election time--the ones that look like they were made from elephant hide that look like Ronald Reagan? Ha. The face we came to know as 'Ronald Reagan' was the result of the most cunning latex molding technology to ever come out of the Nazi industrial complex. Underneath that flabby mask--guess who. The Big 'H' himself. And 'Nancy'--a coincidence that the name is closely akin to 'NAZI'?? You decide.

But... perhaps the most dangerous Nazis of all are those who wear their innocent guises--the innocent child buying a piece of Bazooka™ gum, the sweet old ladies licking their Death-by-Chocolate™ ice cream cones, and the clean-cut yuppie making a killing on his cellular phone.

That's where the Post Amerikan comes in. No one knows more about these dangerous people and their devious plots to undermine the fabric of AMERIKAN LIFE™ than US. Trust us. Who keeps you up to date on hate crimes, environmental travesties, animal rights wrongs, anti-choice antics and other despicable NAZI™ plots like your friends at the Post Amerikan? So stop living in fear. WE know who THEY are and YOU know who WE are.

YES!! I need a score card for the Good Guys/Gals and the Bad Guys/Gals--it's getting damn hard to tell 'em apart. Here's four--count 'em--four (4) dollars for a one year subscription (six issues) to the Post Amerikan.

YES!! I need a Post Amerikan T-shirt which will designate me as one of the Good Guys/Gals. That way, there can be no mistake about it. I'm sending you nine (9) dollars in return.

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Mine eyes have seen the glory of a possible AIDS miracle

[Footnote: In the June/July issue of *Post American*, Steve LaPrade, in his article, "Thirteen Cases: Censorship All Over," suggested that an article he had submitted in years past was censored by the folks at the *Post* because we "panicked" over its content. The article that follows, "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of a Possible AIDS Miracle," is the article to which LaPrade referred. And following is a response by one *Post* writer to LaPrade's assertions.]

At a time when this nation is far from a cure for AIDS, when the White House of George Bush could care less about allocating funds for AIDS research, and when the big TV preachers won't lead prayers for dying men and women with AIDS, it's time to pull out all the stops. It's time for concerned people to do something so stupendously imaginative that it will leave the news media, the White House, the religious community, and yes, America's homosexual citizens gasping for breath.

It's time for a giant fundraiser--along the lines of Live Aid, say--but with a headline entertainer guaranteed to yank yawning America to attention: how about Anita Bryant?

Anita Bryant?

I know what you're thinking. She hates gays. She led the fight in Dade County, Florida in the 1970s that overturned a gay rights ordinance. She was endorsed by Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson.

But if my suggestion for the fundraiser strikes you as totally preposterous and ranking with making Dan Quayle a visiting professor at Harvard or Ted Kennedy a driving instructor, go back and look at the facts. For you, like most Americans, have been led astray by sorry coverage of the Dade County controversy.

How much do you know?

Take this simple true or false test:

1. Anita Bryant's campaign kept gays from teaching in public schools.
2. Anita Bryant went to the Dade County Metro Commission meeting to oppose its proposed gay rights ordinance because she felt led to be a biblical example to America's Christians.
3. After the Commission passed the gay rights ordinance anyway, she became so upset that she started an opposition referendum group with herself as chairperson.

Unless you marked all three questions false, you have been misled by media coverage.

I'm going to give some background on what really happened. As you read, consider this:

1. She has never publicly rejoiced over AIDS or pronounced it as a just reward for her harassment by gays that got her dropped by the Singer Sewing Machine and Florida Orange Juice companies.
2. She has stated publicly that TV preachers took advantage of her campaign in order to build themselves up. She has declined to appear on the shows of Falwell, Robertson and their ilk.
3. She quietly tried to start up her career a few years ago as a talk show hostess in Atlanta, but the station got so many phone calls from angry gays--some with bomb threats--that the station panicked and dropped the idea.

Back to our true-false test

The gay rights ordinance was proposed by Metro Commission member Ruth Shack, who had been elected just before that meeting. Now her husband Dick had been Anita Bryant's longtime agent. He had asked for and gotten Anita Bryant to make a radio spot endorsing Mrs. Shack for the Commission.

But when Mrs. Shack proposed the ordinance, Mrs. Bryant caught lots of heat from fellow members of the Northwest Baptist Church in Miami, who demanded to know why she endorsed Mrs. Shack.

Now imagine if you were gay and had urged your friends to support a political candidate. What would you do if that candidate then called for repeal of your city's existing gay rights statutes? You'd feel betrayed and bound to make amends to your gay friends. Well, that was Anita Bryant's situation, but in reverse.



In addition, contrary to lots of coverage, the Commission's ordinance did not affect public schools. Under Florida laws, the Commission's gay rights ordinance would have affected private and religious schools but not public schools. So Mrs. Bryant was getting heat from churches with Christian schools who felt threatened.

Those factors--embarrassment over the Shack endorsement, complaints from fellow church members, and fears of church schools--led her to the meeting. So you can see questions 1 and 2 of the true-false test were false.

But what about question 3?

After the Commission passed the ordinance despite her protests--and those of then Oakland A's manager Alvin Dark, some former commission members, and several church leaders--Miami attorney Robert Brake got some of the opposition together after the meeting and

urged the formation of a group to put the ordinance on a referendum ballot where it might be (and ultimately was) overturned. He asked Mrs. Bryant to head the group since she was the most well-known. Her husband, Robert Green (whom she later divorced), urged her to accept the post.

So she was drafted instead of volunteering. And when the heat started, Brake and the others faded away and let Anita Bryant take all the static.

To be honest, Mrs. Bryant let her church, her sense of guilt about endorsing Mrs. Shack and the efforts of Brake and Green, con her into riding point against gays.

That was then. This is now. She has been silent about gays for years.

