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The politics of hemp in the US Homeschooling The Underground Barfly returns



POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 26

50¢

NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1997

APRIL FOOLS!



Bloomington's mayoral race

- Jesse
- Judy
- none of the above

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BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 26

NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1997

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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 828-4473 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*.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions to the *Post Amerikan* are available for the low price of \$5.00 per year for six complete issues. Please send a check (made payable to the *Post Amerikan*) to: *Post Amerikan*, P.O. Box 3452 Bloomington, IL 61702.

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

David, Linda, Matt, Matthew, Nick, Ralph, Russ, Sherrin & Steve

Post Sellers

Bloomington

AIDS Task Force, 313 N. Main (inside)
 About Books, 221 E. Front (inside)
 Barnes & Noble, Veterans and Rt. 9 (inside)
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East
 Circus Video, (Emerson and Main)
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main (inside)
 Front and Center Building
 Gaston's Upper Cut, 409 N. Main (inside)
 Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front
 Medusa's, 420 N. Madison (inside)
 Mystic Link, 901 E. Grove Suite M. (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
 U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

Normal

Acme Comics, 115 W. North (inside)
 Amtrak Station, 100 Parkinson
 Babbitt's Books, 104 North (inside)
 Bus stop, (School and Fell)
 Coffee World CoffeeHouse, 114 E. Beaufort
 Cultural Expressions, 127 E. Beaufort (inside)
 Deadpan Alley Records, 129 E. Beaufort (inside)
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North (inside)

Champaign

Babbitt's Books, 614 E. Green, (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 _____
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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.)

March 15th

Good numbers

ACLU.....454-7223
 Advocacy Council for Human Rights.830-2521
 AIDS Hotlines
 National.....1-800-AID-AIDS
 Illinois.....1-800-243-2437
 Local.....827-AIDS
 Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-7092
 Animal Protection League.....828-5371
 Bloomington Housing Authority.....829-3360
 Boys and Girls Club.....829-3034
 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
 McLean Co. Peace Coalition.....828-7070
 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
 Occupational Development Center...452-7324
 Operation Recycle.....829-0691
 Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
 PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help).....827-4005
 Phone Friends.....827-4005
 PFLAG(Parents, Families and Friends
 of Lesbians and Gays).....663-0831
 Planned Parenthood (medical).....827-4014
 (bus/couns/edu).....827-4368
Post Amerikan.....828-4473
 Prairie 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



Community News



PFLAG meeting

The local affiliate chapter of "Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays" (PFLAG) will meet at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 18, 1997 at ISU's Stevenson Hall, Room 231A. This month **Chris Horvath, Assistant Professor of Biology and Philosophy at Illinois State University will assist those who attend in learning how to obtain gay-friendly resources on the Internet.** This meeting is free and open to the public. Stevenson Hall is located on School Street, between North Street and Beaufort (on the back side of Watterson Towers).

PFLAG is an international organization which provides education and support for families and friends, and advocates to end homophobia. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy, and respectful of human diversity. For more information call 663-0831.

Gay teen party

Who: Gay teens only
What: A dance/social for gay teens
When: February 14th 8:00 pm
Where: Saga Lynx 313 N. Main Street
Why: We'd like to offer a place for gay kids to meet other gay kids

"D.J. Stiff" providing music!

PFLAG is interested in doing this on a regular basis, so we need your help. Contact Carol or Craig at (309) 663-0831 with suggestions or if you just want to help out.

Journey of Hope family education course

Anne and Bob Olsen of Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Livingston/McLean Counties will conduct a series of 12 classes for families of persons with serious psychiatric disabilities. The course has been designed and written from experiences of family members and mental health professionals. Important components of the course include:

- Information about schizophrenia and the major affective disorders (bi polar and depressive illness)
- Coping skills, handling crisis and relapse
- Listening and communication techniques
- Problem solving and limit setting, rehabilitation
- Self-care; learning how to recognize the normal emotional reactions to chronic worry and stress
- Basic information about medications

-Information about connecting with community services and support

-Advocacy. Getting better services, fighting stigma.

The course is appropriate for parents, siblings, spouses, children. There is no cost. The courses will be held at 7pm for 12 weeks at the Unitarian Church of Bloomington, 613 E. Emerson St. For information and registration, call Anne or Bob Olsen, 309-454-4983.

-AMI of Livingston & McLean Counties Newsletter

Good cookin,' good times

People First of McLean County needs your help in collecting recipes for a cookbook we are presently working on. Our recipe deadline is Thursday, May 1, 1997.

Please send your recipes, with your name on them so you can be recognized, to:

Judy Bastyr--Recipe Queen
823 W. Oakland Apt. 1
Bloomington, IL 61701

For further information call: Martha Dickerson at 829-6069 between 4-9 pm.

Kenny Scharf: When Worlds Collide

University Galleries of Illinois State University is pleased to announce the commencement of its Spring 1997 exhibition schedule. Opening January 14, 1997 and continuing through February 23, **Kenny Scharf: When Worlds Collide** is an in-depth museum exhibition of an artist who emerged in the turbulent 1980s international art scene. Pulsating with energy and overflowing with information, Kenny Scharf's art infuses 60s pop icons and biomorphic forms with a symbolism reflecting electronic technology's insistent grip on our most primal fantasies.

Scharf's ebullient and jarring images have reached a wide audience through their appearance on postcards, Absolut ads, calendars, and clothing, but the artist's abundant studio works have yet to be featured in a comprehensive mid-career retrospective.

Kenny Scharf: When Worlds Collide will explore the ambivalent fusion of high art and cartoon, technological aspiration and ecological devastation, myth and mass-media, and hedonism and spirituality inherent in Scharf's work. The exhibition include 40 paintings on canvas and other materials, ten "customized" utilitarian objects, 2 bronze sculptures and a special black-light closet installation by the artist.

University Galleries is located at 110 Center for the Visual Arts on the Illinois State University campus. Gallery hours are Tuesday 9:30 am--9:00 pm, Wednesday through Friday 9:30 am--4:30 pm and Saturday--Sunday 12:00--4:00 pm. For further information or to arrange a guided tour, please call the Gallery at (309) 438-5487, email at glbowen@ilstu.edu or visit the gallery website: <http://www.orat.ilstu.edu/cfa/galleries>

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cont.

Blue Moon Coffeehouse

February 8—**Saffire: The Uppity Blues Women** will bring to The Blue Moon

Coffeehouse irresistible portions of sass and soul, tradition and attitude, all in the name of the blues. The vocals range from soulful to sexy, the lyrics are provocative and sly. Their blues have the wit and irony of the blues divas of yesteryear, with an updated twist. Saffire sails along a rockin' rollin' roadhouse-style, take no guff blues with the best and with enough verve to bolster their acoustic instruments. Moving with ease from standard blues to their own originals, The Uppity Blues Women can move an audience to tears from both laughter and sadness. The musicianship of this trio is genuine and studied. Their voices and instruments blend in harmonious precision. This is a band that hits the road and plays gigs from arenas to smoky lounges, always connecting with the audience with their humor and seductive styling. The blues have never been this fun.

February 22—**Libby Roderick** will come to The Blue Moon from her home in Anchorage, Alaska where she was born and raised. Returning home from graduating *summa cum laude* from Yale University with a degree in American Studies, Libby has worked as a TV and print reporter, radio consultant, nuclear weapons educator and writer on Alaska Native issues and women's history. Since 1990, she has toured as a solo singer-songwriter throughout the US and extensively in Europe. In a clear and open voice, carrying a Tracy Chapman resonance, Libby writes lyrics that stand beside many of the best songwriters from any genre or era. She is an astute and compelling storyteller who is also able to write ballads that are sweet, poignant and touching. Libby has been described by well-known troubadour Fred Small as "a breath of fresh air, a voice of sanity, healing and celebration."

February 28—**Sonia Rutstein** of *disappear fear* returns to play a solo show at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse and already fans of the band are making plans to travel to IWU to catch this amazing singer-songwriter in a one-of-a-kind solo gig. Sonia writes with intensity and to-the-bone honesty while delivering her songs with both acoustic and electric guitars, a "dylan-esque" harmonica, and a big voice that rocks a house. Sonia's writing draws from modern day subjects. She delivers these songs with a powerful angst and passion that moves people to dance, to smile or to cry. Boston-based Rounder Records has released four *disappear fear* CDs, including the latest, *Seed in the Sahara*. 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.

March 7—**Cheryl Wheeler** is a highly acclaimed singer-songwriter who is a familiar presence and an extremely popular artist on the New England coffeehouse circuit. She is one of a handful of artists who can charm an audience regardless of their entertainment expectations, political stance or current state of affairs. She is known in acoustic circles as a songwriter's songwriter and is an artist of contrasts. Her

music is introspective and tender, yet her stage presence is often sarcastic, cynical, and sardonic to the point of hilarity. Her music has been covered by a variety of folk and country artists including Maura O'Connell ("Summer Fly"), Dan Seals ("Addicted") and Suzy Bogguss, who scored a number one hit with her rendition of Wheeler's "Aces."

April 5—**Eddie from Ohio** are touring maniacs, on the road about 20 days of the month and loving it. The group has been phenomenally successful over the short five years they've been together, headlining clubs like The Bottom Line and The Bitter End in NYC, the Bayou in DC, and Passims in Boston. They have been compared to everyone from Crosby, Stills & Nash to Shawn Colvin, the Grateful Dead and 10,000 Maniacs. They've recorded three albums in five years, and reviewers have begun to notice that they don't do "angst" songs. While their musical style is diverse—from folk to rock to calypso—one constant is the positive attitude—"they don't do angst." Eddie from Ohio has instrumentation that crosses the musical spectrum, a superb flair for cliché-free melodies, and the stunning voice of Julie Murphy.

April 19—**Carrie Newcomer** returns as a warm and welcome friend of The Blue Moon. Carrie returns with new songs and stories that are accessible, elemental and wrapped up with that voice. The *Indianapolis Star* has said, "She's a vocalist that has an impressive range, fluidly moving from a caress to an indictment. This woman who can growl or coo is a triple treat." Carrie is a singer-songwriter who is a dynamic performer, able to touch audiences in a very personal way, as well as delight listeners with her Midwestern storytelling and humor. She has been reviewed as amazing, haunting, strong but subtle, virtuoso, literary and poetic. With the release of her newest CD, *My Father's Only Son* on Rounder Records, a national audience is now familiar with Carrie's work...and she still comes back to play The Blue Moon Coffeehouse.

Concerts are at 8 pm at Illinois Wesleyan's Memorial Student Center Main Lounge. All shows are free.

Call the Blue Moon Concert Infoline at (30) 556-3815 for more information. To join our mailing list or send a comment, e-mail us at: bluemoon@titan.iwu.edu

Beyond Normal Films

Beyond Normal Films is a group of Bloom/Nor residents organized with the purpose of bringing foreign and American independent movies to the Normal Theater. Since its first meeting in October, paid members have totaled 130. Recently, the group was responsible for bringing *Il Postino* and *Lone Star* to the theater.

Starting in April, films will be shown on the first Thursday of each month.

Shanghai Triad
(People's Republic of China)
Wednesday, March 26
7 and 9:15pm

Shanghai Triad stars Gong Li and is directed by Xiang Yimou (*Raise the Red lantern, To Live*).

Shanghai Triad is taken from the novel *Gang Law* by Li Xiao. It is a period piece (1930s) that tells the story of a young boy named Shuisheng who leaves the countryside to become an apprentice gangster for a distant relative.

Shuisheng's innocence is a metaphor for the loss of innocence in China during the 1930s. It is not only a coming of age film, but also a film about evil's insatiable appetite for destroying innocence.

ISU International Film Fest February 20-28

Germinal
(France)
Thursday, February 20
7pm

Adapted from the 1885 book by Emile Zola, *Germinal* presents an epic tale of coal miners who wage a long, bitter battle against their cruel bosses.

Knocks at my door
(Venezuela)
Friday, February 21
7pm

Political turmoil is threatening to affect the already strained relations between the Church, the State, and the Military.

Knocks at my door is a sensitive and subtle examination of what it means to be a nun, of relations between women, and the role of the Church in Latin American society.

Rhapsody in August
(Japan)
Saturday, February 22
7 & 9:15

Rhapsody takes place during on summer in the life of an old woman whose husband was killed by the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki

The aftermath of the Nagasaki bomb and the dialogue between the grandmother and her American nephew are counterpointed by the daily lives of her grandchildren. Their presence is used to show how the younger Japanese generation does not remember or care about the great events that preceded their birth.

Burnt by the Sun
(Russia)
Sunday, February 23
7pm

Burnt by the Sun tells the story of one day in the life of a Russian family during the Stalin years. As their seemingly idyllic life slowly unfolds, layers of the happy family's not-so-happy history come to light and the resulting revelations have tragic circumstances.



Faraway, so close
(Germany)
Thursday, February 27
7pm
Part II of Wings of Desire

Angels patrol a Berlin that is politically united but even more divided - a city of gangsters and gun runners, of homeless and spiritually helpless.

Cinema Paradiso
(Italy)
Friday, February 28
7pm

Cinema's two chief characters are old Alfredo, who runs the projection booth at the local theater, and young Salvatore, who makes the booth a home away from an unhappy home.

Cinema shows us how the power of the screen can compensate for a deprived life.

Letters

Dear Post-ies

's been looking good!

I'm glad to still receive the *PostAmerikan* in these times!

Keep on keeping on!

Monika

Dear friends,

I hope this letter finds you well, and in good spirits. My name is Nikolai Zarick, unfortunately I am incarcerated. But I am investing my time by designing an alternative architectonic system called "METATECTURE" (Meta: beyond, both/and, along with, combining form. tecture from architecture). With so many new and revived, high and low tech technologies in use these days, I saw a need to create a new term, for when they are used together. (Feel free to use the term).

My version of "METATECTURE" amalgamates airmform and armature architecture, strawbale, cordwood, rammed earth, adobe, bricolage, soft energy, edible/perennial xeriscaping, treatment wetlands, wattle and daub, forest farming, aquaculture, synchronicity, and other sustainable technologies into a "green," "whole," viable multitudinous intentional community.

I have been desperately struggling to find resources, research, study materials, periodicals (back issues and complimentary subscriptions.) or just an encouraging word. I will be eternally grateful for any new or used literature or information in heterogeneous though interconnecting topics that hopefully you can share with me, or perhaps you know of someone who can, help me, help others, through my work.

I apologize for sounding so presumptuous and mendicant, but I am working with a zero budget, and striving against the tides of my imprisonment. I hope that you will open your heart to assist me, but whatever you decide, thank you for your time, and the good work that you are doing.

With admiration,

Nik

Nikolai Zarick #162110
C.C. I.
900 Highland Ave.
Cheshire, CT
06410-1698

P.S. Please address all correspondence with your company/group's name.

Ms. Hippie

Dear Ms. Hippie,

My friend who owns rental property recently received a letter from his neighborhood association. In it were some suggestions on how to find good tenants. One suggestion was to create a strict lease which includes specifications such as "window coverings show white to the outside (nothing looks worse than colored windows such as blue, red, etc.)." Ms. Hippie, is it true? Is there nothing worse than colored windows?

Signed,
Confused about Aesthetics

Dear Confused,

There are indeed worse things than colored windows; in fact, worse things happened just yesterday to most of us. However, a close reading reveals that the neighborhood experts only claim that nothing looks worse than colored windows. This is something that even Ms. Hippie, with her refined sensibilities, has never considered. And since when did tenants have to bring their own window coverings anyway? What happened to cheap, dusty, poorly fitting miniblinds provided by the landlord?

One might think of several better ways to identify good tenants, such as inspecting their libraries, kitchen knives, or blankets. (Surely we have all noticed that unreliable people tend to have either very bad or very good blankets, nothing in the middle range.) However, a question of undue intrusiveness arises, a question that neighborhood associations traditionally do not ask.

Tastefully Mismatched,
Ms. Hippie

Dear Dr. Hippie:

Within the last few weeks I've been awakened in the middle of the night by the continuous barking of a neighborhood dog. The poor thing is chained in the driveway of the "owner's" yard with only a cheap plastic house and a food/water dish to call his own. But what he lacks in provisions, he makes up for in talent! I am convinced that this particular neighborhood dog must have been an orchestra director in the past, for he has the innate

ability to lead the vocals (backup provided by numerous neighborhood dogs) with what appears to be a version of Beethoven's 5th!

Dr. Hippie, as a canine lover, I find it quite difficult to put the little fellow at fault--what talent! He is only barking because he needs attention/food/water, etc. How can you blame him? But the owner, on the other hand, deserves a far worse fate. I've spent my awakened hours devising hell-bent scenarios on how to approach this "owner" and ask him why he would get a dog, and then chain it outside and forget about it like a toy the day after Xmas? Doesn't he realize that your animal is entitled to have full run of the house, eat your food, and sleep in your bed? My dad always said we were lucky our dog let us live with her.

