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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

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### Volume 24, Number 5

Post Amerikan

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Normal West Says "No" To Green Hair

The Poetry Police

Grandmother Water



# POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOL. 24

50¢

NO. 5

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1995



## Principal Crabtree causes disturbance at Normal West over green hair.

See related story on Page 5.

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# PAGE 2



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOL. 24

NO. 5

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1995

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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*.

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

David, John, Julie, Linda,  
 Ralph, Sherrin & Winter

## Post Sellers

### Bloomington

AIDS Task Force office  
 About Books, 221 E. Front (inside)  
 The Back Porch, 402 N. Main (inside)  
 Bakery Bank, 901 N. Main  
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East  
 Circus Video, (Emerson and Main)  
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main (inside)  
 Front and Center Building  
 Law and Justice Center, W. Front  
 Medusa's, 420 N. Madison (inside)  
 Once Upon a Time, 311 N. Main (inside)  
 The Park Store, Wood and Allin (inside)  
 Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main (inside)  
 U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe  
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

### Normal

Amtrack Station  
 Babbitt's Books, 104 North (inside)  
 Bus stop, (School and Fell)  
 Coffee World Coffeehouse, 114 E. Beaufort  
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North (inside)

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Good numbers

ACLU.....454-7223  
 AIDS Hotlines  
 National.....1-800-AID-AIDS  
 Illinois.....1-800-243-2437  
 Local.....(309) 827-AIDS  
 Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-7092  
 Animal Protection League.....828-5371  
 Bloomington Housing Authority.....829-3360  
 Clare House (Catholic workers).....828-4035  
 Countering Domestic Violence.....827-7070  
 Dept. of Children/Family Services...828-0022  
 Gay & Lesbian Resource Phonenumber...438-2429  
 Habitat for Humanity.....829-0693  
 HELP (transportation for senior citizens/handicapped).....828-8301  
 Home Sweet Home Mission.....828-7356  
 IL Dept. of Public Aid.....827-4621  
 IL Lawyer Referral.....1-800-252-8916  
 Incest Survivors Support Group.....827-5051  
 Lighthouse  
 (substance abuse treatment).....827-6026  
 McLean Co. Center for Human Services.....827-5351  
 McLean Co. Health Dept.....888-5450  
 McLean Co. Humane Society.....663-7387  
 Mid Central Community Action.....829-0691  
 Mobile Meals.....828-8301  
 Narcotics Anonymous.....1-800-779-6178  
 NAAFA (size acceptance)  
 Central IL chapter.....454-2128  
 National Health Care Services/  
 abortion assistance.....1-800-322-1622  
 Normal N.O.R.M.L.....452-4761  
 Occupational Development Center...452-7324  
 Operation Recycle.....829-0691  
 Parents Anonymous.....827-4005  
 PATH (Personal Assistance  
 Telephone Help).....827-4005  
 Phone Friends.....827-4005  
 Planned Parenthood (medical).....827-4014  
 (bus/couns/edu).....827-4368  
*Post Amerikan*.....828-7232  
 Prarie State Legal Services.....827-5021  
 Project Oz.....827-0377  
 Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005  
 Safe Harbor Mission (Salvation Army)829-9476  
 Sunnyside Neighborhood Center.....827-5428  
 TeleCare (senior citizens).....828-8301  
 Unemployment comp/job service.....827-6237  
 Voice for Choice.....828-3108  
 Western Ave. Community Center.....829-4807  
 Youth Services of Mid IL.....828-7346

## Due Date:

The due date for submitting articles to the *Post Amerikan* is: (please laser print your articles in columns of 3" using Palatino 10pt. type if possible.)

**Nov. 15th**



# Community News

## Letters



Industrial Workers of the World  
San Francisco Bay Area  
General Membership Branch  
P.O. Box 40485  
San Francisco, CA 94140

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We received the June/July '95 issue of your paper, Post Amerikan, and thought I'd drop y'all a line. I really enjoyed the Native American (oops, I mean Turtle Island) supplement, and was wondering if that's a regular feature in your paper? Overall, I personally liked your paper and wish you much success in the future. In closing find enclosed some addresses which may help you with your project.

For the Cooperative Commonwealth,  
Nicky Richards

## Services & Support Groups for Livingston & McLean Co.

**McLean County Center for Human Services**  
108 W. Market, Bloomington  
Ph. 309-827-5351

**Institute for Human Resources**  
310 E. Tarrant, Pontiac, IL  
Ph. 815-844-6109

**P.A.T.H. Crisis Center**  
Information and referral ... 827-4005  
Toll-free in McLean County  
1-800-537-3085

**After-hours emergencies**  
in Livingston County, Ph. 815-844-6109

Obsessive Compulsive group is being organized. For information, call 662-6119.

**AMI of Livingston & McLean Counties**  
Educational programs and support meetings, 7 p.m. every third Thurs. at BroMenn Conference Center. Call 309-454-4983 or 815-842-1514.

**AMI of Livingston & McLean board meetings**  
6 p.m. on fourth Thursdays at BroMenn Conference Center, ph. 454-4983.

**Journey of Hope Support Group**, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on fourth Thursdays at BroMenn Conference Center

**AMI Illinois State Office**  
730 E. Vine St., Rm. 209  
Springfield, IL 62703  
Ph. 217-522-1403

**Bound Together Books**, 1369 Haight, S.F., CA, 94117. Bookstore carries periodicals of leftist-liberal thoughts.

**City Lights Bookstore**, 261 Columbus Ave., S.F., CA 94133

**Epicenter Zone**, 475 Valencia St., S.F., CA 94110. Anarcho punk record store & community space. Carries 'zines & newspapers, in-store library.

**Walden Pond Books**, 3316 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA 94610. Carries our paper, the Industrial Worker. Write for further details.

**(De) Center**, 6122 1/2 N. Figueroa, L.A., CA 90042. Ph. (213) 344-7017. "El primero y unico centro anarquista en Los Angeles."

**The Food Not Bombs Radio Network**, 3145 Geary Blvd. #12, S.F., CA 94118. The FNB Radio Network is: Radio Libre - 103.3 FM (S.F.); S.F. Liberation Radio - 93.7 FM; Free Radio Berkeley - 104.1 FM; Free Radio Santa Cruz - 89.3 FM; KPOO - 89.5 FM (Marin Co.); KPFA - 94.1 FM (Berkeley). The FNB Radio Network can also be heard in 60 countries on short-wave radio Peace International 7375 AM or 9.500 mhz at 4 p.m. cst, every Sunday. Also weekly in Cambridge, MA., Olympia, WA., Louisiana, Cleveland, Garberville, CA., Houston, TX., and Springfield, IL.

**Depressive and Manic Depressive Support Group**  
Educational Meetings 7 p.m. first Thursdays.  
Rap sessions 7 p.m. on 3rd Thursdays at New Presbyterian Church, 2000 E. College Ave., Normal. Call 829-3701 or 454-8602 for info.

**Grow**  
Meetings 6:30 p.m. every Tues. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 502 E. Front St., Bloomington. Ph. 309-662-3923.

**Consumer Empowerment**  
18 West Stephenson  
Freeport, IL 61032  
Ph. 815-232-3860

**A big thank you to everyone who made the Post benefit a success: The Gallery, the bands who donated their talents, Laura & Matt, and Pope**



## HIV/AIDS Support Group

The McLean County AIDS Task Force, in conjunction with Mid-Central Community Action, are sponsoring a diversity training/workshop entitled Walking the Walk on Sat., Oct. 14, 1995. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the dining hall of the Easter Seal Camp, Lake Bloomington. The registration fee of \$10 will cover materials and lunch.

This event is open to the public of all ages and backgrounds. The workshop is participation- and interaction-based. Dr. Gloria-Jeanne Davis and four other trainers will encourage development of cultural awareness and diversity appreciation. Participants will enhance communication respect skills, increase verbal/nonverbal effectiveness and expand their diversity "comfort" zone. Over 10 other groups/agencies have endorsed this training opportunity.

For more information please contact the McLean County AIDS Task Force at 309-827-AIDS.

## Walking the Walk: Diversity Training Workshop

The McLean County AIDS Task Force, serving both McLean and Livingston counties, will hold its "support group meeting for families and friends of persons with HIV/AIDS" on Oct. 17 at the First United Methodist Church, 211 N. School St., Normal. This group meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. In October, the discussion will include issues such as coping with changes introduced when a family member or friend tells you they have been infected by HIV.

This group is provided as a free service to the community by the AIDS Task Force and is open to anyone who has a family member or friend with HIV or AIDS. Your confidentiality will be respected and membership in the Task Force is not a requirement to participate. Call 309-827-AIDS for information on this group or other activities of the Task Force.



# Community News Continued

## Voices From The Past

Join the McLean County Arts Center, the McLean County Historical Society, the David Davis Mansion, and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery for a unique event which is sure to educate and fascinate you. "Voices From the Past: Evergreen Cemetery Discovery Walk" is an innovative program in which actors will bring to life ten people from McLean County's history. The program's objectives include educating people about the people in McLean County's past that have helped to make McLean County what it is today, introducing basic elements of tombstone art, architecture and preservation, and stressing the importance of cemeteries in our collective history, thereby sending an anti-vandalism message. Participate in this entertaining and educational program!

People portrayed include:

- \*Marie Litta, opera singer
- \*Adlai Stevenson I, Vice President of the United States
- \*Peter Duff, carpenter and employee of friend Jesse Fell
- \*Maria Dawson Paist, one of our county's first settlers
- \*Charley "Old Hoss" Radbourn, baseball pitcher
- \*Sarah Davis, wife of Judge David Davis
- \*Cyrenius Wakefield, businessman and doctor
- \*Sarah Withers, donator of land for public library
- \*Harriet Ela, teacher and community activist
- \*Soldiers belonging to the Civil War's 33rd Infantry

For reservations for this program, call 829-4817

Thank you to the following organizations for supplying talented actors for this program:

- \*The Illinois Theatre Consortium: Illinois Voices
- \*The David Davis Mansion
- \*The Teacher's Regiment Historical Society: 33rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry

Where: Evergreen Cemetery  
302 E Miller St.,  
Bloomington

When: Saturday, October 21, 1995  
Limited spaces available! Spaces will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis.  
Program times are: 9 to 10:45  
11 to 12:45  
2 to 3:45

Each slot can serve up to 120 people, however, spaces are limited!

Cost: Cost for the program is \$2 for the public and \$1 for members of the Historical Society, the Arts Center, the David Davis Mansion and Friends of the Cemetery.

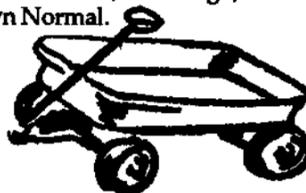
Additional Information: Information regarding topics such as parking will be mailed to you after you make your reservation.

For reservations, call 829-4817

At the McLean County Arts Center, an accompanying exhibition: "Mourning" October 20 through December 9

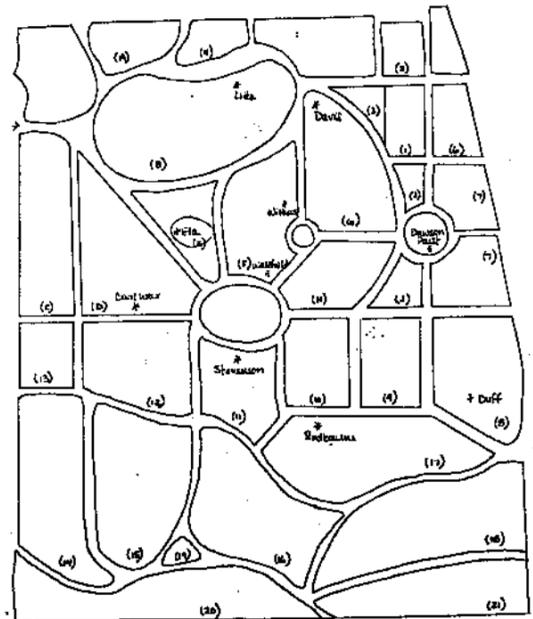
## Illinois Theatre Consortium

The Illinois Theatre Consortium's New Route Theatre will be presenting Wallace Shawn's one person show *The Fever* featuring Jeff Griggs and directed by Donald F. Shandrow. The show will be performed in the Model-Paris Room at Bec's Far East Texas Grill at 207 N. Broadway in Normal. The show opens on November 4th and is also being shown on November 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25. Dinner is at 7 p.m.; show is at 8:30 p.m. Tickets for the dinner and show are \$15.00—show only is \$9.50 (\$2 discount for students and senior citizens). Tickets are available at Babbitts, Alter Ego, and Bec's in downtown Normal.