So now to the question of the moment. Why doesn't someone who is trying to launch an AIDS research fundraiser contact Mrs. Bryant and ask her to headline the event. In return, a group of prominent gays would draft a public statement (1) thanking her for her cooperation and care for her fellow human, and (2) urging gays to let bygones be bygones and not harass any TV stations that might offer her a talk show.

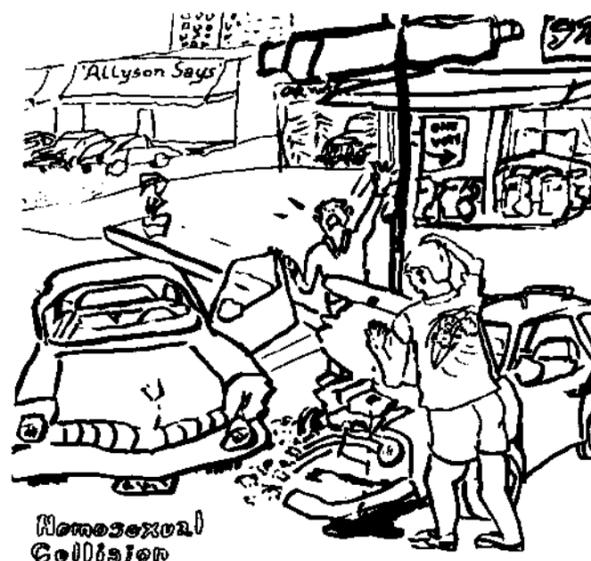
Now she might refuse, but that's her problem. By making the offer, gays would come across as the peacemakers. This would defuse some of the anger felt by Americans who thought that Mrs. Bryant was the victim of a hate campaign engineered by those who attacked a woman because they lacked the guts to attack a man. The offer might move some preachers to rethink their positions on gays and AIDS.

And what if she accepts? The publicity worldwide would be huge. AIDS would have a spotlight possibly dwarfing the Rock Hudson case. Organizers could then give themselves more favorable publicity by contacting such anti-gay folks as Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson and inviting them to join Anita Bryant as they have in the past.

Their embarrassed refusals would further play into the hands of those trying to attract publicity for AIDS research and contributions. It might cut back on funds donated to TV ministers if they acted heartless and declined to help combat a killer disease.

An offer could be extended to former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop whose anti-AIDS efforts shook the Reagan administration to its foundation. After all, if Koop, a Fundamentalist Christian, could be moved to help stop AIDS, couldn't Anita Bryant be moved to do the same? Shouldn't we find out?

--Steve LaPrade





Anita Bryant like I need a hole in my head

As one of the *Post Amerikan's* "gay writers" I feel it is necessary to respond to the assertions made by Steve LaPrade in his article concerning the relationship between Anita Bryant and the gay/lesbian/bisexual community.

LaPrade suggests that gays invite Anita Bryant to entertain at an AIDS fundraiser. In return, there would be no pressure placed on the entertainment industry by the gay community if Bryant is ever offered another job.

We can discount LaPrade's statements on what TV preachers might do as speculation and his remark about gays "attack[ing] a woman because they lacked the guts to attack a man" as sexist and stupid. Let's instead focus on his proposition itself.

By suggesting an AIDS fundraiser in exchange for a promise of no anti-Anita pressure, LaPrade has made the assumption that gay=AIDS, a falsehood from which we have suffered since the formulation of the AIDS diagnosis. Even when AIDS was overwhelmingly affecting gay men, gay men were not the only so-called "high-risk group," and were not the only group to suffer discrimination because of AIDS.

Now that AIDS has been acknowledged by even Ronald Reagan to be a concern for "the rest of us," non-heterosexual people in general and gay and bisexual men in particular are still bearing the brunt of discrimination based on the disease. Bisexual men especially are castigated for supposedly being the "disease vector" to the heterosexual community. To say that AIDS is a "gay problem" or to define the gay community solely in terms of AIDS is a dangerous mistake and a grave disservice to the diversity of the community.

LaPrade also points out the mitigating circumstances which he feels undermine the anti-Anita position taken by much of the gay community. I would like to respond to each of these factors in turn.

First LaPrade says that "she has been silent about gays for years now." There is no statute of limitations on bigotry. If Bryant's campaign is 14 or 1400 years past, it still happened. She has never to my knowledge reversed her stand that homosexuality is immoral. Nor has she apologized for or in any other way attempted to make good her bigoted attacks on gay, lesbian and bisexual people. The closest she has come was in a December, 1980 *Ladies' Home Journal* interview, when she said, "...I'm more inclined to say live and let live, just don't flaunt it or try to legalize it [italics mine]." The message is clear; don't try it again or she'll be back. There is absolutely no logic in forgiving her for her views if she still holds those same views.

Next LaPrade points out that Bryant "has never publicly rejoiced over AIDS or pronounced it as a just reward..." This may be true, but she has also not to my knowledge offered any gestures of support for People With AIDS nor, again, has she made the slightest effort to counteract the incalculable damage her anti-gay bigotry has done. The carnage of the first several years of the AIDS epidemic was largely ignored by the non-gay media in great measure because of overwhelming public antipathy towards homosexuals. How much of that antipathy can be laid, directly or indirectly, at the feet of Anita Bryant?

LaPrade offers "[Bryant's] church and sense of guilt..." as justification for her anti-gay campaign, portraying her as a hesitant draftee in the war on gay rights.

This runs counter to such fervent statements from *The Anita Bryant Story: The Survival of Our Nation's Families and the Threat of Militant Homosexuality* as:

"The thought of known homosexuals teaching my children especially in a religious school bothered me."

"God says there are some things that are evil and some things that are good."

"Homosexuals cannot reproduce [homosexuals]-so they must recruit. And to freshen their ranks, they must recruit the youth of America."

