

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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Post Amerikan

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Boycott Blockbuster--Find out why inside

Post benefit



POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOL. 25

50¢

NO. 2

APRIL/MAY 1996

Bloomington/Normal's Own® Post Amerikan

• **NEWSPAPER** •



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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*.

Post Sellers

Bloomington
 AIDS Task Force, 313 N. Main (inside)
 About Books, 221 E. Front (inside)
 The Back Porch, 402 N. Main (inside)
 Bakery Bank, 901 N. Main
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East
 Circus Video, (Emerson and Main)
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main (inside)
 Front and Center Building
 Law and Justice Center, W. Front
 Medusa's, 420 N. Madison (inside)
 Once Upon a Time, 311 N. Main (inside)
 The Park Store, Wood and Allin (inside)
 Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main (inside)
 U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

Normal
 Amtrack Station
 Babbitt's Books, 104 North (inside)
 Bus stop, (School and Fell)
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North (inside)

Champaign
 Babbitt's Books, 614 E. Green, (inside)

Good numbers

ACLU.....454-7223
 AIDS Hotlines
 National.....1-800-AID-AIDS
 Illinois.....1-800-243-2437
 Local.....(309) 827-AIDS
 Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-7092
 Animal Protection League.....828-5371
 Bloomington Housing Authority.....829-3360
 Boys and Girls Club.....829-3034
 Clare House (Catholic workers).....828-4035
 Countering Domestic Violence.....827-7070
 Dept. of Children/Family Services....828-0022
 Gay & Lesbian Resource Phoneline...438-2429
 Habitat for Humanity.....829-0693
 HELP (transportation for senior citizens/handicapped).....828-8301
 Home Sweet Home Mission.....828-7356
 IL Dept. of Public Aid.....827-4621
 IL Lawyer Referral.....1-800-252-8916
 Incest Survivors Support Group.....827-5051
 Lighthouse
 (substance abuse treatment).....827-6026
 McLean Co. Center for Human Services.....827-5351
 McLean Co. Health Dept.....888-5450
 McLean Co. Humane Society.....663-7387
 McLean Co. Peace Coalition.....828-7070
 Mid Central Community Action.....829-0691
 Mobile Meals.....828-8301
 Narcotics Anonymous.....1-800-779-6178
 NAAFA (size acceptance)
 Central IL chapter.....454-2128
 National Health Care Services/
 abortion assistance.....1-800-322-1622
 Occupational Development Center....452-7324
 Operation Recycle.....829-0691
 Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
 PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help).....827-4005
 Phone Friends.....827-4005
 Planned Parenthood (medical).....827-4014
 (bus/couns/edu).....827-4368
Post Amerikan.....828-4473
 Prarie State Legal Services.....827-5021
 Project Oz.....827-0377
 Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005
 Safe Harbor Mission (Salvation Army)829-9476
 Sunnyside Neighborhood Center.....827-5428
 TeleCare (senior citizens).....828-8301
 Unemployment comp/job service....827-6237
 Voice for Choice.....828-3108
 Western Ave. Community Center.....829-4807
 Youth Services of Mid IL.....828-7346

Subscriptions

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

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

David, Linda, Matt,
 Nick, Ralph, Russ,
 Sherrin and Steve

Due Date:

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

May 15



Community News



Coming Events

April 13-14 AMI-Illinois Annual Conference

April 18 Dr. James D. Baker of Chestnut Health Systems will talk about Dual Diagnosis

July 5-9 NAMI Conference, Opryland Hotel, Nashville

--From AMI of Livingston & McLean Counties newsletter

Normal Human Relations Commission will accept letters concerning the Normal Human Rights issue up through April 9. They will consider all issues and propose their findings at their meeting on April 23 at 7pm.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) will host a public meeting for interested people. Roger Leishman, Director of Gay, Lesbian and AIDS Rights project for Illinois will be speaking on Discrimination and Gay & Lesbian Rights. Bloomington Public Library Community Room, Wednesday, April 24, 7-9 pm.

Playing in Peoria
Songwriter/Comedian/Singer National Touring Lesbian Jamie Anderson will be performing at the Universalist Unitarian Church, 908 Hamilton Blvd, Saturday, April 27, 7pm. Tickets \$10 at the door. A performance not to be missed.

