

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

8-1992

Volume 21, Number 3

Post Amerikan

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Should the *Post Amerikan* call it a day? See p. 16

POST AMERIKAN

BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

Vol. 21

25¢

No. 3

August/September 1992

3. In fact, thy safest position will be a little to the side and slightly behind thine husband whenever he speaketh.

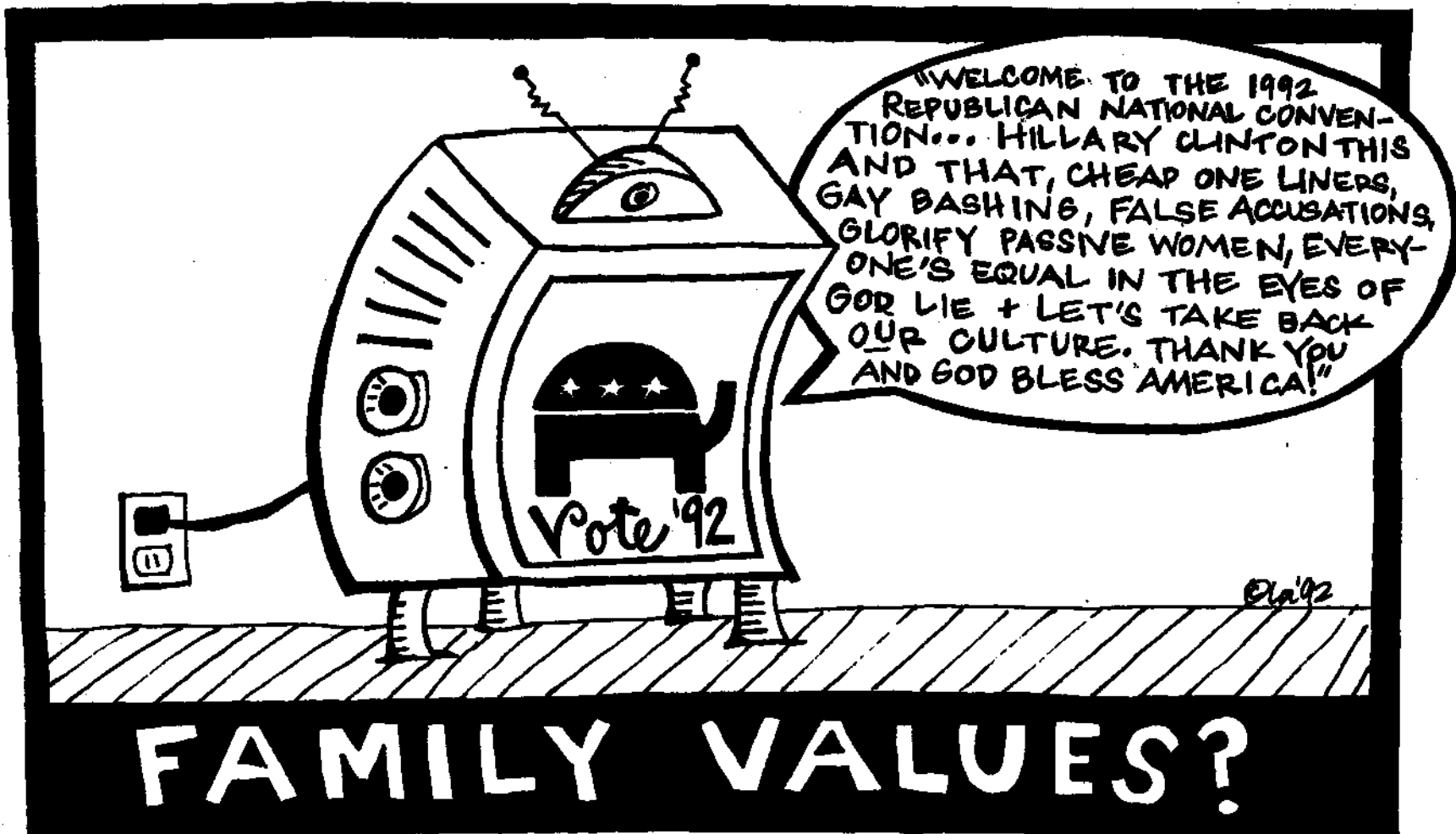
ing this, Hillary has entered a cookie bake-off against Barbara Bush even though, as one Republican wag

Mrs. Bush and Buchanan's wife, Shelly, sat in adjacent seats during Buchanan's speech in a demonstration of party unity.

During the primary campaign, Buchanan ridiculed Bush as "King George" but last night he turned his caustic fire upon the Democrats,

7. **STAND BY** thine man even while denying to the world that thou art, alas, standing by thine man.

During the primary campaign, Buchanan ridiculed Bush as "King George" but last night he turned his caustic fire upon the Democrats, heaping scorn on Clinton's wife Hill-



Quayle and his wife, Marilyn, said Clinton should be flattered that her views are taken seriously enough to come under fire.

"This is to her credit and to the credit of women of her generation that have a profession, have a so-called paper trail," Quayle said.

"I view it as a hit on working mothers. I view it as kind of an attack on what's happening in the lives of most Americans today, as we balance families and work responsibilities," she told the Little Rock, Ark., newspaper.

"The greatest family value we have is employment. You get people a job, they'll keep their family together," she said. "And if you really care about life, then you've got to care about what's happening to these babies and whether or not they'll have a chance to grow up healthy and strong and be educated. That's what right to life' ought to mean."

"This election is an opportunity for the United States of America to reject that kind of extremist view. Those who want Jerry Falwell and Pat Buchanan and Phyllis Schlafly to run this country; you know they're whistling the tune and George Bush and Dan Quayle are doing the dance for them."

The attacks signaled a shift into a new phase of the convention. Monday's aim was to seal the support of the Republican right wing with addresses from former President Ronald Reagan and Bush's primary campaign opponent, Patrick Buchanan, who placed himself firmly in the Bush camp. The party also approved an ultraconservative

8. Thou shalt stay home, bake cookies and have teas. Since learn- "They don't like our values. They're afraid of our ideas. They're afraid of our ideas. And they know the American people stand on our side."

ADDRESS CORRECTION
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Bloomington
IL 61701

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BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

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About us

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

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

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

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

What's your new address?

When you move, be sure to send us your new address so your subscription gets to you. Your *Post Amerikan* will not be forwarded (it's like junk mail—no kidding!). Fill out this handy form with your new address and return it to us, P. O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

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- Common Ground, 516 N. Main
- Emerson and Main Streets
- Front and Center Building
- Inner Connection, W. Washington (south side of Old Courthouse)
- Law and Justice Center, W. Front
- 100 N. Lee Street
- Main and Miller Streets
- Medusa's, 420 N. Madison
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- Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
- U. S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
- U. S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
- Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
- Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

Normal

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

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

Deborah (coordinator), Tracy, Linda, Lee, John, Gina, Kelly, Sue, Ralph AND OUR MANY SUPPORTERS OF THE LAST 20 YEARS. WILL YOU CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE POST AMERIKAN? SEE P. 16 FOR DETAILS.

Good numbers

- ACLU 454-7223
- ACT UP/CI 827-4005
- AIDS Hotlines:
 - National 1-800-AID-AIDS
 - Illinois 1-800-243-2437
 - Local (309) 827-AIDS
- Alcoholics Anonymous 828-5049
- Bloomington Housing Authority 829-3360
- Childbirth and Parenting Information Exchange (CAPIE) 827-6672
- Clare House (Catholic workers) 452-0310
- Community for Social Action 452-4035
- Connection House 829-5711
- Countering Domestic Violence 827-4005
- Dept. of Children/Family Services 828-0022
- Draft Counselling 452-5046
- Gay & Lesbian Resource Phonenumber 438-2429
- HELP (transportation for senior citizens, handicapped) 828-8301
- Ill. Dept. of Public Aid 827-4621
- Ill. Lawyer Referral 1-800-252-8916
- Kaleidoscope 828-7346
- McLean Co. Center for Human Services 827-5351
- McLean Co. Health Dept. 454-1161
- Mid Central Community Action 829-0691
- Mobile Meals 828-8301
- Narcotics Anonymous 827-3898
- National Health Care Services—abortion assistance 1-800-322-1622
- Nuclear Freeze Coalition 828-4195
- Occupational Development Center 452-7324
- Operation Recycle 829-0691
- Parents Anonymous 827-4005
- PATH: Personal Assistance Telephone Help 827-4005 or 800-322-5015
- Phone Friends 827-4008
- Planned Parenthood (medical) 827-4014 (bus/couns/educ) 827-4368
- Post Amerikan* 828-7232
- Prairie State Legal Service 827-5021
- Prairie Alliance 828-8249
- Project Oz 827-0377
- Rape Crisis Center 827-4005
- Sunnyside Neighborhood Center 827-5428
- TeleCare (senior citizens) 828-8301
- Unemployment comp/job service 827-6237
- United Farmworkers support 452-5046
- UPIC 827-4026

Deadline

The next deadline for submitting *Post Amerikan* material is in question.

See p. 16 for details.



A dispatch from telephone hell

The prince of darkness is on the phone

Life was easy and relatively enjoyable while I was in college. The everyday routine was average. I ate, went to class, ate some more, went to class again, worked at the art building constantly and tried to sleep every once in awhile. This routine was interrupted by things like work, therapy sessions, and GALA meetings. But as busy as it all seemed, it was fun and enjoyable.

By contrast, life after college has not been easy and has rarely been enjoyable.

Welcome to the "real world"

The first three months after I graduated in May 1991 went beautifully. I worked at a camp - a Lesbian commune in Wisconsin - I fell in love with a co-worker who was also a student at ISU. It was all rather convenient.

In August, I returned home to Mom's to look for a job in Chicago, but I was soon exhausted by the smallness of my hometown. I ran out of money too soon. And it took even less time for me to want to live closer to my lover. So I made the big move to Bloomington.

Money was a problem. I needed a job. I went to a temporary service in town and they set me up with a large company that shall remain nameless (Hint: most people who have telephones must also deal with this company). After my first night of work I wondered how my phone usage could run so smoothly when the company seemed so disorganized. That was last November. I am still pondering this question nine months later. I learned that temps are about as low as earthworms on the corporate scale.



We were not allowed to touch anything on the full time day people's desks. We were not allowed to open the drawers, have drinks by them or breathe on them. We were not allowed to be even one minute late after our big 20 minute dinner break and if we went to the bathroom too many times we got a check by our name in the "Big Book."

By the time I finished my second week of work I realized I was working with a group of righties. By the end of my third week they had realized I was a leftie. I also discovered from listening to too many of their incredibly stupid, homophobic remarks that revealing my sexual identity would not be a safe move.

You can always tell...