"Even if my livelihood is stripped away from me, I will not be moved."



A new and improved Anita Bryant?
We don't think so.

These don't sound like the words of a reluctant warrior. And even if we accept LaPrade's "draftee" theory about gay rights, how do we explain her paranoid attacks on feminists? Then she dislikes because "women's liberation programs—many of them fostered by women with lesbian tendencies [seek!] — have weakened family ties." And when did your divorce become final, Anita?

Finally, LaPrade states that the "bill she opposed would only have affected private schools and would not have affected gays teaching in public schools." This is wrong. The bill in question barred anti-gay discrimination in housing, public accommodations and employment in all of Dade County. As it pertained to education, it is true that only private schools would have been protected, but only because public schools were under state jurisdiction.

But Bryant and her Save Our Children, Inc. did not target only that portion of the law. They succeeded in overturning the whole thing. This defeat for gay rights led directly to the repeal of similar ordinances in St. Paul, MN; Wichita, KS; and Eugene, OR; setting back the cause of gay rights several years at least.

Even if LaPrade had been correct and only private school teachers would have been affected, so what? Were those people, by virtue of being employed at a private school, somehow less deserving of protection from hatred and discrimination?

For decades the fight for gay rights legislation has been hamstrung by the insistence of exceptions to the law for religious groups—exceptions which, were they applied to the case of, for example, African-American civil rights, would never even be considered. Why? Because homosexuality is the only minority left whose members can automatically be considered immoral just because they are members. And we wouldn't want to violate anyone's "freedom of religion" by "forcing" members of such an "immoral" group on the "religious" American public, would we?

No, Anita Bryant has had enough opportunity to portray herself as the helpless victim of the clash she helped engineer and enough time to make amends for her hate crime if she wanted to. She doesn't deserve any help from us.

In conclusion, let me state my wholehearted objection to LaPrade's classification and apparent dismissal of me and other non-heterosexual *Post Amerikan* staffers as "gay writers." While I can't speak for my colleagues, I am deeply disturbed by the assumption that my sexuality is the only or even the primary motivation for my decision to be a writer.

I am a person, and I like to think a fairly complex person. I am gay. I am male. I am Caucasian, of British Isles descent. I am someone who hates mushrooms. I am many other things as well. I don't know which of these characteristics, if any, inspire me to write. If I don't know, then it insults me that someone else assumes he knows and then judges me and my writing based on his assumption. LaPrade accused the *Post Amerikan* of censorship; he had best be careful of his own.

--jmc

Sources: Fischli, Ronald D. "Religious Fundamentalism and the Democratic Process." Park, Jan Carl. "Referendum Campaigns v. Gay Rights." Collected in: Cheseboro, James W. *Gayspeak: Gay Male & Lesbian Communication*. The Pilgrim Press, 1981.

BY ALYSON





Report from Northern Ireland

Weds., June 19th

Flight from Heathrow very nice (good chocolates), although leaving from a special gate with police area to pass through. Pretense of normality but also obviously not quite. Happiness to see C. again, looking very well, gives me huge hug.

First Belfast incident: Mike forgets bag, goes back a minute later. It is being guarded by uniformed woman who lectures him: "You do realize the security in this airport?" Mike says very sorry: "Just don't forget again." C. jokes that we almost had a controlled detonation of Mike's shaving foam. Leaving the airport, pass through security gate with lots of speed bumps, gates, police looking at each car.

Driving home, C. catches us up on the news. Irish Sinn Fein member of parliament shot to death in Donegal by Ulster Freedom Fighters; redrawing municipal boundary lines before elections. Arrive at C.'s house to find tons of food left from surprise party last night, lovely welcome. Dinner at Belfast Castle, very elegant on hill overlooking city. Entrance to parking lot has electric gate; man comes out and nicely asks if he can have a look in the boot.

After dinner we go to meet C.'s girlfriend Ann, who lives near Queen's University. At one point in the conversation there is a bang; I think, "It's a bomb," then, "Don't be ridiculous, it's just the door slamming downstairs." C. says, "Was that a bomb?" and opens the window: "Excuse me -- just want to see if the end of the street's still there." Yep, sirens already coming, it was a bomb. Ann: "Was it? Oh dear." C: "Well there you've had your first Belfast bomb. Sorry to interrupt." And conversation continues. On the way home, people are strolling on the streets and a soldier patrols the corner with a machine gun. Across the street, lots of barbed wire and steel walls: a police station. We turn on the radio to catch the news and hear that a soldier has been shot down in front of his fiance on the eve of their wedding, and that a bomb went off in Donegal Pass -- the police station we've just gone by -- no one hurt.

Thurs., June 20th

Up latish; go to pick up Alex (the boy who came to stay with us last summer with the Irish Children's Fund). Am a bit afraid of Tiger Bay, a Protestant housing estate (very rough), curbs painted red white and blue. Alex is just the same as ever, sweet and loving. Everything fits; such happiness to see him and where he lives.

In the afternoon, walk to shops and post office in C.'s neighborhood with Alex. Peaceful, sunny and busy. People strolling, lots of babies. I ask C. if people feel afraid in the streets: "No." Alex is enchanted with C.'s house, helps mow lawn. At dinner (made by C.), Ann, Alex and all of us eat crowded around kitchen table, lots of teasing and banter. Before dinner on the news, person killed by rocket launcher which misfired, fell into shoppers. C. and Ann regretting that Chinese restaurant they like was destroyed by last night's bomb.

Went bowling at 9:00, five minutes drive away; all of us jammed into the car. Outside C.'s house traffic is backed up, wonder if it's an accident, but turns out to be two soldiers with machine guns stopping cars ("security check"). I feel tense but notice everyone else keeps talking. Our turn: soldier checks C.'s i.d. which C. flips out automatically, asks where we've come from, where we're going. "Sportsbowl." Soldier says just a minute, looks over to other soldier, Yeah OK go on.