Dr. Hippie, I need your much coveted tact. Please help me on the best way to approach the "owner" to discuss this situation. I have been informed that the Humane Society cannot do anything if the animal has food, shelter, and water. I am reluctant to call the police (for they are way too busy catching 19 year old beer drinkers) and I fear the ultimate punishment will be felt by the dog. Or, should I just forget about a discussion and come armed one night with a hacksaw, free the musical genius and invite him home?

Signed,
Sleepless in Normal

Dear Sleepless,

Where are the neighborhood associates when you need them? Out on curtain color patrol, one assumes.

Unfortunately, some people acquire pets with even less thought than they devote to having children, with similar sad results. The most tactful way to handle any such situation is by providing a model of proper behavior. Show up at the owner's door with a stimulating toy or treat for the dog; mention that the dog seems to be lonely, and offer to play stick with it yourself in your spare time (which you have plenty of since you have not been sleeping much). Like most tactful approaches, this one requires an inordinate amount of time and effort on the part of the unoffending party, you. However, Ms. Hippie thinks that such exemplary endeavors, in contrast to policing the decor, are the basis of civilized society.



Grainbenders: An Interview (and some other thoughts)

As a musician I often wonder about the local music scene. For those of you who remember my my most recent musings, I have a tendency to go off on tangents before I even get to the topic of the article. Rest assured; this article will be no different.

This time my main complaint (I usually have several) lies with the club owners and their apparent lack of imagination, desire, and commitment to establish venues in which music is the main criteria for a successful business. Check out who, until more recently, owned the primary places where any band could play. It's no surprise that our community is lacking a solid music scene; the people that own these clubs are in it for the money. Of course, any business venture is about making a profit, but those willing to take the risk will definitely be more successful. I'm not talking about big gambles here; it's really quite simple. For example The Lizard's Lounge has open-mic nights from Monday 'till Wednesday every week (or they did before Christmas anyway). I have actually seen that place hoppin' on a Tuesday night. And, with a three-fourths packed bar on a week night, this translates into above average alcohol sales for the establishment.

I suppose we do have to take into consideration the fact that we are in the middle of corn country, but there are plenty of talented musicians in our community who need to develop support in their own hometown. And, this is the main point of my argument, the club owners need to help our local musicians by opening their doors to bands who want to play two or three nights a week. It may be rough going for both bands and the owners; the band may have to play for one or two dollar cover charges, and the owner would see overhead costs challenging sales. However, I believe that, after a while, those involved would see more people visiting the nightclub. Which, in turn, means more exposure for the bands and increased revenues for the club.

This is my attempt at single-minded economics, but it makes sense. Think about it for a while; if you could go see your favorite local band more than once a month, would you go? I would like to think that people are expecting more than just listening to a DJ when they go out for a couple of drinks on a Wednesday night. It's a risk both club owners and bands have to take for any type of solid music scene to evolve in our community.

Well, I think that is enough of that (oh, wait, there's more). I'm sure my ideas are nothing new but something should be done. Ask bar owners why they don't have bands playing at their clubs more often; make suggestions to friends for bands to play at the bars where they work, or get a group of friends together and get into the bar business. It's worth thinking about anyway.

So much for my plan to have a smooth segue into this issue's band review; I'll try to make it up sometime. For those of us who do go out and see bands, this month's selection will be a band a lot of us have heard of. The *Grainbenders* have been playing together for about two years now with their present line-up which includes: Tim Thomas on guitar, vocals, and keyboards; Skot Lee Wilson, lead vocals; Greg Pare on bass; John Ganser on drums; and "Fish" Carpenter on guitar and backing vocals.

The band contains some familiar faces to the local music scene. Each member has played in one or more of the following bands; *The Something Brothers*, *Patchouli Scented Crazies*, *Electric Poobah*. This is rather an impressive list of bands who have played in recent years and the *Grainbenders* ever so slowly evolved out of these bands.

Unfortunately, at the time of my sitdown with the group, only three members of the band could be present. Naturally, I was a little disconcerted, but I figured I had to go with what was available. Tim, Greg, and Fish allowed themselves to entertain my curiosity involving their band without too much embarrassment and were quite cooperative when answering questions. One thing I noticed was that these guys were not extremely serious when talking about their music. They did not climb up on some pedestal and preach the gospel of their band; they were rather modest, and it made me feel comfortable while talking with them. The *Grainbenders* have played at numerous establishments in the Midwest including; Peoria (if you can make it there you can make it anywhere), St. Louis, Champaign, and Bloomington-Normal.

Their music is clearly original, involving a mix of pop-oriented structures, complex chord and melody changes, and a little bit of a "hick" sound. This may be rather difficult to explain, but each song has several melodic parts complimenting the lyrics by changing when the lyrical content does (it may be the other way around). The "hick" feeling comes into play when one listens to the utter simplicity of each of these parts. It is music that is certainly reminiscent of early 80's pop with a hint of country (I say this at the want of a better word for comparison).

According to the guys I talked to, the main intention of the band is to provide entertaining music for the audience (you may naively think that is what all bands do). Tim explained that all the members are together on writing pop songs, but there is variation within this label I've applied. Fish brought forth the idea that there is diversity within the pop vein the band maintains. He continued by saying that they all bring ideas to the band; which accounts for the marked, however subtle, differences in each of the songs. And, from what I could understand, the melodic phrasing of each song is the most integral aspect of the band's songwriting process. Greg said that Skot

primarily deals with the lyrics and the rest of the band (including Skot) help to develop a complete song from the ideas contributed by each member.

Over the past year, Tim explained, the band has been developing each new song by having the group working together on basic ideas brought by each member of the band. Greg continued by saying that each song is done on a "...case by case basis..." and that they can tell in which, "...direction the song would go..." while working on them. For example, the song "Traffic Slows Down", demonstrates the collaborative efforts of the band. Skot wrote the prominent verse and chorus of the song and Tim developed the bridge and melody. Tim got the idea for the song while sitting in traffic and, "...being possessed by an evil spirit..." encouraged him to become a little upset with the situation.



The *Grainbenders* enjoy playing out as much as they can, but they also expressed their disdain concerning the local music scene; such as not enough people going out to live shows. But that does not dampen their enthusiasm when it comes time to play. Greg said it's like going to a great movie and then sharing it with someone, "...it's self-expression being put on stage and people being able to share it...". Fish explained that, "...it's good to put out things you create and watch peoples response...". Tim, however, remarked on another aspect of playing out, "...we rehearse so much that by the time we get to play...it just goes out the window...new ideas come into play, like I'm improvising...". And this is what makes going out to see original bands so gratifying. The audience gets to catch the band in its most raw form and feel the intensity they may generate.

The *Grainbenders* have a new CD titled *i heart dog my* available at Mother Murphy's, Deadpan Alley, and Campus Town for the low, low price of ten dollars. They will be playing at The Lizard's Lounge on February 15th, the Post Amerikan benefit, and Greg's birthday may or may not be May 29th. I encourage everyone to see this band and buy their CD. The *Grainbenders* truly are a group of talented musicians who can be enjoyed in the convenience of our own community.

--Nick Murray



Reviews, reviews, reviews

Kaz's C.D. reviews

The Swingin' Hemphills: *What We Gonna Do It*

Upon the arrival of this C.D. I was rather pleased to see the familiar faces and names of some local musicians I haven't heard from in a while. The Swingin' Hemphills consist of Mike Williams (vocals, guitar, harmonica), Darrell Williams (guitar), Jeff Wilson (bass), Tom Sparrow (drums), and Pink Bob (keyboards).

I couldn't even fathom how many years of local entertainment is on this C.D. with former members of (I'm sure among others) Static Attic, Naked Hippy, 13 Frightened Girls, Act of God, and even early Something Brothers.

I couldn't wait to put it in the player; I mean, what the hell is this going to sound like? What I found was a pleasant surprise. In general, the keyboards and basic "rockin'" tracks reminded me of an old Faces album.

The C.D. kicks off with a toe-tappin' country flavored tune called "Find a Girl" which reminded me of a weird mix of Black Oak Arkansas and Uncle Tupelo. After that the excellent tuneage did not let up. Other outstanding tunes include "I Hate to Go" which has a funky organ groove reminiscent of The Faces and growling vocals reminiscent of Mojo Nixon. "Evening Comes" has a neat acoustic and electric interplay and a great solo. "Hopin' and Prayin'" is an upbeat folk pop song. My personal favorite was "You Can Be" because of its great vocals.

The lyrics are your basic rock n' roll fare with the exception of anti-prohibition songs like "Emperor" and "What are We Gonna Do." Great songs in their own right. Fuck it! I like basic rock n' roll fare!

Thanks guys for letting an old local music buff know you're still out there kicking.

If there is a piece of music you think people should know about, or if you're a local band wanting material to be reviewed, send us a tape or C.D. Music is universal and should be enjoyed by all. I would personally hate a great piece of music to go unnoticed.

-Kaz the Music Man

Underground Barfly

Greetings fellow bar-hoppers! The Underground Barfly is back! Yes, after a brief sabbatical and many changes, the U.B. is back diggin' the groovy, sometimes weird, scene of Bloomington-Normal.

The Lizard's Lounge

The first place my partner and I visited is a relatively new club in Bloomington called Lizard's Lounge. The best way I can figure how to describe this place is a '90's beatnik joint. Monday through Wednesday are open mic nights at the L.L. where you can hear anything from some pretty good amateur musicians to poetry readings. Groovy, huh? There are also some pretty good bands that play there on occasion that definitely make it worth going. And when there isn't a band or some freak with a set of bongos, they have a pretty decent jukebox that has everything from Alanis Morissette to The Rolling Stones.

But let's get to what's important. The Lizard's Lounge selection of alcoholic beverages is pretty good. They have a wide selection of the hard stuff and a great variety of beers. My partner and I thought that their prices were a little high, but their weekly drink specials adequately make up for it. The bartenders were cool and their service was excellent.

The men's bathroom is clean and for all you egotistical folks there's a mirror to show you how good you look. The trough-like urinal (you know, like the kinds that they have at concerts) in the men's bathroom assures fast, easy access. The toilet is great--if you're in to exhibitionism. Unfortunately, we did not get a chance to examine the women's bathroom, but they are usually cleaner than the men's.



In conclusion, my partner and I give The Lizard's Lounge a thumbs up. We would like to say that The Lizard's Lounge is, generally speaking, a good place to get buzzed. Have fun potential Lizards! And remember, the U.B. says don't drink and drive!

The Scuttlebutte

The next place we hit on our night of bar critiquing was The Scuttlebutte. The Butte is basically your average working-class-get-drunk-and-yeeha! bar. It kind of has a similar flavor of the good ol' Metropole (god rest its soul) with the pool tables, the occasional asshole, and the cheap drinks.

Speaking of cheap drinks, when my partner and I were there we had a few beers, which were average, if not below, in price, and we also did a couple shots (well, maybe more than a couple) which were definitely cheap--and large. I remember doing a Jagermeister shot that would have been about 2 1/2 shots anywhere else in this town! This is definitely a get-drunk, etc. bar, which means the asshole factor is above average, but generally if you're not an asshole, no one will fuck with you.

The service was tolerable, but those cheap shots make up for poor bartending and waitressing (can't say enough about those shots!). But while you are waiting for your shot, or drink, or whatever, you can throw a couple bucks into the jukebox. The tunes are mostly pop country, but for those of you who don't like that crap, there are some pretty good classic rock tunes to play.

Because it is a get-drunk, etc. bar, you can imagine that my partner and I were having a pretty good time (at least of what we remember) so we really can't say much about the bathrooms. One thing I remember, as my partner was trying to do his 4th, 5th, or 6th shot of something, was that there were some glow-in-the-dark condoms in a coin-op machine in the john. Weird, huh? I wonder if people who buy those things think that they are going to impress someone. Hmmm.

Well, I'm sorry to say that we really don't remember anything else about the place--we don't even remember how we got home--so I am going to have to put this issue of the Underground Barfly to a close. See you next time, and remember, keep on drinkin'!



Homeschooling: Creating

As Chris and I were walking through the mall with the kids yesterday to exchange two dead goldfish, we were talking about how in a year and a half my son could go to all day kindergarten, my daughter could be in school, and I could get a job and double our income in a year. Chris said, "Yeah, I've thought about that. Wouldn't that be great?" We laughed and said, "Naaaaaa! We'd have to get up early!"

I homeschool my kindergarten aged daughter, Hannah, who is six, and people have the most unusual questions about it. Yesterday I was asked if I did it myself or hired in tutors! Other questions concern her socialization (and that is the most frequently asked question), if I need special qualifications, how long each day does it take, etc.

Krishnamurti (yes, I'm quoting him again) in *Think On These Things* writes on "The Function of Education:

"Why do we go through the struggle to be educated? Is it merely to in order to pass some education and get a job or is it the function of education to prepare us while we are young to understand the whole process of life? Having a job and earning one's livelihood is necessary but is that all? Are we being educated only for that? Surely, life is not merely a job, an occupation; life is something extraordinarily wide and profound, it is a great mystery, a vast realm in which we function as human beings. If we merely prepare ourselves to earn a livelihood, we shall miss the whole point of life; and to understand life it is much more important than merely to prepare for examinations."

In "How We Learn" Andy LePage tells us, "Adults have been schooled to think that they alone can impart knowledge to children and that the more knowledge they put across, the better teachers they will be. This belief is far from the truth. Children learn by being immersed in he world, by using all their senses--by experiencing life in their own unique ways."

When reading through the writings of some of the best known theories in the field of education and psychology, one is struck by this: *Public education does not meet the needs of a child to provide the best possible education.* It doesn't even teach children in the styles in which children learn best! And I think that, in an ideal world, it does more harm than good. In an ideal world, parents have chosen to be parents and are dedicated to raising intelligent, responsible children who are very conscious of environmental and social issues, who appreciate art, music and beauty, and who love life...independent thinkers. Under such circumstances, homeschooling can work. It doesn't work for most parents because they have different priorities than my family does.

Please understand that I don't know if I will always homeschool my children. When they reach junior high or high school age, if they wish to go to school, we now think they can and this should be their choice. If they don't like it, they may also quit and go back to

homeschooling. Many family psychologists, like Urie Bronfenbrenner, find that putting children under junior high age in school results in excessive peer dependency, as these children spend more time with children their age than they do with their parents. Remember *Lord of the Flies*? Ah, the perfect example of children left to themselves. With 25-30 kids to a classroom, and the difficulties facing children in these times, how can one teacher handle it? Likewise, the children are running wild at lunch and recess. For many children, they are raised mostly by other children's influence starting in day care, and this continues throughout childhood, making the peer group the most important group in their lives. Who wants to be the one picked upon? Of course a child will go along with the group and pick on other kids...their peers have become more important than the family! When folks talk about the problem with today's teenagers, such as drugs, teen pregnancy, violence and attitude and say, "We need to get back to Christ and prayer!" I think, what a bunch of bull. We need to get back to raising our own kids and spending time with them. We need to keep our kids out of day care. We need to place more emphasis on our children and less on having money and possessions. Less of our children's time needs to be spent with other children.

Studies have revealed that only about 2 hours of every child's day is actually spent learning things in school, and the rest of the time is spent with other things...discipline, breaks, interruptions, etc. Grade school has become free childcare for working parents. Think back on your grade school experiences. Were they all wonderful and rosy, or were you one of the kids picked upon? Were you one of the bullies? Or, were you one of the kids, like me, that watched it and wanted to cry over the cruelty of it all?

Some respond to this by saying to me, "All you are doing is sheltering your child from the real world and when they grow up they aren't going to know how to function in it." One even went so far as to tell my husband, "Someday your daughter is going to sneak into your room at night and ax murder you because you have ruined her life by not letting her be normal!" We disagree. We feel that we are raising children better equipped to face the problems of the world independently. Our children will have a different view of life, yes, but they will hopefully have better priorities. They will have their self-esteem intact. They will hopefully be responsible, mature adults, capable of making happiness a priority in their life, not materialistic competitiveness.

In "Homegrown Kids" Dorothy and Raymond Moore write:

"Our concern was increased when we realized that all fifty states have policies that require little children to attend school before they are ready. Furthermore, they require boys to go to school at the same age as girls, even though it is well known that boys trail their female peers a year or so in general maturity levels at school entrance. We found that no child should be subjected to formal schooling constraints before age twelve. Peer pressures

are especially dangerous for children younger than this. ...Whereas Piaget told us that the average child reaches formal cognitive operations (adult-type perceptions and judgment) between ages fifteen and twenty, Texas school counselor David Quine reports that his research with University of Oklahoma professors Jack Henner and Ed Merrick finds that children who have the advantage of family life during their early years reach cognitive maturity between eight and twelve. ...Despite early excitement for school...most early entrants (ages four, five and six) are tired of school before third or fourth grade. ...Children who delay school entrance and then, when enrolled, are placed in the same grade as their age-mates quickly pass early entrants in achievement, behavior and sociability."