At one point, about my fourth week, I said that I really wished I could find a job in graphic design. One of my co-workers replied "Gee, I know why you can't, you're not gay." I didn't respond at all as I was beginning to fear for my life. I wanted to say "Gee, you're so stupid." I wanted to ask what her perception of gay and lesbian people was as apparently, I didn't fit her image of a lesbian. I would be interested to learn what she thought a lesbian looks like.

while sitting through my dinner break reading a lesbian novel, this woman pages through her Holy Bible. At the end of one of our arguments, during which I expressed disagreement with fundamentalist Christian beliefs, she asked me if she could pray for me because I was going to need a lot of help. I told her she could knock herself out if it would make her feel better. Now she and I get along fairly well. We have agreed to disagree on most everything.



"IF WE PAY THEM STARVATION WAGES, WHY DO THEY NEED A LUNCH BREAK?"

It's a cold, cold world out there

In the middle of January, I was laid off. I knew that layoffs were imminent, but the company screwed around with laying people off so much that I spent a lot of time being nervous about it. We were only supposed to be laid off for a couple of weeks, but two weeks quickly turned into six. Finally, on March 3, we returned to work with the understanding that we would be secure for three years. We'd all been brought back because the company (the one with the three letter acronym) bought out another company. All of the second company's service had to be re-entered in the new parent company's computer system here in Bloomington.

However, I was still working for the temp office, and when the union got wind of that, it insisted that all temporary personnel become regular personnel so that they would pay union dues. I had no problem with that - any pay increase would be welcome and I definitely needed the money.

How unpleasantly surprised I was to learn that the union I was joining is the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. I also discovered that I had to pay dues, plus an initiation fee, but I would receive no benefits - none, zero, zip, nada.

I always tend to become hostile when I have to pay money for nothing in return. No, I was not happy, but I needed the job. I sent my \$25.00 initiation fee and received a nice welcoming letter in return addressing me as "Dear Sister." Shortly thereafter, I saw regular deductions for \$19.17 for union dues in my pay stub. I also received a letter stating that I am currently paying dues for three months in advance. Therefore, I must pay June, July and August dues in one lump sum of \$57.50 to the International Brotherhood but get nothing in return from them: and yes, for any inquiring minds - they have a by-law stating that terms using masculine pronouns shall also cover female members. It all makes me sick to my stomach.

While all of this union crap was going on I was honestly questioning Kinsey's theory that 1 out of every 10 people is gay. But my faith is slowly being restored. I discovered another lesbian and a gay man at work. I also made friends with a young straight man who lived with a radical feminist when he was in college, so I am human in his eyes. At the very least, I have some friends at work now.

Now I know how pregnant women feel

Here it is nine months after my start with this company and not much has changed. We are still treated like shit. And I'm still paying union dues for a union that refuses to do anything for me. I still suffer constant harassment from local members of Pat Robertson's flock. The only new developments include one co-worker who tries to intimidate me by shoving into me occasionally and calling me a feminazi. Could it be that I threaten his masculinity?

I also suffer continuous psychological stress for I live in constant anticipation of being laid off. In fact, I could lose my job any day now. I have refused to kiss ass, so I may not be continuing on with this project. I figure I'm better off anyway. I have developed a nervous stomach while working for this company. Perhaps I should send them any future medical bills just to see what happens?

Nobody's really innocent

I guess the moral of my nightmare is that the next time you pick up your phone and hear that dial tone remember: it is brought to you courtesy of an extremely conservative, sexist and homophobic company unionized by a labor union which cares nothing for its own members' rights or well-being.

- Hooner



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Community news

Family transitional apartments project

Help for the homeless

Overview of the Project

Community Action plans to complete the purchase of and renovate property located at 405 N. Allin Street, Bloomington, to be used as short-term transitional housing for homeless/near homeless families and women with children moving from Neville House/Countering Domestic Violence shelter. The building is currently divided into two one-bedroom apartments. It will be converted into two three-bedroom apartments, renovated, brought up to code, made handicapped accessible and refurnished. Total cost for the project has been estimated at \$75,300.

Transitional Housing - How Are Families Helped?

Homelessness is a national tragedy. For families, it is an especially destabilizing experience. Short-term transitional housing is a critical link between emergency shelter and long term solutions for families seeking permanent affordable housing.

Emergency shelters, like Home Sweet Home Mission and the Salvation Army's Safe Harbor, provide an important service. However, some families are not appropriate for these shelters. For example, a mother with a son 10 years of age or older can not be placed in the Mission - the boy is too old to stay in the area for women and young children, but he is too young to stay unsupervised with the men. A single father with daughters of any age is not appropriate for the Mission. Neither are families with language barriers, or families with members who are ill or have special needs. Shelters are not intended to serve families who will need several months to locate affordable housing. This is the service gap Community Action's Family Transitional Apartments will begin to address.

Community Action's Family Transitional Apartments will provide a place for families to stay together and continue to operate as an intact family unit. The transitional apartments will be available rent free to homeless and near homeless families. Families can stay between 60 and 120 days. This allows time for Community Action professional staff members to work with the family to find stable, affordable, more permanent housing. Because the transitional apartments are rent-free, money the family would be using for rent can be saved to cover deposits, furnishings, utility costs and rent as they move to more permanent housing.

Families staying in the transitional apartments have access to all the resources Community Action offers. Some services families would be likely to use include: budgeting, the food S.H.A.R.E. co-op., support groups, Success Training, advocacy and referrals to other community resources. Community Action has cooperative agreements with the Bloomington Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, the Affordable Housing Coalition and nearly every other social service agency in the community.

The Family Transitional Apartments will accommodate two families at a time. Families can be referred through Neville House and other Community Action programs as well as other community agencies. In the past we have accepted transitional housing referrals from Western Avenue Community Center, Home Sweet Home Mission, Clare House and Homes Through Hearts. Over the course of a year, we estimate that six to nine (6 - 9) families will be served. Operational costs for the Family Transitional Housing program are paid through a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Aid and private donations.

History of the Transitional Housing Program

Community Action acquired the property at 405 N. Allin Street in 1988 under a conventional mortgage agreement. Homeless and near-homeless families and families who have low incomes have stayed in the one-bedroom apartments from its opening until we were forced to close the facility in October 1991.

By 1991 the building needed so many repairs it was no longer safe for families. In addition, the primary grant funding limited our ability to meet the mortgage and continue to keep the building up to code and suitable for use by families with young children. Major renovation and repairs are needed. The city of Bloomington has made major street improvements and some neighborhood families have upgraded their homes. Community Action board members began to see the need that we participate actively in the neighborhood revitalization that is taking place.

Bloomington city officials agreed. Believing the community would support the project through financial contributions, volunteer labor and gifts-in-kind of goods and services, they offered an interest-free loan of \$45,000 in March of 1992. Their loan allowed us to pay off our conventional mortgage, thus saving interest payments, and provided some seed money to begin work until contributions start coming in. We hope to pay off the loan from the city by the end of our fiscal year - June 30, 1993.

Project Timeline

Some clean up work has already taken place at the Allin Street property thanks to college and high school groups and the city's loan. The target date for completion is October 31, 1992. The Bloomington, Normal and Sunrise Rotary Clubs have made a pledge to provide \$1,200 and

volunteer labor for work on the first floor apartment. We have \$3,000 toward the cost to make the first floor handicapped accessible and we have recruited an I.S.U. student intern in Interior Design who will be assisting us during the summer. Our volunteer director will be recruiting and coordinating additional volunteers, both individuals and groups, throughout the course of the project.

In addition to the \$75,300 we will need to raise in cash donations throughout the summer and fall, we will also be seeking gifts-in-kind of goods and services as well as discounts and special offers from area vendors. A large share of the labor will be provided by volunteers.

HELP THE HOMELESS

The Allin Street Shelter, family transitional housing in Bloomington is in need of donations and volunteers for renovation of the building. Community Action, a private not-for-profit social service agency serving McLean and Livingston counties since 1965, is seeking gifts-in-kind, donations and volunteers for the completion of the project.

The shelter will be used as short-term transitional housing for homeless and near-homeless families and women with children moving from Community Action's Domestic Violence shelter. Donations and volunteering for this project will be the most direct way to affect positive change in our community.

For more information contact Noel or Barb at 829-0691.

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Names project quilt comes to ISU

AIDS memorial

Panels from the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in the Bone Student Center Ballroom at ISU September 9 and 10. This is believed to be the first showing of the international patchwork memorial in downstate Illinois. The showing is sponsored by the McLean County AIDS Task Force and the Illinois Postsecondary HIV Prevention Education Project and Consortium, and will help open a conference at ISU on HIV-prevention education. [see related story].

The ISU appearance precedes by one month the largest-ever display of the 16,000 panel Quilt from October 9-11 in Washington D.C. The ISU display of the Quilt is intended as a non-political, consciousness-raising event, and is also a fundraiser for the Task Force. Net proceeds from the showing will benefit the AIDS/HIV support network of McLean County.

The largest and most dramatic illustrations of the world's AIDS epidemic, the Quilt is made up of 3-by-6-foot cloth panels in memory of the men, women and children who have died of AIDS. The entire Quilt covers about 6.5 acres and weighs more than 18 tons. Although the majority of panels are memorials to private citizens from all walks of life, there are many familiar names, including Michael Bennet ("A Chorus Line" creator), actor Rock Hudson, artist Keith Haring, Olympian Tom Waddell, Congressman Stewart McKinney, and B-52's guitarist Ricky Wilson.

As of last April, there were 218,301 reported cases of AIDS in the United States and 141,223 deaths. Internationally the figures were 1.5 million AIDS cases and half a million deaths.

Display hours are noon to 9:00 p.m. both days. For more information on the Quilt and related activities, contact Martin Jackson at 438-2222.



Living, Loving, Learning Conference to be held

AIDS education consortium

The Illinois Postsecondary HIV Prevention Education Project and Consortium is sponsoring an HIV-prevention education conference at Illinois State University September 10-12. The conference, titled "Living, Learning and Loving," will open with the Quilt display. The conference is open to ISU students, faculty and staff, as well as community members and health care workers throughout the state.

On Thursday, September 10, the conference will be addressed by Dr. Richard Keeling, director of Student Health and Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Virginia. Concurrent sessions will be held at ISU September 11-12 for direct service providers, teacher educators, and students from campuses throughout Illinois.

Capping the conference will be a musical parody called "The Wizard of AIDS," presented Friday, September 11. The play deals with the subject of unsafe sex and concludes that the best way to deal with AIDS is with your brain and heart and with courage.

The Consortium will soon begin the third year of a five year grant received from the Centers for Disease Control to become a center for an HIV prevention consortium of Illinois colleges and universities. ISU received one of only five such grants nationwide.

Among the Consortium's duties is to learn what other colleges and universities are doing regarding communicable disease policy, HIV prevention efforts and counseling, and to develop HIV programs and materials to be disseminated to interested colleges and universities. The Consortium also will provide technical assistance for colleges seeking to establish or improve HIV education programs. The Consortium will eventually reach 90 percent of teachers trained in Illinois.

To register for the conference or to be obtain further information, call 369/438-5021.

