

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

12-1992

Volume 21, Number 5

Post Amerikan

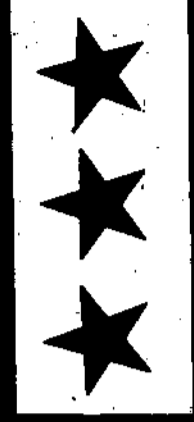
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POST AMERICAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

Vol. 21

25¢

Number 5

December 1992/January 1993

4



He smiles and says nothing.

MORE



WEEKS

"My message?" says Quayle, looking confused.

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PAGE

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BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

Vol. 21

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December 1992/January 1993

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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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- Amtrak Station, 1200 W. Front
- The Back Porch, 402 N. Main
- Bakery Banc, 901 N. Main
- Bloomington Public Library (front)
- Bus Depot, 533 N. East
- Common Ground, 516 N. Main
- Emerson and Main Streets
- Front and Center Building
- 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
- Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
- Mr. Donut, 1310 N. Park
- The Park Store, Wood and Allin
- People's Drugs, Oakland and Morrisey
- Red Fox, 918 W. Market
- Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
- U. S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
- U. S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
- Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
- Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

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 . . .

John C. (coordinator) Linda (co-coordinator)
Tracy, Gina, Kelly, Shadd, Rev. Brown,
Ralph. And to everyone making minimum
wages with a college degree.



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 829-6711
- 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 329-0691
- 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 will be
January 30, 1993



Community News



Train exhibits through March

Train buffs everywhere will enjoy the latest exhibit of the McLean County Historical Society. Co-sponsored in part by the city of Bloomington and the Illinois Humanities Council, the exhibit also includes a variety of events which will run through May 1993.

"What's That Coming Down the Line?: The Railroad in the American Mind" is showing at the Historical Society's new home at the Old Courthouse, in the heart of downtown Bloomington. The exhibit showcases the many aspects of Central Illinois railroads, including toy trains for children (of all ages), the stages of rail modernization, the routes in their heyday, the women-laden advertisements used to "sell" the rails, and how conductors and rail workers served as role models to youngsters.

The antique rail artifacts are amazingly well-preserved and interesting to examine. From the opulent chinaware of the old dining cars to now-defunct railroad schedules, everything in the exhibit looks as fresh as their modern-day counterparts. In fact, some of the schedules are probably in better shape than some current Amtrak commuters'. The "Children and Trains" display also includes a running train which can be accessed by the public by pushing a doorbell-like button. This exhibit, which glamorizes this oft-taken for granted mode of transport, is well worth the \$2 admission.

In addition to the museum exhibit, many other activities in conjunction with it will be held in the next few months. Guest curator Mike Matejka is the main organizer for all of these events.

The next activity, scheduled for Dec. 30, is entitled, "What to do with that train set you got for Christmas," and will be conducted by the Central Illinois Railroad Club. Aimed at youngsters 8-16 years of age, the seminar will include hands-on construction, providing ideas for elaborate train layout. Actual construction materials will be provided.

There will also be three slide shows. "Rail Visions," slated for Jan. 9, will feature *Pantagraph* photographer Steve Smedley's rail-related work. David Ingles, editor of *Trains* magazine, will present his own photos taken in this area in the '60s and '70s on Jan. 30.

A third, "Bloomington Rail Memories," will be held Feb. 20, and presented by George Broughton. He's a local retired machinist and will share his own recollections of working and growing up around the railroad.

A photography contest (Jan. 30) and a Collector's Day (Feb. 20) are both open to the public for entries. People are welcome to show off their own railroad paraphernalia to others in a museum setting.

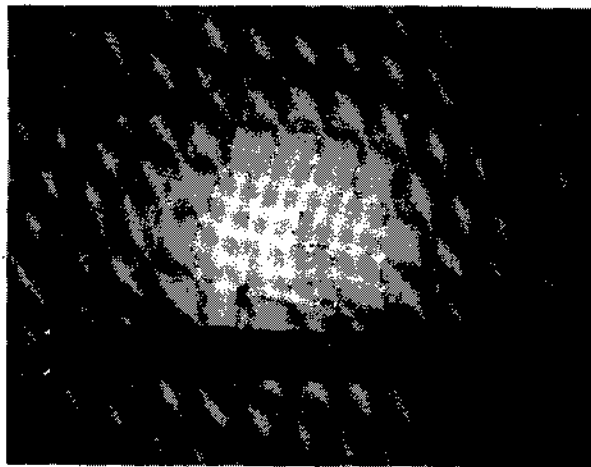
Co-sponsored with the B-N Black History Project, the movie "Miles of Smiles: Years of Struggle" will be presented March 20. The movie traces the history of the brotherhood of the Pullman carporters, who founded the first successful African-American labor union in the country in 1925. A. Philip Randolph, a prominent civil rights spokesperson, will be there, and all community-area retired porters are invited to share their personal experiences on the rails.

Many other events, including a film festival at the Normal Theatre during the month of April, will be held later in the spring. For more details, contact the Historical Society at 827-0428.

World AIDS Day in Bloomington/Normal

World AIDS Day was once again observed December 1st. McLean County marked the day with a wide variety of events based on the theme of "Community Commitment."

ISU and Wesleyan participated in A Day Without Art. Held in conjunction with World AIDS Day, A Day Without Art serves to illustrate the ongoing impact of AIDS on the arts community. Artwork was covered at ISU's University Gallery and around campus. Wesleyan's Wakely Gallery was closed for the day.



The World AIDS Day Coalition, a loose-knit collection of organizations from the two universities and the B/N community, held a vigil at noon in downtown Bloomington. Names were read "to memorialize those who have died and to support those who are struggling." Although turnout was low because of the weather, participants remained optimistic. "I'm a little disappointed in the turnout, but at the same time I'm proud to be part of a larger group stretching across the world," said one.

Other community members hung large banners bearing messages like, "McLean County is not immune to AIDS." The banners remained up for several hours, until the ones in Normal were removed by city workers at the order of the City Manager. A spokesperson for the City Manager said the banners were removed because they were "unauthorized."

In the evening organizations at Wesleyan staged a benefit concert. The concert featured area bands Lizards From Afar and The Active Ingredient. Proceeds from the show were donated to the John Keets Foundation for AIDS Research.

Also that evening, The McLean County AIDS Task Force and the Gay And Lesbian Alliance held an event at ISU. The gathering featured a showing of the video "Red, Hot and Dance" and a display of poster art.



Vacation reading list

Have you ever wanted to "sit down and read a good book" but, a) don't have the slightest idea what you want to read, b) don't have the time to figure it out, or, c) no money. Well, worry no more. The following is a list of books that I have recently read and recommend that you do the same. Even more important - they're free! Just pop into the library (Bloomington and Normal libraries have all of these books in their collection) and check them out. Happy reading!



- The Promised Land - The Great Migration and How It Changed America Nicholas Leman

- Generation X Douglas Coupland

- There Are No Children Here Alex Kolowitz

- Backlash Susan Faludi

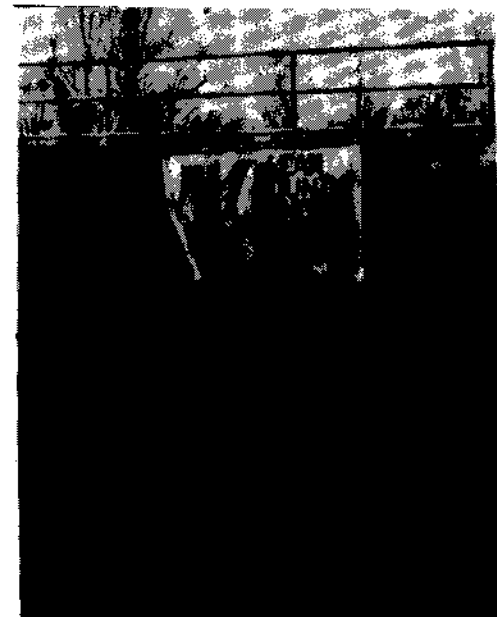
- Eleanor Roosevelt Vol. I Blanche Wiesen

- Race - How Blacks and Whites Think and Feel About the American Obsession Studs Terkel

- Me Katherine Hepburn

- Shopping for a Better Environment Laurance Tasaday

-towanda



GALA News

Gay History

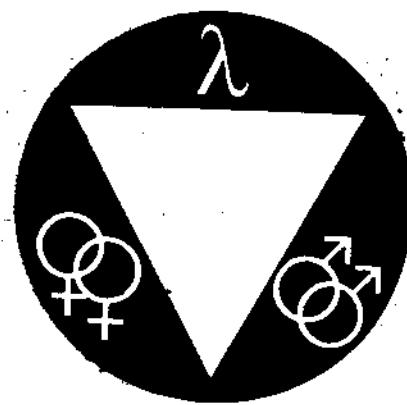
Earlier this semester, GALA created a new program - Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual History Week. History Week was scheduled to coincide with the 21st anniversary of the first meeting of the group that could become GALA. The week in November would serve as a counterpoint to spring's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Awareness Week. Awareness Week would focus on where we are and where we are going. History Week would focus on how we got here.

Most of the programs for the week were low-key. A movie night, an activity night. But one night, the topic was the history of GALA at ISU. Seeing as how I had a lot of spare time on my hands, I was glad to do some research.

I found some fascinating material. For instance, did you know that there was a "Homophile Hotline" established at ISU in 1972? This predates the current Resource Phoneline by sixteen years. A university operator remembers the hotline as a recorded message with information about "Homophile ISU," as GALA was originally called. The telephone number is still in service, and by some irony of coincidence, is now the office number of GALA's fiscal agent.

We had our own newspaper column in the *Vidette* in 1973. It was called "Alternate Route" and was described as "a regular opinion column written by various gay students from ISU." We lost it in 1974, when a homophobic editor-in-chief came to power.