In all my reading on homeschooling, it has been found that children who are homeschooled typically have better social skills in the long run than do other children their age, they score higher on standardized tests, they are much more mature than others, and they are more independent thinkers. By homeschooling a child, the socialization emphasis is placed where it belongs...in the family. Obviously, in many circumstances the child would be better off socialized by peers than the family (sad but true). Yet, in loving families, the child gets a better sense of his or her place in the world at a young age from the family, and learn the family's values on a daily basis.

When children are put in daycare at a young age, and then sent to school, how many hours a day does the child spend learning other peoples' values instead of their family's? Think about it for a moment. The child is gotten out of bed early, breakfast is rushed (probably cereal, which has little nutritional value), and they are run to the babysitter or day care center or go directly to school. During the day they have sack lunches which may or may not be healthy, or hot lunches which are not nutritional. If school-aged, the child then goes to day care after school (if both parents work) or goes home to an empty house. By the time the parents get home, the evening time is filled with homework (And why is homework necessary? The kid has spent 6 hours at school already!!!) or t.v. while the parents hurriedly cook dinner, probably something "packaged" and fast with, again, little nutritional value, and the folks are doing laundry, getting chores done, baths need to be taken, etc. and the kids go to bed. I have heard many parents talk of how they are so lucky that they get their kids to bed at 8pm...often not getting their children from after school care until 6pm! How little time these parents actually spend with their children, and the children need to be with their parents and families more than they need to be with anyone else. Is it any wonder teenagers are so distant from their parents and care more about their friends?

One theory of learning is that everyone is a very gifted at something, if only this were acknowledged in the schools. The skills that are honored the most in school settings are math, science, reading and sports. If your child is gifted at music, drama, art, or at one of many other things, these skills will never be fully



strong & secure children

honored or explored in public schools, and they are just as valuable of contributions to the world. Given a chance, children will pursue what they are actively interested in and develop great skills in the areas in which they excel. Homeschooling allows a child to explore everything they are interested while not being judged "slow learners" in other areas. Schools are set up to grade children on a comparative basis, and some children learn they aren't as "smart as" or "as good as" some of the other kids, instead of just learning what they can, and excelling in the areas they are gifted in. This is especially important in the development of boys, who are typically behind girls when they enter schools. By far the classes with "learning disabled" children have more boys than girls in the classes because of this, and then these children go through school with the stigma that they are slow.

I remember the mind-numbing boredom of my grade school and high school experiences. Since I was young, I was labeled an "underachiever". My teachers always told my parents that I was intelligent, I just wasn't applying myself. I guess I always took the approach that if I could get a B with no effort, why worked hard at something I found extremely boring for an A? It was a waste of my time. It isn't that I don't like learning. I LOVE to learn! I just hate being forced to spend hours pouring over things that I have no interest in...or find taught in a dull manner. I wish I had had a teacher that could have developed an interest in math in me. Math has always been my most difficult subject, and anything that currently involves math (including some fields of science) is a beyond my understanding. My teachers taught math in a rigid manner, and it was difficult to grasp. In college I had my first excellent math teacher. He loved math, and could teach it to anyone. If you didn't get one explanation, he found another for you, and if you didn't understand that, he would find another way to teach it. Since leaving college I have taught myself to cook well and bake great bread, learned about natural foods, have studied herbalism for years and am now formally studying it through a correspondence course, have learned about wicca, much on different philosophical views, studied birth and midwifery, have been learning weaving, spinning and knitting, and have learned how to make kaleidoscopes, and many, many other wonderful things. I have discovered in myself that at no point growing up did anyone ever take an interest in what I was good at or interested in, but cared more about what they thought I should know to "succeed" by the world's standards.

This is not to say that children shouldn't know basic math and understand science basics if they aren't interested. However, it can be taught in a manner that can captivate the child's imagination. Likewise, most learning can be done without a formal school setting.

There are many approaches to homeschooling. Ironically, I have discovered that as I have moved more to the "left" in my world view, I come closer to the "right". Many fundamentalist christians are homebirthers and homeschoolers, and often for the same

reasons I am, in the narrow view. They don't want their children raised with the values of "the world" and neither do I, but where they would take their children out of sex education classes, I would want to help teach them, and I, on the other hand, would be yanking my kids out of the DARE program, which turns out judgmental little drug Nazis (for a "free country" we have a lot of our rights controlled by the government, such as what we do with our own bodies, creating more violence and corruption in the world.....but I digress). Many homeschoolers have little "classes" set up in their homes and they either construct their own curriculums or buy one that fits their family. One Christian friend of mine's father owns a correspondence Christian homeschool done with computers. Some have their kids sitting at a desk 4 hours or so a day doing worksheets, etc...the typical school, but at home. What is the point? Most find that schooling can be done in two hours or less.

We have bought a kindergarten curriculum from Oak Meadow that is very nature based, and it teaches the basic letters in a fairy tale context, etc. It is based off of Waldorf schooling which honors childhood and nature, and doesn't try to teach the child reading and math until they are older. However, I use it more for "fun" and less for school. After all my reading on education, and after observing my children, I have decided I don't need to teach my children formally at all at this age. Hannah and Keegan will read when they are ready to learn, and then they will learn it quickly and easily, as they will with the other basics, if they have an enriched environment. No one taught them to crawl, walk or talk. Why do we think we need to sit and teach them reading, writing and math as well? Education is everywhere and is a daily part of life!

My children ask questions, and I answer them. About everything. If they are old enough to ask an intelligent question, then that question deserve an intelligent answer. If we don't know it, then we help them find the answers. My mother, who does testing of children for a school district, says Hannah is much more advanced than most children her age. It isn't because of her superior intelligence (though every parent would love to think that) but I believe it is because of how she has been raised. She has been learning to recognize letters and sound things out, not because it is taught to her but because we read to her daily, she sees us read, and she wants to learn it. She is learning math because she asks questions such as, "How much is this quarter?" and we show her the other coins and how they add up, and because she cooks with me and learns how the measuring cups work (which has given her a basic understanding of fractions as well). She understands a lot about nature, the changing of the seasons and the cycles of life, and about how the body works (especially reproduction and birth because of me being a midwife and her interest in that). They both help me with cooking, and they help their dad with building things in the basement. They know which plants in the yard are edible and which are poisonous, and can name many of them. They love taking their friends around to different

herbs and taking a leaf off for them to try, "Now, this is lemon balm, and this is chocolate mint. But don't eat that one (the horehound) because it is good for medicine but is hairy and tastes funny!"

Yes, it would be much easier to put my children into school full time. I wouldn't have to deal with my daughter's and my strong wills clashing. We wouldn't have to live check to check, and could get out of debt in one year and be ahead! But the advantages are far too numerous. We believe we are doing the best we can for our children, and for our family this means giving them the advantage of homeschooling. If we want the world to change, it isn't going to happen by chance. We need to actively participate in the process, turning children into the world that won't be satisfied by the "norm, but instead children who are inquisitive, problem solvers, gentle and kind, as well as responsible. We need people who know their place in the world, who are secure and strong. I believe homeschooling is one way of achieving this goal. It is a gift of love to our children and to the world.

Good books to read:
The Story of B by Daniel Quinn
Think On These Things by Krishnamurti
Schooling At Home; Parents, Kids and Learning from Mothering Magazine
Anything by John Holt
Tales of The City or any other book by Armistead Maupin (has nothing to do with education, but he does write great stories!)

For further information on homeschooling, alternative schooling resources, or how to bake a great black bean or broccoli bread, call me at 827-5843.

--Marcee Murray





Animal magnetism



A world out of reach

If we were to set about trying to invent the cruelest punishment imaginable for dogs, we probably couldn't come up with anything more diabolical than forcing them to live alone on a chain. Dogs are instinctive pack animals (unlike solitary tigers). Denied the company of other dogs, it's vital for them to be with their human families.

Most people who chain dogs are simply unaware of how highly social dogs are and what isolation can mean to them. If you have an "outside dog," here are 6 ways to improve your dog's life:

1. **Bring your dog inside!** Don't kid yourself that dogs "get used to" living outside. Unless you or other dogs are out there to share it with them, the dull, unchanging scenery of the backyard quickly loses its charm. If their constant barking (really cries for attention) has finally stopped, it's not because they're content but because they've given up hope of rescue.

2. **Enroll yourself and your dog in a humane training class.** If your dog is outdoors because of behavior problems, confinement and isolation can only make them worse. humane training

will teach you how to communicate with your dog, who is eager to please, but isn't clear on what you expect. Plus, dogs should settle down as they have unlimited access to their beloved families as they get older.

3. **Provide your dog with lots of exercise.** In addition to companionship, most dogs crave running and sniffing and exploring. Go for long walks daily, if possible, and use a retractable leash that allows you dog to run ahead and check out interesting fire hydrants. A humane "no pull" harness will painlessly save the neck of a dog who pulls.

4. **Bring joy with toys.** Imagine being stuck outside, by yourself, with absolutely nothing to do but watch the mud dry. even the simplest toys, like a towel with a knot in it or a tennis ball, can provide hours of entertainment for a lonely dog. Dogs love to chew, so be sure they have rubber bones and other chewables.

5. **Fence your yard.** (A kennel is not enough). If dogs *must* ever be left outside, they would like nothing better than to be able to explore every nook and cranny of their yard. A 6-foot privacy fence is safest--it's harder for them to escape and harder for people to hurt your pup. If a fence is out of your budget, attach a swivel hook to a running line that enables a dog to run back and forth without getting tangled. Never leave a choke collar on an unsupervised dog--dogs can strangle if the collar becomes snagged or they can hang themselves. The *safest* option? Use a harness.

6. **Protect your dog from the cold.** Dogs are flesh and blood. In the wild, they find or dig themselves a cozy den to hole up in during frigid weather. Their fur, like your own winter coat, offers some protection, but not immunity to the cold. Small and short-haired breeds like Pointers and Dobermans can't handle the cold well. Puppies and elderly dogs are especially susceptible to cold and should not be left outside for more than a few minutes during cold snaps.

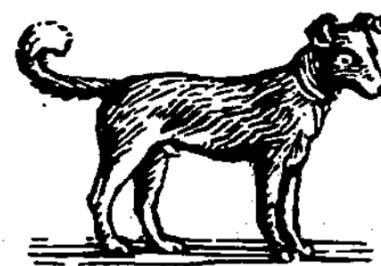
6. The roof should extend 8" over the door to keep out rain.

7. Use straw, newspaper or cedar shavings for bedding; nail a strip of wood at the bottom of the doghouse door to keep them from spilling out.

8. Don't use rugs or rags--they can absorb water and can freeze.

9. Put water in a sturdy, tip-resistant bucket and check for freezing several times a day during winter. Put bowls at the end of the chain and inside a rubber tire to prevent tipping.

--PETA's Animal Times



Chained dog's plea

I wish someone would tell me what it is that I've done wrong. Why do I have to stay chained up and left alone so long? . . . The children never walk me. They always say, "Not now." I wish that I could please them. Won't someone tell me how?

--Edith Lassen Johnson

Guide to cruelty-free giving

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) has published a revised listing of health charities that do and do not fund animal experiments.

Health charities that **do not** fund animal experiments:

- American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research
- American Kidney Fund
- AmVets National Service Foundation
- Arthritis Research Institute of America
- Association of Birth Defect Children
- Calvary Fund, Inc.
- Cancer Care, Inc.
- Cancer Fund of America, Inc.
- Cancer Prevention and Survival Fund
- Designer Institute Foundation for AIDS

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Is your doghouse legal?

The law requires access to "proper" shelter at all times.

1. Use hard plastic or painted wood (metal rusts and conducts heat and cold).
2. Make sure it does not leak.
3. Raise it off the ground several inches.
4. It should face south in winter, north in summer.
5. Put a flap over the door (an old rug or rubber mat with strips cut vertically).



- Disabled American Veterans
- Elton John AIDS Foundation
- Foundation for the Junior Blind
- The Green Foundation, Inc.
- Heimlich Foundation
- National Child Health Foundation
- International Eye Foundation
- Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
- National Easter Seals Society
- National Federation of the Blind
- National Head Injury Foundation
- Project Cure
- Quest Cancer Test
- Rheumatoid Disease Foundation
- Southeast Vitiligo Research Foundation, Inc.
- Trauma Foundation Mary Martin Trauma Center

Health charities that still fund animal experiments:

- Alzheimer's Disease & related Disorders Association
- Alzheimer's Disease Research & Coronary Heart Disease Research
- American Cancer Society
- American Diabetes Association
- American Federation for Aging Research
- American Heart Association

- American Institute for Cancer Research
- American Lung Association National Headquarters
- American Paralysis
- American Parkinson Disease Association
- American Red Cross
- Arthritis Foundation Research Hospital
- Canadian Diabetes Foundation
- The Cancer Federation
- Cancer Research Foundation of America
- Cancer Prevention Project
- City of Hope
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association
- Endometriosis Association
- Epilepsy Foundation of America
- The Foundation Fighting Blindness
- Heart & Stroke Foundation of Manitoba
- Joslin Diabetes Center
- Leukemia Society of America
- March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- National Foundation for Cancer Research
- National Hemophilia Foundation
- National Kidney Foundation
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- National Parkinson Foundation

- National Psoriasis Foundation
- Nina Hyde Center for Breast Cancer research
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Parkinson's Disease Foundation
- Pediatric AIDS Foundation
- Shriners Burn Institute & Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- United Cerebral Palsy
- United Parkinson Foundation
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

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Seeing Red

Two America, two directions

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
I. B.
I. B. who?
I be bilingual.

Easy as it is to deride the effort to declare "Black English" a separate language, it's harder still to tolerate the subsequent torrent of outrage against "Ebonics" that has poured from every U.S. media outlet. (The "venerable" New York Times ran 14 items in one 13 day stretch, according to the January 13 New Yorker magazine.)

And it's harder yet again to add any ink to the deluge.

But this piece isn't really about Ebonics, it's about the foul racism that erupts so easily through the thin cosmetic skin of American democracy.

Of course the anti-Ebonics lynch mob had an easy target in the Oakland School Board's position that Black English is "genetically based," a position that neither the Klan nor Louis Farrakhan have any problem with. This garbage comes from the bankruptcy of non-Malcolm X-style Black nationalism, that is, nationalism that is neither struggle-minded, nor internationalist.

Sure, there was almost no reportage that the Oakland Ebonics scheme was partly a maneuver to tap into bilingual education monies for desperately-needed funds. But this just takes us back again to a empty, pro-capitalist version of Black nationalism that accepts apartheid-style education as given and refuses to fight for equality—especially since that demands fighting for desegregated schools.

But the anti-Ebonics diatribes in the U.S. media weren't a sudden upwelling of love and concern for Black schoolchildren, they were vomit from the racist core of American capitalism.

Blacks will never "succeed," the arguments went, unless they master "standard English."

But the real message was in the sometimes spoken, sometimes unspoken corollary: Blacks are not successful because they don't learn "standard English."

A friend of mine once took a leader of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress on a tour of Chicago. The ANC'er was quiet—all eyes and ears—until they hit a neighborhood of tar-paper shacks on Chicago's West Side. Then he raised his eyebrows, blew out a slow breath, and said (tactfully), "I feel at home here."

Why do some U.S. Blacks face conditions indistinguishable from South Africa? The public opinion-makers answer is this: it's their own fault! God knows we have tried. Why we've spent billions. But these people can't even be bothered to talk right, for crissakes, let alone get a fucking job.

But maybe, the argument goes on, it's partly our fault, too. We did too much; we coddled them.

But not any more. Now we're cutting a million and half kids off public assistance, ending bilingual education programs, and scrapping the vestiges of desegregation plans ... to help them.

This bullshit is the real reason why there's outrage at Ebonics. As "special treatment" program (no matter how stupid), it runs directly counter to the strategy of the U.S. ruling class: throw as much of the population overboard—starting with those in steerage class—to lighten the load in the battle with international capitalist rivals.

As always, when you smell racism, you can be sure capitalism is nearby.

But there's another odor in the anti-Ebonics flood: hatred of foreigners. After all, nearly the entire world doesn't speak "standard English." So, why don't the French stop being such snobs and just learn fucking English? When are the Japanese going to stop writing with fucking paintbrushes?

This xenophobia is of course ideological preparation for war.

But to the people in the American ruling class "foreigner" means everybody except them. In fact, most Americans don't speak "standard English" either.