Sexually transmitted disease clinic name change

The McLean County Health Department announces a change in the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic service hours. The Sexually Transmitted Disease walk-in clinic is scheduled Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM and on Friday mornings from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Furthermore, Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic services are available the third Tuesday of every month from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM by appointment only. Residency in McLean County is not required. A fee is charged based upon the ability to pay.

For more information about sexually transmitted diseases or clinic services, please contact the McLean County Health Department's Communicable Disease Program at 888-5435.

Illinois EPA to receive award

The McLean County Health Department commends McLean County communities recognized by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for outstanding achievements in meeting fluoride levels in the public water supply. Certificates of merit were awarded to Heyworth, Normal and Stanford. A total of two hundred and twenty-three public water supplies in Illinois are being honored for maintaining required fluoride concentration levels throughout 1991. In addition honorable mentions have been awarded to Bloomington, Colfax, Danvers, Downs and LeRoy. One hundred and seventy-one supplies were awarded honorable mention for having nearly reached the one hundred percent compliance during the past year. Maximum dental health benefits result only when fluoride concentration is consistently within the required range.

Numerous studies conducted by the United States Public Health service continue to support the casual relation between the use of fluoridated water and the prevention of dental cavities. Although there are currently alternative sources of fluoride available to the public, water fluoride continues to provide the greatest benefit to individuals and families who can't afford dental care. The McLean County communities honored have made a valuable contribution to the public's dental health.

Multicultural educational materials available

The 1992/93 MPE/Highsmith catalog of multicultural books offers an unrivaled selection of books by and about African, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic and Native Americans.

Authentic multicultural materials are important because they help build self esteem and cultural acceptance. Educators and librarians will find the catalog a valuable resource. By showcasing books by and about people of color, the MPE/Highsmith catalog helps authors and illustrators of color overcome barriers to publishing and marketing their work.

The catalog includes fiction, non-fiction, reference, and children's literature in nearly 25 subject categories - over 300 titles, plus greeting cards, posters, games, and kits for celebrating the African American holiday of Kwanzaa.

The catalog features cover artwork by Faith Ringgold, winner of the 1992 Coretta Scott King Award and the 1992 Caldecott Honor Medal as well as articles by prominent supporters of multiculturalism: Danny Glover and Asake Bomani, Shawn Wong, Joseph Bruchac and F. Arturo Rosales.

The catalog is a joint project of the Multicultural Publishers Exchange, the national association for small book publishers of color, and the Highsmith Co., Inc., one of the nation's largest distributors of library equipment and supplies.

To receive a free copy of the 1992/93 MPE/Highsmith catalog, write MPE, c/o The Highsmith Co., Inc., PO Box 800, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-0800, or call toll free 1 (800) 558-2110.

Autumn equinox

Tuesday, September 22, is the Autumnal Equinox which marks the beginning of the autumn harvest season and, as with the vernal equinox, the light and dark are in balance. We will be celebrating this moment around this day; keep your eyes open for fliers - a flier will be posted in the Coffee House on their bulletin board.



Sexism and heterosexism in the U.S. military

A few good, straight men

The Tailhook convention, a conference/party held by retired and active Navy pilots, has been the subject of articles in the popular press after Navy Lt. Paula Coughlin came forward with stories of intimidation and sexual harassment.

"It was the most frightened I've ever been in my life," Coughlin told the *Washington Post* last June. "I thought I have no control over these guys. I'm going to be gang-raped."

In all 26 women have reported sexual harassment at the convention, most often as they attempted to return to their rooms in the shared corridor of the Las Vegas Hilton.

According to their reports, a look-out was stationed near the elevator to announce oncoming women: "Decks awash" for women deemed attractive enough to attack or "Decks afoul" for those considered unattractive. Soldiers would then pour into the halls, grabbing and disrobing women as they attempted to return to their rooms.

While this story has called some attention to the overt sexism within the military, the occurrence is certainly not new or unusual. Still, in the wake of Anita Hill, charges of sexual harassment continue to gain the media attention denied them a year ago.

So if you're not male...

Earlier this year, Jacqueline Ortiz was forcibly sodomized in broad daylight by her sergeant. When she reported the incident, authorities said that they simply did not believe her. At the time of the attack, Ortiz was serving as an army tank mechanic in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War.

Ortiz pursued the case, however, and filed grievances against her attacker, Sgt. David Martinez, and her company commander, charging libel, slander and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

"I would rather have been shot by a bullet and killed that way than have to deal with what I have to deal with daily," Ortiz said in her testimony before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. She vomits daily and suffers from severe headaches as a result of grinding her teeth during regular nightmares about the assault.

The army initially ruled that the incident was a consensual act. Martinez denied Ortiz's charges, but later confessed to the assault. He now maintains that the confession was coerced and has filed a countersuit against Ortiz for defamation of character. But it wasn't until early June that Martinez was charged with sexual assault.

Official charges of sexual harassment within the military are proportionally about as common as in the private sector, but the incidence of reports being filed seems to be growing.

And you thought things couldn't get worse

In a 1990 study released by the Pentagon, more than a third of service women surveyed had experienced some form of sexual harassment. In another, similar study, the Pentagon found that 5% of women reported actual or attempted assaults within the previous year. These figures suggest that about 60,000 of the 1.2 million female veterans have been victims of some form of sexual attack.

Figures for women filing formal reports of such incidents, however, are dramatically lower, however, because women are encouraged to ignore such attacks.

Diana Danis, executive director of the National Women Veterans' Conference, testified during Ortiz's hearing about her own experience of being told not to report her being raped.

According to Danis, her commanding officer told her to "forget the whole thing and he would make sure that I got transferred so that I'd feel safer." In other words, the official line on how to handle a rape in the military is to tell the victim to keep quiet while her life is uprooted rather than, as her C.O. told her "ruin[ing] the young sergeant's career."

With the recent public attention to such assaults — both *Time* and *Newsweek* carried stories about the Tailhook Convention — the Pentagon is beginning to look for ways to broaden awareness of issues of sexuality within the armed forces. Still, the attitude prevails that the boys work hard and have to blow off some steam once in awhile.

"Subjecting these guys to classes in sexual harassment is like telling them not to smoke or drink," military sociologist Charles Moskos told *Time*. "You can't oversocialize them because that might even drive out the best pilots." The edge that leads men to rape, apparently, is the same edge that needs to be preserved in order for them to kill.

... And if you're not straight

But if violence toward women in the military is often overlooked, discrimination against homosexuals remains almost invisible. Some enlisted gays have begun speaking out, at the risk of (or often as the result of) being discharged for their sexual orientation.

The announcement of Tracy Thorne's discharge was just made as *The Paper* went to press.

Thorne was discharged for acknowledging his homosexuality on national television. The only reason given for his discharge was that he "failed to show cause why he should not be discharged." In other words, the burden of proof was cast onto Thorne to prove that, as a homosexual, he could serve alongside straight soldiers; not on the military to show that sexual orientation has anything to do with performance. At press time, Thorne planned to fight the discharge.

Between 1,000 and 2,000 women and men are discharged from the military every year for being, or being suspected of being, homosexual. The Department of defense spends about \$25 million a year training soldiers who are later discharged because of their sexuality. "The military's basic argument for excluding gays is that if homosexuals were allowed [to remain in service after they declared their sexual orientation] it would harm discipline, order, and morale, which is verbatim the same argument used to exclude blacks and women," according to Joseph Steffan. Steffan was a senior cadet at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis when he acknowledged his homosexuality and was forced to resign. "What they're really saying is that a prejudice exists in the military toward this minority, and rather than choose to educate the military against this prejudice, they'd just as soon allow the prejudice to exist."

Steffan filed suit against the Navy, claiming that the Pentagon ban on homosexuals violated the equal protection clause of the Fifth Amendment, but recently lost when the ban was upheld in Federal court.

Don't bother to apply...

The policy "rationally furthered legitimate state purposes [such as] the maintenance of discipline, morale, good order, a respected system of rank and command, a healthy military force, morality, and respect for the privacy interests of both officers and the enlisted," U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Gasch said in his decision.

The ruling was made in spite of two studies conducted by the Defense Personnel Research and Education Center, which were presented as evidence in the case. In 1989 the center, which is under the aegis of the Defense Department, supporting lifting the ban on gays after concluding that there was no information supporting the ban, that homosexuals posed no threat to security, and that the policy should be reviewed.

Furthermore, a 1977 Gallup poll showed that 51% of those surveyed supported lifting the ban. By 1991, that number was up to 65%. Still, the military has refused to lift the ban, which has resulted in the discharge of 80,000 to 100,000 women and men since World War II.

Last May, Congress took the first steps toward addressing sexism and heterosexism in the military. If passed, the Military Freedom Act (HR 5208) would abolish the ban on gays well as providing strict measures for enforcing sexual harassment policies. Sponsored by Patricia Schroeder (D-Colorado), the bill currently has 70 cosponsors. Another 200 signatures are needed to ensure overriding the homophobic Bush Administration's certain veto.

Don't delay — scare your incumbent today

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force recommends that you write your congressional representative urging her or him to support the bill, and that you follow up that letter by phoning your representative's office and asking to speak to that staff person assigned to military issues. Explain that this discrimination must end. With a military comprised entirely of volunteers, it is absurd that one branch of our government is still allowed to practice such blatant discrimination. It's long past time the military began to recognize the privacy of all those in service and to protect the rights of women and gays who find themselves compromised or even ostracized when they attempt to take advantage of the economic and educational opportunities offered through the U.S. military.

-- Babakul



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GAY Pride

Chicago's 23rd annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade stepped off on Sunday, June 28. This year's theme, "Pride = Power," was exemplified by over 10,000 marchers and an estimated 100,000 spectators. Although the Gay And Lesbian Alliance at ISU decided not to march this year, ISU and Bloomington/Normal were well represented, with at least one GALA member marching with Queer Nation Chicago.

Mayor Daley skipped the parade again this year, citing a "Sundays with family" policy which was instated in the days before last year's parade. Recently appointed Superintendent of Police Matt Rodriguez led the parade instead. In the weeks previous to the parade, Rodriguez had met with members of Chicago's lesbian/gay/bisexual community to reassure them on his desire to establish a positive relationship between the community and the police. Local and state politicians were also well-represented, with a personal appearance by Democratic Senate candidate Carol Mosely Braun as well. Her Republican opponent, Rich Williamson, sent a car, but was apparently not in attendance himself.

A wide cross-section of the city's and the state's L/G/B community was represented. A partial listing of groups with contingents includes: Kinheart Chicago; Men of All Colors Together; Peoria Lesbians in Friendship Together; pagan group Radical Faeries; Queer Nation Chicago; and Fags and Dykes in Art. Also noteworthy was the large contingent from the National Organization for Women, in town for their own conference. NOW does not have the best history regarding lesbian and bisexual women, so their presence at the march may be evidence of a welcome change.