--From O.U.T.A.B.A.G. News newsletter



Upper to the McLean Co. State's Attorney's office for supplying free cellular phones to persons who have filed for protection orders.

Downer to an ICC Student for wearing a t-shirt which read: Silly Faggot, Dicks are for Chicks.

Upper to Dennis Rodman of the Chicago Bulls for sporting a t-shirt which read: I Don't Mind Straight People, As Long as They Act Gay in Public.



Wild About Wildlife

Ewing Park I
Saturday, April 27, 1996 • 9am-12 noon



Celebrate the natural world with a morning of activities for the whole family.

Activities and displays:

9:00 - Located near the east entrance to the nature preserve. Earth items, plants, and t-shirts will be sold throughout the morning. Self-guided tours of the woods, hands-on youth and family activities, and informational exhibits and booths by organizations.

Workshops:

9:00 - *Butterfly Gardening*. Held at St. John's Lutheran Church, west entrance. Learn how to turn your garden or backyard into a beautiful home for butterflies.

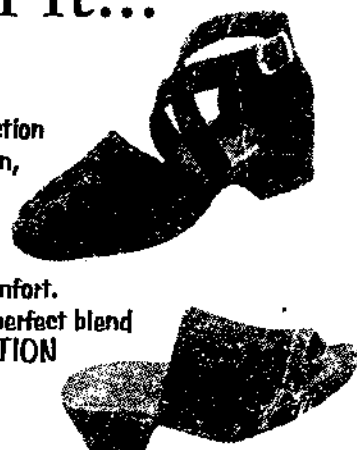
9:00 - *Bird Watching Basics*. Held in the celebration tent in Ewing Park. Learn the basic skills for the identification and enjoyment of birds.

10:00 - *Bats: Remarkable Creatures of the Night*. Held at St. John's Lutheran Church, west entrance. Learn about the features and behavior of bats. Bat conservation efforts will be discussed and specimens of Illinois bats will be available for viewing.

The event is free and open to the public. Parking is available off Ethell Parkway at the west entrance to Ewing Park II and at St. John's Lutheran Church, across from Ewing Manor.

We've stuck our foot in it...

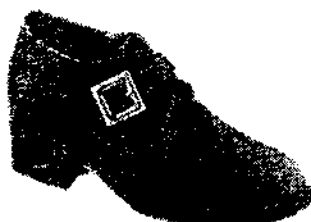
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Animal Magnetism



It's a Royal Shame!

Miss Universe, Chelsi Smith, has joined People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) in appealing to Monaco's Prince Rainier to ban animal acts at the annual gathering of European circuses in Monte Carlo. Called "the most prestigious event in the world," the Festival International du Cirque is an outdated exhibition of domination over animals—it's presided over by Prince Rainier and his daughter Stephanie.

"I used to love zoos and the circus as a child," says Chelsi, "now, however, I know how unfairly and cruelly the animals are treated > . I gladly join the voices of millions who already speak out for elephants and animals of the world."

A PETA videotape shot undercover at the 1995 festival shows a trainer jabbing and hitting an elephant with a bullhook to make her sit upright on a stool; a trainer forcing a brown bear to "dance" on his back legs (many trainers burn the bears' sensitive paws to teach them to hop from leg to leg); and an elephant struggling against chains around her legs and sensitive trunk that hold her to the ground.

The animals are forced to balance on plastic balls, leap through burning hoops, twirl on their back legs, skate and ride bicycles. Behind the scenes, beatings, food deprivation, chaining and confinement in small cages are common.

At least one of the circuses has been charged with smuggling endangered species, including chimpanzees, gorillas, rare tigers and Asian elephants—a violation of international law.

Action: Politely ask Prince Rainier to make the Monte Carlo International Circus animal-friendly by inviting circuses with only human performers. Writer to:

His Royal Highness
Prince Rainier
BP518
Monaco-Ville, Monaco
98015

Let Monaco's tourism board know you won't spend your vacation dollars in Monaco until the festival drops its animal acts.