So don't count on staying in the boat because you're "white." To them you're just a slacker, hillbilly, pollack, cheesehead, or lowlife—stupid, overpaid, lazy: excess personnel.

But even we dummies can feel the water rising at our feet. It's capitalism and it stinks.

--Steve Eckardt

Reach Eckardt at seckardt@aol.com or visit his home page at www.geocities.com/capitolhil/2950 (OK, it's STILL under construction but it should be done by the time you read this).



Monsters in the American dream

Not even a fortnight after the Big Election and portions of the Florida city of St. Petersburg were in flames. Rioters—angry with cop's exoneration for fatally shooting a young Black motorist—fought police with rocks, bottles, and bullets.

The same evening (coincidentally) protesters marched on a police station in Pittsburgh and attempted to lower the U.S. flag flying in front of it, chanting "There is no justice!" This, too, followed the acquittal of a cop for killing yet another Black male motorist during a traffic stop.

Then there was the post-election day mobilization of thousands of young people in Berkeley, California against a just-passed ballot initiative designed to eliminate affirmative action.

All this on the heels of the longest and most expensive electoral pageant yet (the party conventions—where everyone knew there would be no news—had some 15,000 newpeople in attendance). But with less than half the eligible voters even bothering to show up—and with events like those above—the U.S. rulers had to be wondering if the over *one billion* dollars expended on the show was worth it.

Hanging

All this might portend "the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed," to borrow a phrase from 1970—an era that these events clearly evoked. For it's not just the sour smell of mass alienation that's in the air. Nor is it the stench of burning buildings, the ethnic rainbow of young Berkeley protesters, or the dust from the past year's march of one million Blacks on the nation's capitol.

It's the axe—and its handiwork.

It's the axe whose wieldings against the poor, labor, and immigrants this fall are without precedent in modern U.S. history:

--repeal of the section of the 1935 Social Security Act that guaranteed federal assistance



to the poor; now, the law states, "no individual of family shall be entitled to any benefits of services," potentially leaving some 3 million people--and some estimates count 2 million children--without food, income, or housing; --pressing of welfare recipients into forced-labor with welfare benefits as their only pay--usually into positions once reserved for unionized public employees (some 35,000 in New York alone); --wholesale elimination of public services for immigrants, whether legal residents or not--even pre-natal care for soon-to-be native-born U.S. citizens.

And the resulting wave of a new, federally-created, under-under-class is yet to sweep the land, since many of these measures have yet to be fully implemented.

Elderly next

Yet the axe is poised for still deeper cuts. Referring to the above measures as "the remarkable success of the last few weeks of this Congress," U.S. president William Clinton held up this "working together" by Democrats and Republicans as the model for the future.

Republican leader Newton Gingrich pledged to "reach out and find common ground," election night, clarifying the next day: "We start with saving Medicare." He was referring to the health benefits granted the elderly, a rare semi-socialized component of the notoriously profit driven U.S. health care industry. (Guess what "saving Medicare"--like the fall's "reforming welfare"--will look like.)

So while riots and protests by minorities and youth fill the air, clearly the United States is not about to return to the days of peace, love and understanding. The obvious parallel with that era--the moving into action by the more marginalized sectors--is undeniable, as is the popularity of the sixties among today's youth.

Polarization

But the similarity with that time ends there. Today--unlike then--Washington is not about to grant sweeping concessions on desegregation, abortion, affirmative action, gay rights, and environmental concerns. Far from it. In fact, it's precisely these gains that Washington--and its junior partners in state government--are hell-bent on rolling back.

On this U.S. pundits agree, pointing sagely at the current rightward "swing of the pendulum" which allegedly oscillates eternally between liberal and conservative capitalism. This unilinear model is as sophisticated as astute commentary gets here.

Analysts are left pouring over largely-irrelevant election returns and pondering the direction of "America" (ever conceived of as a single polity).

But what's actually happening falls outside the framework of accepted analysis. It's not one pendulum anymore--it's two, and they're moving in opposite directions.

Class polarization has come to America.

Damned kids

Of course it's minorities and youth who have born the brunt of what one labor official, in a brief moment of clarity, called the "one-sided class war." Beyond the numerous street executions by police--and there's high profile cases as well as protests in virtually every city in the country--draconian lock-em-up measures have been implemented nationwide.

"Three strikes [charges] and you're out" provisions are clogging jails--already housing more than 1% of the population--and handing out life-in-prison sentences literally for stealing a loaf of bread.

Who are the targets? Today a staggering 75% of all U.S. prisoners are Black or Latino.

Meanwhile Democrats and Republicans unite to demand more and harsher measures to deal with the new "super-predators"--anti-human, perhaps non-human youth.

But it's politicians who bare fang and claw in the struggle to out-tough each other. The president himself campaigned for both the imposition of curfews for youth and for a urine drug-test for all drivers license applicants.

At the same time, young people face the imposition of Prohibition--a nationwide 21 year old drinking age, and proposals (including by Hillary Clinton) to raise the minimum to 24.

Who's that?

But most importantly, for the first time ever it's the more prosperous sectors of the working class--for decades notoriously bought off--that disbelievingly find the red laser gun sight on itself. "Downsizing" has cost millions of "good" jobs in the past five years, while unions' share of the corporate workforce has shrunk to an astonishing nine percent.



You try being serene on \$120 a month.

In fact it's the better-paid--once "in on the deal," trading silence on poverty and the imperial military for health and pension benefits and a home in the suburbs--who are particularly vulnerable today. Even as their jobs evaporate, those left face long-abandoned fellow workers resentful of doing twice the work for one-third the pay.

Weather

Of course the post-electoral fortnight also brought news of plans to dispatch nearly 10,000 U.S. soldiers to separate imperial operations in Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Then there was news of demonstrations by 1.5 million Bavarian striking metalworkers, and of nearly 300,000 workers marching against austerity in Toronto.

Want analysis in a U.S. sound-bite? Storm clouds are gathering. Sooner or later, as Bob Dylan put it, "a hard rain's gonna fall."

--Steve Eckardt

Reach eckardt at seckardt@aol.com or visit his page at www.geocities.com/capitolhil/2950 (still under construction)

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News From Voice

Violence Erupts Again

Two bombs shook an abortion clinic in Atlanta, Georgia on January 16th. The blasts injured seven people as they sent authorities on a dangerous mission to discover if there were more explosives on the grounds.

Among the injured were three federal agents, a local firefighter and an ambulance attendant who was responding to the first blast at 9:30 a.m. The second bomb exploded forty-five minutes later and was possibly aimed at law enforcement officials investigating the first explosion.

Police evacuated nearby buildings after the second explosion and closed some ramps to Interstate 285. Atlanta mayor Bill Campbell also sent police to other clinics throughout the city, and federal marshals were put on alert.

Fortunately none of the injuries were life threatening. But authorities were investigating the possibility that the second bomb might have been deliberately timed to kill or maim law enforcement and other emergency personnel. "So we're dealing with a warped mind here" Campbell said.

President Clinton called the explosions "a vile act" and pledged to "get to the bottom of this." The blasts at the five-story building housing Atlanta Northside Family Services and other tenants came less than one week before the 24th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. No one claimed responsibility, and while investigators believe the clinic was the target, they are not ruling out other possibilities.

U.S. Attorney Kent Alexander said the team investigating the blasts also took part in the probe of the Olympic Park bombing in July. More casualties were probably averted by the fact that no abortion procedures were scheduled for the day the bombing took place. Still the bombing left three clinic workers badly shaken. "The clinic has been ruined, it's gone," said medical assistant Antionette Sims.

Three days later a clinic was bombed in Oklahoma. So far no arrests have been made in that bombing.

So Much for Clinic Defense

A federal judge in New York, citing the "sincere" religious beliefs of two protesters, acquitted them of criminal contempt for defying his own order to stop blocking an abortion clinic's driveway.

George Lynch, a retired Catholic bishop, and Christopher Moscinski, a retired Franciscan friar, did not act with "bad purpose" to disobey the law, Judge John Sprizzo said. In an opinion made public last month, he ruled that such "willfulness" was required in cases of criminal contempt. He also said their actions were "minimally obstructive."

Advocates on both sides of the abortion issue see the decision as unprecedented. They predict other abortion protesters will use it to justify their own defiance of court orders.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan is reviewing the opinion to determine whether it can be appealed. If convicted the men would have faced up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

The two had protested at a Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. clinic for at least six years. They had been cited repeatedly for sitting and praying in the driveway. In Feb., 1996, the federal judge issued an injunction barring the two from impeding automobile access in violation of a new federal law. After they defied that order, the men were charged with criminal contempt in September.

Parental rights and the poor

Melissa Brooks was barred from appealing a Mississippi judge's order stripping her of all legal rights to see her two children. The reason Brooks was barred from the appeal was poverty; she couldn't afford to purchase a transcript of the court proceedings.

The Supreme Court ruled on Dec. 16, 1996, that when a state threatens to destroy a parent's family ties, it is unconstitutional to "bold the door to equal justice" because of poverty. In a 6 - vote, the justices unlatched the door for Brooks.

"No ties are more precious than those binding parent and child, and few decrees are so grave in their consequences as a court order permanently severing the parent-child bond," wrote Justice Ginsberg. Ginsberg's ruling sought to limit free appeals to indigent parents totally deprived of their children, but the dissenters predicted it would affect other family cases too.

Brooks, who earns \$2.13 an hour plus tips as a waitress in Memphis, Tenn., where she lives, paid a \$100 appeal fee but couldn't afford to pay the \$2,352 cost of a transcript and other documents required under Mississippi law.

Now that she is relieved of that expense, Brooks is free to challenge the evidence on which she was found unfit to remain a parent.

Civil rights lawyers hailed the decision, noting it is the first time the Supreme Court has said a poor person cannot be precluded from appeal in a civil case due to poverty.

Health news

Fosamax, a drug already shown to be effective in treating osteoporosis in postmenopausal women, may prevent the condition from occurring in the first place. The nonhormonal alternative to estrogen is believed safe. Fosamax prevents bone loss in the spine and hip of 95% of women studied. To continue working, Fosamax requires a daily dose for years. - *Time Magazine*

Asthmatic women of childbearing age are more likely to suffer severe attacks right before and during menstruation. A rapid drop in estrogen, which prompts changes in the immune system and elsewhere, may be to blame. - *Time*

Caffeine increases urinary excretion of calcium, which can weaken bones and make heavy caffeine drinkers particularly susceptible to osteoporosis. As a guide, women should try to limit themselves to two six-ounce cups of coffee a day or two cans of soft drinks - as long as you get the recommended daily amount of calcium. - *Washington State University.*

The health of U.S. mothers is poorer than the health of mothers in 17 other countries. Most developed nations now have better maternal health than the U.S.. The best countries for maternal health include: Italy, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Belgium. The factors examined were the number of women who die from maternal causes, number of teenage pregnancies, contraceptive use, maternity care, and abortion policies. - *Population Action International*

While women need to be aware of health issues related to breast cancer, they also need to be aware of a misleading and inaccurate information posed by the anti-choice contingent to play on women's fears. Ads have appeared



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primarily on the East Coast, however, publications in the midwest have also included this information.

The ads such as the one sponsored by Christ's Bride Ministries proclaim that "women who choose abortions suffer more and earlier breast cancer." The 800 number listed on the ad is answered by the American Rights Coalition, an organization which historically uses billboards, 800 numbers and fliers distributed outside clinics to generate harassment malpractice suits against abortion providers.

These ads have been condemned as false and misleading by cancer experts and researchers including the American Cancer Society and the National Breast Cancer Coalition. The National Abortion Federation and other pro-choice organization which historically uses billboards, 800 numbers and fliers distributed outside clinics to generate harassment malpractice suits against abortion providers.

These ads have been condemned as false and misleading by cancer experts and researchers including the American Cancer Society and the National Breast Cancer Coalition. The National Abortion Federation and other pro-choice groups have worked to provide scientific documentation that the ads are false. One example of the success of their approach is, after learning the facts, a Washington DC transit authority, which had been running the ads, removed them and ran free counter-advertising stating "Get the Facts - Abortion Does Not Cause Breast Cancer." - *Emma's Journal*

Quad-City Planners Vote Down Clinic

On January 14, 1997, anti-choicers claimed victory through the Bettendorf Planning and Zoning Commission's decision to deny a site plan application for Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa. The agency proposes to build a women's health clinic that would provide abortions in Bettendorf.

With almost no public discussion, the commission voted 4-2 to deny the preliminary plan for the Planned Parenthood clinic. The city staff had recommended approval of the site. The issue now goes to the Bettendorf City Council for a vote. The council could follow the recommendation or ignore it and vote to approve the site plan.

"I'm excited. We weren't really sure how it would go but they did the right thing," said Luana Stoltenberg, a representative of the Life and Family Coalition. Although she credited the constant show of unity by anti-choice supporters at the numerous meetings. "First and foremost, the Lord did it," she said.

The commission's decision, which will be forwarded as a recommendation to the city council, was a blow to Planned Parenthood supporters who have endured many disappointments in the two years since the

agency announced plans for a clinic in the Quad-Cities.

"I think the commission showed a lack of courage," said Bettendorf resident Carol Lauhon, the president of Planned Parenthood's Quad-City community Council. "I believe they gave into politics."

Commission members and Davenport attorney Jeff Bettner, who was retained to represent the commission on the matter, did not answer questions afterward, but instead referred reporters to two written opinions for details of the commission's findings, including those who voted for and those who voted against the denial.

According to the opinions written by Bettner on behalf of the commission, the members disagreed on whether the proposed clinic would be consistent with existing uses in the area and be in the interest of public health, safety or general welfare. They also disagreed on the impact it would have on property values and the tax base.

There was some contention that the site would be consistent with because of medical clinics and a surgical center nearby. Although the other opinion noted, "those who oppose the activities of the applicant have the fundamental right to picket and protest... the commission believes that the likely continued protests are not conducive to tranquil residential living of the neighboring occupants."

Planned Parenthood officials think those same sources whom they described as "religious extremists" shaped the commission's decision. "We believe we should be treated fairly and justly. We have a right to be treated like any other business," said Connie Cook, Planned Parenthood Regional Director. "It should have been approved on its merits."



"We'll have to refer to our legal counsel, I'm not sure what our next step will be. But we will not go away. Planned Parenthood is wanted in this community. People do forget we were invited here. Individuals came from the community and said, 'yes, we want Planned Parenthood, we want your services.' I already feel strong and more determined. We will bring a clinic here."

Iowa Legislature Appropriates Funds

The 1996 Iowa legislature appropriated \$200,000 to create the nation's first state sponsored informational video which must be "factual, age-appropriate, culturally diverse... medically accurate and unbiased," and must contain information on three options as outlined in Senate File 13. The options are: "continue the pregnancy to term and retain parental rights, continue the pregnancy to term and place the child for adoption, or terminate the pregnancy through abortion." - *Emma's Journal*

Cont. on page 26

Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

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April Fool's Day election;

Mayoral Campaign Underway

I must admit that when the fine folks at the *Post Amerikan* asked if I'd be willing to write something about the upcoming mayoral election I was less than enthusiastic. I mean really, come on now, just how interesting could such an article be? And besides, what is there to write? However, after careful thought and consideration, and after hearing our illustrious mayor speak at yet another Martin Luther King, Jr., Awards luncheon I thought, okay, I'll do it.

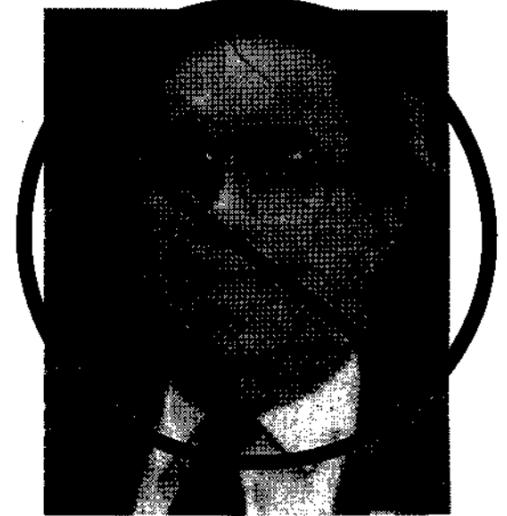
So, let's start at the very beginning (a very good place to start don't you think?). What do we know about the office of mayor?

First, we know that the position of mayor is a poor paying, typically thankless job (unless of course some of your best friends are prominent land developers in which case at least your friends probably thank you - a lot).

Let's see, as mayor you get to have your picture taken touring things like the new jail construction site. Wow, it's pretty lucky that such opportunities come up at election time.