Chicago's Queer Mayor and Queer Nation presidential candidate Joan Jett Blakk did not line up with the other politicians, but put in a fabulous appearance in a silver convertible nonetheless. At least one fanboy was witnessed salaaming to Her Honor and screaming "I'm not worthy!"

At the post-march rally in Lincoln Park, organizations sold buttons and t-shirts and signed up new members. Other tables were set up for voter registration. The rally was addressed by a number of speakers, including Jim English. English is a former service member who was discharged under the Department of Defense's embattled gay exclusion policy.

ACT UP Chicago, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, angrily denounced the choice of Rodriguez to lead the march. ACT UP reminded the crowd that it was about a year ago that Chicago police were beating ACT UP demonstrators at an action outside the American Medical Association's annual conference. Indeed, I spoke to one person who was in town awaiting his court date in the lawsuit he had filed against the City of Chicago in connection with that action. He had suffered several broken bones at the hand of Chicago's finest.



Throughout the various speeches, a small group stood in front of the stage bearing a banner reading "...and bisexuals." Whenever a speaker would mention gays and lesbians, this group would call out, "And bisexuals" to remind the speakers that they were excluding a sizable segment of the community.



In addition to the speakers, there was live music. The Beat Monkeys electrified the crowd with a several song set, coming back for several encores. Then Her Honor himself, Joan Jett Blakk, took the stage--to a custom remix of "Hail to the Chief"--accompanied by the Can't Keep a Secret Service Band and two bare-breasted leather dyke security guards. Blakk and the band ripped through a five set song comprised of three original compositions and covers of "Venus in Furs" ("We're taking this song back from Lou Reed," said Joan) and "Queen Bitch" ("We're taking this song away from David Bowie; he doesn't deserve it anymore," said Joan).



I am not aware of any major disruptions that occurred either during the parade or at the rally. Unlike last year, there were no psychotic "Christians" whirling through the marchers singing, "You're all going to die." With the exception of a couple of homophobic cops and a clueless heterosexual couple who didn't quite understand what was happening on "their" streets, onlookers seemed to be supportive, or at least well-behaved. Maybe next year we'll all really show our pride by marching through the Loop, instead of confining ourselves to Newtown.

--jmc

Moon Owl reviews ISU's Shakespeare festival

Shakes and straights

I, along with many others, attended the Illinois Shakespeare Festival this summer. I witnessed the "romance" *The Winter's Tale*, the "comedy" *As You Like It*, and the Green Show. Not desiring any more tragedy in my life, I skipped out of *Macbeth*.

Never having gone to a Shakespeare Festival before, I was looking forward to this theatre-under-the-stars event. (I was lucky in that it did not rain either night I went.) Each night, an easy excitement, mixed with my own, pervaded the fresh, warm outside environment as the prospective audience wound their way to their respective entrances, anticipating a theatrical treat. This is perhaps what I love best about attending live entertainment.

In watching my first play, *The Winter's Tale*, it was disappointing to see the typical patriarchal interpretations at work. (This was not a surprise, as four men's faces grace the entire flap of the program.) I personally cannot understand how easily Leontes acquires everyone's total unhesitating forgiveness at the end... well, I guess he is king. Women, of course, were further portrayed as obedient pawns to their "lords" and fathers, whereas the men and boys bucked and lied to their elders while being dotingly smiled upon.

In *As You Like It*, two things bothered me throughout the play. The first, and smaller of the two, was Andrée Peterson's portrayal of Audrey. Though she could be seen as very cute, I found this character slutty. Okay, okay, the director and the actress had a choice here on how to interpret this character. They chose the slutty, easy peasant girl type. Okay, okay, you say that every once in a while there are those out there who act this way, that this was a realistic interpretation. (And if I recall correctly, Andrée's character in *The Winter's Tale* had a similar presentation.) Well, I didn't care for it. I feel like these recurring representations place women in poor light, suggesting women are just easy eager tools for men's sexual satisfaction.

Secondly, I detested Anne Von Herrmann's representation of Rosalind. She may be a fine actress as I've only seen her in this festival. Yet I found her depiction to be whiny, subservient and desperate. I would've much more liked to have seen a strong, independent, more graceful interpretation of Rosalind.

What somewhat redeemed *As You Like It* for me was that it does seem to have some thought-provoking transsexual/transvestite themes running through it, among other ideas. This was interesting and enjoyable.

The Green Show featuring Philip Johnson as the court jester person was very fun, along with the talented Madrigal Singers. Also nice was that I had always wanted to check out the Ewing Manor since arriving here last year and this seemed a good time to do that. It gave me keen satisfaction to discover the lineage behind the place: Hazle Buck Ewing was active in the areas of women's rights, community action, world peace and the environment.

Overall, I suppose it was a typical patriarchal-like Shakespeare Festival, made more pleasurable and special by the Green Show and Madrigal Singers. I perhaps enjoyed being outside most, with the crickets singing in the moonlight and bats flying over the stage and in the nearby trees.

- moon owl



News from Voice for Choice

Operation Rescue impotent

Operation Rescue spent a good portion of the past year threatening to disrupt the Democratic National Convention. It would appear that they were unable to excite their members enough for them to climax in a heated frenzy of baby saving (do you like the imagery?) As a result, the protests went limp, instead of thrusting their message across to the Democrats, Operation Rescue withdrew to Wichita where, even there they just can't perform like they used to.

United Way update

The United Way is at it again. On Wednesday, July 15, Cliff Librach, a member of the United Way Board and WJBC Forum commentator decided to utilize his time by accusing Planned Parenthood of being thin skinned and thick headed. We requested a complete text of the commentary and here it is:

I'm Cliff Librach.

A couple of weeks ago WJBC, in its broadcast editorial, claimed that the breakup of United Way with Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois was the result of "some miscommunication." The editorial went on to suggest that Planned Parenthood's continued presence as a United Way agency meant that there were constraints on Planned Parenthood's approach and mission. The broadcast editorial concluded by clearly suggesting that the breakup was the consequence of poor communication by United Way with its member agencies.

Let me see if I can help WJBC out on this.

The fact is that the United Way administration was never anything but crystal clear in its communication with Planned Parenthood. The fact is the United Way is committed to supporting an appropriate educational program on sexual abuse for our community, taught through the school systems. Planned Parenthood said they had such a program and asked United Way to fund it. United Way agreed, on condition that the program serve the intended target population of school-aged children.

Well, Planned Parenthood simply failed to connect that program with the school classrooms, and hardly had any contact with local school administrators at all. They had made the program available to some area pre-schools and day care centers, but that was not the intended target population.



Let's face it. Anytime anyone criticizes Planned Parenthood or any of its affiliated organizations, there is a great hue and cry that the objections are political, that the concerns are narrow-minded, and that the secret agenda behind all criticism is to destroy Planned Parenthood forever.

The problem has not been the miscommunication of the United Way Board and Executive Director. The problem has been the hypersensitivity of Planned Parenthood. Sometimes, people can be their own worst enemies. If the Planned Parenthood skin was as thick as its head, they might still be involved in administering programs worthy of United Way support.

As it is, the United Way of McLean County will continue to seek and support quality sex abuse prevention educational programming. And Planned Parenthood has decided to give up United Way funding in exchange for a bull horn of abundant self-righteousness.

This is Cliff Librach on WJBC's Forum.

Voice for Choice also requested a response to Librach's attack from Karen Cody Carlson, Director of Planned Parenthood. The following is Carlson's response:

Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois is committed to providing meaningful sexuality education in the communities we serve. We are particularly concerned with sexual abuse prevention, and recognize the high priority given to prevention throughout McLean County.

The decision to withdraw from United Way of McLean County was made after carefully considering all options available. The highest priority was given to assuring that we continued to help protect our children from abuse.

Planned Parenthood believes that our sexual abuse prevention program is valuable and needed. In the first half of 1992, we have exceeded our stated goals. We have seen:

- * 491 children and 50 parents in school settings
- * 277 children and 91 parents in pre-school settings
- * 29 children and 60 parents in community settings
- * 1290 individuals who received information about sexual abuse prevention at health fairs

There are 150 subscribers to the Planned Parenthood parent-child communication newsletter, and we are visiting approximately 30 families each month through the "Start Talking at Home" project.

For the past several years we have delivered programs which are consistent with the goals which have articulated in our United Way grant proposals. The proposals did not state that we would be targeting children in the Bloomington-Normal school settings, but merely that we were committed to reaching a specific number of children and adults in our programs.

Until this year, United Way of McLean County did not indicate that they had any concerns with the programs, or that they felt that Planned Parenthood was not reaching the audience which United Way felt was appropriate. The United Way never offered to work with Planned Parenthood to modify the program, or help gain access to the public schools. The United Way never indicated that funding was in jeopardy if Planned Parenthood did not reach a specific target audience (to be determined by United Way).

The Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood made the decision to withdraw from the United Way after our appeal for reconsideration was denied. Given the presumed time involved in developing a Request for Proposal for a new program, evaluating proposals, and deciding upon a new program to fund we felt that it was likely that there would be no sexual abuse prevention program funded until at least January 1993. In the meantime, we had a considerable number of schools, day-care centers and other organizations requesting our program.

The loss of \$20,000 in funding is significant. In order to reach the Bloomington-Normal community directly, the Board believed that we must engage in fundraising for the program throughout the year. Thus, we were willing to forego \$6,000 in United Way funding for our Pap smear program in order to reach potential donors even during the United Way "black-out" period (Sept. 17 - Oct. 30).

Planned Parenthood is not being thin-skinned and certainly is not being self-righteous. We are merely doing what we feel is necessary to meet our mission and to provide a much-needed and well-utilized service to the community.



Voice for Choice is calling for a boycott of the United Way and is asking that those dollars our supporters would have given to the United Way be given directly to Planned Parenthood (and any other agency you may support). To continue contributing to the United Way at this point in time is to support an organization that is prone to giving into pressure from right wing organizations like the Christian Action Council. It is no secret that the United Way's criticism of Planned Parenthood began at the same time the Christian Action Council began complaining about the Protection Connection (the condom shop run by Planned Parenthood).

By continuing your support of the United Way you are actually giving less dollars to those organizations you support as a percentage of your donation goes to pay for salaries and operation of the United Way.

Please withdraw your support from the United Way of McLean County now, please encourage your pro-choice friends to do the same. Now more than ever, as reproductive rights are being threatened on every front, local and federal, please support Planned Parenthood.

Republican platform full of hatred

At their convention in Houston the Republican party voted to approve (Senate candidate rich Williamson and Gov. Jim Edgar also voted to approve) the party platform which calls for a Constitutional Amendment banning abortion even in cases of rape and incest. The platform also rejected the notion that alternative families and life styles are equal to the "traditional" mom, dad and two kids life style. The platform calls for a return to school prayer and many other equally offensive notions. Don't let the various candidates fool you, if they voted for this platform they sold out women, people of color, gays and lesbians, single parent homes, and many others. This is a party platform not just a presidential platform as they try to argue.