Direction du Tourisme et Congres
2-A, boulevard des
Moulins
Monte Carlo
MC 98030
Monaco, Cedex

Nightmare at NASA

While movie audiences relived NASA's glory days at *Apollo 13*, real-life employees were leaking information that exposed a modern-day nightmare at the agency's top laboratory, the Ames Research Center in California. Animals are suffering and dying because of incompetence, insiders say, pointing to a joint U.S./French/Russian project called Bion 11.

PETA investigators found that this techno-titled experiment involves inserting wires underneath monkeys' skin, drilling holes into their skulls and straight-jacketing them into metal restraint chairs. In early 1996, the monkeys are to be launched into space. Why? "To study weightlessness," NASA says—even though *human* astronauts have already stayed in space for 400 days!

NASA whistle blowers have provided evidence that sloppy surgery, inadequate care during and after surgery, and sheer carelessness have killed more than a dozen monkeys. When PETA detailed these charges to NASA chief Daniel Goldin, NASA headquarters ordered an investigation by an outside panel of experts.

Within weeks, the panel's reports verified PETA's allegations, including:

—Monkeys used in Bion 11 had such severe sores from the wires implanted throughout their bodies they had to be destroyed. Some animals suffered for as long as three years before they were put out of their misery.

—Monkeys used in Bion 11 were given no painkillers after invasive surgeries.

—One Bion experimenter killed a monkey by putting bolts too far into her skull and piercing brain tissue.

—Monkeys died of dehydration because NASA staff did not administer fluids during surgeries—a routine medical procedure.

—Monkeys body temperatures dropped to near-

fatal levels during surgeries because staff did not bother to monitor vital signs or use heating pads.

—All monkeys were used in experiments because staff failed to perform routine blood tests before surgery.

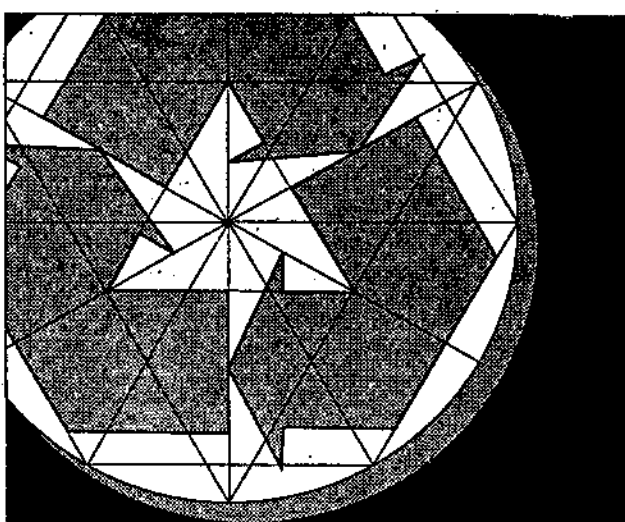
—Two monkeys slowly died of thirst because caretakers didn't notice that their water sippers were clogged.

The panel recommended a suspension of all experiments overseen by Bion Project Director David Tomko, who "demonstrated little sense of responsibility," and an overhaul of the NASA's guidelines and procedures for animal care.

PETA is now asking the U.S., French and Russian governments to dump the multimillion-dollar Bion project (it will cost U.S. taxpayers \$33 million!). So far, NASA says it's still "all systems go" to countdown. You can help bring an end to the waste.

Action: Write to President Bill Clinton, White House, Washington DC, 20500. Ask them to get animals out of Bion 11.

—PETA's *Animal Times* Spring 1996



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• RECYCLE DRIVES





The Poetry Page

Reclamation of Independence

America, you Elitist Nation,
your members demand to be better (at least
richer. . .) than everyone else, including
that lower 95% of your own population
who really isn't there. . . . you know,
the third world?

America, you Empire
big bully capitalist on the global block,
you can oppress and control without
your military prowess, by controlling
what they need you own them
America, poster child for Democracy
you poison the peoples' minds with endless
commercialism and make your will their
own, all the while you trick them into
believing that they have a voice (let alone
a choice. . .). of the people, for the people,
and by the people becomes economics for
the rich, regulations by the market, and
partisan
squabbling in the name of special interests.