Gay Blue Jeans Day regularly causes an uproar on campus every spring. I discovered that the first Blue Jeans Day was held in 1977. In another coincidence, Gay Blue Jeans Day was announced on October 11, which is now observed as National Coming Out Day. And yes, it did provoke controversy. In fact, the letters to the editor written back then read almost identically to the ones printed now. Are straights really that dense, that they haven't figured out Blue Jeans Day after 15 years?



... and he's gay, and he's gay, and she's gay, and so is she, and ...

What struck me most during my research was the vast gaps in the material I was able to find. There is a period from 1973 to 1977 in which I was unable to locate anything on the group in the *Vidette*. From 1977 to 1986, I turned up one mention of the then Gay People's Alliance, an ad for a campus appearance of author Rita Mae Brown.

A search of the *Pantagraph* was also disappointing. In 21 years of our existence, I could find just four articles pertaining to the group. None of them were earlier than 1986.

Folks, some pretty major stuff came down regarding the group in that time. In the early 70's, then State Representative Webber Borchers tried to make it illegal for the university to fund gay organizations. Hearings were held in the state legislature. The incident was a major reason for a total restructuring of the student fee allocation process. And the local mainstream media didn't cover it.

And it's not just Bloomington/Normal that isn't preserving gay history. I have recently been reading *Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay & Lesbian Past*. I was stunned by the sheer volume of gay history that has been purged from the official record. Just as one example; it was anti-gay persecution that led indirectly to World War I. A gay advisor to the Kaiser was forced into exile, and the removal of his moderating influence set the Kaiser, and Germany, on a course toward war. Heterosexual society has been able to conceal the role of sexuality issues in such a monumental event, not to mention untold numbers of lesser moments, almost entirely.

In reading various essays in the book, it became apparent that most of gay history is oral history. And I don't just mean things on the level of, say, GALA's first Gay Blue Jeans Day, or the names of gay bars that used to be in Bloomington. Lesbian/gay/bisexual people as a culture are dependent on an oral tradition which had been fostered by a larger heterosexual culture which represses, suppresses, ignores and destroys our traditions, our customs, and our lives.

Immediately after finishing *Hidden from History*, I read *And the Band Played On*, Randy Shilts' chronicle of the early years of the AIDS epidemic. A passage about Cleve Jones, one of the founders of the NAMES Project Quilt, really brought me up short:

"Cleve and the other citizens of Castro Street had looked ahead to a time when they had rooted out prejudice against gay people altogether and healed the lives that the prejudice had scarred. They might be old men by then, but they would be able to entertain each other with reminiscence of the old days, when they had all believed they could change the world, and know that to a certain extent, they had. Many of those people were dead now, and Cleve accepted that most of his friends would be dead before they reached anything near old age."

I don't use words like "morality" very often, because morality is such an individualized, subjective concept. However, I now believe that each of us, regardless of sex, age, or closet status, has a moral obligation to preserve our gay history. We must save those newspaper clippings, record those television shows, and most important, write down those personal stories and memories and share them with others. Of course, we are not all going to die of AIDS. We are not all going to die young. We are all going to die. And once we do, part of the unimaginable richness of our culture and our heritage has also died. We can't afford to lose any more. We have lost so much already.

-jmc

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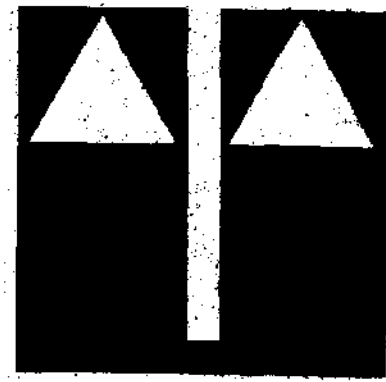
NEW HOURS:

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



News from Lambda



Supreme Court lets stand slashing insurance benefits for

(New York, N.Y., November 9, 1992) The Supreme Court decision not to review the case of *Greenberg v. H&H Music Co.* sent a message to employers that they are free to arbitrarily reduce insurance coverage for workers with catastrophic illnesses, such as AIDS or cancer, the moment an employee files claims for reimbursement. The decision affects all workers who receive health insurance on the job—leaving them vulnerable to losing promised coverage at the very time they need it.

By refusing to review a lower court ruling in the *Greenberg* case, the Court gave its backing to an employer which slashed a worker's coverage for AIDS-related care from \$1 million to \$5,000 after the employee filed reimbursement claims. The Court's decision follows the Bush administration's support for the employer's action.

"Workers around the country now cannot be sure that their health insurance will be there when they need it," said Lambda staff attorney Suzanne Goldberg. "By refusing to hear this case, the Supreme Court leaves employers free to avoid paying for benefits they have promised to employees simply by rewriting the benefit plan," Goldberg added.

Under a federal law governing employee benefits, employers are barred from retaliating or discriminating against an employee who files claims under a plan. While cutting coverage for AIDS-related treatments under its plan, H&H Music maintained full coverage for all other diseases. And it made that change just a few months after one employee filed AIDS-related claims. Still, the Supreme Court has agreed with the lower court that the company's actions did not amount to discrimination or retaliation in violation of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Legal Director to leave Lambda

"The Court's decision denying review leaves employees unable to rely on the law designed to protect them and unable to rely on promises made by their employers," said Lambda cooperating

attorney Joseph Garcia. "Under the lower court ruling, employers are free to cover some diseases but not others, regardless of whether the decision makes financial sense, so long as they cite cost-savings as the reason for the change."

Because the Supreme Court will not allow the federal employee benefit law to stop employers who discriminate in insurance coverage, Lambda and other organizations and law firms around the country must turn in future cases to the Americans with Disabilities Act as the sole remaining federal law that may prove effective in challenging disease-specific caps and keeping insurance coverage for those who need it.

(New York, NY, November 10, 1992) Lambda's Paula Ettlbrick has announced her decision to leave her position as the organization's Legal Director, effective on March 15, 1993. She will leave after nearly seven years of pioneering legal advocacy on behalf of lesbians and gay men.

A long time activist in the feminist and lesbian communities, Ettlbrick came from Detroit, Michigan, where she was in private practice and on the Board of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights, to take the job as Lambda's first staff attorney in May 1986. At that time, the group's full-time staff consisted of 7 people, which included a legal staff of 3. Lambda's current staff numbers 22, including a legal staff of 10.

When then legal director Abby Rubinfeld left Lambda in 1988, Ettlbrick was chosen to head up Lambda's ever growing legal and educational program as the Legal Director. Under her guidance, Lambda has expanded its legal staff, created a full-time educational component, played a role in crucial cases involving women's reproductive rights and civil rights for people of color, and worked in coalition against recent Reagan/Bush Supreme Court nominations. Ettlbrick testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee against the nomination of Judge David Souter, and played a key role in a national coalition to defeat the nomination of Judge Robert Bork.

After a much needed rest and some travel, Ettlbrick plans to continue working on lesbian and gay legal issues, as well as other civil rights matters, through a variety of projects and publications. She will continue to teach, as she has done for the last three years, as an Adjunct Professor at New York Law School.

Before Lambda, Ettlbrick was a social worker and lesbian-feminist activist in Boston in the early 1970's and late 1980's. Her work with homeless women and on tenants' rights issues motivated her to go to law school to pursue a career in law reform. After a two year stint in private law practice, she joined Lambda.

Ettlbrick served on the National Board of the National Lawyers Guild, was appointed by New York Governor Mario Cuomo to the Task Force on Intergroup Relations, and remains on the Advisory Board of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

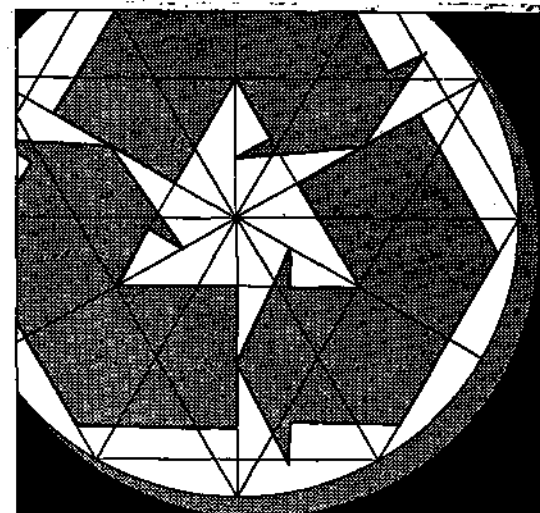
Cracker Barrel promises to let Queer Nation stockholders attend annual meeting

(New York, NY, Nov. 23, 1992) To avoid being faced with a restraining order, Cracker Barrel promised a Tennessee Chancery Court judge that it would not block shareholders who are members of the lesbian and gay activist group, Queer Nation, from attending its annual meeting scheduled for November 24, 1992. The shareholders intended to challenge Cracker Barrel's anti-gay employment policy, which led the company to fire a number of lesbian and gay employees from its restaurants in early 1991.

At its meeting last year, Cracker Barrel intimidated and harassed the shareholders it presumed were Queer Nation members, causing them to miss most or all of the annual meeting. Cracker Barrel had subjected the plaintiffs in this year's suit to various intrusive and unreasonable measures, including lengthy security checks and constant videotaping from the moment each arrived at the meeting.

Anticipating a repeat performance of such unlawful treatment at the 1992 meeting, Lambda went to court seeking a restraining order against Cracker Barrel to protect the right of Queer Nation shareholders to attend the meeting free from interference. Tennessee corporate law provides that registered shareholder may vote on all proposals at a company's annual meeting.

"While the judge denied the order, he did so only because Cracker Barrel's attorney promised that the company would not interfere with Queer Nation shareholders who want to attend the meeting," said Lambda staff attorney Suzanne Goldberg. "The law clearly allows all shareholders to attend company meetings. By stating that it would not repeat last year's behavior, Cracker Barrel has recognized that it cannot single out certain shareholders in order to silence objections to its discriminatory employment practices," Goldberg added.