I ask C. why they are there: "They don't need a reason." The driveway of the bowling alley is hedged in by high metal walls with spikes; as we drive past, a man standing nearby with a machine gun moves it to point at Mike in the passenger seat, and then keeps moving it beyond. C. laughs: "You thought you were a goner there, didn't you Mike?" As we park, I see the cameras mounted high above the walls and realize it's just a police station.

Bowling alley very modern, crowded, neon lights. Great time bowling, Alex in form. On the news at night, unexploded rocket lands in office in Derry, missed target. C.'s mom, shaking her head: "Madness. Absolute madness."

Friday, June 21st

In the morning C. takes us to do errands in downtown Belfast: busy pedestrian quarter, many very stylish people, some punks and a Hari Krishna. Five policemen wearing huge bulletproof vests walk by, taking up half of street. We run into C.'s French teacher from school and chat for a while. Walking near City Hall, the huge domed building in the center of downtown, an army tank goes by, soldiers aiming guns at us pedestrians as they slowly pass. I say to C.: "I don't like having guns pointed at me." C: "Why don't you go tell them that?"

Went to bodhran maker's: crowded workshop, lovely wood and painted bodhrans [traditional Irish drum] hanging from ceiling; I pick out mine, can't believe how beautiful it is. Next we go to craft shop (through another security check). As we look around there is a talk show on the radio discussing Catholics and Protestants. Man says Protestants have inferiority complex because they have lost former ascendancy and are in grieving process. Discussion of widely held idea that Catholics are lazy and won't work.

Stop at bank on way home; across street, huge red white and blue murals honoring fallen Unionists. A bomb last night hurt four policemen. I ask C. if this is business as usual, he says "Yes. There was a ceasefire for a while during the talks, but that's over."

We drive past the courthouse: lots of soldiers, armored vehicles. C. says "Must be a big case on." Turns out trial is of Ulster Defense Association leader who gave paramilitaries names and photomontages of Republicans [i.e. pro-Irish Republic] suspected of IRA connections. Catholic man was shot on strength of these documents; turned out they were forged and man had no connection to IRA.

Home for a quick lunch then stop to say goodbye to Alex. C. comes in although he is a little nervous about leaving his car in the street (in case license number taken down). Alex's mom tells us of the problems with living in such a dangerous neighborhood: "It used to be different. Now you can't argue with your neighbor because you never know who they might be mixed up with."

Her fear for her children: Alex can't go to Irish Children's Fund meetings any more because they're held in a Catholic area that is too dangerous to walk through. "It's not that Alex would start anything; it's the bigger lads who hassle him. We don't want any trouble with the paramilitaries." It's time to leave; we say sad goodbyes and they all wave to us from their doorway.



About 4:30, with Ann and another friend, Mary, we set off for Donegal to spend a week with Mike's aunt. Another random security check on the road; we are stopped and questioned. C.: "There's just something about my face". I see how a young man with a Catholic name is as suspect here (to British or Unionist eyes, and they are the ones doing the checking) as a young black man in the U.S.

In the car, Mary teases Ann about her Sinn Fein relatives "with the bulletproof doors". We cross the border into the South just past Derry. There is a tank waiting by the side of the checkpoint and some of the speed bumps have prongs that can come up. Our license plate is patched through, and we are waved past without being questioned.

Once we are over the border, the road is a little worse and the countryside is much scragglier. There are bilingual road signs everywhere. I am happy to be back in Ireland again.

June 22 - June 28, in deepest Donegal

A blur of country activity's at Michael's aunt Brid's house. Quite cold and rainy. I deeply regret not having brought a wool sweater. Friday, C.'s family is up from Belfast; in the evening we all go out to the pub. C. tells us that his Granny's house in Belfast was raided a few weeks ago. The police came just as C.'s mom arrived. She offered to let them in, saying "I have a key." The policeman said "I've got my own key" and kicked the door in. They tore the floorboards up, tore the wallpaper off, broke the windows.

Turns out they had a tip it was either the first or the second house on the block, so they started with the first. C. says when they went to the second, they went straight to where whatever they were looking for was, no damage.



The conversation turns to checkpoints; when you are stopped they have the right to ask you for i.d., and you must say where you are coming from and where you are going. Mary tells us about how last spring she was stopped while on foot. The soldier kept asking questions: "Are you at university?" Yes. "What subject are you studying?" etc. Mary said she was terrified, but what can you do?

Sunday night C. drives us over the mountains to a place in the Gaeltacht where there's a musical pub. There are bonfires everywhere; it's the solstice. The pub is run by Enya's father; everyone is singing. At closing time everyone rises and sings the Irish national anthem, in Irish. When we drive home back over the mountains at 12:30 it is still light over the ocean.

I read most of a book called *The Dirty War* by Martin Dillon. Am amazed and scared witless by certain sections, especially re. surveillance techniques. Realize reason soldiers point guns at the crowds is probably because they use the infra-red sightings on their guns to scan. Police and army have observation posts (tops of tall buildings, or towers made for the purpose) where they scan and record exactly who walks or drives by, keeping tabs on the movements of many people in Belfast. Incredible description of "unmanned drones" used by the British Army to photograph swathes of border land since 1974. Can only try to imagine sophistication of technology in 1991!

During the week there is another bomb in downtown Belfast, near City Hall. Men drove up and threw bomb by hand from car; injuries but no one killed.

We leave Donegal Friday after lunch and tearful hugs from Brid. Crossing the border back into the North, C. recognizes a man from Belfast whose car is being searched off to the side. The man is arguing with the soldiers. We stop to pick up Ann and continue on to Dublin to spend the weekend with another friend, Eamon.