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Roe v. Wade update

The June 29, 1992, Supreme Court decision in the Pennsylvania case, Casey vs. Pennsylvania was a blow to women's reproductive rights. While writing that it upheld Roe, the court gutted it by allowing each state to place restrictions on a woman's right to obtain an abortion.

The court held that requiring a waiting period before a woman can obtain an abortion is constitutional. It is important to recognize what this means. It means that once the woman discovers she is pregnant and after she discusses her options with a family planning counselor, minister, counselor, friend, spouse or physician she will still be forced to wait.

When this woman goes into the clinic she will be forced to sit through a state written script about the other available options to abortion and the risks involved in abortion. The woman will then be sent away and told to come back after the waiting period. In Pennsylvania the waiting period is twenty four hours, however, a state could require a longer time period. Such restrictions are an insult to women in that they assume we have not thought about the other options, that somehow we have managed to live in a vacuum and that of course we aren't really capable of making an informed decision without the state interfering and telling us what it believes we ought to know.

Several months ago the American Medical Association released the results of a study that found that child birth poses a much greater risk to the health of a woman than does an abortion. We doubt very much whether or not this information will be included in the state mandated and written information given to women seeking an abortion.

Waiting periods are not acceptable because they are designed to discourage women from obtaining abortions by making abortions inaccessible. Few communities in Illinois have readily accessible abortion services. What this means is that women must arrange for transportation not once but twice to obtain abortions. For low income women this burden may be insurmountable. Imagine arriving at a clinic and being told that you'll have to come back the following day to actually obtain the abortion. Any individual who believes that waiting periods are not an attempt to infringe on reproductive rights does not have a clear understanding of the issues involved and the difficulties face by low-income women.

The Casey decision also held that it was constitutional to require a woman seeking an abortion to be forced to listen to a state prepared script, to be delivered (but not written) by her doctor. The script would cover the risks of abortion and other options. Apparently the government believes women are too stupid to have already considered the options.

First we had the Rust case (gag rule), in that case the court held that the state could tell a doctor what s/he could not say to a patient regarding legal options and reproductive rights. Now the court goes a step further by stating that states can tell doctors what they must say. The goal of requiring women to receive information on fetal development is designed to dissuade and in fact shame women into a decision to carry the pregnancy to term. Some anti-choicers have even suggested that women be shown a sonogram of their fetus before they are allowed to have an abortion.

The Casey decision also upheld parental notification/consent laws. It is ironic that the Court recognized, in relationship to the spousal notification requirement of the Pennsylvania law that it was an attempt by the state to intervene in family communication and that to force such disclosure might put a woman at risk. The high court failed to come to the same conclusions regarding parental notification.

With this most recent assault on women's reproductive rights there remains only one hope to ensure that abortion remains safe, legal and accessible. That hope is the Freedom of Choice Act.

Voice for Choice encourages you to pay close attention this election year and only support pro-choice candidates who also support the Freedom of Choice Act.

Mother Jones inducted into Labor Hall of Fame

Mary Harris Jones (1830-1930) was elected to the Labor Hall of Fame in May by the Friends of the U.S. Dept. of Labor. Jones was once described as "the most dangerous woman in America." She spent nearly 60 years organizing and advocating for working people and was involved in some of the most violent labor/management disputes in U.S. history. Mother Jones is buried at the Miner's Cemetery in Mount Olive, a national historic monument and the burial place of coal miners killed in the 1898 Virden massacre.

Voice for Choice salutes Mother Jones and all those who have struggled to insure that all who labor are treated fairly, equitably and with dignity. Happy Labor Day to all of our friends.

Don't forget to vote for pro-choice candidates

Voice for Choice has been following the candidates for the various political offices at both the state and federal level. Below are the candidates we find to be the most strongly pro-choice:

President:

Bill Clinton has stated that he is pro-choice, he supports the Freedom of Choice Act and will sign it if passed by the Congress. Bush has threatened a veto of the measure.

U.S. Senate:

Carol Moseley Braun has a strong pro-choice record, she voted consistently on the issue while in the Illinois House. She supports the Freedom of Choice Act and public funding of abortions for low-income women. Her opponent has changed his position on choice several times and while he now claims to be pro-choice he does not support the Freedom of Choice Act and did vote in favor of the Republican National Platform calling for a Constitutional Amendment banning legalized abortion.

15th Congressional District:

It's a wash. Neither candidate is pro-choice. The only reason we can think of to vote for the Democratic candidate, Charles Mattis is that he may be able to be persuaded by the party on this issue, we know Ewing isn't listening.

87th House Seat:

Curtis Johnson is the only strong pro-choice candidate running for the Illinois legislature in the 87th district. Curt is a Democrat, he supports a woman's right to choose and opposes any restriction except perhaps parental notification. Curt's opponent, Bill Brady stated during the primary that he was pro-choice, since that time he has been listing restrictions he supports and in an interview with the Pantagraph suggested that maybe the legislature could define when life begins and outlaw abortion after that point.

Upcoming events

On Saturday, Sept. 5, the Rape Crisis Center of Mid-Central Illinois will have a benefit garage sale. The sale will be from 8am-4pm at 703 N. School St., Normal. All proceeds go to help the Rape Crisis Center.

March with Voice for Choice in the Labor Day Parade. The parade is at 10am, Monday, Sept. 7th. Line up for the parade will be at 9:15 am outside of Planned Parenthood, 301 W. Washington, Bloomington.

Second Annual Lefty Follies Variety Show, Saturday, Oct. 24, 7:30pm at the Unitarian Church on Emerson Street in Bloomington. Tickets are \$5.00 for the show and dance. Entry fees for acts are \$4.00 per act. Detach and mail the coupon below if you would like an entry form and more information about the Follies.

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Protect the Bill of Rights -- it's good for your Constitution

Why the American police state is already here

Apparently Evans modeled this perverse infringement of human rights on a similar bill which passed in Portland, Oregon. Both of these laws, of course, derived from the sickening principle of George Bush's proposal, which has since become federal law, to allegedly rid the country of "Drug Lords" by giving all state and local police authority to confiscate any vehicle suspected of being used during the sale of drugs (including marijuana).

The CNN report on this new D.C. law showed footage of an undercover cop disguised as a prostitute, asking people on the street if they would pay her for sex. The police would then arrest them, tow away their cars -- and in one case, even a man's bicycle.

"... I say 'Just watch me'."

This is not some fictitious horror story. This is reality. What in the hell can you do about it? Get pissed off. Be aware. But don't do anything irrational. I cannot change the system on my own. But together we can. *The Underground Liberation Zone* is what *Subnormal* is all about. It's not just a trendy guide to music, and it's not just about surviving in this country -- it's about regaining the rights we've lost in order to actually "live," and "live fully."

The only way to live up to our potential as human beings is to develop that potential first. Don't passively watch these things happen, join us in changing it. Write to us with any thoughts you may have, and be sure to register and vote. It's not too late to register to vote in the General Election. It's simple. And it does matter. Call your local Board of Elections to find the Voter Registration office nearest you.

--B. E.

Readers interested in *Subnormal: The Underground Liberation Zone* fanzine should write to *Subnormal*, P.O. Box 502, Normal, IL 61761 U.S.A.

The following is reprinted from *Subnormal: The Underground Liberation Zone*, a new, local leftist fanzine

There are not adjectives strong enough to describe the extent of anger, the sheer outrage that is eating away at my stomach.

I feel like killing someone. I feel like going to war -- but not against any Third World country that has a large oil reserve. No, I declare war against the United States government. Our pathetic piece of shit president of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush, insulted our freedom and our intelligence when he proclaimed his heartfelt "War on Drugs," and his demand for a "New World Order." A "New World" under whose "Order"? Why under George Bush's order of course.

No longer do I find humor, or even the slightest amusement in these disgusting contradictions.

Here's the lowdown on the "new world order"

Let us realize this, people: the truth is this "New World Order" is actually a "War on Freedom." It is a war built on lies. Funded by our money, fueled by mass propaganda, and intent on destroying all of our individual rights.

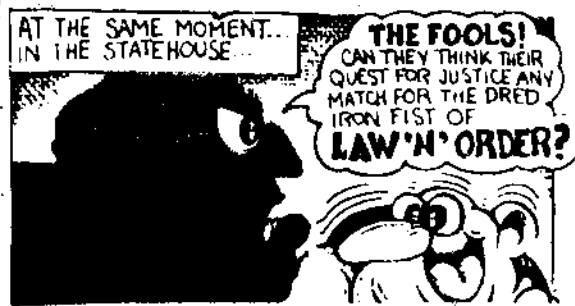
Our country was the first ever to be built on freedom. I am not against America. I am for it; that's why I'm so upset. Too often, we stereotype America as evil. America is not evil. America is a country, and a country is only made up of individuals, you and me. We are America. And it is not we who value freedom who are evil, it is the powerful elite who have gained control of this country and who are destroying our constitutional rights who are the evil parasites.

The statist administration realizes that it cannot take away our freedom overnight. Although most of us take our freedom for granted, we still have too strong a grasp on the concept as to "what we have a right" for the government to suppress us at a moment's notice. (Although it is prepared to do so.) What the U.S. Government is doing now, as you read these words, is gradually stripping away our rights, one by one.



First they came for the women...

And if you don't know what I'm talking about, then examine this trend for yourself. Observe the direction that *Roe v. Wade* is going, the landmark Supreme Court ruling upholding a woman's right to an abortion. Notice how this right is being destroyed in the name of "family values" or a "Christian society."



... then they came for people of color

Minorities' rights are always the first to go, and it is through this rationalization based of "God," "God's Will," or "The Good of The People" that people are denied their constitutional rights. The good of what people? Certainly not you or me, only what is "good" for those in power who feed off our destruction as free individuals.

In a recent issue of *Subnormal*, I wrote of how we as Americans don't have control over our own bodies. I stated that the government owns our bodies, that we don't. This becomes evident if you look to the trend toward outlawing abortion, evident in criminalizing the use of drugs, evident in laws against prostitution. I wrote that prostitution must be legalized if we are all to be free.



... then they came for the rest of us...

I have never paid a woman or a man for a sexual favor, but I should have the right to, should I so wish. It is my body, and my patronizing a prostitute would harm no one. Under a system where prostitution is legal, prostitution -- so long as it is mutually consensual -- would benefit the prostitute economically, and benefit the customer emotionally and physically, who has every right to pay for sex.

To comprehend the extent to which our freedoms are threatened, examine this disturbing fact: While viewing CNN, I saw that a man, Jack Evans, of Washington, D. C., has proposed a local ordinance (which has since passed). This new ordinance gives the D.C. authorities the right to confiscate any vehicle that is driven by a customer potentially soliciting a prostitute. In other words, if an individual is D.C. is lonely one night, and decides to pay \$50 or so for some sexual companionship, and the D.C. police are there, they can not only arrest the prostitute and the customer, but they can tow the customer's car to the nearest police station for confiscation. The customer's vehicle is now the United States' vehicle, and there's no way you can get it back.