Illinois Theatre Consortium's Red Wagon Theatre will present *Have A Grumpish Holiday* at The Normal Theatre at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, October 28th and October 29th. The Illinois premiere of this audience participation performance piece demonstrates how every day is a day that merits celebration and is geared toward children who are in kindergarten through the 5th grade. Directing is Red Wagon Theatre's Artistic Director, Julie Brinker. Tickets are \$2 for children, students and seniors citizens, and \$3 for adults and will be available at the door. Tickets can also be purchased at Babbitt's Book Store, Alter Ego, and The Normal Theatre in downtown Normal.

## Evergreen Cemetery



## Good & Plenty

University Galleries of Illinois State University announces the opening of *Good & Plenty* in Galleries II and III, Friday, Sept. 8, 1995. Curated by Greg Bowen, *Good & Plenty* features paintings by three graduates and a current student of ISU's BFA program: Sam Dantone, Dave Deany, Dave Roge, and Stephen Linksvayer. Embracing the postmodernist media glut, these artists appropriate everything from imagery found in '50s science textbooks and Hollywood pulp novels to the painterly gestures of the abstract masters. In the process of referencing the past, they provide a unique vision of things to come. There will be an opening reception Friday, Sept. 8 at 8 p.m. *Good & Plenty* continues through Sept. 29.

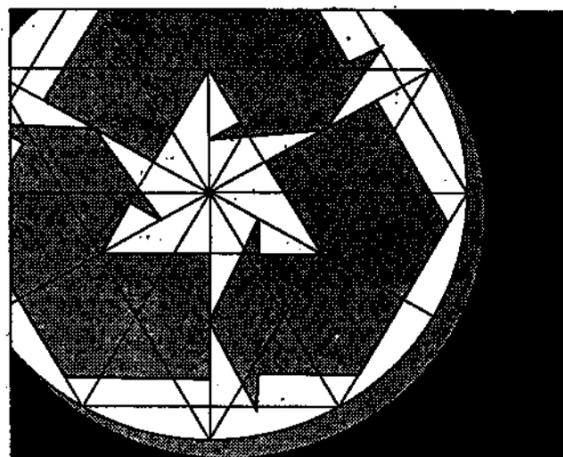
Citing television as a springboard, Roge's disjunctive paintings read like nostalgia. Linksvayer's intellectually charged canvases, with imagery on the cusp of recognition, challenge the viewer to question the very nature of abstraction. On the other end of the spectrum, Deany paints animals, psychologically void and appropriated from various sources, which act as mute witnesses of the human condition. Forsaking the traditional canvas or wood panel, Dantone paints wry anecdotes of family life on kitschy formica table tops. Mixing styles and techniques, often in the same painting, these four artists provide a darkly humorous exploration of the postmodern experience.

University Galleries is located at 110 Center for the Visual Arts. Gallery hours are Tues. 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Wed. through Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; and Sat./Sun. 12 - 4 p.m. For further information or to arrange a guided tour, please call the Gallery at (309) 438-5487.

## Native Voices: Back To Normal

In 1995 *Native Voices: Festival of Native Plays* will be called *Native Voices: Back To Normal* featuring a full production of *Now Look What You Made Me Do* by Marie Humber Clements. The dates of the Festival are November 13 - 19, 1995. Plans for *Native Voices: Back To Normal* are coming together and include staged readings of three new Native scripts and a conference on Native script development.

For more information call (309) 438-8282 or write to Randy Reinholz or Jean Bruce Scott, Dept. of Theater, 5700 Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790.



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923 E. Grove  
Bloomington, IL

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# Blue Moon Coffeehouse

Illinois Wesleyan Campus  
Fall Semester, 1995

Oct. 11 — Ani DiFranco has emerged as one of the boldest alternative artists of the '90s, challenging the status quo and defining the discontents of her generation. With an explosive guitar style, a dynamic voice and jaw-dropping lyrics, she cuts through social conventions and sexual politics with uncompromising rage and humor. Please note the special Wed. night concert and 8:30 curtain at Westbrook Auditorium.

Oct. 21 — Sons of the Never Wrong is a newly-formed acoustic trio that has burst upon the Chicago music scene and beyond. This trio delivers three-part harmony on top of witty whimsical song. This premiere Blue Moon Coffeehouse visit by the Sons of the Never Wrong will be especially exciting as it will be an album release show, in celebration of their first CD on Waterbug Records, Three Good Reasons.

Oct. 27 — Lucy Kaplansky makes her Blue Moon debut. Her debut album, The Tide, has been well-received by music critics and lovers alike and is a refreshing new presence in American acoustic music. Lucy has a style all her own, a voice that is elegant and pure, filled with nuance, power and emotion. She has shared stages with Suzanne Vega, Nanci Griffith, John Gorka and Shawn Colvin.

Nov. 4 — Jon Svetkey returns for his third visit to Blue Moon after a year hiatus. His musical style is best known for its acoustic foot-tapping melodies and his caustic wit that illuminates and reveals. The last time Jon played The Blue Moon, he stayed and jammed with students for another hour after the show... so come on out!

Nov. 11 — Sonia Rutstein of disappear fear will play a solo show at The Blue Moon. Sonia writes with intensity and to-the-bone honesty while delivering her songs with both electric and acoustic guitars, a "dylan-esque" harmonica, and a big voice that rocks a house. Fans across the country revel in Sonia's call to love out loud, and to confront the difficult issues of our times — from the political struggle against censorship to those for human rights, to the turmoil and triumph of the heart.

Dec. 2 — Leslie Smith will close out the Fall season at Blue Moon with her first appearance there. Leslie's music defies labels... there are echoes of the Celtic music she grew up listening to, a tinge of bluegrass, a glint of urban acoustic and a keen lyrical line.

See you at the Blue Moon Coffeehouse!

## Normal West Says "no" To Green Hair

Two Normal Community West High School students were recently suspended and accused of bringing undue attention towards themselves as well as disrupting the teaching and learning process.

Their crime? Green hair.

In case you are unfamiliar with the story, two boys, ages 14 and 17, missed four days of school at the new high school for showing up with hair that Principal Jerry Crabtree describes as not "normally accepted". Although no teacher complained about the boys hair, and no disruptive incidences were reported, Crabtree decided to send them home.

### Not in student handbook

How do other area schools compare on this issue? Central Catholic, University High, Bloomington, as well as Normal Community high schools, all have had students come to class in a variety of hair colors. It has simply not been an issue. Restrictions on hair coloring has not been outlined in any of the mentioned schools student handbook, including Normal West's. So, why has Crabtree taken a personal stand against it?

I recently wrote to Mr. Crabtree and expressed my concern over his decision. I stated that since I have heard this story on the local television news, in the local paper and on national radio (NPR), that I have come to the conclusion that it has been the authorities who have caused the undue attention, and not the green-headed students. I also stated that green hair, as well as many other colors, have become mainstreamed in youth culture within the past few years. It is a harmless fad. I reminded him that these boy's education is the most important issue, not their green hair.

### Earth to Jerry Crabtree...

Within a week, I received a reply from Mr. Crabtree. He defended his belief that green hair was disruptive to the educational environment. He also said that is was important to him that he establish an atmosphere that is "conductive to learning, focuses on the importance of teaching and learning, prepares students to be successful and accepted in the workplace and sets an expectation for student behavior that is consistent with the expectations of our parents." Yes, he was referring to a high school when he made these remarks.

### Factory (State) farmed executives?

The second half of the letter warrants more concern. In it Crabtree pointed out that "we consider our school to be a workplace and the same expectations for behavior and appearances applies here." I agree that most workplaces would not allow green hair on their employees. What I do find insulting is that Crabtree assumes that all of his students will hold these sorts of jobs when they graduate. Yes, Normal West will produce future accountants, teachers, and State Farm executives, this we know as a fact. Normal West, on the other hand, will also produce their share of musicians, small business owners, and, unfortunately, career criminals whose jobs will not be defined on how professional they look. It is silly to assume that all students would desire and even pursue office jobs.

Apparently, Crabtree believes the best way to foster the educational, cultural, and personal enrichment of his students is to place them in an atmosphere that is completely void of those qualities.

My sister teaches behavior disorder high school students in a Chicago suburb. These students have been removed from their homes by the courts for various reasons. Most of her students have been arrested for serious crimes. When I told her of this incident, she was quick to point out that the Normal administration should be lucky that the students were not carrying guns and knives to school and that their only "crime" was green hair and not rape and physical assault.

### Someone didn't do their homework

Multicolored hair, along with tattoos, and body peircing has become increasingly mainstreamed in today's youth culture. Anyone working with kids today can attest to that. Surely he was aware of these current fads and should have prepared for its arrival at the high school level. By not doing this, he caused a lot of undue attention towards his administration, his teachers and students and most importantly, two boys who simply wanted to dye their hair green. Let's hope that in the future Mr. Crabtree puts aside his personal preferences and welcomes all students at Normal Community West High School.

linda

## McLEAN COUNTY AIDS TASK FORCE

Serving McLean and Livingston Counties

### Services Provided

Buddy System • Independant Living Support • Hospital Visitation • Transportation • Pastoral Care • Peer Support • Non-Therapeutic Support Groups • Emergency Financial Assistance

PHONELINE: MON-FRI 7-10pm

(309) 827-AIDS



# Animal Magnetism



## Cheap Tricks

Sampson is a magnificent Bengal tiger. In his homeland in Asia, he might be walking proudly through a jungle right now. Instead, he is confined to a metal cage. His days are often spent being kicked in the head, screamed at, beaten with wooden axe handles, and waiting for food that sometimes doesn't come.

Recently, this innocent animal was beaten until he was so terrified he was drooling, defecating and panting uncontrollably. His crime? He was too afraid to get up onto a pedestal.

The horrible incident described above is just one of many exposed in a shocking new PETA undercover investigation of the animal entertainment industry. After a grueling eight-month assignment, PETA's undercover agent has filed a 29-page affidavit detailing what PETA considers to be the unconscionable abuse of lions, tigers, leopards, panthers, pythons and other animals by a Florida animal trainer.

I felt sick as I watched our investigator's undercover videotape: leopards, tigers and other big cats being hit so hard with wooden poles that it sometimes sounded like the crack of a baseball bat... Romeo, a leopard cub, was thrown to the ground, his head slammed onto the concrete, breaking a tooth... Magic, a leopard, was kicked in the chin while he was jumping down from a pedestal; his head snapped back in mid-air.

The daily investigative log reveals more: food withheld from animals for up to five days at a time until they learned a trick... two leopards and a panther confined in a transport cage made just big enough for one cat... sick animals going without medical treatment... big cats panting and foaming at the mouth after being caged for hours in searing heat without water.

Because this case is pending, I won't mention the name of the trainer, but please know that PETA's legal team and researchers are working round the clock to bring him to justice. We are organizing the reams of documentation we've amassed, and in the coming weeks PETA will present our case to the government and to local animal welfare officials.

Yet this is just the tip of the iceberg, an iceberg we intend to sink.

Chimpanzees, bears, lions, elephants — and tens of thousands of other animals — are abused to "entertain" us: confined in small cages for days on end, trucked in blistering heat with limited water, and subjected to a constant stream of shouting, beatings and "punishments" as their trainers force them to perform against their will. Their only "break" from the misery of confinement and transport is a stint in the ring or on stage, performing unnatural and terrifying acts like jumping through hoops of fire, diving from great heights, or trying to stay upright on a bicycle.

That's why I want to double PETA's efforts to stop the heartless cruelty of animal acts — and why I hope you'll help us by lending your financial and activist support immediately.