As mayor you get to speak at community events like the Martin Luther King, Jr., Awards. Sometimes at these events you get to hear the mayor introduce the teen award recipients as he suggests that "the only police officer this young man will ever meet will be his school's DARE officer." I'm not sure what was meant by that - I suppose it's similar to the year the mayor introduced an award recipient as being so fortunate to have responsible, caring parents so that they weren't out on the streets. Of course far be it from me to read into those words. I just find it curious that no such words are ever used to preface awards given to white youth in our community.

As mayor you can use the MLK Awards Luncheon to further your own political interests. Now you may be skeptical and ask how a mayor could do that. Well until this year I wasn't exactly sure either. But those of us attending this year's luncheon had it modeled for us. For example, when referring to the awards recipient from the town of Normal our mayor mentioned that he wished she lived in Bloomington so that she could vote for him. Oh yeah, and then he asked the city council members in attendance at the luncheon to stand up and be recognized (perhaps in hopes that those of us in attendance will realize that the city council woman running against him for mayor



was not present). Maybe I'm just a cynic. It's just curious that in the seven years I've been attending this event, years in which the mayor's opponent was in attendance, he never asked the city council members to stand and be recognized. Again, I am reading too much into this.

I have heard rumors that if you are mayor you get to eat at some of the finest restaurants in town for absolutely free and that includes gratuity. That's right, if the rumor is true you

Vote for the buffoon; it's

Do you all remember the 1992 national campaigns? When it looked like David Duke, the kinder, gentler American Nazi Party candidate might actually win the gubernatorial race in Louisiana? Edwin Edgar, the other candidate and former governor, and a notorious gambler, had held weekly poker parties at the mansion. Before all the dust settled, he was convicted of bribery, and there were strong hints of kickbacks and extortion, too.

How would history have changed if Al Capone squared off against Adolf Hitler for Chancellor in the 1933 election?

For those of you who still don't recall, bumper stickers throughout the bayou that Fall of '92 read: "Vote for the crook. It's important." Louisianians had to choose between a certifiably criminal governor and a buffed and fluffed racist goon.

Well, Duke lost. Given the choices that may not have been much to cheer about, but better a crook than a stormtrooper.

I know he's the mayor, but do we have to invite him, too?

In a way, Bloomington faces something of the same crisis: who do we vote for as mayor--Jesse

Smart, who's a down-home, Main Street booster and all-around Philistine straight out of Sinclair Lewis' *Babbitt*, or Judy Markowitz, who's notorious around the local activist community for being a duplicitous opportunist?

For the last twenty years or so, both Bloomington's and Normal's Human Rights Commissions have held a banquet honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They hire a caterer, invite a speaker, and present awards to a juvenile and adult from each municipality, in recognition of efforts made to improve race relations. A few local dignitaries make their speeches, while the rest of us proffer our ten bucks, listen to them, and remind ourselves what it's all for.

This year the guest speaker was Morris Dees, the distinguished civil rights' activist and founder of the Southern Law Poverty Center, who has set a number of legal precedents in combatting racist crime and who finally brought the murderer of Medgar Evers to justice.

That damn agency. They sent us the clown hired for the children's party down the hall.

Dees, fascinating, urbane, and committed, gave his speech only to be followed up by our own Mayor Jesse Smart. Smart, true to form, stuck

his foot in it once more. When presenting a young African-American man with his (juvenile) award, Jesse observed: "Here's one young man who will know no other officer than his D.A.R.E. officer."

I'm sure everyone else present, including Dees, wanted to join me in crawling under the table.

I cannot say that I am thrilled with voting for Jesse Smart this Spring. In fact, I can't say I can really vote for him in good conscience. If anybody else other than Judy Markowitz was running against him, I probably wouldn't have to either. But if nothing else, Smart's a known quantity, and whatever his faults, which are legion, duplicity and opportunism are not among them.

Can't a girl change her mind? It's a woman's prerogative, you know

Markowitz, you may recall, had promised to vote in support of the proposed changes in Bloomington's Human Rights Ordinance, which would have protected lesbians and gays from discrimination in housing and employment. She then promptly went back on her promise at the City Council meeting, and voted against it, leaving Mike Matejka the only Council member to vote for justice and decency. Well, hey, Mike must be used to that by now.



The joke's on who?



can eat for free and stiff the wait staff. If the wait staff complains you can fuss at the manager until the waiter gets fired. Of course this is all rumor at this point, just stories from waiters and waitresses around town but who would believe them over the mayor? You know how rumors are.

As mayor you get to be the Nutri-System Weight Loss spokesperson. The major perk is that you get to have your picture appear in the Pantagraph as a testament. Imagine it, you, as mayor, standing sideways for the camera,

important

Markowitz is notorious for promising opposite camps her vote on issues ranging from zoning ordinances to commercial developments. She will literally promise anything to anyone to get a vote. When confronted about her about-face at the Council Meeting, she opined that, as a Jew, she herself is no stranger to discrimination. Have you no shame, Madame? Have you no *shame*?

Whip me. Hurt me. Make me vote for Jesse Smart.

Big deal you say. Bloomington's mayor is a part-timer, the job pays a munificent \$3,000 a year. How much harm could she do? A lot, folks, a lot. This is a woman who wouldn't recognize integrity or principle if they drove up to her house in a jeep, got out, and told her "What it is..."

Vote for Jesse Smart. He may be a buffoon, but he's the best choice we have right now.

Lord have mercy.

-Dr. Attitude

pulling your pants out at the waist to demonstrate the new svelte you. It boggles the mind doesn't it? Wow, what a dignified image - what a gig.

If you're mayor you can be on the Phil Donahue show to explain why you support discrimination. Actually I guess you can't anymore since Phil's no longer on the air. But maybe you could do a show like Jenny Jones or Sally Jesse Raphael.

If you're mayor you can wear flowers everyday. That's right, you can demonstrate your feminine side and not have anyone question your sexual orientation. Well I don't know, maybe some people would question your sexuality but it would probably have more to do with your vehement opposition to equal rights for gays and lesbians than wearing a flower would. You know you just can't tell with some people.

The mayor gets to preside over city council meetings. The mayor gets to vote at city council meetings in case of ties. The mayor gets to be harassed by Randall Smith.

The mayor can use his or her campaign fund to give money to other political candidates like Dan Rutherford. Really, just check old Dan's campaign disclosure reports.

As mayor you can call up candidates for political office that you don't like and yell at them over the telephone accusing them of being less than perfect wives or mothers because they didn't take their husbands last name.

The mayor can assure women voters that they shouldn't consider voting for another candidate, who is let's say, a woman, because you have done a lot for women, like bringing more shopping to Bloomington. Cool.

The mayor gets to make cool proclamations like the one Jesse Smart made in January, 1990. You remember, he proclaimed that life began at conception. Wow, mayor, scientist, biologist, theologian, is there anything this man isn't?

Now that we know a little bit about what is involved in being mayor, let's talk about the candidates in this year's Bloomington mayoral election. Perhaps it's no coincidence that this year's election is planned for April 1. The full extent of the joke will be known on April 2 when the winners of both the mayoral election and the city council elections are known.

The following information has been gleaned from local radio and newspaper stories covering the two candidates for mayor, Jesse Smart and Judy Markowitz. In addition, I have had the opportunity to talk with people who know both candidates and have offered their insights.

Now, we all know that both the mayor and Judy Markowitz (aka "flip") opposed the human relations ordinance that would have extended equal protection to gays, lesbians and bisexuals. Judy had first supported the ordinance and then changed her mind, hence "flip" (lest you think this nickname a reference to her recent mishap on the steps of Bloomington City Hall. We should all be thankful she isn't suing us). While Judy's switch was disappointing to say the least

Cont.

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Joke Cont.

and cowardly to say the most, at least she did appear to consider the ordinance. The mayor on the other hand immediately pronounced the ordinance unnecessary which is something akin to those of us who are white announcing that civil rights legislation is unnecessary.

To her credit, Markowitz actively participates in numerous multi-cultural organizations and events. As previously mentioned, she is a regular attendant at the MLK Awards Luncheon although she was not present at this year's event. Markowitz spent the majority of the day at the Black History Project's "Juneteenth" celebration - if the mayor was there I didn't see him during the six hours I was there. Markowitz participates in the study groups sponsored by the Coalition for Diversity and Reconciliation and after the vote on the human relations ordinance it was rumored that she requested to be in a study group with gays or lesbians in order to better understand the issues facing them. Okay, so she voted wrong but maybe her mind ain't closed - a hopeful sign. I first met Judy Markowitz through an AIDS Task Force sponsored event - another encouraging sign.

Judy Markowitz has stated that paying for growth, planning and quality of life issues are the foundation of her campaign. Markowitz is uncomfortable with the city's level of dependence on sales tax revenue and Bloomington's increasing debt.

Markowitz is critical of what she sees is the city's lack of planning. "We need to know how projects will be paid for before we approve them. We just can't write blank checks without knowing the costs." She opposed the construction of The Den at Fox Creek, the Arnold Palmer signature golf course on Bloomington's southwest side, because it was not included in the city's short or long term

budgets. Markowitz said that these proposals came at a time when the city couldn't finance other projects like the paving of G.E. Road and extending Constitution Trail.

Markowitz criticized the golf course project saying that it was paid for as part of an 11.5 million dollar bond issue. That bond issue increased the city's bonded indebtedness. About half of the money from the bond issue went to pay for the golf course, the rest went to road and sewer repairs.

According to Markowitz, the city will be paying off its debts for the next 16 years. The ultimate cost to taxpayers will be \$21 million in interest. Markowitz is not suggesting a debt free goal like Normal, she stated that some projects like the new police station warrant borrowing money to complete.

Criticizing the city's growing reliance on sales tax revenue, suggested that such a heavy dependence is risky. About \$15 million of the city's general fund (50%) is funded from sales tax revenue. This fund pays the city's daily operating expenses. Markowitz is concerned that reliance on sales tax revenues leaves the city vulnerable in less robust economic times.

Markowitz also advocates for an extension of the Constitution Trail and more recreation programs for children and seniors. Now on the slightly grandiose "chicken in every pot" line, she also advocates for a park in every neighborhood. She also stressed the need for an east-side bypass and the need for adequate roads for existing subdivisions.

Markowitz says that if she is elected she will designate a staff member to work with the City Council as a neighborhood liaison, and she would like to see local broadcast of Council

meetings and a city column in the *Pantagraph*. Finally, she says she would support any request for additional manpower from the police department to fight crime.

Markowitz would like people to know that despite the mayor's claims that she always votes no, she has voted yes over 2,000 times. She states that she has voted against projects only after careful consideration and homework.

Markowitz believes that the city needs a closer friendship and better working relationship with the Town of Normal. She feels that the two city councils should hold several joint meetings during the year.

As far as the water supply to our fair city, Markowitz states that as the city, Normal and McLean County prepare to receive a report on long-range water needs in March, the project needs to move forward. Judy says she'd work with other communities to ensure needs are met. She also said that developers should be required to share in the cost of bringing a new water supply to future homes.

Okay, now, where does Jesse stand on the issues? Let's find out.

Jesse Smart kicked off his mayoral campaign on January 10. He was introduced to the crowd of well wishers as "the one and only, the lovable, the cuddly bear - Jesse Smart." Actually he reminds me more of a kind of cabbage patch teddy bear, you know, the kind that grabs onto your hair and doesn't stop gnawing away at it until it reaches your scalp.

Anyway, Smart unveiled his five point plan for the city's future at the kickoff. The five key areas are: continued fiscal planning; improved quality of life; an adequate, quality water supply (damn and we just got that Britta water filter for Christmas); safe neighborhoods and streets; and new transportation and traffic control initiatives. The mayor outlined his list of accomplishments during his first three terms as mayor, including a low unemployment rate; local jet service; the new exposition center at the McLean County fairground; and improved medical facilities.

Smart takes issue with Markowitz's statements that the city is too reliant on sales tax revenues. He said that sales tax revenues have increased each of the 19 years he has been in city government and added that the only alternative would be to increase property taxes. Oh I don't know, maybe we could get a riverboat casino on Lake Bloomington - hell the water isn't any good for drinking, we may as well get something out of it. But I digress. The mayor was quick to point out that about 60% of the city's sales tax revenue is paid by out-of-town residents who do business in the community. But wait a minute, isn't this the problem New York is having? Hmmmmm.

Regarding quality of life (unless you're gay or lesbian and then it don't much matter), Smart said he wants to lead the city forward as a study of future parks and recreation needs is completed this year. He also wants utility lines buried and the city prepared for technology advances.

Smart also said the city needs to work on continued job growth, adding that his goal is a minimum of 1,000 new jobs annually. I can't help but wonder whether new jobs would be created if all city officials had to pay for their meals - ah but again I digress. Smart said that unemployment was 7.8 percent when he became

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mayor almost 12 years ago, it is now at 2.3 percent.

While Smart had some influential guests at the kick off it must be remembered that their perceptions of Jesse as a friend to all are just that, their perceptions. Perhaps most disconcerting about the remarks made at the event were those made by Democratic County Board member Paul Segobiano who mentioned that the campaign will "be won in the neighborhoods, it's going to be won in the

workplace." What does that mean, "in the workplace." I want some clarification.

All that aside, the mayor's event was considered a success. It should be noted that some of the credit for the accomplishments made during Smart's tenure also goes to the city council (of which Smart's opponent is a member).

Who will I vote for this April Fool's Day? I'm not entirely certain. Many of the people I've talked with feel it boils down to this: do we vote

for the known entity even if we don't like him we know the enemy, or do we vote for the unfamiliar and uncertain hoping that the unknown can't be any worse than the known? Personally I'm leaning toward taking a chance on the unknown and on the way home from the polls maybe I'll buy a lottery ticket too.

—Linda Ketchum

See what world music is all about!

----- Prue Aunger -----

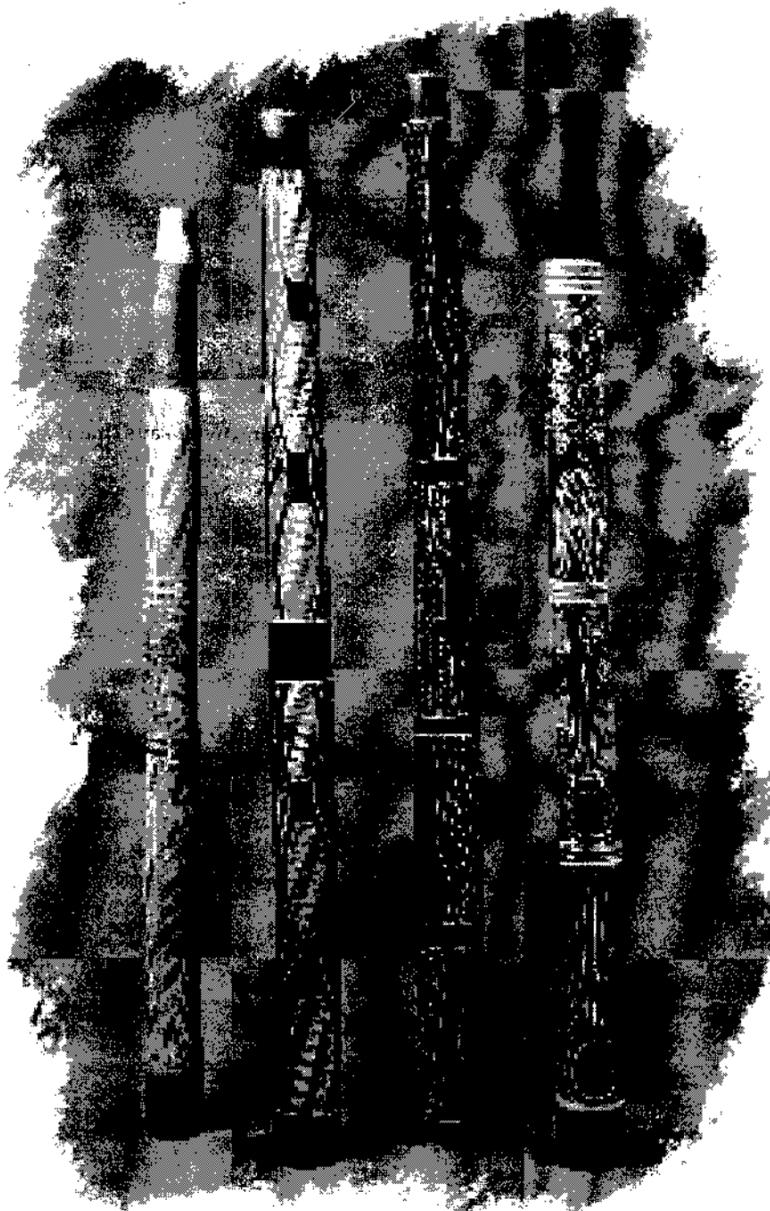
An Australian citizen, living in Chicago since 1992, Prue established Inma-Ku in North America in 1993, to act as a bridge between Australian Aboriginal Communities and the American people.