"If you think I can't impose my morality on everyone else..."

Mr. Jack Evans, when discussing this new law, smiled when he said "If people who want to have this kind of activity don't like this kind of raw procedure, then all I can tell them is that they better not come to the District of Columbia."

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Amerika at the crossroads

U.S. Supreme Court decision renders free speech a burning question

The United States Supreme Court ruled on June 22 that a St. Paul, Minnesota "hate crimes" ordinance was unconstitutional. All nine justices agreed that the statute was unconstitutional, but a four member minority took a markedly different line of reasoning to reach that conclusion.

The case arose when St. Paul tried to prosecute several teenagers, who allegedly burned a cross made of broken chair legs on the lawn of an Afrikan-American family, under the Bias-Motivated Crime Ordinance. The statute provided that "Whoever places on public or private property a symbol, object, appellation, characterization or graffiti, including, but not limited to, a burning cross or Nazi swastika, which one knows or has reasonable grounds to know arouses anger, alarm or resentment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion or gender commits disorderly conduct and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

The rationale of the majority was that the law was "impermissibly content-based" and that St. Paul was "impos[ing] special prohibitions on speakers who express views on disfavored subjects." In other words, the statute punished some types of insults and not others. This reasoning marks a shift away from the Court's established "fighting words" doctrine, and also calls into question the attempts of states and universities to create "hate speech" codes.

In striking the statute down, Justice Antonin Scalia noted that the Minnesota Supreme Court had already limited the "anger, alarm or resentment in others" clause to those things which already constitute "fighting words". The Supreme Court has recognized for over 50 years that fighting words are not constitutionally protected.

The remainder of the statute remained unmodified, leading Scalia to note that "those who wish to use 'fighting words'...to express hostility, for example, on the basis of political affiliation, union membership, or homosexuality are not covered." In other words, the broader category of "fighting words" remains unprotected, but because some unprotected speech was more severely punished than other unprotected speech, the law violated First Amendment protections. Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Anthony Kennedy, David Souter, and Clarence Thomas joined in this opinion.

Several members of the four-member minority accused the majority of using the case to address the issue of "politically correct" speech when that issue was not raised by the case. As Justice Byron White pointed out in a concurring opinion, "This case could easily be decided within the contours of established First Amendment law....[I]n the present case, the majority casts aside long-established First Amendment doctrine...and adopts an untried theory....It is inconsistent to hold that the government may proscribe an entire category of speech because the content of that speech is evil, but that the government may not treat a subset of that category differently without violating the First Amendment; the content of the subset is by definition worthless and undeserving of constitutional protection." Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Harry Blackmun, and John Paul Stevens joined in most respects.

On a personal note, I find it particularly galling that Antonin Scalia, who is not noted for his sympathy for the rights of the disenfranchised, should use homosexuality as a counter-example in his arguments.

What does this mean for hate crimes laws?

Generally, hate crimes statutes and codes follow one of two paths. They criminalize or proscribe various types of insults, usually those in the categories of the St. Paul statute, sometimes with categories like sexual orientation and disability added. Or they mandate increased punishment for crimes motivated by prejudice against or hatred of people who are members of those categories. Crimes of the second type are often such things as assaults and murders, although rape is generally not defined as a gender-based hate crime.

The Court's action in the St. Paul case would seem clearly to invalidate statutes of the first kind. While on the surface it would seem that type two was not addressed by this case, it nonetheless establishes a precedent. The St. Paul law did not provide for increased penalties for the cross-burning; it merely made that specific act a criminal offense.

However, the two types of hate crimes are very different. In the first type, an individual or group is punished for expressing a personal opinion or belief, and, in my opinion, that is wrong. Had I been on the Supreme Court, I would have voted to strike down the ordinance on that basis.

Of the second type, providing increased penalties for already criminal acts that are motivated by hate, I see no Constitutional conflict. Certain crimes have traditionally been subject to increased or decreased penalties because of mitigating circumstances or because of intent. For example, the act of taking another human being's life, generally a criminal act, is not criminal if done in self-defence. Committing a crime is legal if it is done to prevent the commission of a greater crime. Assault is illegal, but if done with intent to kill, punishment is more severe. In that most

heinous of state-sponsored crimes, the death penalty, special circumstances (commission of another crime, death of a police officer, etc.) is usually mandatory before such sentence may be passed. It would fly in the face of logic and law to overturn increased-penalty hate crimes laws on First Amendment grounds.

In the St. Paul case, the alleged offenders trespassed on the property of others for the purpose of performing an act of racial hatred. In my opinion, the motive and intention of the alleged offenders would certainly qualify them, if convicted of the crime of trespassing, to be subject to increased penalties.

I believe that burning a cross or performing other acts of hatred or intimidation is reprehensible. There are those who find burning an American flag equally reprehensible. Both should be, and are, protected forms of expression under the First Amendment. However, when the *motive* for committing a crime against another person is nothing more than an unalterable aspect of that person's existence, the First Amendment should not shield them from receiving the punishment they deserve.

--jmc



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SUBNORMAL is now looking for artists, poets, writers, models, and photographers for temporary or permanent staff. Write to SUBNORMAL for more information, and be sure to check out the latest issue on newstands NOW at these cool places:	
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Chicago, California, and New York residents, write and ask for locations.	

The Underground Liberation Zone

NATIONALISM

KILLS

ADVISORY

Normal, IL



Dear Ms. Hippie

Dear Ms. Hippie,

Could I have become a stick in the mud at 23? I was recently at a concert that had "festival seating" -- which meant no seating. Every one was crammed in the front of the stage. People were being crushed every which way. The woman in front of me looked like she was being smothered. Finally, my partner and I opted to stand in the back. During the concert people were passed hand over hand while others slam-danced.

Am I a curmudgeon for wanting a designated slam-dancing area? I never thought I'd complain about sweaty young men slamming their bodies together. I'm writing this letter because everyone else seemed to be having a good time.

— Over the hill at age 23

Dear Over,

Ms. Hippie is especially smitten with the euphemism "festival seating." It sounds so much like the opposite of what it is, bringing forth visions of the Coliseum's lofty tiers -- no wonder you were disappointed.

Anyway, yes, you *can* become a stick in the mud at 23. Go right ahead. People who are not sticks in the mud report the amount of fun they have had at concerts by recounting and displaying the injuries they incurred there. This is not one of Ms. Hippie's hyperboles -- she has witnessed such reports.



We must realize that people have good times in all sorts of bizarre ways. In her long and varied life, Ms. Hippie has known folks who enjoy playing volleyball, eating the salads at family reunions, reading Doris Lessing novels, and driving in heavy traffic. Nothing can surprise her after all that.

However, you get to choose. Let Ms. Hippie recommend John Denver concerts, where both performers and audience act like civilized human beings instead of crazed rutting beasts. And remember not to be judgmental.

Letters

Dear Post Amerikan,

Are there any other Post readers out there who are vegans? I'd like to have dinner with another vegan. If you're interested, please get in touch with me! Call Chris at 309/827-8896.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Moore

**Mom of 2 survives
12 days in cellar
by biting her nails
and reading
post ameri kan...**



But will the *Post Amerikan* survive? That's for you to decide, Bloomington-Normal. See page 16 for details.

We will keep filling t-shirt orders until our stock runs out. Sorry, all's we have left is white with black lettering in large only. These could become a collector's item.

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cut out this coupon, as neatly as possible, and send it to Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702 NOW!

The Post Resource

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

**AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/
 Central Illinois (ACT UP/CI)**
 PO Box 3452
 Bloomington, IL 61702

Amnesty International/ISU
 146 Braden
 Illinois State University
 Normal, IL 61761
 454-2902, ask for Scott
 Meetings: Alternating Sundays,
 8 p.m., 112 Fairchild, ISU.

**Bloomington/Normal Anti-War
 Coalition**
 829-3701

Gay And Lesbian Alliance (GALA)
 Student Support Services Building ISU
 Normal, IL 61761
 438-2GAY (0429)
 Meetings: Call for information

ISU Feminist Alliance
 146 Braden, ISU
 Normal, IL 61761
 436-0383, ask for Kate Eisenhour
 436-0134, ask for Jenny Melnick
 Meetings: Check ISU *Vidette*
 for meeting time and location

Men Against Rape
 146 Braden, ISU
 Normal, IL 61761
 Meetings: Mondays, 7:30 p.m.,
 Stevenson 352, ISU

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

**McLean County Human Rights
 Coalition**
 c/o Voice for Choice
 PO Box 905
 Bloomington, IL 61702
 828-3108, ask for Linda

McLean County Voice for Choice
 PO Box 905
 Bloomington, IL 61702
 828-3108, ask for Linda
 Meetings: Alternating Tuesdays, 6:30
 p.m. Call for meeting info.
 Newsletter subscription: \$4.00 donation
 requested

Progressive Student Union (PSU)
 146 Braden, ISU
 Normal, IL 61761
 452-3781, Angie
 452-7955, Michelle
 Meetings: Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., DeGarmo 551,
 ISU.

Rape Crisis Center
 Use PATH phoneline
 827-4005

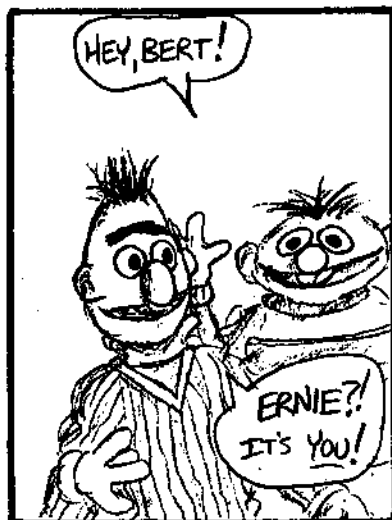
Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)
 146 Braden, ISU
 Normal, IL 61761
 Meetings: Alternating Wednesdays,
 7 p.m., Schroeder 415, ISU.

Students for Choice
 146 Braden, ISU
 Normal, IL 61761
 454-8587, ask for Lainie
 Meetings: Thursday evenings,
 8:30 p.m., Schroeder 114, ISU

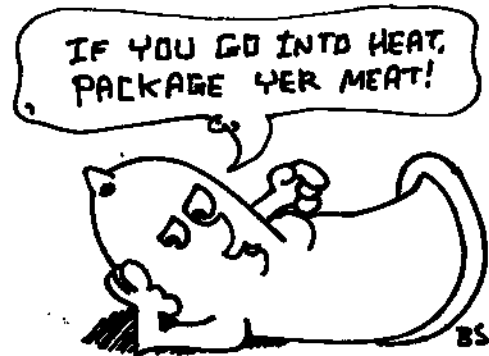
I STILL
 THINK
 OF YOU,
 JIM HENSON

BY
 CHRIS AUBRY

ERNIE AND BERT ARE © SOMEBODY ELSE.