As you may know, PETA has already infiltrated these acts and exposed the plight of these overlooked, neglected, (and often, crazed) animals. Our undercover videotapes, interviews with eyewitnesses, legal work and expert critiques from veterinarians, zookeepers and ex-animal trainers has blown the lid off the sleazy, cruel backstage world of animal acts.

Beginning in 1989, PETA introduced this issue to millions of people with our hard-hitting expose' of Las Vegas showman Bobby Berosini. We distributed a shocking backstage videotape revealing Berosini methodically beating the orangutans he used in his nightclub act. Although Berosini brought a massive lawsuit against us, he lost, and another recent attempt to bankrupt us failed. PETA continues to fight in the courts to gain custody of these enslaved orangutans, and our landmark case continues to open eyes and minds.

PETA is hard at work on many other fronts too: stopping the hideous "hog-dog rodeo" in which dogs and boars are forced to rip each other apart... rescuing and finding new homes for a Moscow Circus chimpanzee, a bear caged at a tawdry roadside zoo, and other animals... raising a ruckus against "entertainment" such as the recent (and we believe, last) circus parade of chained elephants on Capitol Hill.

We are also distributing thousands of case reports and videotapes, including our eye opening "Cheap Tricks," narrated by actor Alec Baldwin... helping activists shut down animal acts in their towns... educating tens of thousands of people with fact sheets, flyers and our provocative exhibit on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.... and bringing legal action against "entertainers" and trainers who abuse animals.

Alex Pacheco  
President - PETA

## Ban Cosmetics Testing

In 1997, a ban on testing cosmetics on animals is scheduled to take effect throughout the European Community (EC). Running scared are multinational corporations like Gillette, Procter & Gamble, and many others—which continue to force-feed toxic substances to rabbits, guinea pigs, and other animals, and also sell tens of millions of dollars of their products in Europe.

This precedent setting ban could, in effect, spell an end to the use of animals in cosmetics testing not only in Europe, but in the US and Canada as well as multinational companies would have little choice other than to put uniform "cruelty-free" testing practices into effect.

But rather than simply biting the bullet and stopping their use of animals in cosmetic product tests as nearly 600 other companies

have done, companies like Gillette and their corporate cronies in the Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrance Association (CTFA) are doing everything they can to stop the ban from taking effect. Their outrageous efforts include:

\*pressuring our government and trade officials to invoke the General Tariffs and Trade Treaty (GATT) to oppose the European ban;

\*promoting the new and deceptive "eco-label" which would not relate in any way to animal testing, and would, in fact, end the use of the words "cruelty-free" on product labels;

\*opposing the approval of new non-animal test methods like Corrositex, an in-vitro test which could spare countless live rabbits from having their skin burned all the way through with caustic substances to test corrosivity.

These companies seem oblivious to the fact that no laws require that cosmetics be tested on animals; that animal tests do not keep unsafe products off the market; that humane alternative tests are available; that consumers in increasing numbers are demanding cruelty-free products; and that hundreds of companies like Revlon, Estee Lauder, and Amway have stopped inhumane and cruel animal tests.

What you can do:

Write to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) letting them know that you demand an end to cruel tests on animals, the right to know which products are cruelty-free through proper labeling, and the implementation of non-animal product tests such as Corrositex.

Mr. Robert Pitofsky  
Chairman  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Room 440  
Washington, D.C.

Ms. Carol Browner  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

## Stuffed Tofu "Turkey"

5 lbs firm tofu  
1 cup onions, diced  
1 cup celery, diced  
1 cup mushrooms, diced  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 cup sesame oil  
1/2 cup soy sauce  
4 cups bread, cubed  
1/2 cup fresh parsley, minced  
1/4 cup sage  
2 Tbsp marjoram  
2 Tbsp thyme  
2 Tbsp rosemary  
1 Tbsp celery seed  
1 Tbsp black pepper



Mash tofu. Line a 12-inch colander with a large piece of clean, wet cheesecloth. Add mash tofu, cover with overlapping cheesecloth, and cover with a small plate. Place a 5-lb. object on top of the plate and leave it for 1 hour.

To make stuffing, saute onions, celery, mushrooms, and garlic in 2 Tbsp. sesame oil. Add herbs, (except parsley), pepper, and 1/4 cup soy sauce. Cover and cook 5 minutes, or until vegetables are soft. Add bread cubes and parsley and mix well.

Remove weight, plate, and top layer of cheesecloth from tofu. Hollow out tofu to 1 inch on sides of colander and pack in stuffing. Cover with remaining tofu and pat down firmly. Flip stuffed tofu onto oiled baking sheet, flat side down. Mix together remaining sesame oil and soy sauce and baste "turkey" with this mixture. Cover with foil and bake at 400 degrees for 1

hour. remove foil, baste, and bake 1 hour more, until "skin" is golden. Baste again. Remove to a platter with two large spatulas. Garnish with parsley. Serve with mushrooms, gravy and cranberry sauce.

## Mushroom Gravy

Serves 6 with Tofu "Turkey"

2 medium onions, diced  
6 cups mushrooms, sliced  
2 Tbsp sesame oil  
1 cup whole wheat flour  
6-7 cups water

Spread flour on ungreased cookie sheet and roast in 250 degree oven until golden. Saute onions and mushrooms in oil until onions are transparent. Mix water and flour together until smooth, then add to vegetables. Simmer on low heat for 30 minutes, stirring often to prevent lumping and burning.

## Pumpkin Soup

Serves 6

1/4 cup margarine  
1 onion, chopped  
1 16-oz can pumpkin  
1 1/3 cups water  
3 cups soy milk  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg  
1/2 tsp sugar  
Pepper to taste  
Croutons

Saute onion in margarine until tender, stirring often. Stir in pumpkin, water, soy milk, salt, nutmeg, sugar, and pepper. Heat just to boiling, stirring constantly. Garnish with croutons.

# How I Spent My Summer Vacation Part II

If you've been reading the *Post* regularly for the last seven years, you may recall my debut piece, "How I Spent my Summer Vacation," in which I recounted my adventures in light industrial labor during the summer of 1988. I ended up working at a Black & Decker reconditioning plant, where "defective" merchandise (i.e., overstock), routinely trashing enormous numbers of small appliances ten hours a day.

In addition to the sheer waste--this stuff was perfectly good, and in many instances, factory seals were intact, yet I was instructed to throw it into the compactor--I was equally troubled by the environmental implications. I alone was tossing under-the-cabinet popcorn makers down the chute by the hundreds--\$72,000 worth. How many landfills do we have left, for God's sake?

How come nobody told me?

Well, last February, even though I had several part-time teaching positions at area community colleges, I had to take on an additional part-time job to make ends meet. Don't ask me why, but I had never heard the local community grease on Owen's Nursery. So when I saw their ad in the classifieds, I signed up.

At first it didn't seem such a bad thing--we were bagging plants and labelling trees, after all, and I really didn't mind the work, as such. Weighed against the chemical fertilizers and pesticides they are no doubt saturated with against the positive impact of planting more trees, that job seemed to have Black & Decker down cold. They paid \$7.25 an hour after you worked there for a month, and I didn't have to wear a dorky uniform and ask "you want fries with that?"

Family-owned businesses--a pathology of their own

All right, all right so everybody but me had heard what over-bearing slave-drivers these folks are. And I'm here to testify that most of the stories you've heard over the years are true. You aren't supposed to run to the john at all during a four hour shift, but if you couldn't hold it any longer, you had to sign in and out of

a notebook, noting the time you left the floor and the time you came back. God forbid you should take three minutes of paid time to empty your bladder. That's what your breaks are for, but you only get breaks if your work a full day, from 7:30 till 4:00.

You can't talk either, whether you're labelling trees or bagging plants--Owen's considers talk too distracting. If you're filling orders, which is pretty much what you're expected to do from April through July, you have a quota for filling 20 loose orders (where you're given a computer generated order form) every hour. If you have pre-taped orders (the label is already taped to a shipping bag), you're expected to fill 30 every hour. The floor supervisors track your orders and announce them over the intercoms.

If you're wondering where hall monitors go after they graduate from high school...

We were patronized and condescended to constantly. For instance, the floor supervisor threatened to make us stay after work to pick up the loose plants that had dropped to the floor, and so on. On another occasion, when I had first started working there, I had sat at any empty table during my break; the chairs were arranged so that I could lean up against the wall and support my aching back. The supervisor promptly told me that that particular table was reserved for the "[Owen's] family and friends" who worked there. I was amazed that they didn't make us use separate johns.

The list of petty, demeaning gestures, restrictions, and incidents is endless, and no doubt most of you reading this have heard them all before. Cumulatively, they have a way of grinding down your spirit.

The working conditions are equally terrible. You freeze or roast, depending on the season, and you work for people who refuse to recognize the difference between employees and slaves. In late July, when they had me out weeding in the fields, I asked the supervisor if I could get a hoe to chop out the roots the careless weeds--which grow to the size of a sturdy sapling tree. She told me I'd have to wait for my break to get one. I was damned if I'd do *that*.

The slavery analogy is not perfect, nor do I mean to give offense by using it. I could walk out any time I wanted to do so, and no one had the legal right to stop me. Toward the end of my seven month tenure at Owen's, as I sat in the break room during lunch, watching the extended Owen's family members grouped around their table, I noticed the hunched shoulders and pinched expressions of those in their late teens or early twenties. It occurred to me then that they didn't even know they *had* a choice. I suppose that made their condition worse than mine.

--Dr. Attitude

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# Notes From The Land Of Anti-Fat

The August 29 issue of everybody's favorite grocery rag, National Enquirer, printed a piece that's got members of the size acceptance movement buzzin'. Under the headline, "Hubby cheats on 450-lb. wife with 350-lb. cover girl!" was the tabloid's take on the recent marital difficulties of two prominent members of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance.

Also involved in the story is the organization's Executive Directory, so-called "cover girl" Sally Smith. Smith is an articulate woman who's been an effective spokesperson for NAAFA, but of course that wasn't the focus of the Enquirer's story. To tabloid writers, the Big Story was the simple fact that two super-sized women could even be part of an alleged triangle.

It's a reflection on just how out there the concept of size acceptance is in many people's heads. Here the idea that fat women can be sexually attractive gets treated like a story on par with "President Meets With Space Aliens!" Smith's experience as a "cover girl" comes from her being the cover story on feminist size-positive magazine Radiance (a title available at Once Upon A Time, incidentally--free plug!). Which is kinda like calling Bill Clinton a "cover boy" for appearing on the front of Newsweek, but, hey, it goes with the Enquirer's sleazy vision.

(Fat magazine models! Have you ever heard of such a thing?)

In the days of circus sideshows, canny promoters occasionally arranged public "marriages" between their headline Fat Lady and Human Skeleton. The point of these mock marriages was to exploit the contrast between "normal family life" and those physically outside the mainstream.

As a movement, size acceptance isn't going to get anywhere until it pushes past the carney leers of the tabloids and talk shows.

## And Speakin' Of Carney...

The best thing that we can say about former Wilson Phillips songstress Carnie Wilson's new talk show is to note that (unlike her group's old videos) there's no way on the show that they can mask her size on camera! Maybe talk shows do serve a purpose, after all.

## How's That Again?

A recent judgment in San Francisco is worth noting: 400-pound John Rossi won a lawsuit against an auto parts store that fired him because of his size. The \$1 million suit was won after Rossi cited the Americans with Disabilities Act and proved in court that his size was a matter of genetics and not overeating.

So far so good, but what does Rossi say after he wins his sizable judgment? That he plans to use part of his money to "treat his obesity." Umm, Joe, were you listening to your own lawyer's witnesses?

Just goes to show deeply held the diet myth is in this country. Despite an overwhelming failure rate, every dieting man and woman holds out hope that they'll be the ones to win the weight loss lottery.

Well, at least Joe isn't just frittering his money away...

## Points to Pinkwater

Three stars to National Public Radio essayist and well-known fatfellow Daniel Pinkwater for his recent novel, The Afterlife Diet, an alternately whimsical and angry satire on Living Big in America and Beyond. Flawed in spots--occasionally too Douglas Adams for its own good and prey to the dreaded All Fat People Are That Way 'Cause They Eat Too Much fallacy--it remains spot on in its clear-eyed delineation of fat bashing and

the snake-oil tactics of the diet industry. It's a quick read, well worth your time.