Prue's particular focus has been in raising awareness of the Northern Aboriginal woodwind instrument, the didgeridoo, which has been traditionally used for over 20,000 years.

Prue sees her task to act as a "mouth-piece" for this instrument, educating and teaching about its' history and the unique place it holds within the Aboriginal culture and Dreamtime.

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The World According To Matt

Drug czar a moron

In a speech given in response to drug war relaxation in California and Arizona, President Clinton's appointed "drug czar" proved himself an incapable moron.

At one point in his address, this poor man showed that he doesn't even know the specifics of the policies he is supposed to enforce. While reasserting the federal government's controlled substance policy (which he helped create), he stated that citizens must be 21 years of age to purchase tobacco products. In the real world, everywhere I've been, the legal tobacco age has been 18. By Law.

Mr. Drug Czar, a victim of his own system's brainwashing, dished out a piece of anti-pot propaganda that crumbles under objective scrutiny. He stated that the biggest danger with marijuana is that it is a "gateway" drug to harder substances. Statistically this is true, but this truth has nothing to do with the properties of pot. In fact, this unfortunate effect is caused by the efforts he leads. Since pot is illegal, to acquire some you might have to be in circles of people and places where other, harder, substances are available. This wouldn't happen if you could grow your own or buy it at Kroger (legally). Also, by illegally smoking marijuana over time, you become anesthetized to buying illegal substances. If pot were legal, a long time stoner would have the same ethical hurdle to jump if offered a harder, more controlled, drug as a beer drinker would. In almost every case where weed has led to cocaine or heroin abuse, our government's war on drugs is directly responsible, not the pot. The guy heading these catastrophic efforts doesn't get this (or assumes you won't).

At first it's humorous to imagine what a grade A moron is leading the federal grade A evil war on drugs. When one takes into account the resources and authority that this extremely fallible human controls, however, the humor quickly sours. If he can't remember his own rules or see obvious cause-effect relationships, how can we trust him to remember the constitution, human dignity or trust him to act in the people's best interests? The fact is that we can't, and yet he has the go-ahead to wage war on peaceful American citizens.

Big Brother's strong arm

Recently, Arizona and California passed unprecedented legislation by popular vote which partially decriminalized marijuana (and LSD and heroin in Arizona) when a doctor feels it can help a patient suffering from certain conditions.

Although a majority of citizens in each of these states wanted these reforms—and state law enforcers admit they can't stop Rx's—the federal government has reacted with nothing but negativity and the promise to enforce its immoral, unjust policy of marijuana prohibition. In doing so, the federal

government has shown its true face, and that is the face of diabolical hypocrisy and greed-ridden fear.

Those who, under the new laws, receive prescriptions for marijuana often are instructed to use the drug twice daily. Many of the ailments for which marijuana is the safest, most naturally therapeutic treatment are not debilitating conditions. It goes to reason that if a person uses pot treatment with this frequency without losing any social functionality or productivity, much of the anti-pot propaganda and institutional "truths" are blatant lies.

If these state laws were allowed to function and two years down the line those using pot were better off (or no worse and happier), our government would immediately have close to sixty years worth of ruined lives, wasted common funds, and state supported careers built on persecution to answer for. As black market consumers know, this would be the case.

Washington also knows that these state laws, on the social test level, pose great threats to their campaign of fear, lies, intimidation, and bloated budgets. Because of this, they were quick to threaten doctors who knew the truth and truly care for those who need their help.

The Feds pointed out at every level that their Great Will outweighs that of the people, who voted in fair elections to loosen marijuana restrictions. The same country that sacrificed tens of thousands of young lives to support democracy in Asia sweeps democracy aside to cover its own horrible, malicious mistakes. For our government, after all the resources and lives it's ruined, the Drug War is a domestic Vietnam.

Marijuana demand and supply grow steadier and piece by piece our common citizens are beginning to realize that Uncle Sam is the bad guy. The pot subculture is winning the war, and all the federal government can do is flex and show its true ugly colors.

These fated times

Part one of a six part series.

As human experience and the forward march of time bring us closer to the turn of the millennia, cycles on every sphere are winding down to a cosmic ground zero. When this happens, human civilization as we know it will be forcefully shattered and the face of the earth drastically changed.

Looking deep into human pre-history, it would seem as though this has happened at least twice before. Middle Eastern, Native American, European tribal pagan, and many other cultures' mythologies speak of eons past when mankind, in his arrogance and pride, was struck from his throne, his population decimated, and the whole of "civilization" knocked back several drastic steps to begin anew with a fresh perspective.

In the last cleansing, the peoples of earth were thinned in a matter of days by massive flooding, polar shifting, and overnight continental reshaping. Atlantis sank into the sea (Partholon and R'lyeh sharing this fate), the Native Americans fled to high mountain caves, and Noah built his ark. Now we find ourselves in a similar time period, where mankind has forgotten his place and created out of ignorance and greed a society that threatens life in general, enslaves its populace, and grossly mocks the mechanics of the natural cosmos. Once again we may find that Nature is higher than us on the food chain and that no amount of technology or "manifest destiny" can stop Her from dramatically healing Herself.

As mentioned above, the geographical and environmental aspects of the coming cataclysm are but one sphere of many, each with internal correspondences as intricate as the ways in which they intertwine with each other. These spheres include the religious/spiritual, social/political/economical, celestial, and extradimensional levels of universal existence.

Sources of knowledge of the End Times (a pessimistic term, as cycles don't "begin" or "end", but rather have polar turning points such as death and rebirth. The rest of "being" happens between these points on both sides.) are numerous and span every culture and age in history. The correspondences between Nostradamus, the Aztec calendar, Celtic mythology, Christian mythology, the I-Ching, a French prophet whose works were suppressed by the Nazis for being too specific, Native North and South American prophecy, and other sources as obscure as the air's mood, squirrels' behavior, and the reoccurring visions of thousands of unsuspecting sleepers are too exact to be ignored or given up as coincidence.

One thing is certain (or at least has been in the past): some people survive. Civilization no longer exists, and the terrain of wild nature is strange and hostile. In time the tribes reform, and on every continent the shamanic peoples rise in natural balance to once again survive in harmony with the world. After untold eons, only myths, surviving as an innocent peoples' misty remembrance, will survive of the time when their species last grew as arrogant as we have become.

As we caterwaul into 1997, the forces that oppose balance and thrive on the insanity that is modern civilization are at work. They continuously spew forth from the marketplace, entertainment industry, and other media to lull people into quiet submission and ignore the fact that everyone knows. Most will assume that our technology will save us or that space offers refuge, but the writing on the walls of Atlantis, Partholon, and R'lyeh say differently.





Third encounters of the pig kind

(... a stoned mistake for First... er... Close Encounters of the Pig Kind)

The Third Encounters of the Pig Kind phone (829-9920) has been ringing steadily these two months past, and a wide variety of police harassment (malicious and Bureaucratic) tales need telling. I would like to thank those brave (although nameless) people who care enough about society to lend their experience(s) to this arsenal of precedence.

Human rights that transcend countries (and the politics of totalitarianism) are daily threatened by both police overstepping their authority and by those who willingly uphold evil policies (aka marijuana prohibition). Unless those who hold these freedoms let pigs and politicians know they won't let them go, society may very well degrade further into the abyss of zombie slave consumerism and invasive martial conditioning. One small step in this struggle is for those who would be free to strengthen their extended community by sharing like experiences.

One contributor (word of mouth), a local shop owner, was standing outside his place of business having a cigarette (no-smoking suite complex) when a large, old sedan pulled into the lot. The man at the wheel rolled down his window and demanded to know why said contributor was there. After a truthful reply, the driver demanded to see a State ID (existence receipt). At this point the store owner asked if the antagonist was a cop. He wasn't, but he was the head of the neighborhood watch. Once again, Mr. Pig-Wannabe demanded identification. The store owner asked the bacon-bit for his ID, but was refused. In turn, the store owner refused to show or give his ID, frankly insulted by such an authoritarian attitude from such a deluded citizen. The driver left and came back twice, both times (in a loud aggressive tone) threatening police action and "reports of vagrancy" (or something similar). The second time he even said he had called the police. They never showed up.

Granted, neighborhood watch programs are not police forces, and they do a lot of good in preventing violence and thefts, members who get a bug up their butt and go around demanding identification classify themselves as pigs. In those above cases it might not have been mere coincidence that the store owner in question had hair past his shoulders, a full beard, and fashionably ragged clothes. It also proves a point about giving the brainwashed even an ounce of authority.

Another caller was just leaving an outside nook in Normal where he puffed a bowl and a cigarette beyond wind's reach when a cop approached him. After giving his name and personal data, the officer asked if he could perform a search. The caller denied him, but was ordered to "turn and spread 'em" anyway (just like that). Unfortunately, he did end up being arrested on a minor pot charge.

Another caller had a suggestion that deserves printing. If you are already illegally getting pot, go ahead and save undamaged seeds. When you are out and about, scatter them everywhere. Prime targets are business landscaping (obviously not your place of work...), grassy medians, churchyards, cemeteries, and the abundance of parks and athletic fields in this area. The caller noted that he said scatter, not plant. If nature wants the seed to grow, it will. Without their conditions, indoor varieties will have a hard time or be less potent, but at any rate it will stretch their resources.

The fact is that pot was intended by Nature (as well as with other natural psycho-active substances) and any person with a conscience knows that any sort of genocide is wrong. With this in mind, the well watered lawns of "businesses" (marketplace and institutional) that aid and abet cannabis genocide create a certain opportunity for poetic justice.

As space allows, we will continue to print stories as you call them in. Next issue will focus primarily on weed encounters (shooting for variety this time), but, as always, non-marijuana stories are welcome. So far no one has offered a name (for print) and I totally understand. It should be noted, however, that part of winning the war on drugs has to do with stoners not being (or acting) ashamed of their joyous hobby and through openness and communication letting people see that it in no way hinders your ability to function as a working, playing, laughing and learning member of society. As long as there are pigs, call 829-9920 to expose them. If you want to write your story yourself, follow the Post Amerikan guidelines (c/o 3rd Encounters). Of course, we can print anonymous stories.

"Black Magick"

A council of ambitious, treasure-mad sorcerers, dressed in rigid blacks and grays, sits around a solid obsidian table. The polished stone reflect their grim visages as each digs into his or her mental vault to add components to a spell commissioned by evil lords unsatisfied with their current spoils.

When they are finished, the putrid fruit of their labor lays ready to be transmitted into the serf population. The unsuspecting Fools will be razzle-dazzled by the black magick's sparkling light and seductive visual array as the energy robs their will and makes the sorcerers' client's goals their own. And thus is born an advertisement.

As capitalism rears its venomous head, masses of sacramental victims are herded into its abysmal maw. The beast grows larger with each willing soul it sucks dry, and the spent shells are kept ticking as long as possible to be gnawed at over time.

Its demand growing as fast as its supply, the Order of the Elite passes draconian laws and increases their use of black magick mind control to further manipulate the blood of the workers.

The Earth crumbles beneath the continent-spanning beast. With glassy eyes reflecting price tags, the people wait in feeding lines, unfazed as evil sorcerers create nicer illusions of security and more expensive distractions.

-Matt Toczko




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Smoke screen: The politics

A Disclaimer:

The professor and I must advise that we are not directly advocating the use of or abstinence from the cannabis hemp plant, commonly known as "marijuana." We also regret that we are unable to fully address the political, economic, medical, racial, and spiritual concerns of the US's current policy on the legality of hemp. What we can do, is encourage you to investigate further the many implications of this situation, and commit to summing up as best we can in the space of an article the more recent history of cannabis hemp prohibition: what caused it, who's benefited from it, and what this means to us today.

Herbal Skirmishes

As all of us have been subjected to anti-drug messages since the time of our birth, it's difficult for most of us to get a clear picture of the political economy of drug laws. We'd like to think that these laws (that all laws) are established to protect public health and safety, however, a closer look at the origins of many laws expose disturbingly contrary motives.

With this in mind, before diving into the politics of hemp, let's warm up with the story of another restricted plant that few of us have probably heard of. First, a couple of questions: how many of you've heard of Stevia? Ok, now how many of you've heard of NutraSweet™? Stevia is a perennial shrub native to South America that has been used for centuries as a sweetener. It is used in its natural, whole leaf form and contains no calories. It is 30 times sweeter than refined sugar, has nutritional value, and can be used safely by those suffering from diabetes and hypoglycemia. As a matter of fact, Coca-cola and Beatrice Foods use stevia in place of NutraSweet™ to sweeten many of their overseas products.

So why haven't you heard of stevia and what's it all got to do with the prohibition of cannabis hemp? Well, until a year ago November, stevia was considered an illegal substance in the US. Why? Because the FDA claimed that there was insufficient evidence to prove its safety and deemed that it would have to go through roughly 20 million dollars of testing to be approved as a food additive. What's wrong with this picture? Two things for starters: food additive legislation applies to chemically manufactured substances and not to natural plants; and, non-engineered plants cannot be patented, eliminating chances of any corporation footing the bill for testing as they've no chances of exclusively profiting from its approval. But there's a much bigger machine at work here. In 1987, when the FDA imposed an import sanction on stevia and made it illegal to sell, health and herb stores around the country were literally ransacked if suspected of carrying the substance on their shelves. The FDA explained that the reason for the "crackdown" was, again, because of the unascertained safety of the plant. However, a less corrupted FDA officer admitted that stevia was banned for another reason entirely subsequent to a complaint filed by the

NutraSweet™ corporation. Which brings us to the question of who or what controls legislation – was the ban on stevia an issue of public health and safety or private interest?

A closer look at the NutraSweet™ corporation...

Aspartame, corporately known as NutraSweet™, an ingredient in more than 1,200 domestic products, virtually monopolizes the non-caloric artificial sweetener market. Yet, the National Institute of Health, a branch of the Department of Health and Human Services, proposes 167 individual reasons to avoid it based on its possible side effects (migraine headaches, slurred speech, insomnia, depression, blindness, brain tumors, and even death, to name a few). Of all product complaints to the FDA, aspartame registers the majority, but it ironically remains the forerunner in the industry.

So, why is NutraSweet™ legal, you ask? Because G.D. Searle, the multinational pharmaceutical corporation which produces NutraSweet™, essentially bought and paid for its FDA approval. In 1981, FDA commissioner Arthur Hayes, approved aspartame for use in dry foods. He did so in the face of federal law, ignoring the recommendations of the FDA's own

Board of Inquiry and relying instead on a study conducted by Ajinomoto, Inc., a licensee of G.D. Searle. When Hayes left the FDA, coincidentally, he took a very lucrative position with Burson-Marsteller, a public relations firm owned by none other than G.D. Searle. Two federal attorneys were appointed to investigate the health and safety of NutraSweet™. They invariably stalled the investigation through the course of their appointment and have since joined Sidney & Austin, G.D. Searle's own law firm. As it stands, researchers seeking to publish reports of the problematic, health-related reactions to products containing NutraSweet™ are generally limited to burying their findings in small-circulation journals or editorial columns of local newspapers. As for stevia, fortunately, through the relentless protest of the American Herbal Products Association and other organizations, the plant is now legal in the US in its whole form, though it cannot be in any way labeled as a sweetener or used in product preparations as such.

Using stevia and NutraSweet™ as an example, we see that products can get FDA and thus public approval, regardless of health consequences, with the right kinds of financial backing. Likewise, plants that are natural, inexpensive, unpatentable, and threaten vested interests, can be deemed dangerous, made illegal, and removed from public debate.

With that, let's move into the politics of cannabis hemp...

First of all, let's familiarize ourselves with the plant itself. The cannabis plant is divided into three parts: the stalks and stems which compose hemp used for fiber and fuel; the seeds

which have extraordinary nutritional value and can be made into various oils; and the leaves and flowers, commonly referred to as "marijuana," which contain the psychoactive chemical THC and offer a variety of medicinal uses.

The name of the plant itself can give us perspective into its significance. *Cannabis sativa* means literally "useful hemp." It provides the most durable, longest lasting, natural fiber known to exist on the planet. It's been used for thousands of years to make durable ropes, fabrics, and excellent paper. The seeds contain essential oils and fatty acids and contain the 2nd most complete protein in the vegetable kingdom. In fact, they were long added to animal feeds and bird seed to boost nutritional value. In the 19th century, the people of Australia survived 2 prolonged famines using almost nothing but cannabis seed for protein and marijuana leaves for roughage. The seeds also produce oils that serve as renewable fuels for lamps (or vehicles!) and excellent bases for paints and varnishes. Extracts from the leaves and flowers provide a wide range of medicines and tonics, most notably useful for those suffering from glaucoma and cancer.