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News from Voice for Choice

Antiprogestins and abortion

The discovery of antiprogestins has been called the most significant advance in birth control technology since the discovery of the Pill. Carl Djerassi, the scientist who synthesized the first oral contraceptive in the 1950's, has called RU486 the only real advance in contraceptive development in over four decades.

In the late 1970's, scientists were searching for a new form of birth control involving the female hormone progesterone, which is necessary to sustain an early pregnancy. Progesterone prepares the lining of the uterus for implantation of a fertilized egg, and then sustains its gestation. Scientists hoped to find an effective contraceptive, perhaps by blocking ovulation or preventing implantation.

What French researchers discovered instead was an "antihormone"—an antiprogestin—a synthetic agent that fits into the progesterone receptors in the uterus and thus blocks the action of the natural hormone. Without the effect of progesterone, the lining of the uterus softens, breaks down and menstruation begins, expelling any fertilized egg.

The action of antiprogestins is most effective in the first few weeks following fertilization and implantation. At that time, progesterone is produced by the ovaries. By the ninth or tenth week, the placenta begins producing progesterone in increasing amounts, to the point that antiprogestins become unable to compete with progesterone.

Testing RU 486

Since its discovery in 1981, approximately 100,000 women in 20 countries have used RU486. This sizable experience has enabled the drug's safety and effectiveness as an early abortifacient to be soundly demonstrated.

Testing of RU486 began in France in 1981 with 11 volunteers, women who had not had a menstrual period for 6-8 weeks. Nine women had complete abortions within four days after taking RU486—an 80% rate of success. Research on a much larger scale was launched following this initial test.

Roussel Uclaf, the French pharmaceutical company holding the patent on this new antiprogestin, began a series of studies in France and provided supplies of the drug for collaborative studies with the World Health Organization, the U.S. based Population Council and ministries of health in other nations.

One study in the U.S. included 300 women in a clinical trial at the University of Southern California.

Early results from all of these studies repeatedly indicated that RU486 used alone was effective about 65% to 80% of the time. Although other new drugs with a similar rate of effectiveness might be considered a success, a 20% failure rate in a method of abortion was not acceptable to women and their doctors, so research continued.

By the conclusion of the first large-scale study in France in 1985, researchers had established that the most effective dose of RU486 was 600 mg, yet still no more than an 80%-85% rate of success was reached. At about the same time, Swedish researchers tried using RU486 in combination with a small dose of a second drug, a prostaglandin, and discovered that this combined regimen increased the effectiveness rate to 95% or more.

What are prostaglandins?

Prostaglandins had been studied since the 1970's for a variety of uses, including as a method of medical abortion since they cause contractions of the uterus. When given in relatively high doses, they are effective abortifacients but produce harsh side effects of vomiting, cramping and diarrhea in most women. And because they cause muscular contractions, some prostaglandins can increase the risk of cardiovascular complications for women already at risk, such as those with a history of heart or circulation problems, or those who smoke. Even so, these problems are rare.

Swedish researchers familiar with the use of prostaglandins for medical abortions thought that much smaller doses of prostaglandins (causing fewer side effects) could improve the effectiveness of antiprogestins as abortifacients. In fact, they were able to show that the resistance of the uterus to contract in response to the administration of prostaglandins disappeared when given two days after taking antiprogestins.

When taken up to 7-9 weeks since the first day of the woman's last menstrual period, the RU486/prostaglandin combination induced menstruation and terminated early pregnancy in 95-96% of women.

Continuing studies over the next few years have verified the finding of 96% effectiveness. (The failure rate of 4% is not much greater than that of vacuum aspiration when it is performed at the same time in early pregnancy). In cases where medical abortion fails, the woman has a vacuum aspiration or D&C abortion.

RU486 was approved for use in combination with prostaglandin in France in 1988.

Since that time, French women who decide to end an unwanted pregnancy in the first few weeks and who meet certain requirements have the choice of either undergoing the usual surgical procedure or using this new method of non-surgical, or medical abortion.

Today in France, the "abortion pill" is available in about 800 government approved health centers and clinics. About one in four of all abortions take place with RU486 - a very high proportion considering how early in pregnancy it must be used and that not all women are eligible to use it.



RU 486 use around the world

In July 1991, the RU486/prostaglandin regimen was approved for early abortion in Great Britain. British women have access to the procedure through the National Health Service as well as in private clinics.

At about the same time that the drug was introduced in France, the procedure was approved in China, but the French manufacturer suspended distribution of RU486. The Chinese government wanted quick introduction of antiprogestins in that country, and now China produces its own antiprogestins and prostaglandins.

RU486 is expected soon in Sweden, with other Scandinavian countries to follow, then Belgium, Germany and others.

In France, the drug is used up to 49 days counting from the first day of the women's last menstrual period; in Britain, the time period for its use is two weeks longer - up to 63 days.

Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

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

Female and male volunteers answer your calls and are available for crisis assistance, information and speaking engagements. You may request to speak only with female volunteers.

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



In both countries, a woman must have a pregnancy test to confirm she is pregnant and a gynecological exam or a sonogram to determine the length of gestation. In France, the law requires a one-week waiting period before any abortion. When the woman returns to the clinic, she will be counseled about her options and if she chooses and qualifies for RU486/prostaglandin, the procedure will be explained in detail to her and she will sign an informed consent form agreeing to undergo a vacuum aspiration of the method fails.

In the presence of a doctor, she then takes 600 mg of RU486 in three tablets and remains in the clinic for one hour. Two days later, she returns to the clinic and is given a small dose of prostaglandin. In France, beginning in May 1992, the prostaglandin is in the form of two tablets totaling 400 micrograms of a product called misoprostol (brand name Cytotec.) In Great Britain, a vaginal suppository, gemeprost, is used, but it will likely be replaced by misoprostol.

After she is given the prostaglandin, the woman stays in the clinic for about two hours, remaining in her own clothes the entire time, wearing a sanitary napkin.

Nearly 75% of all women complete the abortion within this time. The remaining women complete the abortion in the following hours, usually by the next day.

A follow-up exam is required within two weeks to ensure that the abortion is complete. If it is not, as happens for 4% of women, she has a surgical abortion.

Side effects

Often women do not experience any physical discomfort after taking RU486; some may begin light bleeding in the two days before taking the prostaglandin. Women who have had side effects from RU486 sometimes compare them to the "morning sickness" of a normal pregnancy - nausea, headache, weakness and fatigue.

Side effects of the companion drug prostaglandin include a greater likelihood of nausea, uterine cramping and diarrhea. These side effects may occur shortly after taking the prostaglandin. In some cases, women require a pain killer.

As with any other medication or drug, there are certain factors which may make it unsafe for a woman to have a medical abortion with RU486/prostaglandin. Women are currently screened out if they have chronic adrenal failure, long-term steroid use, heart or circulatory trouble, or suspected ectopic pregnancy.

Three incidents of reaction to the injectable form of prostaglandin sulprostone led to further restrictions in France. In 1990, two women who were heavy smokers and over the age of 35 experienced cardiac problems following the prostaglandin injection; both recovered completely. In 1991, a 31 year old woman in her 13th pregnancy, who was a heavy smoker, suffered cardiac arrest following the injection and died a few hours later.

Even though these cases were extraordinarily rare, the French Ministry of Health and the drug's manufacturer decided to recommend that women over age 35, and women who smoke, should not have an abortion with RU486/prostaglandin. Many have viewed these restrictions as too severe, given the procedure's overall record of safety.

It is hoped that the switch to the oral prostaglandin, which is not felt to present the same risks of cardiac reaction, will allow health officials to loosen some of the restrictions on age and smoking for medical abortion.

An analysis of the experience of 16,000 French women who have used RU486/prostaglandin will be published later in 1992. This analysis is expected to describe the procedure's record for safety and effectiveness.

Meanwhile, research is continuing to explore the most desirable dose of each of the two drugs, as well as possible new compounds that will combine safety and low side effects, while maintaining effectiveness.

RU 486 blocked for U.S. women

So why isn't RU486 available in the United States? The anti-choice movement has been very successful at pressuring the drugs manufacturer, threatening a boycott of their other products, should the company apply to the FDA for approval to market RU486. No other drug company has been granted permission by the manufacturer to apply for approval. The Bush administrations opposition to abortion has also discouraged Roussel Uclaf to try to market RU486 in the U.S.. Another consideration was the likelihood of the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade.

In response to the political and economic pressures directed at them, Roussel Uclaf has stipulated that five criteria must be satisfied before it will introduce RU486 to a new country:

1. Abortion must be legal in the country.
2. The political climate must be approving of abortion.
3. An appropriate prostaglandin must be available.
4. The medical services system must be able to carefully monitor patients and the drug supply.
5. Informed consent procedures must be strictly followed.

Please contact your legislators now and encourage them to support the use of RU486. We must ensure that Roussel Uclaf knows that the political climate in the U.S. has changed regarding the abortion issue.

Source: Reproductive Health Technologies Project

After the election: now what?

Could you possibly be one of those folks who, after the election, breathed a big sigh of relief believing that reproductive rights were finally safe? Think again. While it is true Bill Clinton is pro-choice, and both of Illinois' U.S. Senators are strongly pro-choice, the Illinois legislature is not so safe.

We must not forget that while the Supreme Court upheld Roe v. Wade in name, they did not do so in spirit. The Pennsylvania decision, as well as the Webster decision in 1991, made it very clear that states have the ability to establish restrictions on abortion rights. The Illinois legislature appears (we cannot know for certain because there are so many new members) to have a very slight pro-choice majority (although now that Republicans have the majority in the Illinois Senate we can't be sure). This majority may be as slim as 1 or 2 votes.