Bonus points to Pinkwater for a daggery satire of Richard Simmons that does not resort to gay bashing...

## Central Illinois NAAFA Folds

This columnist is saddened to note the folding of the Central Illinois chapter of NAAFA after four years in the community. (I say that not just as a former officer, but as someone who liked the idea of a regular meeting place for fat adults and their supporters.) Looks like the primo spot for group action in Illinois remains Chicago.

Though rumors abound about the starting of a new chapter in Kankakee...

## Chicago Hosts Midwest Conference

First weekend of November, several undaunted chapter members will be heading up to Schiller Park for fall's Midwest NAAFA conference. A gathering of workshops, parties and dances, NAAFA cons are a celebration of community and commonality. It's an event that leaves you energized for weeks afterwards.

Two P-A writers will be also attending this con and presiding over workshops. So look forward to extensive overcoverage next issue!

## Boy, Are We Tired Of...

...condescending, "quirky" movies about fat outsiders.

...promos for "Married With Children" that highlight all the fat jokes even when we don't watch the damn show!

...Kathleen Sullivan.

...advertisements that aim towards the youth market by ridiculing fat folk.

billsher

## SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING:

READING THE POST AMERIKAN CAUSES:

- \* heightened awareness
- \* dissatisfaction with status quo
- \* allergic reaction to pigs
- \* increased appreciation of obscure humor

Yes, I want to enhance my motor skills and frontal lobe chemical/electrical impulses by 40%. I'm enclosing \$5 for a subscription (6 issues) to the Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

I understand individual results may vary.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

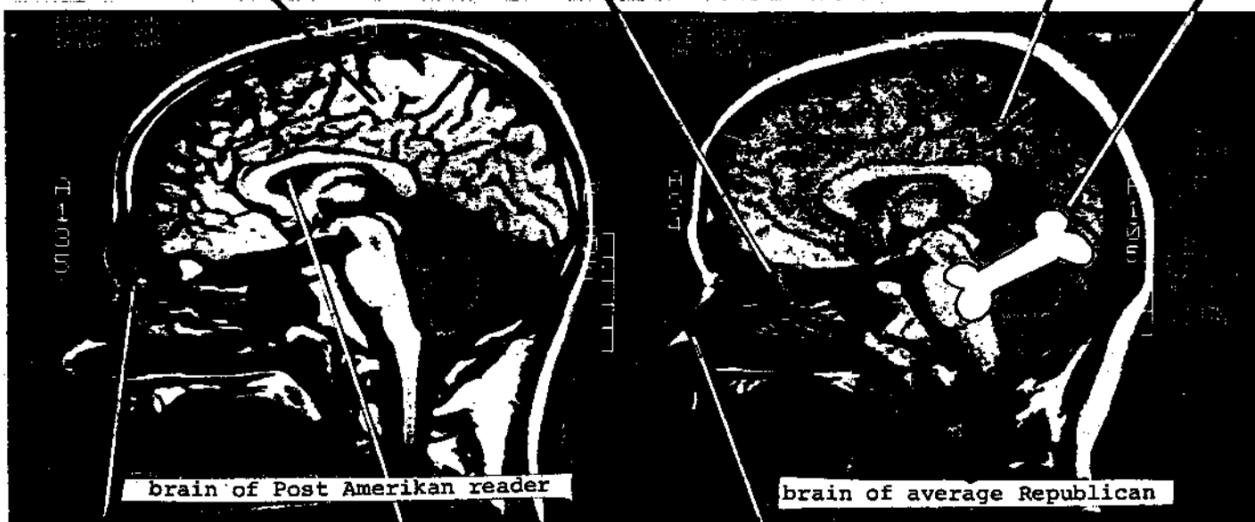
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1995

hypersensitive cerebral cortex partying in peace and harmony with medula oblongata

atrophy of optic nerve leading to sporadic social blindness

brain cells dying of loneliness

bone in head



brain of Post Amerikan reader

brain of average Republican

hip hypothalamus

permanent damage to nasal cavity due to excessive probing

20/20 vision sees social injustice



# Disturbing The Police/Poetry Police

Aristotle warned of the danger that poets posed to the State, and it seems the Louisiana State University Police have taken the warning to heart:

TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT: 1255 Hours  
06-22-95  
TYPE OF COMPLAINT: CRS 14:313 Masks or Hoods Prohibited  
LRS 14:103 Disturbing the Peace  
LOCATION: LSU Quadrangle (courtyard)

DETAILED REPORT: Officer dispatched to location in reference to a noise complaint.

On arrival, Officer heard what appeared to be a megaphone or some type of public address system. The noise was coming from the North end of the quadrangle. Officer approached the area (on foot) and observed a white-male subject sitting in the North-east side e of the quadrangle courtyard. Surrounding the the male were approximately 20 unknown people. As this officer approached the white-male sitting, officer observed the subject to be wearing a dark gray Halloween type rubber mask. The subject had a microphone and speaker laying across his lap. Also a megaphone was in his possession.

Officer requested from subject any information regarding consent of LSU Business Affairs for subject to hold such a demonstration. Subject advised he had none. Officer then requested subject's identification. Subject advised he had none. Officer then requested subject's name and date of birth. Subject refused to identify himself and requested permission "to just

leave". Officer advised subject he would have to identify himself first. Subject refused again and stated he wished to leave and thought it was wrong to demand identification from him in front of the crowd. (Officer notes that officer had removed handcuffs from officer's belt case after subject refused to identify himself at first request. Subject was not placed under arrest.) Officer then requested subject walk away from the crowd to identify himself. Subject agreed to do this. Subject was identified via Louisiana drivers license number....

Officer then advised subject of the complaints of the noise and further advised subject to contact LSU Business Affairs if he required special consideration for demonstrating. Subject stated that he agreed and would not resume unless he had authorization.

Officer took no action against the subject because Officer B... required immediate assistance at the LSU Student Union.

Officer also noted that the crowd objected to subject ceasing activity and one of the crowd members had in their possession a camcorder in operation.

Officer then left the scene and stood-by on Tower Drive awaiting any contact from Officer B.... While waiting, the "Dealer's Wrecker Service" approached this officer and advised officer that a subject fitting listed subject's description was demonstrating and drawing a large crowd on Tower Drive at David Boyd.

Officer then contacted Lt. T... who was off campus and unable to assist. Officer then

returned to LSUPD and picked up Capt. A... LSUPD to assist this officer if necessary. Upon officers' arrival, subject was unable to be located.

Officer requested that the matter be referred to the Dean of Students for his review.

"The topic of the demonstration is unknown by this officer.

Well the topic that caused such a concern was merely a poetry performance. Such a fuss. The "subject," a young man I know who waits tables at a local cafe, did manage to avoid arrest. But he was called in to account for his actions to the Dean of Students. The "subject" also shared a copy of the poem he was reading with me. While I wouldn't call it great poetry, I certainly wouldn't think it bad enough to call in the police. But I'm new to Louisiana, and maybe there are things I have to learn. Still, I imagine picking up the Baton Rouge paper one day and reading that the legislature is debating passage of a new law, naming poetry a treasonous activity. And the quote from the governor: "We're doin' Aristotle proud."

--Jean Lee

## McCarthyism Alive & Well

Do you have reason to question this person's loyalty to the United States?

Do you have any reason to believe this person belongs or has belonged to any communist or fascist organization, or to any organization which advocates overthrowing or altering our constitutional form of government by force or other illegal means?

To your knowledge does this person associate, or has associated with any person, whose loyalty to the United States is questionable or belongs to any type of organization described above?

Do you have any knowledge of any behavior, activities or association which tend to show that this person is not reliable, honest, trustworthy, and of good conduct and character?

Do you have any information indicating this person's employment would be against the interests of national security?

Do you have any knowledge that applicant's performance on the job is adversely affected by the use of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, marijuana or other drugs?

Sound like questions from the McCarthy era? No, these are questions asked currently about people who are applying for jobs with the federal government. Pretty scary, huh?

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# News From Voice

## **THE LEFTY FOLLIES IS COMING**

Start planning your act for this year's Lefty Follies Variety Show. The show will take place on November 4, 1995, at the Unitarian Church, Emerson St., Bloomington. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., the show will begin at 7:30. Admission is \$5.00 per person.

This year entrants may be judged in either Talent Impaired, or Talent (music or comedy and drama). There is not entry fee for acts however all those participating in an act must pay the \$5.00 admission fee for the show.

If you would like to participate in the show please complete the entry form below and mail to us by October 27th. Our address is:

McLean County Voice for Choice  
P.O. Box 905  
Bloomington, IL 61702-0905

## **LEFTY FOLLIES ENTRY FORM**

Name of Act: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please indicate in which category you wish to be judged:

\_\_\_\_\_ Talent \_\_\_\_\_ Talent Impaired

Please briefly describe your act:

(While there are no formal restrictions on content we do ask that you remember children attend this event. If we have questions about the act we may call you for clarification.)

Do you need any special equipment? (We will do our best to accommodate but can't make promises.)

Detach and mail to: Voice for Choice, P.O. Box 905, Bloomington, IL 61702-0905



## **CHRISTIAN COALITION HAS NEW DIRECTOR**

McLean County Board member Lee Newcom is no longer the president of the 60,000 member Christian Coalition. Dale Curtain, of Springfield is the new statewide director. Curtain sees his new position as a ministry. A former aid to Pate Phillips (one of the original three little pigs),

Curtain believes he has the connections and skills to help push Coalition legislation through the state legislature.

Among those items on the Coalition's agenda are issues such as day care, parental notification, restoring parental rights (see previous article "Expect More Attacks"). Curtain stated that the Christian Coalition is working on its Illinois Family Agenda.

Source: Interview with WGLT

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.**

Voice for Choice wants to thank, big time thank, the following businesses, individuals and organizations for their help with our very successful fundraiser on July 16.

First, thanks to Jan and Tony, owners of the Bistro. Jan and Tony not only donated the space for the event, they arranged for the band, Baby Blues to perform, tarot card readings by Winter Wren, and a number of the raffle prizes for the evening, including an electric key board. In addition, we thank them for their generous contribution to our organization.

Thanks to Tana and Ruth at Once Upon a Time Alternative Books And Gifts. Tana and Ruth donated several posters as well as \$100. in gift certificates to as raffle prizes. In addition to that, they donated most of the food that you all munched on all evening (hats off to Mr. Quick's for the fine catering job).

Thanks to Winter Wren for agreeing to conduct readings during the event and contributing half of the proceeds to Voice for Choice.

Thanks and kudos to Baby Blues for an excellent evening of music. Their talent and support is much appreciated. If you haven't had a chance to hear these women play, call Coffee World Coffeehouse to find out when they're playing next.

Thanks to Babbitt's Books for their donation to the raffle, a beautiful Georgia O'Keefe print book valued at \$100. We also want to thank Babbitt's for letting us set up a table in front of their store at Sugar Creek. Support like that isn't always easy to find among businesses in this community.

In all the event was a success and we had a lot of fun. We appreciate the help and support of those mentioned above. We also truly appreciate the support of those of you who attended the evenings festivities.

An additional thanks is owed to those of you unable to attend the event but who sent in contributions. We could not do the work we do without the support of the businesses listed above and individuals like you. Thanks.

## **SUPPORT PEACE MARCH SPONSORS**

We at Voice for Choice would like to encourage you to support the businesses who co-sponsored the "Violence-Take A Hike Peace March." Business co-sponsors were:

- THE BISTRO**
- ONCE UPON A TIME ALTERNATIVE BOOKS & GIFTS**
- BABBITT'S BOOKS**
- THE POST AMERIKAN**
- PAINTIN' PLACE**
- BEC'S FAR EAST TEXAS GRILL**
- THE GARLIC PRESS**
- ABOUT BOOKS**
- THE "BABY BLUES" BAND**
- LUCCA GRILL**
- THE GALLERY**
- ROCKY'S**
- BOURBON STREET**
- OTHER PORTS**
- WASHBURN FLOWERS**

## **THE LAFAYETTE CLUB COFFEE WORLD COFFEEHOUSE MR. QUICK CROSSROADS**

These businesses took a stand against violence in this community and we thank them for their commitment to that cause. We hope you will thank them by supporting their businesses.