The border crossing at Newry is much more tense than the one near Derry. A long line of cars, and signs saying "We apologize for any delay. Don't blame the security forces, blame the terrorists." Checkpoint itself is about 150 yards long, with camouflaged huts (I see someone move inside one as we slowly inch forward) and barriers made of sandbags -- for shooting from, I realize. There are speed bumps and electric gates.

The soldier who stops us has electronic gear rigged to his chest. He reports our license number and then waves us through. Then follows No Man's Land, 3 miles of "control zone" where no one is allowed to stop. Oddly, pop song on the radio is playing "All together in No Man's Land".

C. points out another road which bypasses the border crossing we've just been through, and says that road is controlled by the IRA. He once used it as a shortcut and unwittingly ran into what had just been a roadblock (used by the IRA to intercept people they want). He said there was a car with its windows all shot out, and the medics just coming. "No one will admit it but basically the IRA controls this part of Armagh. There are roads like that one where the police refuse to patrol".

Get to Dublin late; have dinner and go out to the pub.

Saturday, June 29

Great day being shown Dublin, the National Gallery. On the news, Ulster Democratic Party leader shot in his home in Derry by the IRA who claim he was an informer. Up late, C. and Ann regale us with Belfast stories:

C. tells story about a man who was a double agent for the IRA and MI5 [British equivalent of CIA]: I recognize the story from Dillon's book -- creepy feeling.



A family, friends of Ann's, was once held captive in their house from 8 in the morning until 10 at night, while IRA used their van to blow up a barracks. Hijacking a common experience: people are told when they may report it to the police. They obey because otherwise they'll be killed. C. told how he could never understand why their family couldn't get 4-door cars when he was little: because they pick 4-door cars to hijack so they can make a fast getaway.

A few weeks ago, a friend of C.'s mom was at home when an IRA man came in and demanded the use of her car. The car was brand new, she refused. Gun held to her head, still she refused: "my husband will kill me". Dropped the keys down her pants. When they finally got the car, delay had caused plan to be aborted. C., laughing at story, says the woman "went to pieces" when she realized what she'd done and the danger she'd been in.

Conversation turns to the Gulf War, which made little impression in Belfast. Ann: "There was this woman at work who was really upset about the war, and I just thought 'Get real.'" Some good graffiti included: "Our survey shows 8 out of 10 soldiers prefer the Persian Gulf to West Belfast" and -- on a recently dismantled observation post -- "Off to the Gulf, back in two weeks".

Sunday, June 30

Crossing the border into the North, C. worried about bodhran getting us into trouble. The soldier at Newry asks if we went to the Rod Stewart concert. Just trying to be friendly? On the news: man from C.'s granny's neighborhood found shot with his hands tied behind his back. "Punishment shooting". Also man kneecapped this evening (shot through both elbows as well as knees).

Back home, discussion of whether man shot was anyone they know; not really. C.'s dad stays up till 2:30 talking; shows us account from 1922 by his dad's cousin blinded in an anti-Catholic attack ("this has been going on for a long time"). He tells us story of how one morning he picked up a mercury switch bomb in front of a friend's house, miraculously escaped being blown to bits. (Turned out to be case of mistaken identity, bombers were told "orange car" but there were two orange cars on that street.)

Monday, July 1

Frisked at two checkpoints in the airport (even little girl, about 3 yrs. old, gets frisked). Back in London, very different feeling. "Be alert for bombs" signs only reminder of Belfast.

Tuesday, July 2

Hear on the late news that the border crossing at Newry has been blown up.

Sunday, July 7

Spectacular IRA breakout of Brixton prison. After mass, two prisoners climb over the wall, and escape into the Tube. Reading small print I see men are only IRA suspects. Houses of "known Republican sympathizers" raided in London.

Monday, July 8

Back in the U.S. our housesitter says she heard there was a bomb in Northern Ireland. Wonder which one it was? Surprised to hear anything was actually reported here; usually it isn't.

-- Christine Moneera Laennec
(Some names have been changed)

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Feminist Primer



is for . . . Xenophobia

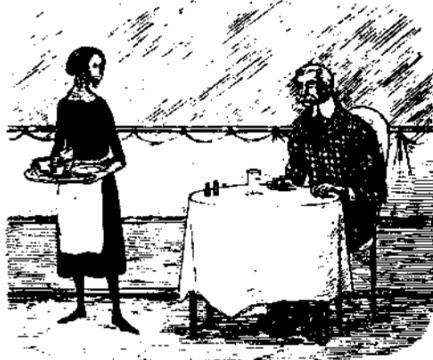
Xenophobia: fear or hatred of strangers and foreigners

Misogyny, unfortunately, is manifested in a variety of ways. Aside from abuse of women in one's own culture—examples range from spouse battering to denying women the right to drive to ritual clitoridectomy—one of misogyny's devious permutations is the practice of ridiculing or showing hatred for another culture by expressing contempt for the women of that culture.

Xenophobia has been combined with exploitation in international business and tourism. For example, Japanese businessmen can now take a special "sex flight" to go sample the more "exotic" prostitutes in South Korea, billed by Japanese travel agents as a new "Male Paradise." Also, Dutch businessmen frequent a route to Asia that airline workers have dubbed the "gonorrhoea flight" to vacation and indulge in inexpensive sexual purchasing. More than one case exists of a man buying a woman, "importing" her home, and abandoning her in a strange country when done with her.

Meanwhile, back here in the Amerikas, disputes between white Amerikan and Native people's interests often degenerate into ugly xenophobic displays. Hunters and fishers showed the usual Amerikan tact and sensitivity for tribal ways of life when faced with the issue of tribal spearfishing rights, which apparently would interfere with business as usual for the commercial and sports industries; the white sportsmen came up with the slogan "spear a squaw!" for fishing rights.