According to Debbi Murphy, Public Affairs Director at Planned Parenthood, we can expect to see anti-choice legislation introduced into the Illinois legislature this term. It is believed that the anti-choicers will try to get parental notification enforced, waiting periods, informed

consent (you remember this; it's where the state writes a script about the evils of abortion and forces all physicians to read it to pregnant women considering abortion), as well as perhaps others.

In McLean County we have an anti-choice Senator, John Maitland, and a new State Representative, Bill Brady. During the primary Brady campaigned as a pro-choice candidate. After the primary he became an anti-choice candidate and even refused to answer any surveys from women's groups. Brady is, to be blunt, a pig.

Voice for Choice encourages you to write to Mr. Brady and express your concern over his change in position on this issue. For the record, Brady also ain't so hot on labor issues, he opposed the education amendment, opposes universal health care and family leave. Interestingly enough he does support giving condoms to incarcerated individuals to control the spread of HIV infection. We applaud that position but are mighty curious about it.

Brady needs to hear that his position on choice is unacceptable. He states that he would make abortion illegal once there is measurable brain wave activity and a heartbeat. What this means is that he would make abortion illegal during the first trimester. This is not at all acceptable. He states that his position is based on his religious beliefs. During the primary he told the Human Rights Coalition that he was not comfortable with the idea of imposing his religious beliefs on others.

Write State Representative William Brady, Jr.. Brady can be reached currently at his office, Brady, Sopper Better Homes and Gardens Realty. Who knows, maybe he'll change his mind again.

Voice for Choice News continued next page.

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News from Voice for Choice

continued



United Way update

To date the United Way of McLean County is nearly \$250,000 below their fundraising goal set for this year. In fact, the drive was to have concluded in November but has been extended into December. What is particularly interesting is that, according to Voice for Choice sources close to the United Way, many, many people decided to contribute to the United Way but designated only Planned Parenthood. What this may result in is Planned Parenthood receiving almost as much money this year from the United Way as they did last year. This despite the fact that Planned Parenthood is no longer a United Way member agency.

Planned Parenthood sources have informed Voice for Choice that they are also receiving direct donations from former United Way contributors. With any luck Planned Parenthood will receive more funding locally than they did last year through the United Way.

Voice for Choice thinks that this situation is significant. Again according to a source close to the United Way, United Way Director Karen Daudelin has long felt that Planned Parenthood organizations are a drain on United Ways and has sought to find a way to defund Planned Parenthood. It would appear that Daudelin has proven more of a drain on the United Way than Planned Parenthood ever could have.

Now may be the time to write to the United Way again and express your concern over the handling of the child sexual abuse program. This board needs to hear from former contributors. Far right conservatives often threaten organizations like the United Way, they claim that they will withdraw their support. The situation in McLean County would seem to suggest that the dollars contributed by the far right to the United Way are not significant (if they exist at all since these folks more than likely tithe to their churches). Wake up, United Way; McLean County is pro-choice.

We would be remiss if we did not encourage you, if you have not already done so, to contribute to the organization of your choice. Remember, because the United Way has come up short in its goal, the agencies it funds, organizations like Community Action, PATH, Boys and Girls Club, and many other fine organizations will see a cut in their funding. Please support these groups. The United Way can send you a complete listing of those organizations that receive United Way dollars.

Of course we would suggest that the United Way drop their plan to award a \$20,000. grant to any agency to develop a child sexual abuse program. Planned Parenthood continues to provide the program and has been inundated with requests from schools (apparently the United Way fiasco provided great publicity for the Planned Parenthood program). For the United Way to fund a similar program is a foolish waste of resources and a duplication of services.

Good news from Guam

In November, 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider arguments regarding Guam's tough anti-abortion law. The Court let stand a lower court's ruling that determined the law to be unconstitutional. While this is good news, the state of Louisiana intends to appeal a similar lower court ruling relative to their restrictive abortion laws. The Louisiana Attorney General argues that as a state Louisiana has the right to restrict abortion within its borders, a right that Guam, as a territory does not enjoy.

Fan mail from some flounder?

On October 20, 1992, Voice for Choice was thrilled to receive a mailing from Operation Rescue founder, Randall Terry. The envelope warned us that a vote for Bill Clinton was a vote for sin and against God. We thought that you might enjoy reading some of the other insights Mr. Terry shared with us:

"You don't have to be a prophet to see the fierce onslaught against Biblical Christianity in America today. A Clinton presidency may drive us fully into a post-Christian culture. Clinton and his demonic new covenant could spearhead the way into a new dark ages."

"Who are the disciples of Clinton's new covenant? He warmly courted homosexuals, saying, 'I have a vision of America, and you're part of it.' Who will the families of this new covenant be? 'Married' homosexuals or lesbians? And how shall the children be catechized into this new covenant? Clinton has espoused giving condoms to our teenagers in public schools. And who would be the defenders of America and Clinton's new covenant? The Clinton campaign advocates our daughters and wives fighting in active combat—the very thing Clinton fled from."

"But what about our tax-exempt status? you ask. Our tax-exempt status be damned if it prevents us from proclaiming God's truths. Woe to us if we let tax exempt status - i.e. MONEY - buy our silence. We are God's men who must proclaim the whole counsel of God—and we will not wear Caesar's muzzle."

"The Bible says, when the righteous rule, the people rejoice, when the wicked rule, the people mourn (see Prov. 29.2). If we can't oppose a man as wicked as Clinton, we're dead. And we're probably ripe for the judgement of God."



Protests at Cook County Hospital

Joseph Scheidler, director of the Pro-Life Action League, is leading protests against the decision by Chicago's Cook County Hospital to resume elective abortions after a lapse of 12 years. Mr. Scheidler's followers are maintaining a vigil outside the hospital and picketing the homes of doctors, administrators and Cook County Board President Richard Phelan.

Abortion procedures were resumed on Sept. 16. As of Sept. 23, more than 4,000 women had called the hospital to inquire about the service. The hospital is performing about 30 procedures a week.

Richard Phelan was the keynote speaker at Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois annual dinner Dec. 1. According to Phelan, the hospital has been overwhelmed by the response and have asked Planned Parenthood to assist with the overflow. Phelan is a likely candidate for governor (as is Roland Burris). He is pro-choice and supports state and federal funding of abortions for low income women. Burris too is strongly pro-choice, we're not sure yet where he stands on state and federal funding.

Anti-choice terrorism

Just before dawn on Sept. 30, 1992, about 20 high-caliber bullets smashed into windows and a glass door of the Planned Parenthood Centers of West Michigan in Grand Rapids. No one was in the building at the time, but damage was estimated at \$20,000. Eight days earlier the affiliate had been sprayed with butyric acid, a foul smelling chemical. We should note that this affiliate, like the one in Bloomington, doesn't even perform abortions.

George Bush Cover Gallery

COPS OUT OF CONTROL! page 5

Bloomington-Normal Feb-Mar 1989 25c

POST AMERIKAN

Vol. 17
No. 5



NEW FEATURE: AFRICAN-AMERIKAN PRIMER

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WAR STORIES

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POST AMERIKAN

Bloomington-Normal Volume 20 (25c) Number 3 October/November 1991

THE CONTINUED ATTACK ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS SEE PAGE 8

THE ANTI-CHOICE PRESIDENT
"READ HIS HIPS"

CHRISTIAN ACTION COUNCIL

THE JOSHUA PROJECT
TAKING BACK THE CULTURE



Nervendranke Und Rohunge (Neurotics and Savages)

The following story contains journal excerpts written by a reservist during the Persian Gulf War. Part I of II.

In the desert
I saw a creature, naked, bestial,
Who, squatting upon the ground,
Held his heart in his hands,
And ate it.
I said: "Is it good, friend?"
"It is bitter-bitter," he answered;
"But I like it
Because it is bitter,
And because it is my heart."

Stephen Crane
1871-1900

Today I blew up at an Illinois State University cop. While buying a paper outside of Hovey Hall, I parked my car on the street and when I came back he stopped along side of my car to tell me, "Next time find a better place to park." I let him have an earful of vulgarities. I think I called him everything in the book. He got upset and pulled in front of me to try to block my car, so I backed out into the intersection and drove in the opposite direction. This pissed him off. He followed me, with his lights on, past Stevenson Hall. I just kept going. Then he turned on his siren. I just kept going till I got to the intersection at the end of the street. I pulled over and he came up along side of the car. I gave him another earful. I finally told him what was going on and he told me I was in a lot of trouble and to just calm down.

He left it at that. He didn't finish the job.

I left my apartment at about 6:00 a.m. My parents went with me to the airport and of course mom was really upset.

In your neck of the woods...

A few phrases that have come up in conversations the past few days: "That don't make me never no mind," "Gonna see a man 'bout a dog," "Gonna see a man 'bout a horse," "I'd go up a hog's ass for a ham sandwich," and "I'm so mad I cud just spit." I'm not sure what they all mean. "That don't make me never no mind," is my favorite.

I asked the guys, "What do you think of the rectum as a hole?" They just looked at me like I was stupid. "I think it's a shitty situation that should be wiped out totally," I said.

They just kind of looked at me.

I got a flattop today. There's hardly a hair on my head.

Formation was held at 0730 this morning. We were told to clean up the rooms, turn in linen, and the rest of the day could be spent on post liberty. I watched three movies today; "Steel Magnolias," some stupid karate flick, and "Flatliners." Great choices. None of the movies were very stimulating-really boring for the most part.

"Steel Magnolias" was kind of funny, not because of anything in the content but because McGrath (Minnesota) hated the thought of watching a movie that starred Dolly Parton. However, when Hourigan (Chicago) told him that Dolly exposed her breasts, a lie, he was content. He suffered through the entire movie. At the end he turned to Hourigan and with a pissed look asked, "What gives?" Hourigan laughed and said that the breast scene must have been cut out.

We're flying over on Federal Express. Great.



Enough to make your mouth water

We have to drink local water. Of course, they clean up the water, but the sources are so contaminated that the amount of decontamination chemicals added gives people the Hershey Squirts. So, right before I left, I picked up an eight-pack of soft toilet paper.