## **CHRISTIAN COALITION CONTRACT**

The People for the American Way have summarized the Christian Coalition Contract with the American Family. The contract was unveiled on May 17, by Executive Director Ralph Reed on Pat Robertson's show "The 700 Club." The following is an analysis of each of the major elements of the contract.

**RELIGIOUS EQUALITY AMENDMENT:** Reed calls this the "crown jewel" of the Robertson-Reed contract and it represents a sweeping effort to alter the Bill of Rights for the first time in its 204-year history. Proposed language discussed publicly would authorize prayer by teachers and students, vocal group prayer in classrooms and over school intercoms, and denunciation of religion not only in public schools but in all public places.

Religious expression is already protected by the First Amendment. Current law protects a wide range of religious expression available to public school students, including organized prayers before or after school, bible clubs, sharing faith with friends, and praying during the day, subject to the same time, place and manner restrictions that govern all student speech.

An Amendment directed at promoting religious activity in government-sponsored settings would permit government officials to intrude into one of the most private elements of family life - individual faith. Infringing on the rights of parents to determine the religious upbringing of their children and crating divisive community conflicts over government-endorsed religious activities are not pro-family by the wildest stretch of the imagination.

A Peter Hart poll conducted last summer found that more than 58% of American voters would oppose student led prayer that involved officials or administrators in selecting or approving the prayer. By a margin of 47% to 31%, Americans would oppose student led prayers that offended the religious beliefs of students of other faiths.

**ABOLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:** Reed has called the abolition of the Dept. Of education his number one legislative priority. Yet, the Christian Coalition's attack's on public education are far from friendly to American families, the great majority of whom depend on public schools to provide children with opportunities to learn. Among the pro-family efforts that the Christian Coalition would sacrifice by dismantling the Dept. Of Education are Title I funding for poor school districts, which gives children from underprivileged families educational opportunities the would otherwise be denied. In a March, 1995, Wall Street Journal/NBC News Poll, 68% of Americans said they opposed cutting funding for the Department of Education.

**SCHOOL VOUCHERS:** The Robertson-Reed contract calls for diverting taxpayer funds from public education to private schools. The Christian Coalition and other religious right groups have a long-term strategy goal of dismantling public education in favor of private sectarian schools.

Voucher programs would funnel scarce resources away from public education and into



# For Choice



private schools and would devastate already struggling school districts in poorer areas. In Milwaukee's five-year-old voucher program, only half of the eligible students have taken advantage of vouchers; one third of them returned to public schools after the first year of the program, and 40% returned after the second year. The real "choice" exercised in a voucher program is made not by parents but by private schools, which may and do reject applicants for a host of factors.

A Peter Hart survey in 1994 found that, by a 66% to 28% margin, voters support improving the quality of public schools over using tax funds to send children to private or religious schools. And in the only poll that really counts, voters have soundly rejected vouchers at the ballot box.

**CULTURAL AGENCIES:** Reed says the NEA, the NEH and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting "undermine moral values and should therefore be abolished." The Coalition's voter guides translate support for continued NEA funding as support for "taxpayer-funded obscene art." In truth, NEA funded projects and institutions contributed greatly to families and communities and to the understanding of American values.

Public broadcasting provides the vast majority of educational and children's programming and the only alternative to the sometimes violent, adult material that commercial broadcasters provide. Where do parents go when the programming on commercial television is not pro-family or pro-children? They go to public broadcasting. In fact, Sesame Street and Barney are the two most watched series on television among pre-schoolers.

While CPB opponents claim that broadcasting viewers are elitist, the facts say otherwise: more than 57% of the children who watch public broadcasting come from families with household incomes of \$40,000. Or less. In addition, public broadcasting has been a leader in the development of new educational tools through the use of technologies for distance learning, helping to ensure that all American children will be productive citizens in the information age.

An Opinion Research Corporation Poll released in January, 1995, reported that 84% of Americans supported current or increased levels of funding for public television. A 1994 Lou Harris poll indicated that 60% of the American public believes the federal government should provide financial assistance to arts organizations, such as museums, dance, opera, theater, and symphony orchestras. Almost as many, 56%, said they'd be willing to pay \$15. more in their own taxes to support federal efforts in the arts.

**PARENTAL RIGHTS:** The contract calls for "protecting parental rights in the care and nurturance of their children." To this end, the Christian Coalition would like to eliminate comprehensive sex-education from public schools and replace it with abstinence only programs. It is not clear whether Robertson and Reed want to give parents veto power over school curricula, requiring a logistically unworkable pre-approval by every parent.

A 1994 Peter Hart survey found that 67% of American voters are concerned about Religious Right opposition to teaching about birth control and disease prevention. A 1992 USA Today/CNN Gallup Poll found that 53% of Americans would be more likely to support a presidential candidate who took a position in favor of providing condoms to public high school students to prevent AIDS; only 32% said such a position would make them less likely to support the candidate.

**REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE:** The Robertson-Reed contract calls for further restrictions of women's access to abortion services. Robertson and Reed have previously called for an end to federal funding for Planned Parenthood on the grounds that the organization provides abortions services. It is not clear whether the contract's call for ending "subsidies" for abortion refers to a ban on funding for Planned Parenthood-which receives no funding for abortion services. Planned Parenthood has provided voluntary family planning services to over 4 million Americans each year since 1917.

Americans are adamant in supporting women's access to safe and legal abortions. More than 70% of Americans believe abortion should be available and should be a choice left up to a woman and her doctor. It is not pro-family to deny women and men affordable information and health services that allow them to make decisions about the size of their families.

Source: People for the American Way.

## **RELIGIOUS RIGHT AGENDA GAINING GROUND**

As of May 1, 1995, the religious right is mounting a number of attacks, state by state, on civil rights.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION:** the attacks include pushing for vouchers, requiring the teaching of religious doctrines like Biblical Creationism in science class, mandating organized school prayer, censoring library and textbooks, forbidding education or counseling that deals with homosexuality. Electing activists (like Jim Fischer on the Unit 5 board thank you very much) to school board seats is a primary strategy. Attacks on AIDS education programs are also included. Illinois is among the states facing such challenges. Currently 29 states are facing religious right legislation attacking public education.

**PARENTAL RIGHTS** Promoting radical legislation and state constitutional amendments that would require teachers to get permission from parents before any "controversial" topic is discussed, give vocal minorities control over school curricula, weaken child protection laws, and restrict access to reproductive health services. Illinois faces such challenges as do 21 other states.

**MOTOR VOTER:** Congress passed the "motor voter bill in 1993 to allow people to register to vote at government agencies when they obtain a driver's license, for example. Seven states, including Illinois, have fought this legislation.

**REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** Religious right groups are pushing biased-counseling, mandatory waiting periods, parental notice and other bills to limit access. In addition, inflammatory rhetoric against pro-choice people continues to incite violence. Thirty-six states, including Illinois, are under attack in this realm.

**ANTI-GAY:** Religious right political groups continue their broad-based assault on gay and lesbian Americans, including state and local anti-gay ballot initiatives designed to strip gays and lesbians of their basic rights of citizenship, state legislation and local ordinances focusing on school curriculum and censorship. Twenty seven states are facing these struggles.

**SEX EDUCATION:** Right wing attacks on comprehensive sex education programs - including the promotion of inaccurate religious right sponsored alternative sex education curricula - are on the rise, in spite of polls showing broad public support for comprehensive sex education programs that promote abstinence but also teach about disease and pregnancy prevention. Twenty-six states are fighting this battle.

**FREE EXPRESSION:** A number of bills have been introduced designed to suppress artistic expression in print, on film, and in recorded materials, and censorship. Thirteen states, including Illinois are under attack in this arena.

Source: People for the American Way.

## Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

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

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# Judging Books By Their Titles

Well, time for another book review. It's been quite awhile since the last one, and I know you all are just itching for some good books to read now that summer is *over*... Sorry about that, but I was too busy trekking around Europe, so there. Anyway, in case you do have some free time during the upcoming holiday season, (ha, ha) you might want to check out these titles.

## (Just say no to conformity and the NY Times bestsellers list)

Speaking of titles, you might find that some of these are a little more stimulating than others. Wouldn't you rather read a book titled Elvis, Jesus and Coca-Cola than one simply called The Chamber? Me too.

I seem to pick out my books, not by the reputation of the author, but by how aesthetically pleasing it appears to me. Funny, but exactly one year ago, I wrote an article for the *Post* titled "Judging books by their covers." The saga continues...

## Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?

Lorrie Moore

The year is 1972, Berie Carr and her best friend, Sils work at an amusement park called Storyland in upstate NY. Berie, an entrance cashier, and Sils, the more mature, chain-smoking Cinderella, are restless fifteen year olds searching for adventure and danger. The girls journey into adulthood is filled with unexpected turns and naive decisions as they partake on a summer that will change the course of their lives.

Moore really captures the essence of teenage friendships and the subtle bonds that tie them together.

\* Skip the first and last chapters. The setting is present day, and Berie is retelling this story to her husband while visiting France. The book is charming enough without having this added fluff.



## Reckless Driver

Lisa Vice

o.k. the title is not that exciting, but the following all but makes up for that (it also had a nice cover)... The author's biography states that Lisa Vice has been a "high school dropout, an unwed teenage mother on welfare, a file clerk, a nurse's aide, a farmer, a birth control counselor, a mason's tender, a batik artist and a cleaning woman. *Whew!* That in itself would make an incredible book.

Reckless driver is the heartbreaking story of Lana Franklin, a young child growing up with self-destructing (and sometimes abusive parents). Set in rural Indiana during the 60s, life looks bleak and unpromising for the Franklin's.

Floyd Franklin, a WWII veteran, is becoming increasingly unbalanced. His frustration and rage becomes focused on his daughters. His wife Ruth, on the other hand, focuses only on herself and is too self absorbed and thoughtless to notice the needs of her daughters. Through this remarkably perceptive child, we are able to see firsthand what kind of effects this has on a developing spirit.

Reckless driver is told in the narrative of Lana through heartbreaking, yet sometimes charming vignettes. Although she witnesses some cruel incidences, the innocence of Lana's childhood is still alive, but it is displayed in other forms. For instance, Lana and her older sister Abbie's favorite game is titled "The Old Man's Gone for Good." Where the two take turns thinking of ways to get rid of him once and for all. These girls are quite creative!

Lana and Abbie's imaginations turn into a stark reality as the story reaches its dramatic conclusion. It is not one you will likely forget.

## Weetzie Bat

Francesea Lia Block

*Lanky lizards!* This is one cool book! In Weetzie Bat, Block describes the adventures of Weetzie Bat and her friend Dirk, two slinkster-cool teens in L.A. Weetzie has a bleach blonde flat-top and pink Harlequin sunglasses. Dirk wears his hair in a shoe-polish-black Mohawk and he drives a red '55 Pontiac. Cool. Needless to say, they were best friends.

One day while visiting her grandma Fifi, Weetzie is given a present. She didn't know what it was until after she removed the many layers of dust. That's when a genie appeared and granted her three wishes. After being turned down for world peace and an infinite number of wishes (apparently not in the rule book) she decides on the following: "I wish for a Duck for Dirk, and My Secret Agent Lover Man for me, and a beautiful little house for us to live in happily ever after."

That's all I'm going to tell you. Go read this book to find out if Weetzie's wishes come true!

FYI: Weetzie Bat is the first in a series of books involving these characters.



IN THESE  
GIRLS,  
HOPE IS  
A MUSCLE  
MADELINE BLAIS

## In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle

Madeline Blais

If you're a female and never had the experience of being involved in team sports, this book will truly make you regret it.

Journalist, Madeleine Blais documented the entire season of the Lady Hurricanes basketball team from Amherst, Massachusetts.

Blais wrote not only of the games and practices, but more importantly- of the loyalties, struggles, joy and commitment the individual team members experienced off the court. Blais' book is an incredibly realistic portrayal of girls' experiences in high school, in sports, and in our society.