Is the use of that cliché slur any different than the excuse used by Marc Lepine when he murdered 14 women engineering students because he hated "feminists"? The dismissive treatment of that story in the media could have been in part due to the fact that the term feminist itself is becoming a slur, a new F-word for a so-called "postfeminist" age. (Somebody please tap me on the shoulder and let me know when we don't need feminism anymore).



*The Xenophobe grabs at the table,
He feels his toes and fingers curl;
For he is only barely able
To keep from striking down the girl.*

Racism and xenophobia are variations of the same emotion. They both are used by patriarchal cultures to maintain privilege. They are used to take power and pride for who she is away from a woman, and understanding of the dignity of other lifestyles away from people in general. They take the cultural strength out of words like squaw, dyke, feminist, and others, turning them into weapons against women-as-Other. They stereotype "types" of women—Korean, Latina, young, etc.—as sex commodities. Attitudes of "those people are just like that" commonly portray Others as more perverse than whatever the "norm" is.

As long as the Other is perceived as some kind of weird alien, the patriarchy feels no need to show respect. When the Ottawa golf course wanted to expand on Mohawk land, the government negotiators had as much difficulty dealing with Mohawk women who spoke with them as they did with the men and women at the roadblocks and barricades. The women did not argue in the businesslike, commerce-oriented style to which the officials were accustomed, but instead personalized the tribal issues.

As the public becomes more aware of the fact that certain issues are global ones, like environmental issues and the AIDS pandemic, so too is the women's movement growing more international in scope. Such activism achievements as the Nestles' boycott, for one example, indicate the possibilities for productive change that women can make for the world as we celebrate and respect diversity. Bringing international awareness to the public can be a useful strategy for women to break apart the patriarchal concepts of Other.

—Juana la Loca



Lesbian herstory archives campaigns to purchase new building

The Lesbian Herstory Archives, the largest and oldest lesbian archival collection in the world, has kicked off its second annual House Party Campaign. The campaign is critical to the success of LHA's Building Fund Drive which will enable the organization to purchase a new building for its rapidly expanding collections.

The Lesbian Herstory Archives houses tens of thousands of books, photos, periodicals, letters, diaries, organizational papers and other artifacts of international lesbian history and culture. It serves as an essential resource for researchers, political activists, authors and filmmakers documenting lesbian experience.

After 16 years, the collections have outgrown their original home in a small New York City apartment. LHA planners have their sights set on locating an accessible, three-story brownstone that is close to public transportation routes. The larger space will provide an audio-visual room, a gallery for artists and photographers, a humidity-controlled room for special collections, as well as comfortable research rooms and space for educational forums.

The House Party Campaign provides an opportunity for lesbians and others to host their own gatherings designed as fundraising events. All tax-deductible funds raised during this campaign will be used solely for the purpose of purchasing the new building. "Each House party brings us a step closer to acquiring the new home LHA needs and deserves," says Joan Nestle, Co-founder. "It also enables lesbians and our friends around the world to share first-hand in our vision, and to actively participate in preserving the full diversity of lesbian voices and experience that enrich us all."

The structure of each house party is left up to the host, although an information packet is sent to party givers to assist and support each effort. Last year, individual parties—from barbecues to cocktail receptions—were held from Washington, D.C. to Anchorage. The House Party Campaign, along with individual contributions, has raised \$100,000 to date toward the total goal of \$350,000.

"It is essential that we act quickly to purchase a building in the currently favorable real estate market," says Deborah Edel, Co-founder and Treasurer. "A successful 1991 House Party Campaign would enable us to make a down payment before the end of the year."

As part of the overall Building Fund Drive, LHA also announces that contributions over \$500 may now be earmarked as interest-bearing loans to the archives.

In 1979, LHA incorporated as the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that operates solely by volunteer services. For more information regarding the archives or the Building Fund Drive, contact LHEF, Inc. at P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10116, or call (212) 873-9443.



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RAPE CRISIS CENTER



What does the word "Corvette" mean to you?

Okay, we'll admit it. "Objective journalism" was not how we chose to approach this story. We—Skeet and Pete—had some pre-conceived notions about the Corvette owners who invade Bloomington-Normal each year.

We went in search of the Great White—the great, white, American male. The stereotype behind the car. The image behind the wheel. We wanted to walk the fairgrounds and listen to their conversations. We wanted to ask these men simple questions like, "What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word *Corvette*?" and have them, unknowingly, completely disclose and answer, "My everlasting pussy magnet."

But our plans changed once the fateful weekend approached. To start with, tickets to the show were \$8, a little steep for us cheapskates, even in a *Post Amerikan* article. So we went the free route. We went out and flagged down passing Vettes at the annual driving rally, where many of the Corvette owners line up their cars and drive around the county in a parade. We drove our Honda Civic out to the new State Fair facility just as the Vettes had finished lining up.

Streams of Corvettes passed by, most driven by middle-aged white men (as we had predicted), accompanied for the most part, by their adoring wives. Our chances of getting lurid and sexist remarks about the sexual power of the fast car seemed severely compromised by the presence of their spouses in the passenger seat. These men would probably have to be drunk and out on their own before we could get them to sport their sports car manhood, which, quite frankly, we now have to wonder why we sought such punishment in the first place.

In fact, the sheer number of white, middle-class couples made it almost impossible to choose who to interview. We must have watched 200 hundred cars go by before we even spotted any women behind the wheel. All told, we counted about five. And maybe three people of color.

Perhaps we were a bit disappointed in the responses we got from people. Here was their chance to tell the world about their love of the Vette:



Post Amerikan: What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word *Corvette*?