Hudspeth (South Carolina) calls the issue stuff John Wayne paper-rough, tough and doesn't take shit off of Indians.

Pecking order

Everyone seemed to have broken off into little representative groups of U.S. culture on the airplane. Blacks and whites broke down into groups of young vs. old, northern vs. southern, higher rank vs. lower rank, students vs. non-students, single vs. married, etc. In one area I noticed a row of single, young, southern, lower rank, black students sitting across the aisle from a group of married, older, southern higher rank, white, non-students. Both groups seemed to indicate that neither group felt it was appropriate for the other to have segregated itself.

The three doors on the bus had red circles on the windows. The front and middle door had a silhouette of a woman dressed in traditional garb: black ankle-length dress and a veil, with a red line drawn diagonally through to each side of the circle- no women! The rear door's red circle and silhouette lacked the red bar. On the inside of the bus, metal plates and a metal door separated the back third of the bus from the rest.

Welcome to the desert

After my first day's work I remembered a quote from General George Patton, "The more you sweat in peace the less you bleed in war." I had always assumed, for some reason, the less bleeding part also meant less sweating. Wrong, wrong, wrong.

Well here it is-Christmas. The day doesn't seem too different from any other day. We do, however, get the day off. I slept in until about 0800. No one seems to be doing much of anything. Each company gets a 30 minute Christmas celebration in the recreation center. The sand isn't even white. Oh Christmas Bush, oh Christmas Bush. Oh boy.

Peace, love and understanding

It's almost 2000 hours. I'm sitting in my tent. Not too much to do. They're showing movies next door at the recreation center. "Monkey Shines" is playing tonight. Not interested. Tonight I wrote, I'M CLUSTERPHOBIC- as in, "This is another clusterfuck!" on my helmet. I wrote DRUG FREE NUCLEAR NAVY too, and also added a large peace sign to my flak-jacket with the words, "HEY MR. BUSH, IT'S STILL A GOOD IDEA!"

A couple of acronyms: D.I.L.L.I.G.A.F. - Does it look like I give a fuck, B.O.H.I.C.A. - Bend over here it comes again, and I contributed, F.U.B.I.A.R. Fuck-you, Buddy. I'm a reservist!

I've been patting myself on the back here the last couple of days for my brilliance at joking about the mail. When the question comes up, "Have you received any mail yet, today, or whatever?" I answer, "Yeah, but they were all addressed to ANY SERVICE PERSON." That seems to cheer up some people who are in the same position as I am: no mail so far. My other witty one-liner is to approach a person and looking at their name tag ask, "What's your first name?" When they answer I put on my, "I fond them look!" and say, "Your mail has been sent to Big Horn, South Dakota by mistake! It should be here in a month!" With this they look at me mystified and ask, "Really?" And I answer, "No, it's just backed up in Frankfurt with the rest of the mail."

The port-a-pottie numbered 666 is my favorite!

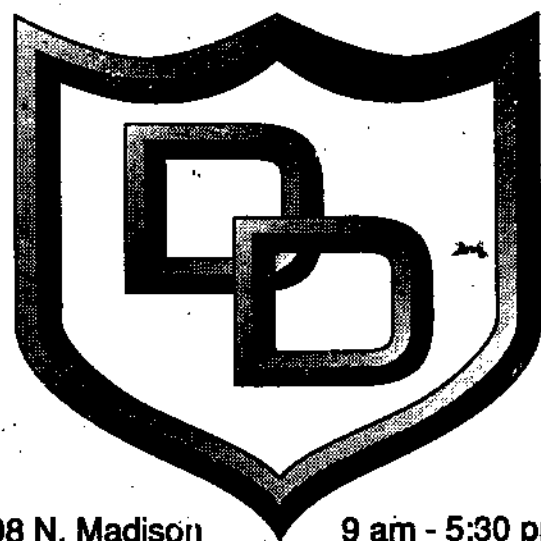
BLISTER AGENTS
BLISTER AGENTS BURN AND BLISTER
ANY PART OF THE BODY THAT THEY
TOUCH. BLISTER AGENTS PRODUCE
LONG-TERM INCAPACITATION OR EVEN
DEATH THROUGH FLOODING THE LUNGS
WITH BODY FLUIDS IF INHALED.

Humans have designed ghastly ways to kill other humans.

When will we ever learn?

In the back of my mind, I had hoped that after the initial wave of the air assault that they would come to terms like the Libyans a few years earlier. When I heard what I knew must have been a rumor... that a second strike force had been launched... I wondered who was more inhumane - them for not surrendering or us for not continuing.

-Chuck U. Farley



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Jesse Jackson Jr. speaks during Unity Week

ISU is fast developing a pattern of good-hearted attempts at combating intolerance on campus which just don't seem to work out. Witness the Student Leadership Conference, which excluded most minority student leaders. Witness Hands Across Campus, an anti-racism event which was boycotted by the Black Student Union. And now, add Unity Week, held this year October 26-30, to the list of noble failures.

The idea behind Unity Week was to help create a campus atmosphere which encouraged students to look beyond the divisions of race, sex, sexuality, and so on, and to find common ground and a common purpose. This goal was completely undermined by the selection of Jesse Jackson, Jr., as the featured speaker for the week. Jackson was supposed to speak on the topic of "A new definition of Unity." Instead, his speech and many of his remarks during a question-and-answer period were divisive and off the point.

Jackson began his speech by bashing George Bush and promoting the Clinton campaign for about fifteen minutes. Normally, I have no problem with bashing Republicans, but the point of the speech was to bring people together, not split them among party lines. He did eventually start talking about the concept of unity, but seemed to have a great deal of trouble sticking to one concept and one story at a time.

Jackson finally did mention three types of unity: unity of pain, unity of consciousness, and unity of action. Unfortunately, he never really concretely stated what it was he meant by any of these three types.

Jackson further undercut any pretense that he was supporting unity by his response to the first question posed to him. He was asked for his opinion on strategies for reducing homophobia in communities of color and reducing racism in the lesbian/gay/bisexual community. He said, "I don't support gay rights. I support human rights." He did add that if he were walking

across the U of I campus and saw a gay person "being discriminated against or bashed," he would move to stop it.

Speaking after the presentation, Jackson said that what he meant to say was that "(his) concerns and (my) concerns over rights intersect at the human level." He added that he advocates for basic human rights for everyone, but that concerning "those rights which you specifically identify as a 'gay right,' it's up to gays and lesbians to organize around those issues and fight for those rights." So much for unity.

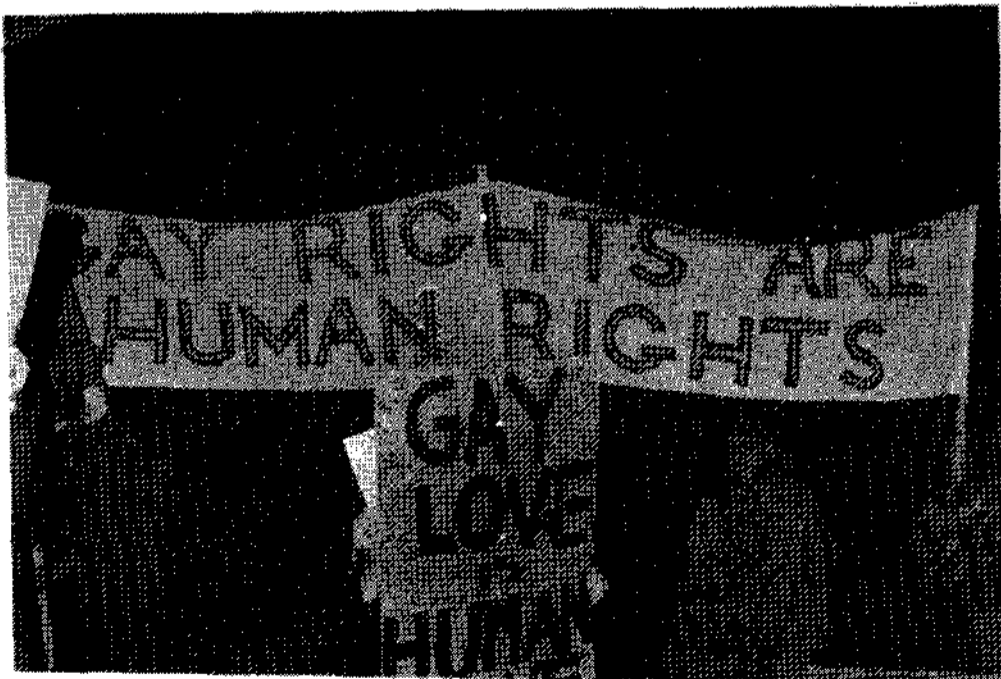
It bothered me that Jackson made such an assumption about my concern for civil rights based on my race and his perception of my sexuality.

It was pointed out to Jackson that the struggle for civil rights for people of color could not have achieved the level of success it has if only people of color had organized and fought for them without building coalitions with other groups. Jackson had no response.

The next evening, an organizer for Unity Week said that what Jackson *really* meant to say was that all gay rights are human rights and that he supports all human rights. Oh.

Jackson was paid \$5,000 for his appearance at ISU. I wish my daddy were famous.

United We Stand; Divided We're ISU



Last issue, the Post Amerikan ran the following graphic:



Shortly after that, the ISU...
 the...
 that...
 all...
 provided by the...
 Friendly...
 But don't fret...
 go...
 "and"...
 These...
 forget...
 talk...
 because...
 like...
 we'll...
 session...
 hot, muggy...
 Any Means Necessary"...



Rev. Brown
 THINK AGAIN, FOOL



The History of the Real World and the Purpose of Life

It's a literal fuckstory. Never-the-less, I'm having a pretty good time, considering the difficulties one accumulates when having such. I suppose our attitudes about our own lives are largely dependant upon our attitude toward life in general. Consider, from a personal point of reference, how one's attitude changes toward a loved one as time goes by. Each of us accumulates information about the other and our mutual situation, which changes, either rapidly or gradually, the attitude we have about our own life and its direction as well as the attitude we have about who the other person is.