CHRIS AUBRY R#3 OTTAWA, IL. 61350



**PLAY
 SAFE**

PLAYING IT SAFE(R)

- 1. USE A CONDOM.** Avoid oil-based lubricants such as baby oil, Vaseline, Crisco, etc., as they can cause condoms to break. Instead, use water-based lubes like KY. The older a condom, the less reliable, so find condoms whose manufacturers' dates are less than three months old.
- 2. USE A CONDOM DURING ORAL SEX.** HIV-infected cum or pre-cum can enter your bloodstream through cuts, tears, or ulcers in your mouth.
- 3. USE DENTAL DAMS DURING ORAL-VAGINAL SEX.** HIV is present in some amounts in vaginal secretions, urine, menstrual blood, and infection-related vaginal discharge.
- 4. NEVER SHARE WORKS.** This includes needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons, or cookers. If you must reuse works, clean them after each use with bleach, or in an emergency with rubbing alcohol or vodka, by drawing the solution into the needle, and then drawing clean water into the needle. Repeat three times.
- 5. AVOID SHARING UNCLEANNED SEX TOYS. AVOID POPPERS. AVOID EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL OR DRUG USE. DON'T HESITATE** to have intercourse with a condom or to have oral sex with a condom. Play with but don't share, clean sex toys, vibrators, and dildos. Enjoy massage, logging, and masturbation.

Remember, sex is good. Don't avoid sex, just avoid the virus. Learn to eroticize safer sex and you can protect others, remain safe, and have fun.



News from Lambda



Lambda sues New Jersey chapter of Boy Scouts of America

July 29--Lambda has brought suit against the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the Monmouth, New Jersey Boy Scout Council for discrimination based on sexual orientation against a young gay Eagle Scout. The suit, the first to be filed under New Jersey's recently adopted gay civil rights law, is the latest of several cases across the country challenging the Boy Scouts' anti-gay discriminatory policy.

Lambda represents 21 year-old James Dale who, while spending more than half his life in the Boy Scouts, achieved its highest rank (Eagle Scout), earned thirty merit badges, and was invited to become an assistant Scoutmaster in Matawan, New Jersey. Dale's twelve-year involvement with the Scouts came to an abrupt end in 1990, when a local newspaper ran an article picturing him at a seminar on the psychological and health needs of lesbian and gay teenagers.

Without warning, Dale received a letter from the Boy Scouts revoking his membership. The letter gave no reason and was not sent in compliance with BSA's own procedures for a fair hearing. Under pressure, the BSA admitted it was expelling Dale, despite his exemplary performance as a Scout, simply because he is gay.



The complaint charges the Boy Scouts with illegal discrimination as a public accommodation, as an employer, and as an organization doing business. Other legal claims challenge the BSA's unfair practices in denying Dale a right to be heard as required by BSA rules, and in misrepresenting itself as a non-discriminatory group open to "all boys."

The BSA continues to face growing national pressure to change its discriminatory policy. In addition to other lawsuits around the country, several organizations, including Levi-Strauss, the Bay Area United Way of San Francisco, Wells Fargo Bank, and the Bank of America have pulled their funding of BSA to protest the ban on gay Scouts. Organizations sponsoring Boy Scout troops, including the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the Unitarian Universalist Church have urged the BSA to reverse its policy. Several school boards have begun closing their facilities to the Scouts.

New Jersey is one of six states with a law protecting the equal civil rights of lesbian and gay people.

Founded in 1973, Lambda is the nation's oldest and largest legal advocacy organization dedicated to the civil rights of lesbian and gay people and people with HIV/AIDS.

Settlement allowing L.A. bathhouses hailed as public health victory

Los Angeles, July 30, 1992 -- Under a comprehensive settlement approved today by a the Los Angeles Superior Court, Los Angeles bathhouses will be allowed to remain open under a set of guidelines developed by a joint consortium of community educators and public health officials. The agreement was reached in settlement of a lawsuit filed by Los Angeles County District Attorney Ira Reiner and the Los Angeles County Department of Health that sought to close two bathhouses as a threat to the public health. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, with cooperating Attorney Mickey Wheatley of the law offices of Leroy S. Walker, represented the two bathhouses targeted by the County, Hollywood Spa and The Compound.

Wheatley hailed the decision as a breakthrough in public health policy: "The County of Los Angeles has constantly tried to shut down gay bathhouses without recognizing the very important role bathhouses play in gay culture and in HIV prevention and education. This settlement will promote the public health, not hurt it, and the County has finally agreed to cooperate with the bathhouses rather than impede their efforts. We are very pleased with this settlement because it ensures the involvement of the HIV-infected community in bathhouse regulation. Most importantly, it vigorously promotes condom usage among gay and bisexual men.

Lambda Staff Attorney Mary Newcombe, who litigated the case with Wheatley, agreed: "The community participation in negotiating this settlement was crucial. We were able to demonstrate that the community consensus about the role of the bathhouses is absolutely consistent with good public health policy. Needless to say, we want to stop the transmission of HIV-- but HIV and AIDS won't be stopped by closing the bathhouses and forcing an entire population that does not identify itself as gay or is isolated from peer education out into the parks or other locales where individuals cannot be reached. This settlement is a giant step forward in understanding and preventing spread of HIV throughout the gay, bisexual and heterosexual communities."

Newcombe and Wheatley praised management of the targeted bathhouses for its promotion of safer sex practices in the bathhouses. Hollywood Spa manager John Ferry stated: "We are very excited to have a group of health care advisors to assist us in developing an effective educational program in our clubs. We have consistently tried to work with the County, and this settlement ensures that our efforts to promote safer sex are consistent with County guidelines."



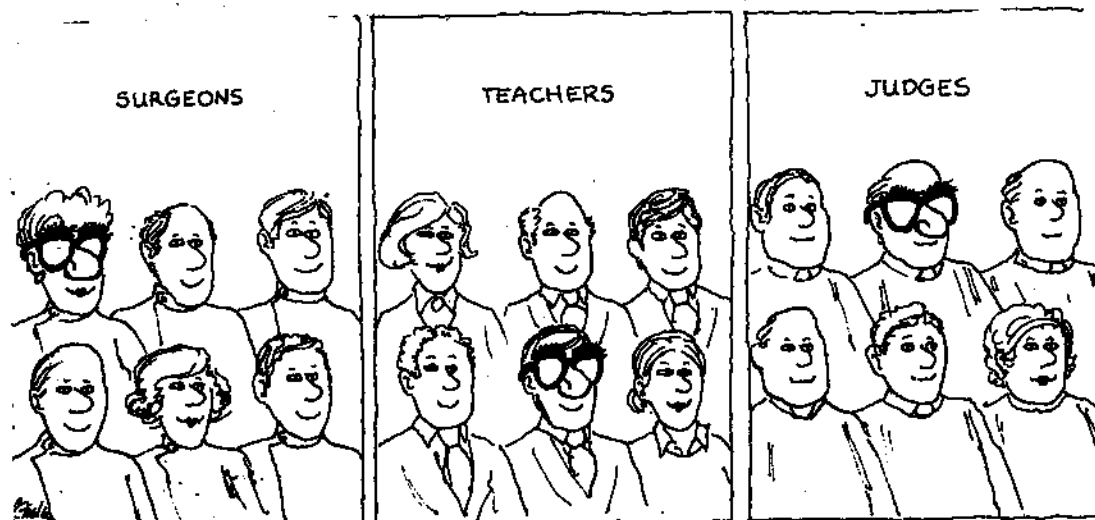
THIS IS SISTER MARY RALPH FROM OUR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE CONVENT.

Mainstream church group extends partnership benefits

June 12--The Episcopal Diocese of Newark acted to extend dental insurance coverage to partners of its lesbian and gay priests and lay employees, making it the first diocese within any mainline Protestant denomination nationwide to do so. Lambda, which provided legal support to the efforts to change the policy, lauded the extension of benefits as a significant step in achieving meaningful recognition for lesbian and gay partnerships in another, and perhaps the most difficult, arena--religious groups.

Late last year, Reverend Karen Murphey, a lesbian priest in the diocese, tried to enroll her domestic partner in the diocese's health insurance plan. After being refused enrollment, because she and her partner were not legally married, Murphey pushed the diocese to arrange the coverage in light of its policy, and the national policy of the Episcopal Church, to affirm principles of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation. Following negotiations, the diocese decided to extend dental plan coverage to the domestic partners of lesbian and gay clergy and lay employees in its 130 churches.

The national Episcopal Church adopted a resolution calling for the incorporation of gay and lesbian people as full and equal members of the church in 1976. In 1991, the Diocese of Newark adopted its own principles of non-discrimination, declaring it a violation of church policy to discriminate based on affectional or sexual orientation in hiring, firing and conditions of employment.



IN EACH OF THE ABOVE GROUPS OF PROFESSIONALS, CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE ONE GAY PERSON TRYING TO PASS AS STRAIGHT?



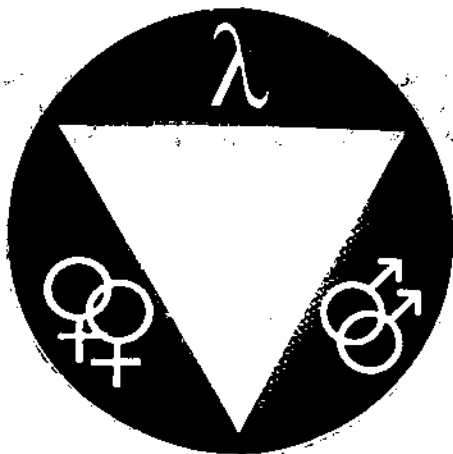
Lambda challenges apartment discrimination

June 16—In an effort to expand on recent rulings by the New York City Human Rights Commission, Lambda has filed a domestic partner discrimination complaint with the Commission against the Board of Directors of a cooperative apartment building (Co-op Board) which refused to permit a lesbian to transfer ownership shares to her former domestic partner. The Co-op Board allows married residents to transfer their shares to each other without Board approval. In the complaint, *Sullivan v. 529 1st Street Housing Corporation et al.*,

Lambda alleges that the Co-op Board's refusal to allow the share transfer constitutes sexual orientation and marital status discrimination, which is prohibited by New York City law.

Lambda represents Irene Sullivan, who purchased the Brooklyn apartment with her then domestic partner in early 1990. Though they decided at the time not to include Sullivan's name on the title, both women shared equally in the purchase price and agreed that they would own the apartment jointly. When Sullivan and her partner separated nearly two years later, they advised the Co-op Board of their desire to transfer the shares to Sullivan's name. The Board told them that the transfer could not take place without Board approval, and furthermore, that approval would not be granted. The Board has since commenced eviction proceedings against Sullivan.

The claim seeks to strengthen the Commission's ruling in *Velazquez v. Salinas Realty Corp.*, which was the first of its kind nationally. That ruling found that differential treatment of domestic partnerships as compared to spouses constitutes marital status and sexual orientation discrimination.