How 'bout the professor and I throw out some little known facts... did you know that:

- Σ the word "canvas" actually originates from the word "cannabis"?
- Σ that both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew cannabis (and evidence supports that they grew it for more than just fiber)?
- Σ that our national flag has been made from hemp fiber?
- Σ the 1st and 2nd drafts of the Declaration of Independence were written on hemp paper?
- Σ the 1st Levi's sold to prospectors were sturdy hemp coveralls?
- Σ Abe Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd, came from the richest cannabis-growing family in Kentucky?
- Σ that almost all schoolbooks were made from hemp paper until the early 1900s?
- Σ that it was legal to pay taxes with cannabis until the early 1800s?
- Σ that maple sugar and hashish (resin from the leaves of the cannabis plant) combined to make a tasty over-the-counter candy that was sold across the country and in Sears & Roebuck catalogues around the turn of the century?
- Σ that Ford created an automobile that was powered with hemp fuel?
- Σ that the McLean County Historical Society houses a medical bag from the late 1800s which contains a cannabis sativa tincture?
- Σ that 90% of all rope and twine was made from hemp until the 1930s?
- Σ that cannabis has been one of the most widely used plants in oriental medicine for over 3500 years and that the American Pharmacopeia prescribed the plant for the treatment of more than 100 separate illnesses until 1937?



of hemp in the US

Σ that 80% of all textiles - fabrics, linens, clothing, draperies, rugs, etc. - were made from cannabis hemp until the 1820s when industrial cotton gins were invented and allowed more cotton to be produced at less cost than hand-separated hemp fiber?

These are just a few of many examples that leads us nicely to 1937 and the invention of the decorticator - a machine that could separate the hemp fiber from the hemp stalk without chemicals at a rate of 3 tons per hour. This machine would revolutionize the fiber industry. Not only would 10,000 acres of hemp produce as much paper as 40,000 acres of forest, but it could do so without the use of chemicals and as an annual crop (as opposed to the forest's 30-40 year harvest cycle). Popular Mechanics ran a cover story predicting that cannabis hemp would become the US's 1st billion dollar crop. Ironically, within 2 months of its publication, cannabis was made illegal.

So what happened?

In a nutshell, it's a story of greed, racism, and conspiracy. The Hearst Paper Manufacturing Company, owned by newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, and DuPont petrochemicals stood to lose billions of dollars as a consequence of the invention of the decorticator. Hearst, along with being a political powerhouse as a result of publishing what was considered America's "official news source," owned one of the largest timber sales in the country at this time. DuPont, in turn, held the patent on the chemical wood-pulping process that converts timber to paper, produced petrochemical oil-based fuels, and was in the course of patenting an extensive line of synthetic fiber products.

The strategy went as follows: Hearst ran a deluge of articles in his papers detailing the dangers of cannabis hemp. Papers featured headlines like, "MARIJUANA MAKES FIENDS OF BOYS IN 30 DAYS," "HASHISH GOADS USERS TO BLOOD LUST," or "NEW DOPE LURE, MARIJUANA, HAS MANY VICTIMS." Hearst was joined in his crusade against cannabis by Harry J. Anslinger, commissioner of the newly organized Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN). Anslinger was picked to head the FBN by his uncle-in-law, Andrew Mellon, the Secretary of the Treasury under Hoover and the owner of Mellon Bank, the 6th largest U.S. bank, and exclusive banker for DuPont since 1928. Hearst papers quoted Anslinger as an authority on cannabis, printing sensational comments like, "If the hideous monster Frankenstein came face to face with the monster marijuana he would drop dead of fright." Articles also linked cannabis to Black jazz musicians and immigrants, notably Mexican and Chinese immigrants, who in this time of the depression were widely despised. In fact, the term "marijuana" was coined by Hearst in an attempt to link cannabis hemp to its Mexican usage.

The testimony before congress in 1937 in favor of making cannabis illegal consisted almost entirely of Hearst newspaper articles read aloud by Harry J. Anslinger. He testified that "Marijuana is an addictive drug which produces insanity, criminality, and death....[it] is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind." Ironically, 11 years later in 1951 he would testify again against marijuana, only this time with an entirely converse strategy. Anslinger testified that "Marijuana causes it's users to become so peaceful and pacifistic that in the future American boys will not want to fight in our wars....The communists could use marijuana to sap our will to fight." The American Medical Association (AMA) found out about the 1937 prohibition bill only 2 days before congress made its decision. An AMA representative, Dr. James Woodard, testified that there was no evidence to support that marijuana is a dangerous substance to which the congress responded, "If you can't say something good about what we're trying to do here, why don't you go home."

In all, the hearing deciding the legality of cannabis lasted one minute thirty two seconds. It has since this time been considered an illegal substance in this country. Hemp rope and twine were replaced primarily by petrochemical synthetics (nylon, rayon, etc.) produced by DuPont. The cannabis seed industry, which directed 58 thousand tons of seed to US paint manufactures in 1935, along with the hemp fiber industry, were also displaced by DuPont petrochemical. Hearst Paper Manufacturing continued to profit from this legislation for several years. In the years that followed, Director Anslinger covered up his lack of evidence by proliferating an onslaught of negative propaganda about "marijuana." School kids sat through films like "Reefer Madness" and adults through numerous Public Service Announcements detailing the various psychoses brought on by marijuana. Lawyers were quick to pick up on this provision. In the late 30s and early 40s, in five flamboyant murder trials, the defendant's sole defense was that he - or in the most famous of them, she - was not guilty by reason of insanity for having used marijuana prior to the commencement of the crime.

In 1951, with the aid of Anslinger's reversal of testimony (marijuana is no longer violence-causing, but instead, peace-inducing) in conjunction with the current anti-Communist climate and years of public propaganda, the Bogg's Act quadrupled the penalties for the possession or use of marijuana. In 1971, all mention of cannabis hemp was removed from school textbooks in the US and in 1976, Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company, producers of synthetic THC (the medicinal/psychotropic chemical found in cannabis) successfully lobbied congress for a ban on all positive research on the cannabis plant. Keeping the ball rolling, George Bush, major stockholder and member of the Board of Directors of Eli Lilly, was able to raise the drug issue from the #8 to the #1 public concern in the 6 months prior to his election to

the presidency in 1988. [An intriguing aside: In 1942, five years after hemp prohibition was imposed, when Japanese seizure of Philippine hemp caused a wartime shortage of rope, the US government reversed itself. Overnight, the government urged farmers to grow hemp with a rousing film entitled, "Hemp for Victory" to bolster nationalist spirits and exemption from military service for those farmers who cooperated. Then, just as quickly as it was legalized, hemp was again recriminalized when the shortage had passed. Ironically, while hemp was temporarily legal, it saved the life of a young pilot named George Bush, who was forced to bail out of his burning airplane after a battle over the Pacific. At the time he didn't realize that: parts of his aircraft engine were lubricated with hemp-seed oil; 100% of his life-saving parachute webbing was made from US grown hemp; virtually all of the rigging and lines of the ship that rescued him were made of hemp; the flightsuit on his back was made from a rubberized hemp-cloth; or that the fire hoses on the ship were woven from hemp.]

So, what have we lost?

This is a difficult question to answer in the small space allowed, but just briefly:

Medicinally and therapeutically speaking we've been denied naturally safe treatments for many ailments and diseases. Medicinal marijuana is now just breaking into the public forum with the passing of Proposition 215 in both California and Arizona, protecting patients' rights to use marijuana to control the nausea and loss of appetite connected to chemotherapy.

Nutritionally speaking we've missed out on an amazing food source for both humans and animals. Cannabis can be grown inexpensively without chemical pesticides or fertilizers (hence its nickname, "weed"), a fact which doesn't settle well with the corporate agribusiness community.

This leads us into the losses to the environment as a result of cannabis prohibition. As a nation, we've come to depend on petrochemical and pharmaceutical companies, agribusiness, and the timber industry to supply us the bulk of our fuels, foods, medicines, and fibers - this is messy business. As we approach the 21st century, we have nearly compromised our environment to the point of no return through our dependence on resources that could be sustainably supplied by the cannabis plant. Cannabis actually restores soil through its unusually deep root system making it an excellent rotation crop and soil replenisher.

Economically speaking, taxes encompass an area in which we share common experience.

Cont.



Seventy percent of all federal, state, and local narcotics enforcement tax dollars are spent on marijuana enforcement. In 1995, 588,963 people were arrested on marijuana charges in the US. Eighty-six percent of these people were charged with possession of this illegal plant. There are numerous costs to the taxpayer for each arrest. Studies estimate that we could save between 20-40 billion dollars annually if cannabis were decriminalized - that includes paying for drug education and treatment for drug abusers.

But what we feel is the most significant loss involved with this war on *some* drugs, is the loss of TRUST. Trust is an absolutely essential element of a successful society. The cannabis issue has forced those who look a little deeper to lose trust in our government, in corporations, in the media, in parents, and in teachers.

(Well, it's not the 1st time, right?) Trust is difficult to regain after you've been lied to and manipulated. Amidst all of the anti-marijuana rhetoric, we find these facts rather telling: the number of Americans who die each year from nicotine addiction: 425,000; from alcohol: 50,000; marijuana: a big fat 0. Driving under the influence of alcohol is the leading single cause of death among teenagers and nicotine claims the lives of over 1,000 Americans every day, yet we spend 15 billion dollars per year to combat marijuana while we subsidize with our tax dollars the tobacco industry. When will we connect the dots?

The professor and I cannot urge this enough: please take some time to acquire clearer vision on this (and other) issues! We also remind you that dollars speak louder than words or votes in our corporate political climate. It's a matter of supply and demand; when the value of hemp is realized, the demand for hemp will allow for fewer trees to be cut, less production waste to be released into the environment, and more natural, environmentally conscious products to originate from US soil. Support the hemp movement - buy hemp products!

Some good places to start:

The Ohio Hempery
1 800 BUY HEMP
<http://www.hemperry.com>

The New Age Hemp Company
(518) 370-2559
<http://www.newagehemp.com/>

Locally, hemp products are available at Bogart's, Mother Murphy's, and Shockwaves...

--nanny and the professor

Time for soul searching

On Sunday, January 12 the *Pantagraph* ran a headline that read "Earth's future deemed grim." Its subheading was "Worldwatch: governments fiddle as environment burns."

I wonder how people would have responded if the *Post Amerikan* had run that instead. I'm sure many people would just have thought something like "Those poor, gloomy, alienated, out-of-touch Posties; there they go again."

The *Pantagraph* apparently didn't think it was that important. The day's editorials dealt with school and tax issues.

And so "Earth's future deemed grim: governments fiddle as environment burns." And that's that. Now on to other news.

Two days later, on Tuesday, January 14 the *Pantagraph* business section noted that the Dow Jones industrial average rose to a record high 6709.18. No connection was noted to the Earth's grim future or the governments that "fiddle as environment burns."

We just recently finished a national election in which environmental issues were largely ignored.

Certainly no need for soul searching. So what if the "Earth's future is deemed grim?" Who cares if "governments fiddle as environment burns?"

The American way of life and business certainly cannot be questioned and changed just to save the environment for the future.

Only New Age wackos and out-of-touch radicals would even consider such a treasonous thing. So if the Earth's future is deemed grim and if governments must "fiddle as environments burn" in order for the Dow Jones average to head toward 10,000, so be it.

On the other hand if you are a person who cares about children and have some glimmering that the world they will have to live in lies somewhere out there in the future; or maybe you just have some vague inner sense of being part of a human adventure that extends farther out than the next quarter's corporate profits, then maybe there is cause for some honest soul-searching.

"Earth's future deemed grim: governments fiddle as environment burns."

It is the way we live that has brought us to this point.

"Earth's future deemed grim: governments fiddle as environment burns."

A Cree Indian prophesy states:
"Only after the last tree has been cut down;
Only after the last river has been poisoned;
Only after the last fish has been caught;
Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten."

"Earth's future deemed grim: governments fiddle as environment burns."

It could be said that the deepest responsibility any generation has is to turn over a world that the next generation can live in.

We are apparently failing to fulfill that responsibility.

"Earth's future deemed grim: governments fiddle as environment burns."

It is my belief that it is not too late to stop the burning, but it will take our profoundest wisdom and our greatest courage to do so.

It may indeed be soul-searching time after all.

--by Gregg Brown

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Morris Dees, Jr. speaks in Normal

Morris "Bubba" Dees, Jr. was the first white speaker at the 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Program held on January 11th at the Bone Student Center Ballroom. Dees is co-founder of and Chief Trial Counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center, based in Montgomery Alabama. The SPLC's purpose is to "advance the legal rights of victims of injustice through litigation and education." The Center has handled more than fifty major civil rights cases.

Dees described for the 500 plus audience a nation deeply divided by race, sexual orientation, gender and class. He believes that there is a battle occurring in our nation over "whose America is this?"

The audience was visibly moved as Dees described some of SPLC's victories in battling hate crimes. In one case the deed for a Ku Klux Klan building was awarded to the mother of a lynching victim.

Dees reminded Bloomington/Normal residents that we "have a long way to go, as we all do," noting that our local laws omit protection based on sexual orientation.

Dees strongly believes in the power of education. The SPLC's "Teaching Tolerance" educational campaign has distributed thousands of magazines and teaching kits to schools across the United States. The SPLC also organized "Klanwatch" which monitors organized racist activity.

He said the the best advice could be found in the Peter, Paul and Mary song "If I Had a Hammer." We must have "a love between our brothers and sisters to bridge the gap." Dees ended his presentation with a quotation from the Bible which can be found on a monument at SPLC'S headquarters: "We shall not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters."

For more information concerning the Southern Poverty Law Center :

Southern Poverty Law Center, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 548
Montgomery, Alabama
36101-0548
(334) 264-0286
Fax (334) 264 0629

The Pledge

I believe that people should not be judged on their racial or ethnic origin, and I commit myself to this belief in all aspects of my life.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

You may use my name. How can I give others the opportunity to make this pledge?

Return to: The Pledge, PO Box 4422, Bloomington IL 61704-4422

Reading in the land of anti-fat

Eat Fat by Richard Klein (Pantheon Books)

The book jumps out at you from the bookstore shelves - as it's meant to do. Bright yellow cover. Big black letters with the monosyllabic title encircled. As a title, it's written both as explanation and challenge. This, the dust cover proclaims, is a book that's meant to be provocative.

Is there a single statement in these diet-obsessive times more calculated to win wincing from the collective readership than "Eat Fat?" When workplace lunchroom conversations regularly turn to a counting of fat grams, when Snack Wells appear on grocery store candy displays right next to the Hershey bars, the "f" word carries more power than its three little letters would suggest. Klein knows this, and he uses it, writing what he repeatedly calls a "post-modern diet book."

Klein is an academic who appears to enjoy the role of dilettante contrarian. His first book, *Cigarettes Are Sublime*, had a title Jesse Helms would love. This makes him a less than ideal spokesperson for size acceptance, but to be fair, Klein himself states that his goals in writing the book revolve less around acceptance than size celebration. I can appreciate the distinction, even as I continue to find his motives somewhat suspect.

As a cultural critic, however, Klein is aces on examining the assumptions surrounding size - even when he himself occasionally gives into them. He describes the enduring quality of gluttony, quoting from food writer M.F.K. Fisher's marvelous essay on the subject, feeding into the belief that fat adults are all automatically gluttons. Though he realizes our fanatic quest for fat-free food and dieting has given us a nation of Americans fatter than it was before we started, he also describes his own desire to lose twenty to thirty pounds. This

extra weight may not be the unhealthy burden that diet-mongers have tried to convince us it is, he states, but it clashes with his sense of who he really is. Heaven forbid that he actually have to accept himself as a "fat man."

This land is full of people postponing their lives until that unattainable day when they no longer have to deal with the specter of fat. It's not surprising to read that, on some levels at least, Klein is one of them. It does, however, undermine the message of his own book.

But Klein, I suspect, is comfortable with that contradiction, so let's not beat it into the ground. Let's focus on some of *Eat Fat's* strengths instead: as a deconstructionist, Klein is superb. His look at images of fat throughout history may have been done elsewhere but seldom so succinctly. And each consideration serves to remind us that the demonization of "obesity" hasn't always held sway.

He's equally strong documenting the unethical way that the medical profession has systematically treated fat patients. In so doing, he examines the current questionable practice of drug therapy as a replacement for dieting. Once, he notes, it was observed how ineffective dieting was for the vast majority of fat Americans, the medical profession began to focus on pharmaceuticals that effect how the brain processes food intake.