Based on the feelings we have, generated by this attitude, we make decisions about the longevity of our relationship with the loved other. If the feeling of love is strong enough we will stay with this person even if our attitude about the rest of life creates bad feelings in us, and try to make changes in ourselves, the other, and our mutual situation which will allow us to feel better about our lives and ourselves. If this proves to be impossible we generally either wait a while for a miracle or get out.

This is largely also the way we respond to groups, political systems, societies, and even civilizations. How much do we love ours? Do we love ours? What does our attitude about our life and its potential make us feel about the world we are surrounded by? If we don't like how we feel about it we cannot simply choose to GO, unless you consider yourself so valueless that suicide is an option. It seems to me the only real choices any of us has is to change our attitude [too many diverse groups have their hands in this pie] or change the system, society, etc. we wish to be away from.

Change my attitude?

Consider how many millions of people attempt to change their attitude by abusing themselves with television sophistry, drugs, and alcohol, because to change the other seems so impossible. They usually end up empty seeking personal enrichment, a greater high, or another good "pass-out." This is the way of cowardice, of self-deception, of lifelessness, of evil. Don't get me wrong, I party and I watch some pretty inane crap on TV from time to time, but I'm alive and I stay active in certain endeavors that don't simply involve personal enrichment.

So what do you do? Do you care? If you don't you must consider yourself worthless, and if you think that you've probably been listening to the wrong people tell you about how we all must be the same and adhere to the unity of purpose set out for us by our elected and, more importantly, non-elected leaders. Throughout all of human history this has been the clarion call of all the worst abusers of the human spirit and destroyers of human life. Hitler and Stalin are great examples from the near past, and from today, the international corporate and political power-elite, whose names, thanks to the cold war, worldwide telecommunications, and taboos of the oldest crime organizations, we may never know. My advice is that you don't listen to these voices unless your personal purpose in life is to blindly follow the purposes of another.

Look around

Understand that the only thing that we all truly have in common is that we are all alive and all different. Look around, accept the mix, only involve yourself with situations, groups, social structures, etc. that you believe are right for you. BUT, you must never forget, for your own health and sanity, to include room in the world for others' directions and beliefs. If you fail to do this you are simply taking one of the many sides in a social war that has no winners, save those who prey like jackals on the confusion and suffering of others.

It is human nature we explore here, our own, to be exact. Do we change ourselves in a way we consider positive or in some way we are told to by the noisiest or most richly backed pressure group? Do we try to change our surroundings by being charitable to others, like or unlike us, or by joining groups that try to make others think as we do? Or do we give up and waste away? Before you answer here is a brief review.

Don't condemn difference

Roger Bacon, the greatest scientist of his time, was born in 1214. After years of sane and intelligent contribution, he was imprisoned for heresy. This occurred in 1277 and lasted until 1292, two years before his death. Why? He told the truth and those in power typically did not want the truth to be known. A similar fate visited Galileo when in 1616 he was prohibited by the Church from further scientific work and later, in 1633, was forced by the Inquisition to abjure the theories of Copernicus. The priesthood of the Church had for centuries overstepped the boundaries of its wisdom by concerning itself with and teaching things outside the realm of spiritual truth. In order not to call everything they dogmatically upheld into question by allowing total folly of some of it to be known [i.e.: that the Sun revolved around the Earth and the Earth was at the center of the Universe] they fearfully and stupidly attempted to censor knowledge of physical reality.

The function of the Church should not have been the operation of Empires by various popes or of governments by various cardinals, the result of which bureaucratized the Church and resulted in such atrocities as the Inquisition (1233 to 1834) and numerous wars (the eight Crusades, from 1095 to 1291; the seventh French war of religion which broke out in 1580; Spain and England fighting from 1586 till 1604; lately the "wars" are economic). Instead the Church should have steadfastly concerned itself with enlightenment, tolerance, spirituality, a search for the truth, and spreading the Word charitably, as the Word they supposedly upheld charged them to.

The Church still wars

However, this is not an indictment of the Catholic Church alone, as the Chinese communist government holds Buddhism under its thumb in Nepal and Tibet, and many small wars still break out in India and the Middle East over religious differences. Instead, these are examples of what happens when an individual or a group decides they know what the true purpose is of the lives of all people somewhat in sympathy with them. These so-called leaders decide that the "people" are sheep living without purpose and it is their duty to give them purpose. Unfortunately the purpose they give them is no grander than to support and uphold the ego-driven desires of their leaders.

Don't want to be a sheep?

Can this be changed? NO! It is part of human nature for some to be sheep, some to lead, some to be neither, simply watching it happen. It is, unfortunately, also human group behavior that clever sheep become bureaucrats, and that whining insecurity of all will eventually corrupt the leaders [if they weren't already] into acts of hypocrisy and self-destruction. I think a better question is, what can one do for oneself to avoid being a sheep? The answer is fairly simple -- take time to think, get to know your own strengths and weaknesses in order to avoid fear,

find something to believe in that is neither a person nor a form of government nor a fear- or hate-driven concept, and above all, DO NOT dwell on or fear your inevitable death. Fear and despair are the demons which, if followed, lead each of us to our own individual destruction. Strengthen your spirit by not giving in to your negative weaknesses and your become your greatest self.

The purpose of ... life

Now we come to the purpose of life. Our own individual purposes can only be determined after our own individual deaths. At which time others can look back and tally our activities, accomplishments, loves, hates, etc. When speaking of purpose it is generally not our objective to speak only of accomplishments, however, this does weigh most heavily. For

instance, someone might conclude about a powerful military leader, "His purpose was to lead us to great victories over the Huns [Turks, Greeks, Mongols, English, Japanese, etc.]." This is sufficient for one group speaking of one man. But what about all of us?

I submit that the same criteria of accomplishment can be used to determine what the purpose of our life, collectively, as a species, is. What will be when we are gone? What will we have done for the posterity of this planet we sprang into being upon? Let us look at what we do.

We dig deeply into the surface of the Earth to recover minerals we need to help us build things we value. We dig up carbon in the form of oil and coal to power the machines we use to build with and move about in, and so that we may exploit all areas of the planet's surface. We defend ourselves in large groups from other large groups by building ever more powerful explosive devices containing fissionable and fusionable material. And we insist that our group is the only correct one, so that we are justified in any fight to preserve it.

We affect everything

Where does this lead? WE ARE THE CUSTODIANS OF THE EARTH. Entropy affects every system in this universe, and our Earth is one large [to us] system. Not coincidentally comes a species on this planet which can and does perform the function of redistributing the mineral wealth of the system. Also restores much of the lost atmospheric carbon in the form of carbon dioxide. And, I submit, will destroy itself and most of the niche dominant mammal life-forms in a nuclear conflagration.

What this does for the planet is kick it back a couple hundred million years. More trace elements are available practically everywhere, more carbon for plants to use, less interference by ozone to mutating solar radiations, higher levels of radioactive emissions to stimulate mutant species blooms, and far less interference by niche dominant predators.

Like it? if not, change, become more spiritual and less materialistic, try to extend more charity to others, speak of hope, enjoy your love, have faith in something greater than us, but don't join the group of those who have changed, just change yourself. If you like it, then accept it, it will be the next step you take. But understand that you are a member of the pile of sheep that make it the next step we all take!

Hon Frost



Dear Ms. Hippie

Dear Ms. Hippie,

I was watching this show the other day when one character asked another one, "Am I going crazy?" The other character responded, "If you ask that question, then you can't be crazy."

I realized that I had never asked anyone if I was crazy, and I began to worry that I might be crazy. Then I thought that since I asked, I couldn't be crazy. But then I thought that maybe the only reason I was asking now if I was crazy was because I was crazy and being crazy hadn't occurred to me until someone else said something. And now I'm just thoroughly confused. So you tell me, Ms. Hippie: am I crazy?

Your friend,

Patsy

Dear Patsy,

Probably not.

Really, you have come to the right place. Just the other day, Ms. Hippie came across a nifty checklist on this very point. Here are the questions:

1. Does my behavior deviate strongly from most people's? (Ms. Hippie must add that you should only compare your behavior to that of people within your own culture, even if it's a subculture. So if you are a teenager or college student, it's not crazy to have hair that looks as though a bird began building a nest and abandoned it as shoddy work, no matter what horrible damage you are doing to your ends.)
2. Does my behavior cause great concern and discomfort to people around me? (Some people would say that this is the only definition of crazy. With reality being so iffy these days, being in or out of touch with it is not a helpful criterion.)
3. Am I suffering?

And there you are. Too bad that Ms. Hippie doesn't remember whether you have to answer yes to all three to be crazy, or yes just to two, or yes just to one like in those stupid alcoholism quizzes. It's probably all three, though, don't you think? Or am I crazy?

Dear Ms. Hippie,

I am 5 months pregnant. Why is it that every time I go out in public in this town, people feel compelled to touch my abdomen without permission? I can't stand having all these people touching me.

Gravidly yours,

Jessie

Dear Gravid,

Ms. Hippie has heard this complaint from a lot of pregnant women, so at least you're not crazy (see #1, above). The practice of invading women's personal space, as you know, is quite well ingrained in our culture. And it seems that once you're pregnant, you're supposed to have this madonna-like sexlessness that removes all raunchiness from a little pat on the tum.

How about letting your eyes fill up with tears and saying, "It's dead" to the next offender? You really won't be hurting your baby (who's probably having a good chuckle in there), and the space-invader will think twice about ever doing it again.



Dear Ms. Hippie,

I've been working with a leftie-type group in the area for several months now. I'm kinda new to the town and to the group, so I really try and take advantage of the experience of members who have been around longer than I have. For the most part things are okay, but there's this one woman who's just making me nuts.