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*Bust* is published four times a year with each 70 page issue having a separate theme. Recent issues have included such subjects as sex and beauty, with the most recent one titled "My life as a girl". Inside these issues are humorous, well written and incredibly honest stories, poems and insights from the editors as well as submitters. *Bust* also prints reviews of female-friendly bands and 'zines/books, including bands such as Luscious Jackson, Come, and Lisa Germano.

This 'zine is a breath of fresh air to an industry so preoccupied by defining "beauty" and then ramming it down our throats. *Bust* simply shows us that all women are beautiful.

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**Hey, you, put down that wallet!**

All of these books (but not *Bust*) are free - at your local library. If the book is not currently available, or not in the collection, put it on reserve or inter library loan, 'kay? You've got to eat too ya know.

-towanda!

The Hurricane's coach made an important observation in the book. He said that, "unlike training boys-whose arrogance and confidence often have to be eroded before a team can pull together - working with girls is all constructive. The way to build a girls' team is to build each player's self-confidence." Hmm..

**What's Eating Gilbert Grape?**

Peter Hedges

You might recognize the title from the movie version released in 1994 starring Johnny Depp. Although I wasn't disappointed by the movie, (Leonardo DiCaprio's performance was impressive) the book was better. Depp, stars as Gilbert Grape a 24 year old grocery clerk stuck in Endora, Indiana population 1,091. Wait, it get's worse. Gilbert lives in an very unbalanced family who all seem to include Gilbert in thier own personal problems. These factors contribute to Gilbert's guilt ridden decision to stay in Endora and take care of them instead of catching the next bus out of town.

Gilbert's life changes drastically when Becky, who is in Endora visiting her grandma, appears and gives Gilbert a new outlook on life.

**Ms. Hippie Wants To Hear From You**

The holidays are rapidly approaching. Send in your letters now concerning Christmas, gift-giving and family etiquette.



**Bust**

editors  
Celina Hex  
Betty Boob

This is actually a 'zine and not a book, but I love it all the same.

I first started reading this 'zine about a year ago. It is published by two wonderful feminist (and proud of it!) women in N.Y. They started *Bust* for the following reason: 'we put together

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# The House That Bill

When I was very little, I remember a children's nursery rhyme called, "The House That Jack Built". It started with a statement then repeated itself and with each repetition, an additional line was added, gradually growing into a very long and complicated statement. Although it never occurred to me at the time, learning about "the House That Jack Built," may have been a good advance warning about real life.

## The visit

On February 22, 1995, I called a furnace repair business for assistance because my furnace was making noises like it would soon break down. The business I called advised me that their business had been purchased by another business and if I wanted the same repair people to work on it, I would have to arrange it through the new owner. So I did arrange it through the new owner, and I got my old repairman over to see my furnace after 5p.m. the next day. He began to open up my furnace but found that he could not remove the fan blades without first removing my hot water heater. He strongly advised that I simply replace the furnace since I would have a major expense in both time and money even to only replace the fan, and my furnace was so old that other things were likely to go wrong with it in the near future.

So I asked him about the cost of replacing my furnace and how it could be done. He said that he could not deal with that part of the business anymore. I would have to talk with Bill Maitland, the new owner and let him make measurements and propose a cost to do the job. So I asked to talk to Bill Maitland and he called him on his cellular phone. My old repairman then left, and Bill Maitland arrived sometime after 5p.m.

## The verdict

Bill Maitland then measured my old furnace and the small space that it was located in. Naturally he told me that the company that made it doesn't exist anymore and it would possibly be difficult to obtain a furnace as small as my old one. But he assured me that he would look into it and would call me when he had figured out how to replace my old furnace. Then he left. Neither Bill Maitland nor the earlier repairman had made any improvements in my furnace. I did not need them to tell me something was wrong with my furnace. What I did need was someone to fix it.

## Gone golfin'?

On Friday, Bill Maitland did not call me. So on Monday, I called him. It seemed to me that he had been easy to reach on the cellular phone on Thursday, so he should have been easy to reach on Monday when I called his business. But, I found that his secretary could or would not reach him on Monday. I explained my desire for the proposed cost of replacing my furnace, and she promised that Bill Maitland would call me back. But he never did.

## The bill(s)

Then the letters began. First I got an invoice, dated February 27th and postmarked February 27th. The invoice said I owed Maitland \$52.00 for the great honor and privilege of being told that my furnace needed to be replaced. There was no proposal explaining how it could be replaced or at what cost. This was followed by another bill for \$52.00 that was date February 28, postmarked March 7th and received by me on March 8th. Again, no suggestion of how to replace my old furnace and at what cost.

This make me angry, but I figured that probably I would end up having to pay the \$52.00 anyway so I sent a check for \$52.00 and a letter explaining what made me angry and suggesting that I get some value for my expense. Before I sent it I made sure I had a copy of the letter I sent to Maitland with my check on March 13th.

The next letter from Maitland's was dated and postmarked March 31st. Presumably I got it on April Fool's Day, but it was a nice reminder to pay my \$42.00 to Maitland. It even recognized that I might already have sent in my payment.

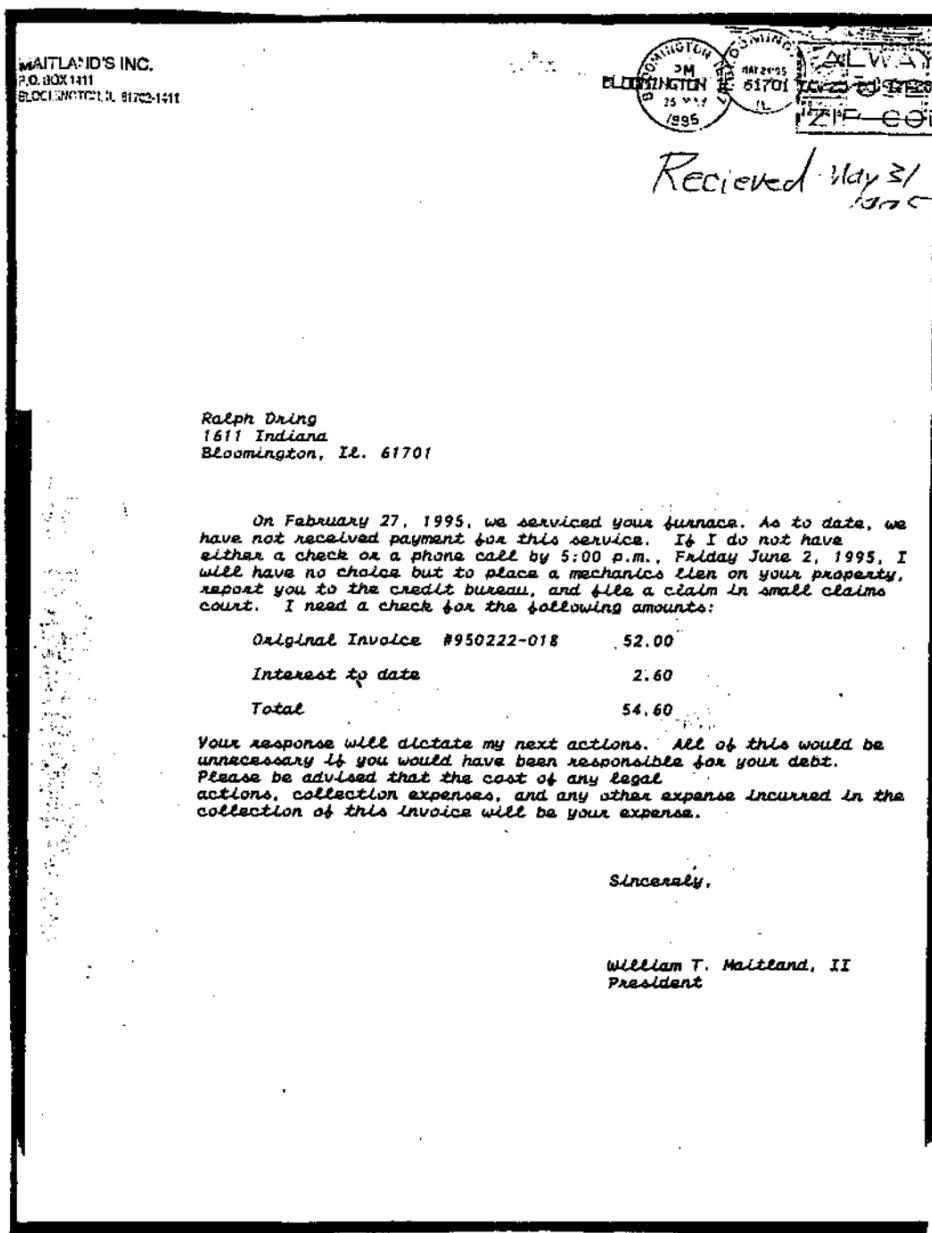
## They keep coming, and coming...

In April, I left on vacation for almost three weeks. When I returned I had a big stack of mail to go through. In that stack was a letter or rather a bill, from Maitlands. The bill was dated March 31st and was postmarked April 10. It charged me a total of \$53.30 - \$52.00 for the original bill and \$1.30 interest for late payment. When I checked with my bank, I found that Maitland's had not cashed my check. Needless to say, I felt very frustrated.

How do you communicate with someone who refuses to answer phone calls and doesn't call back when his secretary promises that he will? How can you prove that you have delivered payment when you have sent a check and the creditor neglects to cash it? What's fair about charging interest on a payment the has been made?

## Here we go again

So I wrote another letter and sent it on May 1st, along with a copy of my first letter and another check, this time for \$53.30. To prove that I had delivered my payment, I sent it certified mail, return receipt requested. This cost me \$2.52, but I did get the card back proving that Bill Maitland received my letters and check on May 2, 1995.





# Built

This did not stop the parade of bills. On May 10th, I received another bill dated April 30th and was for \$54.60! This was for my original bill of \$52.00 and two month's late charge - \$1.30 per month. Why didn't Bill Maitland credit my account for my payment which he received on May 2nd? May 2nd was earlier than the May 9th postmark.

So again I wrote a letter to Bill Maitland and a check for \$1.30. Again, I sent the letter certified mail, return receipt requested. I sent the letter on May 19th, and Bill Maitland signed the receipt card that he had received it on May 22nd. I got the receipt card just before going on another vacation for the last week in May. I did not want to have that worry burden my vacation.

When I came back from my vacation, I again had a big stack of mail. Included in this mail was another letter from Bill Maitland and this one actually had a person's name on it. The letter was postmarked May 25th, but because of my vacation delay, I only got it on May 31st.

This letter made me very, very angry. The letter demanded a check from me by 5p.m. on Friday, June 2nd or Mr. Bill Maitland was going to put a mechanics lien on my home, report me

to the credit bureau and file a claim against me in small claims court. He also was going to charge me for any legal or other collection costs that he incurred. So here was a bill for "service" that did nothing to improve my furnace. Here were interest charges on a payment that I had already made! And here was a threat to steal my house for nonpayment that I had already sent him 3 checks. I could even prove that he received two of those checks. Would I have to take a day off work to defend myself in small claims court? Would I have to hire a lawyer to extinguish Mr. Maitland's mechanic's lien?

Truly, it seemed to me, Bill Maitland is not in the business of repairing furnaces. He did nothing to repair my furnace, and he had the nerve to charge me for doing nothing! Perhaps Bill Maitland is in the business of home repair fraud. How many checks can he collect for the same bill? By not cashing the checks he feels entitled to charge 30% interest per year! I don't know any bank, savings and loan or Credit Union that will pay me 30% interest on money that I invest with them. Bill Maitland is not a furnace repair business to me. He must be a collection agency business.

### \$105.30 for what?

Will he eventually cash all those checks I wrote? The check I wrote on March 13th for \$52.00, the check I wrote on May 1st for \$53.30 and the check I wrote on May 19 for \$1.30. I asked the bank about stopping payment on a check of mine. I was told that it would cost me \$15.00 per check to stop payment for 6 months. I was also told that a check over a year old is considered a "stale" check. That means that the bank will not cash it without asking me

first if I want it paid. So if Bill Maitland only cashes one of my checks, (\$53.30) I should only have to worry for a year that he may fraudulently cash the other (\$52.00).

This is not my idea of a good business, although no fraud has been proven in a court of law so far. Perhaps that court of public opinion can render a verdict.