Florida deputy wins constitutional case

June 9—In a precedent-setting ruling, Florida Judge William C. Gridley has ruled that Orange County Sheriff Walter Gallagher violated Deputy Sheriff Thomas Woodard's constitutional rights, including his right to privacy, under the Florida State Constitution. Gallagher had fired Woodard for being gay. The Sheriff was ordered to reinstate Woodard with full back pay.

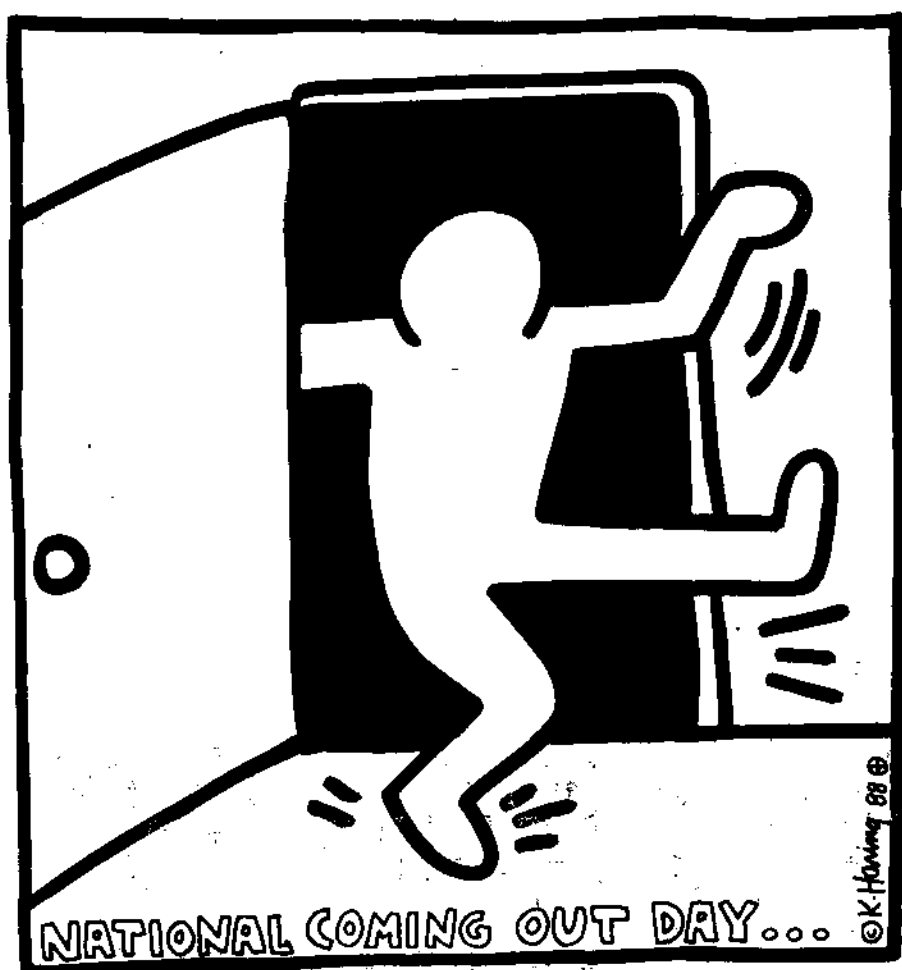
The Orange County Circuit Court decision is the first in over a decade to hold that a state constitution prohibits anti-gay discrimination against government employees. The court ruled that "the constitutional right to privacy protects the individual from the prejudicial or punitive use" of information about his or her sexual orientation and private sexual conduct.

Gridley's ruling came after a two-part trial that featured expert testimony on law enforcement and the performance of lesbian and gay officers. The first part of the trial, concluded in March, brought a verdict from a local jury rejecting the Sheriff's claim that Woodard resigned voluntarily, finding instead that he was coerced into resigning following an investigation by the Sheriff into his sexual orientation and private life.

The Woodard case began in April 1989 when, despite Woodard's exemplary performance record and consistently high job evaluations, the Sheriff's office launched an investigation into his off-duty sexual activity, based on information that he is gay. The Sheriff subjected Woodard to a lie-detector test about his private life and sexual relationships. Woodard was then forced to resign because of the Sheriff's belief that "homosexuality is unnatural, immoral, and inexcusable." In an extraordinary step, the local Fraternal Order of Police voted 2 to 1 to condemn the Sheriff's actions.

The Sheriff must now decide whether to reinstate Woodard or whether to appeal at continued expense to the taxpayers.

National Coming Out Day October 11



CLUB P E O R I A N

**FINEST GAY ENTERTAINMENT IN
CENTRAL ILLINOIS**
733 S. W. Adams, Peoria, IL,
(309) 676-9030

NEW HOURS:
Sunday thru Thursday 10:00 AM - 4:00 AM
Friday thru Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 AM
Present this ad at the bar for a drink.
One per customer per night



Stand up and be counted

Time to pull the *Post Amerikan's* plug?

For those of you who are wondering why it took so long to get the August/September issue of the *Post Amerikan* out on the stands, into the stores and in the mail...

Hasta la vista, baby?

... This could be it, folks.

Finis, the end, adios, stay healthy, aufwiedersehen, so long it's been good to know *ya, dosvedonya*, curtains for the *Post Amerikan*.

It's up to you, Bloomington-Normal

We need new volunteers, people. *Now*.

So we're calling on those members of the Bloomington-Normal community who want to see the *Post Amerikan* continue to publish to stand up and be counted.

Don't delay, see your *Post Amerikan* recruiter today

We will hold a Community Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Babbitt's Bookstore, 104 North Street, in downtown Normal. *Anyone* interested in working on the *Post Amerikan* in any capacity should come to this meeting. The owner, Brian Simpson, has generously agreed to allow the *Post Amerikan* collective's members to use his store after business hours for the purposes of this volunteer recruitment meeting.

The *Post Amerikan* is undergoing yet another crisis, this time in staffing. Over the last year, at least *five* key members of the *Post Amerikan* collective have left Bloomington-Normal or are currently preparing to do so, including yours truly.

Crisis at the *Post Amerikan* -- *Deja vu* all over again

Some of our readers may recall that the *Post Amerikan* underwent a similar crisis about this time back in 1988.

Staff was short and the same two or three people had to shoulder more and more of the responsibility for getting the paper out.

Up until the Fall of 1988, the *Post Amerikan* had been a monthly. The staff decided to go bi-monthly and managed to recruit some new collective members who were willing to step in, take responsibility and assume leadership roles. So the *Post Amerikan* was up and running again for four more years.

If the *Post Amerikan* is to continue, it needs not just more members, but especially commitment and leadership in all possible capacities. We need writers, graphic artists, distributors, and decision-makers who are willing to take on responsibilities.

Responsibilities like soliciting new advertising accounts, and keeping up with our present advertisers. Handling the finances and paying our bills. We need people from the Bloomington-Normal community who just want to get involved somehow. We need people willing to devote some of their time and energy if the *Post Amerikan* is to keep going.

Straight, white men are welcome to apply

For those of you who think the *Post Amerikan* is a gay newspaper, or a feminist newspaper, or whatever, I can only say that this newspaper's content reflects the politics of those who write for it and/or work on it in other capacities.

You don't have to be gay, or a person of color to sign up. You do need to be sympathetic to the *Post Amerikan's* left of center politics. We've *always* been left of center. *Somebody* has to represent traditional leftie values.

Getting down and dirty

The *Post Amerikan* always welcomes articles for possible publication from the Bloomington-Normal community as well as from other parts of the country. We read *all* contributions seriously and discuss them (sometimes heatedly) during the editorial meeting that precedes our layout weekend. Not all submissions are accepted. Some we reject outright; some we accept provided the writer is willing to make changes. Just like any other publication

All editorial decisions are collective -- no one person decides what or what not to include. Anyone who shows up to the editorial meeting gets a say in what will or will not appear in the *Post Amerikan*.

Editorial meetings are generally scheduled in the evening, about five days before layout weekend. All submissions accepted for publication must be approved by those collective members present at that meeting. Accepted submissions are then distributed among those present for typing. The coordinator(s) (sometimes we have two) then collect typed copy for printing, drawing up the dummy for layout, and so on.

We do layout over a scheduled weekend, on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Layout weekends -- when we have enough bodies -- are hectic, confused, silly, loud, and always raucous.

Everybody present has to share the ego, so prima donnas either get over it or get gone.

Make no mistake: getting the *Post Amerikan* out on a more or less regular basis is a *lot* of work. Running a newspaper can be frustrating, time-consuming, distracting. If you're the coordinator for that issue, then getting the paper to press can really work your last nerve.

Hey, I got mine

When I come home on a Sunday night after a layout weekend -- whether or not it's been my turn to coordinate -- after having finally helped to pull off yet one more issue, I kick back for awhile. For a few minutes, I enjoy the satisfaction of a job well done. I find it gratifying to have participated in a collective activity that I believe to be important, stimulating, even vital, to the Bloomington-Normal community. As far as I'm concerned, the *Post Amerikan* provides a healthy antidote to the Straight Farm corporate mentality that might otherwise completely dominate this little spot on the U.S. map.

If I'm one of those lucky few who gets to review her life while she's gasping her last, I'll look back on my tenure on this feisty, sophomoric, self-indulgent, outspoken, cranky, politically correct, politically incorrect, right-minded, exasperating, exhilarating, tough-minded, inconsequential, necessary, foolish, courageous, creative, too-smart-for-its-own-damn-good, little rag as one of the best things I've ever done.

For those of you who don't like the *Post Amerikan* but read it anyway...

Many times people approach me to say that this or that article in the *Post Amerikan* really rots their socks. Or that they think the paper hasn't been really good since it stopped featuring local

investigative journalism. Or that the *Post Amerikan* focuses too much on civil rights and not enough on decriminalizing marijuana use. Or that it devotes too much time to lesbian and gay rights, women's rights, minority issues, or environmental concerns, and not enough space to

(Fill in the blank)

Those people tell me that they don't really like the *Post Amerikan*, but you know, they always seem to have detailed knowledge of what's been in the most recent issues anyway. We must serve *some* purpose.

Too young to die?

We've recently celebrated our 20th anniversary, and many of those readers who wrote in for that issue expressed amazement that the *Post Amerikan* has lasted as long as it has.

Nothing -- good, bad or indifferent -- lasts forever. Maybe it really is time for us to shut the *Post Amerikan*. Time to remove the red vending boxes from around town, clear out the office, and find a home for our archives.

Maybe this really will be the *Post Amerikan's* last issue.

Or maybe it won't be.

It's up to you.

— Deborah S. Wilson (Dr. Attitude)

*If you can't come to the *Post Amerikan's* Community Meeting on September 15, 1992 at 7:30 p.m., to be held at Babbitt's Bookstore, 104 North Street in downtown Normal, but you still want to get involved, please call us at 828-7232 or write us at P. O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702*