Man: Speed. You just know them as a fast car. Lots of power.

PA: If someone gave you the opportunity to talk for only two minutes about your car, what would you choose to talk about?

Man: The ride, the handling. Just the feel of it. The power. You really need to get behind the wheel of one to know how it feels.

When we saw two women driving together, we were excited to interview them, hoping they could offer an insightful word representing a marginalized group at the show:

PA: What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word *Corvette*?

Women: Stingray. That's what popularized Corvettes, the Stingray style. And it's my husband's favorite style.

PA: One of the things that we have been noticing here today is that there aren't too many women who are driving Corvettes.

Women: Well, my husband is right behind me. We've each got our own. This one's mine and that's his.

Come to find out, this husband and wife team brings their best friends, another couple, to the show with them every year. The boys in one car, the girls in another.

Of course, the question this year on everyone's mind was, "What's going to happen next year?" as rumors circulated that the convention might be moving to a different community seeing that Bloomington can't provide adequate space for the increasingly growing gathering. One man had it all figured out and was quite sure why the Corvette convention should remain here:

PA: What do you think about the possibility of the show leaving Bloomington?

Man: I hope it doesn't. The name is Bloomington Gold. Springfield just doesn't sound right.

And of course, there's the ol' favorite "penis extender" metaphor that we couldn't get off of our minds as we walked the line-up. Just for fun, try substituting "penis" for "Corvette" in this next interview:

PA: What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word *Corvette*?

Man: Fun. Definitely fun. It's something that I always associated with my Corvette. It's great looking, and I've always enjoyed looking at it. Some people think that they are more fun to look at than they are to drive. Personally, I guess I would rather drive mine.

When we saw the rusty VW van amongst all of the Vettes with their vanity plates, of course we were intrigued. Was there another underground newspaper in the area covering the show? Hippie reporters? Or perhaps someone who took a wrong turn on the way to a Dead concert? Skeet went to investigate while Pete's steady hand and keen eye waited for an exclusive:



PA: Excuse me, do you have a minute? I have to admit that I am a bit intrigued as to your interest in the Bloomington Gold Corvette Convention.

People in van: *Corvette Convention?* Shit, man. We thought this was the hemp tour, man. You know, "Bloomington Gold, the local weed." Let's get the fuck outta here, man.

Clearly our favorite interview was with a woman who couldn't wait to tell us about her car. And when Pete asked her if he could take her picture, she had a whole line-up of poses ready, "in the car and out of the car."

PA: What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word *Corvette*?

Woman: Class and speed. A Vette is sheik. When I'm in mine, I feel, when I punch it, like a stallion. I guess it should be a Mustang—which I also have.

PA: We've been walking up and down this strip here for quite a while and you are one of the few women we've run into. Have you noticed that there aren't many women drivers at the convention?



Woman: I've been coming here for years, and most of the people here think it's unusual that I come here by myself. I know that I am one of the few women who does. I have one of the few cars that is bastardized. Another thing, these are all purists here, but they do like my car, and that flatters me.

All in all, the Corvette show wasn't a complete bust. Pete got some good pix. And we didn't have to pay \$8 to find out that Corvette owners may think a lot of their Corvettes, but, like the rest of us, sometimes don't have much interesting to say.

—Peter Doubt and Skeet Floyd

READ THIS! Post needs your help

I was reading the latest issue of the *Gay Community News*, published in Boston. They're in trouble—financial trouble. They are running into debt. At that printing, GCN had not paid any of their very few paid staff members (\$215 a week—living in Boston), and they weren't able to pay their employees' health insurance premiums. They needed to raise \$25,000 in two weeks.

"Shit, I'm glad we don't have to worry about money like that here at the *Post Amerikan*," I thought to myself as I was getting ready to send GCN a measly \$5 donation.

Later that week, I ran into our financial coordinator at the *Post*: "We're broke."

It was hard to believe at first. People often laugh when they first hear how much it costs to publish the *Post*. It's pretty cheap—about \$300 an issue. We are an entirely volunteer organization that survives financially from a few advertisers, less than 200 paid subscribers, a quarter a copy from the machines, and donations from a concerned community. We break even.

As an organization, we don't want to make a profit (hence, "non-profit organization"). We need money to keep our community informed about the issues that the *Pantagraph* doesn't view as necessary to represent (or to represent legitimately). We need money so we can provide a forum for the voices that would otherwise be silenced in a community like Bloomington/Normal.

But since we break even with every issue, our financial stability is sensitive. And since difficult times have hit some of our advertisers, our subscribers, and those who make regular donations, we have slipped into debt.

Many of the progressive organizations in our community are struggling (and the conservatives are loving it). But remember—the *Post* serves as the press for these organizations. The *Post* is an important record and representation of the politics we fight for every day. Keeping the *Post* alive is crucial to the survival of Bloomington/Normal's left.

If you can, please consider making a donation to *Post Amerikan*. Any amount will help. Renew your subscription. Buy a subscription for a friend who has moved out of town. If you normally read a copy of the *Post* that is lying around at friend's house, consider buying a copy from our machines. If you have paid off your month's bills and you have an extra buck or two, consider it as a contribution to the paper (two bucks from each of our readers would keep the *Post* alive for another year—really).

Your support for *Post Amerikan* could never be more timely. All of us at the *Post* thank you.

—Scott



American nightmare: What the mainstream media don't say

1991 began with George Bush, in his State of the Union address, reminding Americans of their mission to "lead the rest of the world into the future." In view of recent moves toward "democratization" (read, "capitalization") in Eastern Europe and elsewhere (if you count Ethiopia), as well as "our" victories in the Middle East and points south, it might be interesting to review just what sort of a future it is that the U.S. is towing its satellites into.