She's always very nice and in general we're friendly with each other, but every time I bring up an idea for something the group could do, she argues about how it can't be done. She's been around forever and seems to have an encyclopedic knowledge of everything that's ever happened in this town. It's not unusual for her to say something like, "We tried that in 1982 and only 11 people showed up." Consequently, none of my ideas are ever given serious consideration.

Ms. Hippie, I really believe in this group, but I'm really becoming frustrated. I don't want to quit, but if nothing I suggest ever happens, I may have to find somewhere else to put my time and energy. What do you suggest I do?

Sign me,

A deactivated activist

Dear Deactivated,

Ms. Hippie, in middle age, has realized that everyone, including little snips like you, has to make the same stupid mistakes, individually, over and over. Evidently your co-worker, though experienced, has not come to this realization.

You must gently but firmly tell her that you'd like to ignore her encyclopedic knowledge and voice of experience and make your own mistakes, if mistakes they are. You have the example of thousands of political figures who refuse to learn from history.

If you can get to the bottom of why an idea like yours didn't pan out in 1982, perhaps you can propose a new version that works around the problem. Try to enlist less entrenched members of your group, who may be more open to your proposal. Remember that leftie-type groups are just as political as any others. Grease the wheels. Read Shakespeare.

Readers: Do problems of life in the post-70's have you in a quandary? Send your questions to "Dear Ms. Hippie," care of the *Post Amerikan*, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.



Santa sez: "Fuck the pigs! Power to the people! Save the *Post*!"



Kris Kringle thought it was gonna be an X-mas like any other. He'd busted the toymaker's union, secured a contingent of factory-farmed flying reindeer, and made his list, checked it twice, and was preparing to release it to State Department officials when our crack team of *Post Amerikan* staffers "liberated" ol' Santa.

We transported him to the *Post Amerikan* Reorientation Camp and Ballroom Dance Academy for a leftie reeducation. Having converted his North Pole sweatshops into low-income housing for underprivileged elves, Santa was last seen living on an organic farming collective in New Mexico, making a modest income from a recycled-fiber wrapping paper concern, and perusing a copy of *Fat is a Feminist Issue*.

Only one thing is troubling the jolly old elf, and that's knowing that the *Post Amerikan* may fold for lack of funds. If Santa could have just one X-mas wish, it would be that every *Post Amerikan* reader would buy his or her own subscription. Or at least send in a few dollars, so that the *Post Amerikan* will be around for many X-mases to come.

- Yes! I want to be Santa's little helper. Here's my donation.
- You bet! I want Santa to deliver my *Post Amerikan* every two months. Here's \$5.
name _____
address _____

Mail to: *Post Amerikan*, Box 3452, Bloomington IL, 61702. Ho, ho, ho!



DAR4



Did ya ever sit and watch little kids play? I mean kids under five years old. You'll notice that they really don't care what color or sex their playmates are. They don't care about money, either. Give a little kid a coin of any kind and he or she will usually call it a "penny," no matter what it is. Little kids are great, because their collective minds haven't been trashed by the racism-sexism-facism-etcetera-ism of the whole of society. You may hear a little kid say "nigger" or "gook" or "mick" or any other racial slur, but it has no meaning to them. They're just mimicking someone else. The problem arises when they still use those terms when they have full understanding of their implications. As adults, we know these terms and use them. And we're supposed to be better than little kids because we're older and we understand how the world works. I don't buy into that shit for a second. Watch some little kids play together sometime. And just think about it.

leave one shoe outside someplace (usually in the sandbox) and come inside wearing the other one? What is the fascination with fire and flammable liquids? Does snot taste good? It must. Kids eat it all the time. Kids have great imaginations, though. Only a little kid can look at a lump of dirt and tell you it's a castle and mean it. Or say a bunch of different colored scribbles on a piece of paper is a picture of dad washing the family car. Explain this: When a little boy likes a little girl, he punches her in the head. It's a sign of affection. Go figure. Most little kids don't care too much about what their clothes look like. Dark brown plaid polyester pants, a sky-blue terry cloth shirt, red wool socks, and black and white Buster Brown saddle shoes. One of my outfits as a kid. Kids don't care about their hair, either. In fact, they don't even like to have their hair combed. If adults could get into these last two habits, the world would be much more laid back.

XXXXX

"If you love someone, set them free... then hunt them down and kill them." I read that on a button and thought I'd share it with you. As a patron, I hate it when somebody gives me all the singles instead of big bills when I don't ask for it. As a bartender, sometimes I give back all singles when people don't ask for it. Am I compromising my own social morality? Do I care? I tried to let my hair get so slimy that it repelled water, once (or thrice). Didn't work. It just stank. If you are an only child, I kinda feel sorry for you. When you screwed up as a kid, you didn't have anybody to blame it on. Why is it that when people find out that you're ticklish, they try to tickle you all the time, even if you don't want to be tickled? (I've never heard anybody ask to be tickled, but anything's possible.) I've also noticed that when people start telling gross/injury stories, they always try to tell about the most nasty thing they've seen or heard. Competitive story telling. By the way, I've got a few of those stories, myself. Ask me sometime...

DAR4



Barbara Macdoona

XXXXX

If you've ever been in a band or have hung out with a band during practice, you'll know what I'm talking about here. If one person is louder than the rest, everybody else turns up instead of the loud one turning down. Why is that? I dunno. When I was eight, this is how my dad told me how to pick up girls: "Ask 'em what kind of ice cream they like. She says chocolate, you like chocolate. Strawberry, you like strawberry. Mud ice cream, you like mud ice cream. No matter what she likes, you like it too. Then, you're set." I'll have to try it again now that I'm older. Maybe it'll work. He also told me to never say "no" to free beer or free food. Words to live by. You know you're hard up for nicotine when you start picking through ashtrays looking for butts. We've all done it, though. Someone told me Robitussin on the rocks isn't too bad. Great buzz, I hear. Maybe I'll try it.

XXXXX

I lived outside of Fort Bragg, North Carolina as a kid. I had a crush on my friend Rusty's sister. "Big Cindy" was her name. I was five, she was seven. That all ended when she made me eat sand. Rusty's dad used to burn all the grass in the front yard every year. Something about helping the new stuff grow. It didn't make any sense at the time, but we didn't care. It gave us a chance to set up our army men and watch 'em melt without getting in trouble. We used to take my dad's gold umbrella (huge) and jump off my front porch. When I was a kid and we played Cowboys and Indians, I always wanted to be an Indian. Cowboys were dumb. I saw a kid get bit by a rattlesnake out in the woods behind Rusty's house. There was a big rope swing hangin' from a tree, and we used to make a big pile of leaves and jump off the swing into the leaves. I guess we shoulda checked first. He lived, though, so it wasn't that bad. The first time I ever sat on my dad's lap and steered the car was in N.C. My brother tried it a week later and drove into a ditch. He's still a crappy driver.

XXXXX

Just a few observations/questions about little kids and their habits and actions. Why do they

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Normal, IL



Animal Magnetism



Heartbreak of Amerika

While automobile makers around the world have relied on crash dummies, computer simulations, and studies of accidents to improve the safety of their products, General Motors remains the only automaker in the world still using animals in crash tests.

In the last decade alone, GM injured and killed 20,000 pigs, dogs, monkeys, rabbits, and other animals in painful impact, skin shredding and other tests.

What can you do? Write!

Write! GM Chairman Robert Stempel
3044 Grand Blv., GM Building
Detroit, MI 48202

Let him know that you won't buy from GM until animal experiments are stopped.

A few good men?

PETA has insisted that the U.S. Air Force stop using American taxpayers' funds at Izmir Air Base in Turkey to advertise, promote, and transport service people to and from staged camel fights. Various unsavory means are used to heighten the tension between male camels, who are forced together in front of a restrained female camel in heat to fight for sexual intercourse with her. High stakes are bet on which animal will be maimed and who will emerge the victor. This activity would appear to violate military rules which specifically order military personnel to refrain from joining in any cultural rituals in other countries that would be illegal in the United States. Organized animal fighting is a felony in most U.S. states.

Write! to Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney (The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301) and urge him to dispatch an order immediately forbidding U.S. military personnel from advertising, promoting, facilitating, or attending any animal fights (rape) in Turkey or elsewhere.

Downed Animal Protection Act

The journey from feedlot to slaughter house is one of the worst experiences in the miserable lives of animals destined for the dinner table. Prodded and packed into unheated, uncooled tractor trailers, jostled, bounced, and terrified, denied even water during rides that can last for days, many cows, pigs and sheep arrive at the stockyards too injured or ill even to walk. Stockyard workers call these unfortunates "downers," and have traditionally piled them in heaps to die slowly (often in blazing sun or frigid wind) while those who still can walk are kicked and prodded up the slaughter house ramp.

Farm Sanctuary has convinced some stockyards to adopt a "no downer" human treatment policy. For stockyards that will not do so voluntarily, the Downed Animal Protection Act (S.2296), pending in the Senate, would require that nonambulatory animals be humanely killed before being transferred or marketed.

Write! Urge Senators Carol Moseley Braun and Paul Simon (The Senate, Washington D.C. 20510) to cosponsor S.2296

Source: PETA News, Fall 1992

Crunch time



It seems like time at the *Post Amerikan* isn't marked from issue to issue, the way it is at other papers. Instead, time at the *Post* is marked from crisis to crisis.

You may remember a couple of issues ago when we put out an emergency call for staff members. That call was very successful, with several new people joining the collective, plus the return of a couple of past members. (Which is not to say we wouldn't welcome any other new people who wanted to join up. At the *Post*, there's no such thing as too many staffers.)

This time the crisis is a financial one. Money. Cash. Greenbacks. Filthy lucre. We ain't got any.

Each issue of the *Post Amerikan* costs about \$350 to produce. That figure includes printing costs, phone bill, supplies, photocopying and other expenses. As you read this issue of the *Post*, we are about \$550 in debt.