Ralph Dring

## Men Seeking Men

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\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Dring, Ralph \*  
\* 1511 Indiana \*  
\* Bloomington, IL 61701 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

----- Page 1 -----  
STATEMENT  
-----  
Date: Apr 30, 1995  
Account Number: 07675  
Finance Charge APR: 30.00%

Reference #	Date	Code	Description	Amount	Balance
950222-018	02/27/95	I	Sale (Invoice)	52.00	52.00
SC03-950060	03/31/95	F	Service Charge	1.30	53.30
SC04-950067	04/30/95	F	Service Charge	1.30	54.60

On 3/31/95, Int. Rate is 2 1/2% Month, 30% A Year.  
BALANCE DUE EXCEEDS 60 DAYS. PLEASE PAY.

Current	30 Days	60 Days	90+ Days
2.60	.00	52.00	.00

Codes: I=Invoice C=Credit F=Fin Chg P=Payment W=Warranty  
D=Debit Memo B=Balance SP=Sched Payment S=Service/Repair  
A=Disc Allowed CR=Cash Refund W0=Writeoff

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11.....12.....13.....14.....  
15.....16.....17.....18.....  
19.....20.....  
(ADDITIONAL) 21.....22.....23.....  
24.....25.....

### THE DETAILS

- JUST FRIENDS
- WOMEN SEEKING MEN
- MEN SEEKING WOMEN
- WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN
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# Grandmother Water

Water is the great balancer. It is necessary for all life and is more fundamental in its nature and its impact on our lives than even the earth is. Pagans/Feminists/Nature-lovers in general honor and revere "Mother Earth." Maybe "Grandmother Water" should be honored as well, as water is more primal than the earth.

Pull out your Bibles from under the table legs they are propping up and dust them off and open to Genesis. In case you don't have a copy, I'll refresh your memory. The first nine verses of Genesis, chapter one, describe how the world was a vast liquid mass, and God separated the heavens above (i.e., the sky) from the waters below, and then eventually made the waters separate for the land to rise. From what I remember of high school evolutionary theory, water was here first as well, and all life grew from water. Land came later.

A baby is made of 80% water and an adult of about 65% water. That makes us watery beings.

Doesn't it make sense that the moon, which affects the tides, would also affect the behavior of humans? Astrological theory may actually have some basis in reality after all, for you skeptics.

It is interesting to observe that we all develop in water in our mothers. The baby is cushioned in a watery environment, called amniotic fluid, and this is where it spends the first nine months of life. Babies who are encouraged to swim from the start have natural abilities to move their arms and hold their breath for extended periods of time. They also seem to physically develop at a much faster pace, with

more strength and better balance, walking and crawling much sooner than other children. Some believe "water babies" are also more intelligent.

There are many theories for all of this. Michel Odent, a physician and leader in the waterbirth movement, has written a book entitled *Water and Sexuality*. In a nutshell, Odent believes that as humans we are more closely related to whales and dolphins than we are to chimpanzees. There are many reasons for this, which include the carbon dioxide levels in the body, when we hold our breath underwater, the fatty layer under our skin, our posture, the way we have sex face-to-face (sometimes....) and even females who have sex simply for pleasure, same-sex relations and sometimes "group sex", as well as the fact that we are naturally drawn to water as a source of pleasure.

There are many, many more similarities. Some even believe in an "aquatic ape theory" which theorizes that we developed from an aquatic ape that spent much of its time in the water. There is one ape species, the bonobo, that have the vulva facing "forward" as ours do, allowing for face-to-face intercourse. The bonobo also are an aquatic ape which choose to spend part of the day in the water swimming, etc. Interestingly, in the last couple of years archeologists have discovered a whale-like creature that had legs and could walk on land or swim in water, and they believe this is the ancestor of modern whales.

Our water supplies in the world are becoming very polluted and are no longer "living" unless

you can find water from a spring or a clean well. In Theodor and Wolfram Schwenk's book, *Water, The Element of Life*, they talk about the healing benefits of water and explain a method they developed for photographing water drops and how you can tell living from dead or dying water by the patterns made from the drops. The pictures are truly amazing, because living water is filled with beautiful swirls, and the dead water, well, looks dead in comparison.

The Schwenks' work is fascinating. They believe that water is ALIVE and that it is essential that it not be killed off if the balance of the planet is not to be further altered. It is quite convincing to read the evidence from a lifetime of Theodor Schwenk's work and see how our bodies follow the patterns of water in the heart-beat/breathing ratio (which is 4:1), and how the patterns of water coincide with the patterns of the seasons and of the movement of the planets, our galaxy and the universe. He and his son believe that there is a Higher Being/Plan out there that has imprinted itself in the universe, and that water is one of the most vital aspects reflecting this and needed for life to exist here and that drastic measures must be taken immediately to stop the destruction of the water systems and our planet, and that we have taken an extremely strange approach in studying the planet which has enabled us to destroy it. We have learned to rip everything apart to individual aspects and not see it as a whole. If everyone looked at the "big picture" it would be impossible to do the things we do to this planet. They teach that schooling needs to be changed in the following ways, involving:

- a reverence for everything alive, for living patterns,
- the sacrificial transforming of egotistical drives, with constant attention to the whole,
- founding schools of higher learning that would not merely teach competence in understanding the lifeless realm, but would also inculcate an enlivened thinking such as is alone capable of opening the door into the world of life that has its being in the weaving dynamics inherent in living processes.

Further, they pointed out that

- there can be no change without a schooling in reverence, and without change no connection with the Tree of Life.

(from *Water, the Element of Life*, pages 118-119)

From my readings from many sources and studies of water with Molly Caliger Lasser (who runs the midwifery internship program The Russian Birth Project and is well-known for her work in waterbirth) water is wonderful for people beyond the obvious need for basic survival. It is a source of relaxation and comfort, as is seen by people going to fishing or lakes/streams/oceans for vacation. People are drawn to water. There are other practical uses for water in general. For example, it can lower high blood pressure when a person is submerged in it for an hour due to hydrostatic pressure. It is an excellent tool for labor (which you lucky people get to read all about next time!) in helping a woman relax and making for a gentler birth for the baby.

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Water and its states can be used to describe people and life. It is the great neutralizer, and in its watery state it is not typical matter (as in its "mineralized" state when it is ice), but by lowering the temperature it turns into ice, and by raising the temperature it becomes a gas, both easily. In working with women having waterbirths, this is a valuable tool. You can figure out the woman's "water type"...is she icy/mineralized, watery or "gaseous" (steam) and this will in turn be used to determine the temperature the water needs to be during the birth to facilitate the labor process. You can completely alter the energy and pace at a birth by changing the temperature of the water a woman is in!

On a more practical level, water is in separate drops. These drops tend to cling together and flow in a spiral pattern, and flowing water tends to always follow a meandering course. When you change the flow of a river unnaturally, it obviously has a major impact, and the water will tend to try to go back to its normal course. Yes, the flooding of the Mississippi was tragic, but it was nature attempting to right the wrongs inflicted on it by man. We do not have the right to impose our will on the entire planet, which is obviously what we have done, and if we continue this, I believe that nature will "backlash" as I believed happened with the flooding of the Mississippi. Water needs to find its own way to flow on the planet and we should not try to control its path.

I could continue on this topic for much longer. Instead I would encourage you to read about water. I have listed books to get you started. Good luck!

*Water-The Element of Life* by Theodor and Wolfram Schwenk  
*Sensitive Chaos* by Theodor Schwenk  
*Water and Sexuality* by Michel Odent  
*We Are All Water Babies* by Michel Odent  
*How to Teach Your Baby to Swim* by Claire Timmermans

Some of these books many need to be special ordered, so if you need help finding them, call me at 827-5843.

--Marcee Murray

# An Evening with Z Budapest

Seventy eager bodies gather in a room, scattered about the floor. Almost all are women (there are 4 men). A card table has been turned into an altar, resplendent with a candle, flowers, incense and apples. In a simple denim jumper and medicine bag, Z watches herself on the video playing on the TV. The audience laughs in agreement with the comments of a woman on the tape. The tape was filmed at one of Z's weekend retreats in Texas.

"We couldn't get any black women to get on film." She shakes her head. "They said you can't be a Black woman in Texas and say you are not Christian. There were Black women at the workshop, but they would not be on camera."

The evening is not a lecture; it is an interactive discussion. Someone inquires, "So is this the end of the patriarchal realm?"

Z nods and smiles. "Yes. The end of patriarchy is brewing in the Women's Spirituality Movement. Women understand the power we have when we reclaim ourselves. If you hurt the Goddess through any of Her parts (individual women), we all feel the pain. We must teach this generation that the abuse stops here."

Zsuzsanna is firm in her dedication to working with women. Some of her "daughters" (students) like Starhawk, have gone on to include men in their groups and in their workings. Z does not. She feels that the energy of even one man changes the energy of the whole group. And according to her, it is up to women to get things back on the right path. "Only a shift of consciousness can take back our world. Women are humanity, if I change the women, I change humanity. Women as a nation have to take back their spirit, then you take back the nation."

Z is heavily into activism. She sees it as a very necessary part of life.

"Political is Spiritual. Spiritual is Political. If you take control of your spirit, you can change the world. Spiritual transformation and

Political activism are one." She is fierce now. "Witches are the alchemists of the soul. Oppression and awareness equal activism."

Ah, something we as Witches do know about: oppression and awareness. We are the natural activists. But Z is quick to point out that the

female principle needs a trauma to motivate them. "Being a Witch is to take risks, to make yourself up as a target, then to take upon yourself the task to educate the public. The Witches cannot be burned again. We will remember and we will not repeat it."

Another member of the group inquired, "What is the future of Paganism?"

Z replied eagerly to this, "We honor the diversity, but see the commonality. We have no Pope, no single power. We are self-efficient enough to go on on a daily level and organized enough to gather together into large circles to celebrate the seasons. We grow underground, holding hands. We are spreading. It is good that it is gradual. It is good that it is not central. It must never become central. To assume the central leadership is a death sentence." She shakes her head. "I am not the leader. I don't want it. I stir up enough trouble. I don't want to be the leader." She continues, "But whenever we gather together, it is good. All gatherings are always healing, because you get confirmation that you are not alone."

And what do we do to further the movement? "Experience the ecstasy. Create the fantasy, create the stories, then live them. Story telling is the best teaching experience. The first step is to make it fashionable to be women again." Z pauses. "Did you know that beauty kills more women than rape and violence in the streets? Life is not for denial. In doing seminars, I always ask my participants to touch a part of their body they don't like. Always, everyone touches something. There is not one person who says 'I love all of me; I am touching nothing.' Loving the Goddess is loving yourself." She smiles. "Eve should have eaten a whole bushel of those damn apples to create the total self-awareness and total self love." Z takes a forceful bite out of one of the apples in a basket on her altar.

"We must make it fashionable to be women again. In order for paganism to advance, the mass of the Goddess must be brought back first. Fashion pornography is a war against women. This you must know: fat equals fertility. Fat creates sexual desire. Fat stores estrogen for the menopausal years. We must accept ourselves as we are. If you have to struggle to be thin, then you are denying what you are. Life is not denial." She pauses and looks around. "I

encourage my daughters to do the self-blessing ritual every Friday. It reaffirms your connection with the Goddess. The Goddess is my soul. She is your soul as well."

A young lady waves for attention. "You said in your video that you were not included in your mothers circle as a child; why not?"

Z reflects before answering. "My mother's circle was a closed circle. It was not an open circle and especially not a place for children. But to be the daughter of a Witch has its comical side, too. My mother channeled one who claimed to be an ancient Egyptian priestess in what the entity claimed to be ancient Egyptian tongue. We got it on tape and took it over to the university to the Egyptologists. We left it there and forgot about it. Later, they came back with a translation of it. It was all about this graveyard that the priestess tended and she was ranting and raving how this was not done and that was not done and how she wasn't putting up with it any more. Well, my mother had the Egyptologist come over next time she channeled and had him explain to the spirit that the grave yard was long ago and far away and my mother knew nothing about it. The priestess came back through and said, 'But this was the only open channel.' Laughter filled the room.