"Let me express the rage I feel toward the word obesity," he writes. "This ugly noun, with all its pejorative implications, this term for unhealthy corpulence, has been mobilized by the medical-health-beauty industry, and wielded by food packagers, in order to stigmatize people who don't conform to absurdly restrictive concept of ideal weight." The very word, he observes, carries a weight of assumptions, coming from the Latin word "obesus," meaning "having eaten well." Members of the size acceptance movement have historically refused to use the term, linked as it is to the medical concept of fatness as disease. But it's also worth noting that the word also carries the Gluttony Equation in its origins.

Klein is less successful looking at fatness and sex, in part because he chooses to focus on one subculture (the audience for *Fat Girl*, a magazine "for and about Fat Dykes"), which itself runs the risk of reinforcing one stereotype about fat women. But he is completely entertaining discussing fatness as it is manifested in the political world. You can also see him having a good time in a textual consideration of the play "Hamlet," which proposes the central idea that Shakespeare's hero was fat. (Take that, Kenneth Branagh!)

Eat Fat is a quick read, deliberately repetitive at times, and skippable at places. While nowhere near the work of Hillel Schwartz's landmark look at the history of dieting, *Never Satisfied* - a book Klein himself quotes on several occasions - it still makes a good addition to the size acceptance library, where all the books remain flawed by their authors' very human relationship to the subject of fat.

-Bill Sherman

The Pledge

I believe that people should not be judged on their racial or ethnic origin, and I commit myself to this belief in all aspects of my life.

Anyone can stand against racism; everyone should. When you hear racism, speak up! When you see racism, act!

_____ name

_____ date



Voice for Choice cont. from page 14-15

An Interesting Argument

When the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a 1989 Missouri law that restricted abortions, Dr. Eileen McDonagh sensed that the court was drifting to the right. The 1989 statute made it illegal to perform abortions in public buildings or by public employees. Dr. McDonagh saw this move as an effort to chip away at *Roe v. Wade*.

Instead of marching in protests, McDonagh went to the library. She wanted to build a case for abortion that confronted head on the best arguments that anti-choice advocates could come up with. Her first book, "Breaking the Abortion Deadlock: from Choice to Consent" was published in October by Oxford press, and it is the result of her efforts. McDonagh acknowledges that the foundation of the anti-choice argument, that the fetus is a human life, yet she still argues that a woman has the right to terminate a pregnancy. McDonagh says, "I wanted an argument that would work in court."

McDonagh is an associate professor of political science at Northeastern University. Her thesis is this: if a woman has a right to defend herself against a rapist, she also should be able to use deadly force to expel a fetus.

The fetus, McDonagh argues, can be unconsciously guilty of violating a woman's privacy. She outlines all the trouble that a fetus can bring: morning sickness, weight gain, increased hormonal levels, even serious illnesses like diabetes. No laws besides those restricting abortion allow a person to invade another's body.

In a sense, McDonagh is turning the anti-choice argument on its head. Abortion opponents argue that a woman doesn't have the right to terminate the life of a fetus. McDonagh argues that the fetus doesn't have a right to invade a woman's body. She argues that the fetus receives more protection than it deserves. If a child were going to die without a blood transfusion from his or her mother, no court could force the mother to give blood. Why, then, should it force the mother to go through

the much more painful process of bringing a fetus to term?

Noting that many sexual encounters do not lead to pregnancies, McDonagh pins the blame for the pregnancy on the fertilized ovum. Thus, she argues, a woman who becomes pregnant and decides she doesn't want to have a child is as much a victim as a woman who is raped while running through the park at midnight.

States should provide protection for women by subsidizing abortions, she says. Although she does not deal with the question of how late into a pregnancy women should be allowed to have an abortion, she does note that most women have them in their first two trimesters.

McDonagh's book is winning praise from pro-choice leaders. Patricia Ireland, president of NOW calls the book "a very comprehensive and coherent argument," and notes that it could help secure more state money for abortions.

Some abortion opponents say they're confused by McDonagh's thesis: "it's a sign of the difficulty of these issues that it has to go through this tortured reasoning," says Ralph McInerney, a professor of philosophy at the University of Notre Dame who has written articles opposing abortion.

McDonagh says she didn't expect all foes of abortion to give her a fair hearing. While preparing the book she gave presentations to groups like the American Political Science Association and Social Science History Association. "The response was never neutral," she says.

"My goal is to reach people who are honestly interested in this subject, who are open enough to think about the abortion issue in this way," she says. With that goal in mind, McDonagh keeps her feelings out of her writing and sticks to medical evidence and legal precedent.

Many pro-choicers won't even consider the idea that the fetus is a human life, but McDonagh says she learned early not to automatically reject ideas that she disagreed with. She grew up in the 1950s with progressive parents in a conservative town, Palos Verde's, California. While she was working at a library as a teen,

members of the John Birch Society tried to ban some of its books. she didn't agree with the attempted censorship, but she came to realize why some books offended the group. "My parents instilled a sense of respect for other people's ideas," she says.

McDonagh hopes that when reading her book people will, at least briefly, suspend their passions on this issue. "This book offers a way to respond to what the fetus does rather than what the fetus is," she says. "That's what potentially could make for less conflict between pro-choice and pro-life people."

Source: *Chronicle of Higher Education*

Medical first

A four month old fetus with a disastrously weak immune system was cured by a bone marrow transplant while still in the womb. The baby was born healthy after an otherwise normal pregnancy. At 18 months of age, he shows no signs of his life-threatening inherited disease, known as severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome, or SCIDS.

Doctors said the approach is especially noteworthy because it eliminated the disease before it even began. They hope the same technique can be used to head off some other genetic illnesses, including sickle cell anemia.

The first successful use of the technique in the womb was performed in Detroit at Children's Hospital of Michigan by Dr. Alan W. Flake, a pediatric surgeon who is now at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The procedure was described in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

SCIDS is very rare, striking about one in every 100,000 babies, most of them boys. The best-known victim was David, Houston's famous "bubble boy." Victims cannot fight off microbes and even a minor bug can be fatal. The babies fail to make T cells, a variety of white blood cell essential for fighting off infection.

In recent years doctors have attempted to cure these babies by giving them bone marrow transplants after birth. When all goes well, the transplanted marrow produces the blood cells the child lacks. However, about one-third of the transplants fail. David, who spent his life inside a germ-free plastic tent, died in 1984 at age 12 after such an attempt.

Giving the transplant before birth is intended to get around many of the problems and hazards of the treatment.

Doctors discovered the mutant gene that causes the disorder through genetic testing of the fetus. They removed some of the father's bone marrow and injected it into the fetus' abdomen in three treatments one week apart. Since birth the boy has caught two colds and recovered from them normally. His blood stream carries the usual number of T cells.

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Leger Brosnahan's class rules

Leger Brosnahan is the Illinois State English professor who was recently suspended after a student reported that he kicked her in the butt while ejecting her from his office.

Brosnahan came under fire years ago when it was discovered that he distributed a questionnaire to his students which included a question concerning their sexual orientation.

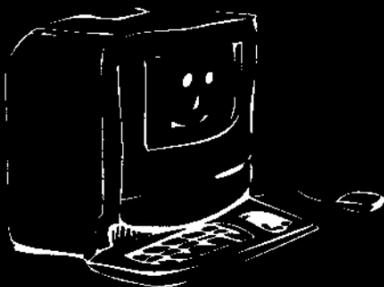
Following are a list of rules that were distributed to one of his classes.

A Primer on Student Behavior in a University Classroom

1. Be clean in body and clothes. "Cleanliness is next to Godliness."
2. Dress appropriately for class. Wear nothing that will be distracting to instructors or classmates. Cover at least to the middle of the upper arm. No tanktops or short shorts.
3. Walk, do not skate or bike to class. Walk all stairs under four flights. Do not sit or lie on the floor of halls or obstruct traffic. Walk to the right. Stand against the wall if waiting before class.
4. Allow the students and instructors to leave the classroom before you enter unless it is five minutes or less before the scheduled beginning of the class. The classroom belongs to a class from five minutes before the class begins until five minutes after the class.
5. Sit up straight out of respect for the classmates, instructors, the subject, and yourself. Do not slouch, lounge, or stretch in your seat. Keep your feet on the floor. Do not put your feet on the rungs of your seat or on anyone else's seat.
6. Do not eat, drink, chew, spit, yawn, knit, read a newspaper, sleep, snore, cough or sneeze loudly, do your nails or pick your nose or zits, stretch luxuriously to display your breasts or lack of manners. Do no grooming of any kind.
7. Do nothing to distract your classmates from the purpose of the class. Do not jiggle your legs or rattle your pen or change. Do not dye your hair green or wear your shirt unbuttoned to the navel. Do not play with your hair or pick your ears or cross your legs high.
8. Pay attention. Do not woolgather in class at the cost of a dollar a minute to your parents and the taxpayers.
9. Take notes. Your problem is to understand and remember. You can do both best while writing notes. Listening engages only one sense and one linguistic skill. Speaking engages one sense and two linguistic skills. Reading engages two senses and three linguistic skills. Writing engages three senses and four linguistic skills. Notetaking brings the most to the problem of memory.
10. Ask questions, if you can, during class rather than after class. Be out of the classroom within five minutes after it is scheduled to end, take all of your belongings with you, leave no books, papers, or trash behind you. Brighten the corner where you were. Do not litter! Snails leave trails!

Vladimir Nabokov at Cornell: "Don't eat, drink, smoke, chew, spit, read the newspaper, knit, talk, or sleep. And for God's sake, take notes!"

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e-mail us at
pamerikan@aol.com



The Poetry Page

Plastica

I am hunched down on my knees,
 cold and naked in a huge marketplace
 screaming blood from my lungs.
 Around me hollow, plastic dolls
 shop for fake clothes
 for fake bodies. They don't walk,
 they dance.
 They pay me no attention, wearing concrete
 underwear over their missing genitalia.
 Indescribably generic pop music roars out of
 the ten-thousand loudspeakers
 duct-taped to my head.
 Everyone is some sort of stage prop
 in a grossly over-exaggerated play,
 reading from a script I've never read before.
 Sitcom humour.
 There are no laces, buttons, or zippers.
 Only velcro.

--d@ice.net

Shop Walk

New colors in the air try
 to be discreet, and Amergin
 treads softly on the soil. people
 are still the same all over,
 growing desperate and always
 whispering...

So much travel overhead, as Summer
 ends there is no time for humidity.
 pressure from cloud caravans trades
 for false hope of rain.

Llughanassadh blossoms as clouds
 are left to wander and the sudden
 cool of marching air folk helps this
 morning shake its sweat.
 a three day solar sigh caresses
 reddened flesh.

Old feet walk with young legs
 led by an ancient mind. strange
 tidings on the wind are not
 so unfamiliar... it's been but
 nine thousand years.

People are the same all over,
 all over again. Amergin sighs.
 mankind forgets his place,
 the Old Treaties are forgotten,
 our memories discarded,
 the herds gather as new skies
 move quietly on.

--Matt Tozcko

Angels

Fire Angels
 Light Fire Angels

Swarming Angels
 Swarming Fire Angels

Attack!

Fire Angel
 Fire Angel, Fire Sword
 Magic Fire Sword.

The White Horse
 and The Conquerer

The Red Horse
 and Helpless Violence

The Black Horse
 and the Law of Greed

The Pale Horse
 and Death.

Fire Angels
 Light Fire Angels

Swarming Angels
 Swarming Fire Angels.

--David Hall

David's Galaxy II

Glowing ball
 orbiting the living planet
 stars
 spacious stars
 Giving room
 for many revolutions

Star light; satellite
 going round and round
 some people standing right,
 others upside down.

Hurry, hurry, boys and girls
 catch the eclipse glimpse
 Shade your eyes,
 tan your skins
 Love the one you're with

Come on baby, light my fire;
 Show me how it's done
 Be my stars; my universe
 my, Earth, my moon, my Sun

Glowing ball
 orbiting the Living Planet
 stars
 Spacious stars
 More room
 Many revolutions

--David Hall

Untitled

The gold reaches high
 Sprouting from the great mother
 Wheatfield in June,
 Where I met her.

She appeared to me,
 Walked towards me,
 Looked right through me,
 Shook the stalks and disappeared.

--Laine



DiFranco & Phillips--post-industrial campfire stories?

"Bridges" was the over-used political image this past election, with Bill Clinton promising a bridge to the 21st century and Bob Dole one to 1950's America.

A bridge of a different sort, but with more integrity, was recently constructed between two musical independent spirits and two generations, one built with intelligence, thoughtfulness and cutting humor.

Ani DiFranco and Utah Phillips recently teamed up to produce *the past didn't go anywhere*, a blend of Phillips' philosophical ruminations and DiFranco's musical talent.

Both performers are familiar to local audiences. DiFranco is now a demand act and recently performed at Illinois Wesleyan. Phillips is a singer-storyteller who last performed at the McLean County Historical Society two years ago, before illness ended the 61-year old's touring.

Phillips' style is philosophical; his songs entry points for ruminations, tall tales, puns and pointed humor. DiFranco took a collection of Utah Phillips' stories and provided musical background.

This is not light listening but some serious thought about our current world, lightened with pointed humor. Phillips manages to poke fun at New Agers, politicians and mass culture. he also probes his own separation from American society, an alienation that began in the Korean hills while a soldier there. He thoughtfully reflects on the life lessons he learned in Korea and how he eventually came to terms, to use Mark Twain's statement, "Loyalty to the country always, loyalty to the government when it deserves it."

After Korea Phillips rode freight trains, listened to old hoboes and union activists, bumming around the west before finding a philosophical home at Ammon Hennacy's "Joe Hill House," a Catholic Worker House of Hospitality on the edge of Salt lake City's train yards. Hennacy helped shape a philosophy and appreciation for the past in Phillips' life.

DiFranco's music enhances these tall tales and ramblings with a mixture of rap, hip-hop, rock and classic piano styles, along with train sounds and phrases from Jesse Jackson and General Douglas MacArthur.

DiFranco said that Phillips is "my elder and my forebear. I do appreciate the energy and dynamic of youth, but I think there's a lot we can learn if we are humble enough to pay attention to the people who have come before us." Phillips added, "I have also talked, preached, and sung for many years about the growing gulf between the elders and the 'youngers.' Ani has given me an opportunity to bridge that gulf."

DiFranco, although in national demand, refuses major label offers, and started her own record company, Righteous Babe records. This release is her first that's not exclusively her music. Phillips has had seven releases on smaller labels and achieved a loyal national following for his blend of song and storytelling.

If you're not afraid to not only laugh, but also think and be challenged, check out *the past didn't go anywhere*. Or explore a little deeper and check out Phillips' other recordings or DiFranco's in-your-face, very personal songs. For more information contact Righteous Babe Records, PO Box 95, Ellicott Station, Buffalo NY 14205, 1-800-on-her-own.

--Mike Matejka
Livingston & McLean Counties Union News



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USWA wins agreement with Bridgestone-Firestone

After over two years of national boycott and international pressure, Bridgestone-Firestone and the United Steelworkers (USWA) reached a tentative agreement toward a contract.

The dispute began in the summer of 1994 when Bridgestone-Firestone workers struck over unresolved contract issues. The Japanese-owned company immediately hired replacement workers, leaving their regular workforce on the picket lines.

Communities strongly affected by the strike included Decatur, IL; Akron, OH; Des Moines, IA; Noblesville, IN; and Oklahoma City OK.

"This is a historic day for our union and the entire labor movement. It is also a historic day for Bridgestone-Firestone," said USWA President George Becker. "The company recognized--to its credit--that settlement with the union was in the best interest of the company, its employees and the communities in which they work."

National Labor Relations Board hearings on allegations of unfair labor practices against Bridgestone-Firestone were postponed and the union called off its international boycott.

The tentative agreement includes the following points:

- Recall of all union members not back to work;
- An immediate 40 cents an hour hike in hourly pay;
- A \$750 signing bonus for all employees;
- An across the board wage increase of 35 cents on Sept. 1, 1999 and all Bridgestone-Firestone plants--the first across-the-board increase in the industry since 1982--and a \$500 per worker bonus on that date for employees of other plants;
- Supplemental bonuses of \$5,000 to \$11,000 per person for returning strikers, based on their return to work date, totaling over \$15 million;
- restoration of holidays to a total of 11;
- recognition of excused absences from work;
- Improvement to workers' defined benefit pension plan;
- Health program improvements and elimination of health insurance payment by employees;
- Complete amnesty for 40 employees discharged for alleged strike-related misconduct;
- A requirement that any purchaser of a Bridgestone-Firestone facility negotiate an acceptable agreement with the union.

The agreement covers 6,700 workers at seven U.S. plants, including Russelville, AK and La Vergne, TN. Normal's plant is already under a separate contract. The union hopes to have members voting on contract approval and local issues by mid-December.

The USWA thanked other unions and supporters for their support of the boycott, demonstrations against Bridgestone-Firestone and the international support the boycott attracted.

--Livingston & McLean Counties Union News



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