How did this happen? Well, there are several factors involved. The *Post* has always operated pretty close to the bone, never taking in much more per issue than we spent. Lately our circulation has decreased slightly. Subscriptions are lapsing without renewal, and new subscribers aren't replacing them. Also, advertising revenues are down. In particular, we have lost two advertisers--The Inner Connection and Mother Murphy's--in the recent past because they have refused to pay their sizable outstanding bills. So we have lost the money they owe us as well as any potential future income.

Simply stated, the *Post* needs to raise more money. We have implemented cost saving measures--printing fewer copies of each issue, reusing supplies, and so on--but its not enough. So we turn to you, our readers.

We estimate our readership at about 2,000. If each person who reads the *Post Amerikan* regularly were to give us just one dollar, we would have our operating costs for nearly a year. So that is what we're asking.

If you want the *Post* to continue as an alternative voice in Bloomington/Normal, please send us at least a dollar. More if you can afford it. Take a buck you were going to spend at Inner Connection or Mother Murphy's and give it to us instead.

We've made it through twelve years of Reagan/Bush economics together. Please don't let the *Post Amerikan* fold now. Thank you all for your continued support.

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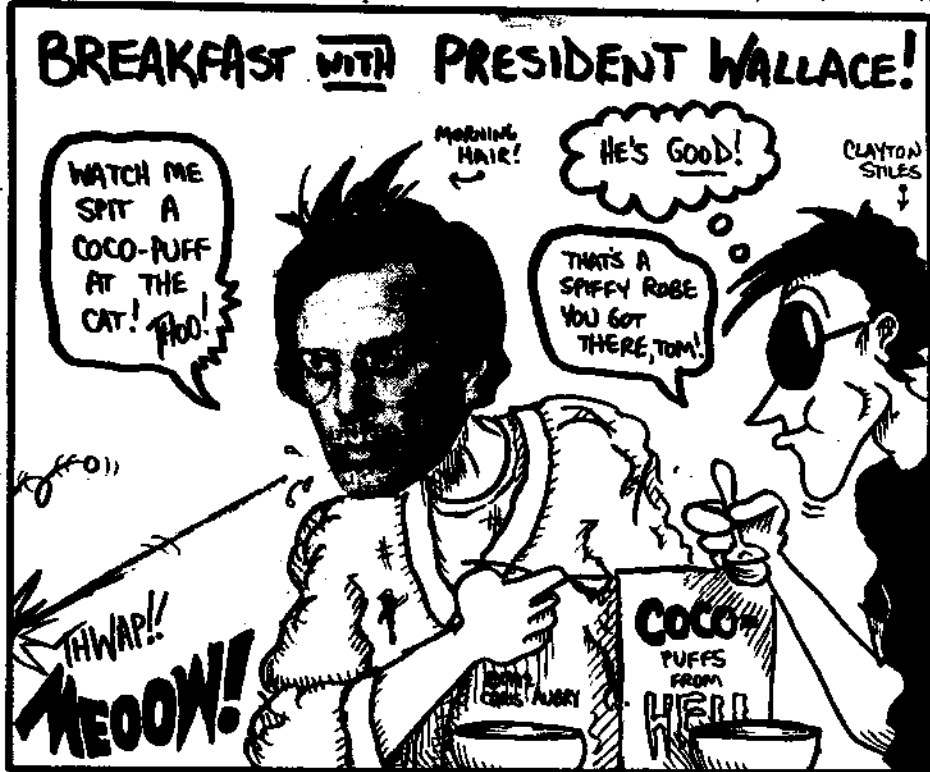
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HOW I GOT FIRED FROM THE DAILY VIDETTE!

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(THE TRUE STORY THAT REALLY BROKE UP THE ROYAL FAMILY MARRIAGE!...SORTA.)



(PREVIOUSLY PULLED) A PLAYFUL POKER AT SAC'S "BREAKFAST WITH AN IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE BOZO" PROGRAM

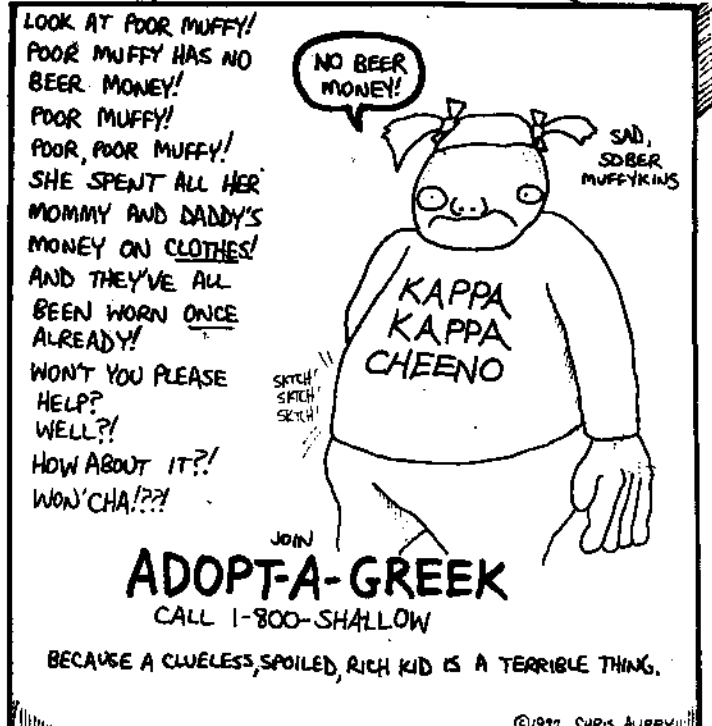
SOMETIMES WHAT HAPPENS BACKSTAGE AT THE VIDETTE IS MORE INTERESTING THAN WHAT YOU ACTUALLY READ IN THE VIDETTE. MATTER OF FACT, THAT'S PROBABLY ALWAYS TRUE. AT THE VIDETTE, DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER OF 1992, I WAS HAVING LOTS OF MY EDITORIAL CARTOONS CENSORED - I MEAN EDITED - WITHOUT THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF BOTHERING TO TELL ME WHY. HE WOULD SAY THEY WERE FINE WHEN I WAS AROUND, BUT MY TOONS WOULD MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEAR BY THE NEXT DAY'S EDITION. IT SUCKED WORKING HARD ON SOMETHING FOR HOURS, ONLY TO HAVE IT YANKED WITHOUT A WORD. I THEN SWITCHED TO DOING JUST FEATURES PAGE CARTOONS. SOME SELF-IMPORTANT TOADIE BEGAN PULLING THOSE, ALSO, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD MY FEATURES EDITOR'S APPROVAL. WHEN I TURNED IN THE CARTOON IN THE LOWER LEFT-HAND CORNER, THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FIRED ME, BUT DIDN'T HAVE THE BALLS TO TELL ME. I EVENTUALLY FOUND OUT BY WORD OF MOUTH. LUCKILY, I HAD ALREADY HANDED IN A FINAL PARTING SHOT TO THE "FRIDAY'S" SPECIAL SECTION EDITOR. WHEN THAT CARTOON APPEARED IN PRINT, "FRIDAY'S" WAS CANCELLED FOR THE REST OF THE SEMESTER. ISN'T THAT SAD?! CRY, DAMN YOU!!



(PULLED) MAKING FUN OF A "TEETER-TOTTER MARATHON" WHILE ADVERTISING IT AT THE SAME TIME

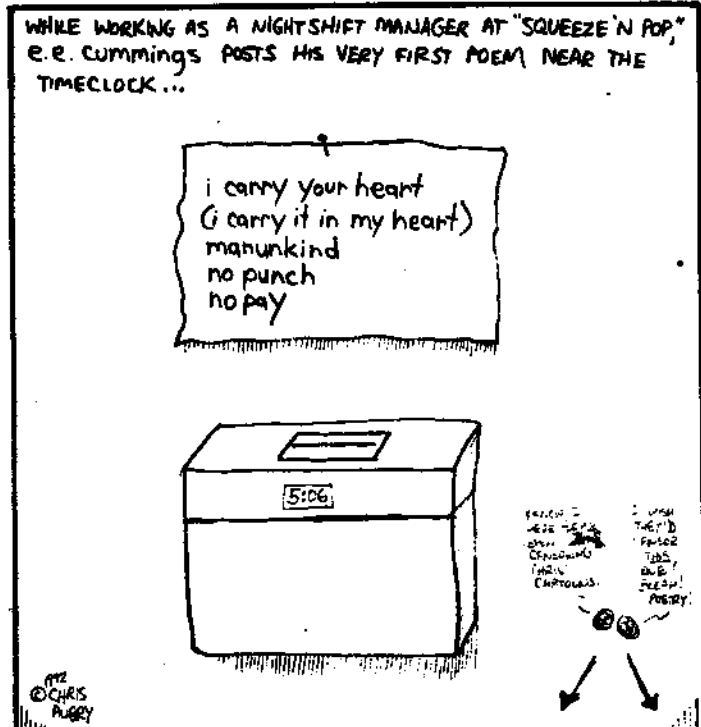
(PULLED) BAD CARTOONIST! BAD! NO MAKE FUN OF THOSE GREEKS! PAPA SPANK!

DIMESTORE HARVEY



(PULLED) THE CARTOON THAT GOT ME FIRED AS A CARTOONIST FOR "INSUBORDINATION"

(GOT PRINTED HEH, HEH, HEH...) AND MY TEARY-EYED FAREWELL FROM "FRIDAY'S"



THE PART THEY DIDN'T LIKE → FIRING WAS TOO GOOD FOR ME!! OH GOD! SUCH DISRESPECT! I CAN'T LOOK!

Y'KNOW, I HEAR THEY'VE BEEN CENSURING CHRIS' CARTOONS.

I WISH THEY'D CENSOR THIS ONE! BLEAH! POETRY!