"Our bodies have wisdom from our ancestors. The ancestors travel on the winds. Mother used to pray on the wind and call to the ancestors. Every time she did this, what ever she needed it came true. Much is on the wind. When the Wind is in the South, it is a good time to make love. When the wind is in the West, it is a good time to die."

The evening is winding to a close. Z will leave soon for a retreat weekend in Michigan. Does she have any regrets? Yes, a few. There have been personal sacrifices, one of which she feels yearly. One of her sons was born on Halloween. He has created his own personal rituals for this day, but she has only seen it twice. She can't celebrate the day with him, "because we all know, Halloween is a working day for a Pagan Priestess."

As we part now, Z reminds us once more, "The world is so small and so fragile, She needs us to become one."

--Winter Wren



# Auschwitz, McDonald's and bad Eastern Europe off the beaten path

## Czech Republic Tidbits

**Location:** Borders Germany to the east, Austria to the north, Poland to the south and Slovakia to the west.

**Government:** Democratic Parliament. President is Vaclav Havel, a playwright, founder of the Human Rights group Charter 77, and former political prisoner of the Communist Government.

**Splitting of Country:** After a popular vote in 1993, Czechoslovakia split into two separate countries - the Czech Republic and Slovakia, with Prague and Bratislava being their capitals.

**All things Czech**  
Bohemian glass and crystal, pilsner beer, poppyseed, dumplings, Anton Cermak, Martina Navratilova, Ivan Lendl, Franz Kafka, Antonin Dvorak, Josef Haydn, Alfons Mucha and the polka!

**The "other" Europe**  
This summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Europe. But didn't go to the obvious destinations of Italy and France. Rather, I took the road less traveled and went to Eastern Europe. A part of the world that is largely ignored and misunderstood by most people.

Today, the countries of Eastern Europe are currently undergoing tremendous changes. Only 6 years has past since Communist governments were peacefully thrown out of their offices (and countries). Currently, the countries in this region are undergoing tremendous changes. I wanted to witness them.

My curiosity also was influenced by my cultural background - all of my great-grandparent's were born in various parts of what is now the Czech Republic. Luckily, I still had relatives in the southern Bohemian region in the Czech Republic, and through them, I was able to visit my ancestor's gravesites, lodge in the house one on my great-grandmothers was born in, and meet many wonderful relatives.

The following are just a few things I noticed and experienced while visiting the countries of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Austria.

**Wah, wah, wah**  
Americans take so much for granted. We don't like to be discomforted. Think about it. The second we feel hot; we turn on the air-con, or fan. A bug bite itches; we immediately apply a "non-itch" creme. Our drink isn't cold enough; ice cubes. I could go on and on. People in Eastern Europe endure it, they are used to much more pain and suffering, these trifle "discomforts" don't matter much.

An American relative of mine haughtingly commented that she wouldn't travel anywhere that didn't have air-conditioning! God forbid if she feels the least bit uncomfortable. I pity her and her spoiled ways.

**Capitalism makes its mark**  
I don't want to paint a picture that E. Europe is like a third world country, lacking basic services and products. Quite the opposite. Everything (mostly) that we have is available to them, and thrown in their faces. Nikes®, blow dryers, microwaves, VCR's, the latest Pearl Jam c.d., and the upgraded version of MicroSoft Windows®... The problem is that they can't afford it. These products are

"Western" so they are "Western" priced. When you make an average salary of \$4,000 a year (\$2.00/hr) how can you justify paying \$40.00 for a new coffee pot, or \$200+ for a microwave. It's crazy.



**Auschwitz**  
I tried to prepare myself for my visit to Auschwitz the best I could. I read a few biographies, namely Maus I and Maus II, the Diary of Anne Frank and another book on the last 8 months of her life. I read about Auschwitz to not only educate myself, but to get an extra edge on whole experience, both historically and emotionally. What I soon discovered is that nothing can prepare you for that experience.

Our "tour" began at 9:00 when we caught a bus in Krakow's town square. We boarded (still catching our breath after almost missing the bus!) and headed toward the quiet Polish countryside. Along the 45 mile drive, I couldn't help to think about the older Poles I saw. What horrors did they see? And just as abhorrent, what did they pretend not to see?

What was Auschwitz like? It was like having a 10 lb. rock in my stomach - for 7 hours. The same feeling experienced immediately after hearing that a close relative/friend just died. It just stays there until you can slowly absorb the pain and realize the dead are at peace.

Upon arriving, our group was shown a documentary filmed by the Red Army the day they liberated the camp. We were than shown around the site known as Birkanau I. The gate with those infamous words, "Albreit mach frei" stands there as well as a row of two-storied brick buildings that were used as offices, Nazi housing and "medical" experiment facilities. These buildings today are very well preserved, mostly everything at Auschwitz appears untouched from 50 years ago. A few of the buildings though, have been transformed into artifact rooms with each room having different items. Behind a glass wall, stacked 10 feet high, are thousands of personal items. Eyeglasses, prosthetics, pots and pans, shoes, (the soles torn off by the Nazis in hopes of finding money) and mounds of human hair - still braided and many adorned with bows.

Our guide and group of twenty then re-boarded the bus and drove 1.5 miles to Birkenau II - the former barracks and site of the gas chambers and crematorium where 1.5 million were murdered. At the site of mass graves now stands a tribute to the victims of the Nazi holocaust. A long row of massive looking "graves" each display a message written in every language spoken by the victims.

Our bus pulled into the Krakow town square 7 hours after leaving that morning. It was a truly horrible, gut wrenching, discusting experience. It was an experience that I will not soon forget.

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# fashion

## Shopping

The citizens of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, as well as many other former Communist countries, are now experiencing a whole new way to shop. During Communism the prices were fixed because everything was owned by the government. There was one brand available and it had the same price throughout the whole country. Not anymore. With the fall of Communism, came privatization. In other words, capitalism.

While in Prague, we stayed with Radek and his family. (Radek's grandmother and my great-grandmother were sisters.) Radek needed to replace a 15 year old washing machine. He said that when he bought it, there was only one machine with one price. Now he has the choice of brands from all over the world *all* with different prices. It's all quite overwhelming, but he seems to be catching on.

## Time warp

Communism not only prevented a variety of goods to become available, it prevented new Western influenced items to enter the country. Being in Eastern Europe is like a surreal flashback of the 50's mixed with bad fashion of the early 80's. The plumbing, telephone system and most cars are obviously outdated and sorely need upgrading. Fashion, on the other hand, is awful. (except for Poles, who are quite stylish!) Bad, *bad* color combinations, stripes with polka dots - you name it. And if I saw one more woman with feathered hair and blue eyeshadow...

In Plzen, I went to a dance club. The teenagers had multicolor hair, baggie pants, nose rings, you name it. But, they were jamming to *ccmpy* 50's and 60's music. I guess they are still trying to catch up with 40 years of rock and roll.

## Education

In the Czech Republic the high school system is set up similiar to our colleges. Their high schools, called secondary schools, are actually a trade schools. While in the 8th grade, students must decide which professional trade they would like to learn. Since the schools are scattered throughout the country, this includes moving away from home and living in a dorm at ages 14-18! Students have their choice of ceramics, industry, chemistry or business. This training prepares them with a lifetime job skills. University degrees are also available, but the entrance requirements are strict and the cost to steep for most citizens.

My mother's second cousin from Chicago took a year off to teach English in a ceramics school near our relatives home. During our first week, were able to sit in on one of her final classes and answer questions posed by her students. English was not taught during Communism. But today, it is even taught in the elementary schools. While I wanted to practice my Czech with them, they wanted to practice their English with me. I gave in.

The students have an "open campus" policy. The secondary, as well as elementary kids, were able to leave school for lunch and breaks. Throughout the day, you would see kids everywhere! Buying ice cream, at the sweet shop or just hanging out. They were all responsible for getting back to school at the appropriate time. Something tells me they all did. Here's something to pass along to Unit 5. During the breaks between classes in the elementary schools, the students have close to 10 minutes to just go nuts. This includes screaming, running, jumping - acting like kids. The teachers just turn their heads, unless it gets out of hand. When the bell rings, the children settle down and go to class - without all of that pent up energy.

## Consider a trip

If you plan on taking a trip overseas in the future, why not consider Eastern Europe. Except for the capital cities, many others are void the whole tourist trap scence, so you are able to appreciate the culture and every day life firsthand. When in Rome...they say. And, it's inexpensive. About 4x less than Western Europe. I averaged about \$100 a week on everything! That included dorm lodging - \$7.00 day, food (40¢ for a huge mug of beer!!), transportation, events, and gifts.

Note: if you can't do without air-conditioning, I suggest a nice trip to Las Vegas.

towanda the Bohemian

# Uppers & Downers



**Downers** to Principal Crabtree's message over the intercom which stated that only those students with "brown, black or blonde" hair will be allowed in school. This silly remark lead to...

**Uppers** to the one Normal West teacher, who upon hearing the announcement, immediately ordered a "red-headed" student to the principal's office!

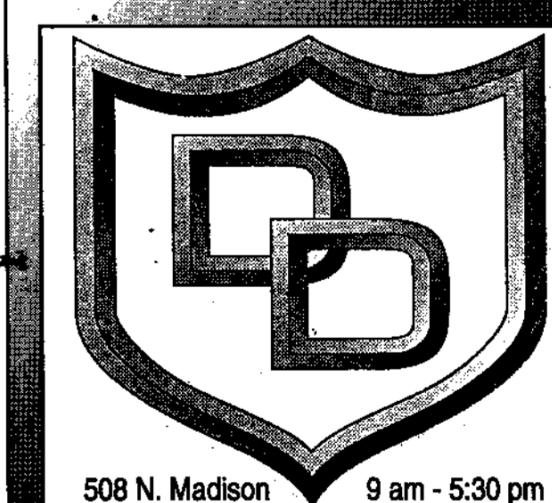
**Downers** to the residents of the North Pointe subdivision in Normal. Their shallow quest for the oh-so-perfect lawn caused the death of 60 ducks when their poisonous lawn chemicals made its way into a small lake.

**Downers** to Sheila Shanklin, the Lexington woman convicted of gross negligence towards numerous animals found on her property.

**Uppers** to the outpouring of community support as well as prompt action by the McLean County Humane Society to rescue these animals and provide them with adequate food and shelter. As of press, many of the animals have seen a drastic improvement in their health. A few weren't so lucky.

**Downers** to the Eureka school board for recently banning Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales." A few parents have complained that portions of the book contain sexual situations that are inappropriate for high school students.

p.s. Shhh! don't tell them that high school is also an inappropriate sexual situation for students.



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## Board Nominations Sought

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) - Chicago is seeking candidates to serve two-year terms on its board of directors. GLAAD is the only media watchdog group that focuses on lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered peoples. People of color, women and those with experience in fundraising, fiscal management, public relations, marketing or media relations are strongly encouraged to submit a letter of intent and resume to:

Bill Weeks  
c/o GLAAD/Chicago  
P.O. Box 146343  
Chicago, IL 60614  
Ph. 312-989-6940

Deadline for consideration: Nov. 15, 1995

## I Propose an Experience of Light

You will need to get a pair of what are called "laser glasses." They are glasses that break light down into a spectrum. When you look through them, there are rainbows everywhere. They can be purchased at Bogarts in Normal very inexpensively.

First, just play with them. Have fun with them. You will discover that every light source is different and beautiful in its own way.

And when and if you want to take the experience deeper, here are some suggestions: Take some time when you won't be disturbed — if you want to be alone or when you are together with good friends.

Prepare a pleasant environment.

Play some music that you consider to be sacred and beautiful. (Native American flute and drum music or an Indian raga would be amazing.)

Light a candle or candles.  
Put on the glasses.  
Focus on the beauty of the light and the colors.  
Call in the light.  
Have a good journey, my friends.

Blessed be.

Gregg Brown can be reached through the New Age Resource Center, P.O. Box 3161, Bloomington, IL 61702-3161, at (309) 827-5805.

# THE ART OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



## RAPED FEMALE DEMON

She waits in the forest for young men with rape on their minds. She will turn their evil against them to their own death.

Moral figure from the men's house.

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Papua New Guinea.

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