The America that the Reagan/Bush conglomerate has been force-feeding the national consciousness and marketing to the world has a seamy underside that the PR campaign usually neglects to mention. It's not invisible, though. We can see it if blind patriotism doesn't keep us from looking past the media image constructed by network television, corporate-owned and -influenced news magazines, and elite-controlled popular culture.

General Schwartzkopf has proclaimed the U.S. to be the world's superpower—but in what areas, besides the ability to destroy life in military action, are we #1? A quick search of a few news sources (mostly alternative) turns up the following statistics: the U.S. leads the world in

- % of children living below the poverty line (1 in 3 urban kids, 1 in 4 rural kids, nearly 1 in 2 African-American kids)
- teen pregnancy
- murders of males 15-24 years old
- murder by handguns for all ages
- % of population incarcerated
- % of commuter trips made by private auto rather than by public transport
- per capita energy consumption
- emissions of air pollutants

We're not on the top of the heap in everything, though. We're #17 in percentage of 1-year-olds fully immunized against polio, beaten out by the likes of China, Brazil, and Bulgaria. In percentage of children born at or above normal birth weight, Egypt, Jordan, and the Soviet Union are ahead of the U.S. Such "3rd world" nations as Algeria, Morocco, and Zimbabwe manage to spend a higher percentage of their GNP on public education. And those old nemeses of democracy, Libya and Cuba, average more teachers for their school-age children than does the U.S.

Other interesting, if not encouraging, numbers to keep in mind in the forging of the New World Order:

- fewer than 50% of U.S. 17-year-olds have the reading, math, and science skills necessary to perform entry-level jobs
- the high school drop-out rate in inner cities is as high as 50%
- 30-35 million Americans have absolutely no health insurance; 3/4 of these are workers and their families
- 8.6 million Americans are unemployed; almost 7 million have only part-time work or have dropped out of the job market
- job-training programs have been cut by 69% since 1981 (the date is doubtless significant)
- a woman is beaten every 15 seconds in the U.S., and 4 women are killed by their batterers each day here
- in 1986—and the disparity has been increasing since—40% of the U.S. population received 15.7% of the country's income; 20% received 42.9%

- The U.S. drug economy brings in \$200 billion yearly.
- the 1992 budget proposes \$8.8 billion for drug interdiction, prison construction, and other "law and order" programs; it also proposes \$1.6 billion for drug-abuse treatment, \$99 million of which depends on states' matching federal contributions
- every industrialized country in the world except 2—the U.S. and South Africa—has a national parental-leave policy
- in February of this year, 31% of Americans surveyed knew that Israel is occupying land in the Middle East, 3% knew that Syria occupies Lebanon, and 2% identified Kuwait's OPEC-violating low oil prices as a cause of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait
- the same survey determined that amount of television watched correlated negatively with knowledge about events in the Persian Gulf, with one exception: 80% of heavy t.v. watchers could identify the Patriot as the missile that shot down Scuds

It seems, indeed, that patriotism is the best thing this country has going for it right now. And from the looks of things, the country's going to need all the blind faith it can get if it's going to survive the millennium.

The other option is to seek out alternative sources of information and work collectively and peaceably for change. The networks are available, and that strategy might get us beyond century's end and into a future that we all can live with.

(Sources: The Nation, 4/29/91 & 7/8/91; Mother Jones, 5-6/91; Chicago Tribune, 7/7/91; Utne Reader, 11-12/89 & 7-8/91; Greenpeace, 5-6/91)

The Post Resource

The Post Resource is a regular Post Amerikan feature that serves as a quick reference guide for those interested in community organizations and services. At this time, much of our information is incomplete or outdated. If you need to update information in The Post Resource, or if you would like to include information about your organization, please write: Post Amerikan, PO Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/ Central Illinois (ACT UP/CI)

PO Box 3452
Bloomington, IL 61702
827-6841
Meetings: Alternating Thursdays,
7 p.m. at Up Front Gallery,
102 N. Center, 2nd floor,
Bloomington.

Amnesty International/ISU

146 Braden
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61761

Bloomington/Normal Anti-War Coalition

829-3701

Gay And Lesbian Alliance (GALA)

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761
438-2GAY (0429)
Meetings: Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
ISU campus
Fairchild Hall 124

ISU Feminist Alliance

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761
Meetings: Check ISU Vidette
for meeting time and location

Men Against Rape

Contact McLean County Rape Crisis
Center for information.
Meetings: Check ISU Vidette
for meeting time and
location

McLean County AIDS Task Force

Phoneline: 827-2437 (827-AIDS)
Monday-Thursday, 7-10 p.m.
Info recording at other times.
Emergency/crisis: PATH, 827-4005
Meetings: First week of every
month. Call for information.

McLean County Human Rights Coalition

c/o Voice for Choice
PO Box 905
Bloomington, IL 61701
828-3108, ask for Linda

McLean County Voice for Choice

PO Box 905
Bloomington, IL 61701
828-3108, ask for Linda
Meetings: Alternating Tuesdays,
6:30 p.m. Call for meeting info.
Newsletter subscription: \$4.00
donation requested

Post Amerikan Newspaper

PO Box 3452
Bloomington, IL 61702
828-7232, leave a message
827-6841, ask for Scott
Meetings: Call for information
Subscriptions: \$4.00 for one year
(six issues)

Progressive Student Union (PSU)

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761
Meetings: Wednesday evenings,
ISU campus. Check ISU Vidette
for meeting time and location.

Rape Crisis Center

Use PATH phoneline
827-4005
Volunteer training workshops to
be announced.
Call for information.

Reproductive Rights Action Network (RRAN)

146 Braden, ISU
Normal, IL 61761
438-7963, ask for Lanie
Meetings: Thursday evenings,
ISU campus. Call for meeting
time and location.