America, I declare you illegitimate
by the Law that governs all,
birds, trees, hills, sand, clouds, beasts, and man,
and in the name of these and every natural
entity denounce your authority that once
more the land may prosper
and survive.

America, you Gangsta Nation,
you'll rumble with anyone to protect
your own turf (including subsequent profits).
Is carpet bombing that much
different from a drive-by shooting,
and how many innocents have
been caught by stray bombs?
Your children starve, but you buy
more weapons and always need a fix
of cheap oil. Hell, global racketeering
and extortion cost more than schools. . .
America, you Nazi Nation,
doors open wide to white Europeans
with heaps of gold to blind their eyes
to your industrial greed. Slavery doesn't
mean what it used to, and you have enslaved
us all. You call us your children and forget
that you killed the people the land loved.
Like your christian forefathers, and their
Roman christian ancestors, you brutally conquer
and ruin cultures not your own--within and
without your "borders"--in the name of empty
faiths. Genocide is twice as evil when you try
to justify it. . .

America, you Liar,
filling our heads with myths of property
and ownership, teaching us the false truth
that "somebody's got to lose" to rationalize
the greed that feeds you, and making meat
of us all. Your body and soul demands we
rape the earth, and you assume the right
to make us. While many starve you pamper
few and create identity out of exclusion, that
those without are thus beneath and not quite
"people" after all.

America, you do what looks good
in your papers while defining
what good is for the readers,
for the truth will destroy you.

America, little by little you continue
to prostrate yourself like a national
strumpet, smiling as god offers
two fingers
to fill your gaping chasm of greed
the poor drip off like honey, republicans
wash the sheets, and free men and women
escape in crimson torrents of lost innocence
America, you bite your tongue and bleed,
oblivious as the walls burn down around you
god's name on your lips with the corporation's
dick in your mouth, you'll come and come
and come until the button is pressed
and jesus sneaks off without paying
weeping, america, for the rip-off of your soul,
you'll no doubt get back to bible
thumping, and it's not getting any holier.

America, you are nothing to be
proud of, rotten and putrid
in the light of the sun. I throw
away my allegiance like so much
trash. I may be a citizen, but I
refuse to be a member. Instead,

I will choose to be free.

—Matt Toczko

Sister Freedom

Sister Freedom so long awaited
yours to be promise fulfilled
as seen in bright dreams
perfect and real.

Sister Freedom of ancient vision
yours to be deeply rooted
strong at dawn and calm at dusk
smiling and at peace.

Sister Freedom of this New Age
yours to be high flight
arching skyward with the wind
the full Earth in sight.

Sister Freedom how greatly blessed
yours to be even greater joy
Goddess has smiled and has raised you up
before our gaze.

Sister Freedom beloved one
yours to be welcome welcome
we are waiting to watch you dance
we are waiting to hear you sing

and become President someday

—Gregg Brown

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Acquisitiveness

And he said unto them, "If a man told God that he wanted most of all to help the suffering world, no matter the price to himself, and God answered and told him what he must do, should the man do as he is told?"

"Of course, Master!" cried the many. "It should be pleasure for him to suffer the tortures of hell itself, should God ask it!"

"No mater what those tortures, nor how difficult the task?"

"Honor to be hanged, glory to be nailed to a tree and burned, if so be that God has asked," said they.

"And what would you do," the Master said unto the multitude, "if God spoke directly to your face and said, 'I command that you be happy in the world, as long as you live.' What would you do then?"

And the multitude was silent, not a voice, not a sound was heard upon the hillsides, across the valleys where they stood.

And the Master said unto the silence, "In the path of our happiness shall we find the learning for which we have chosen this lifetime. So it is that I have learned this day, and choose to leave you now to walk your own path, as you please."



--ILLUSIONS by Richard Bach

"So, why do you waitress at Tobin's" I am often asked. "Because I like it. I have fun," I tell them. They look at me puzzled. I try explaining.

"I am a midwife sometimes, and sometimes I wait on tables and sometimes I sell things I make and sometimes I don't work for money at all. I am a substitute waitress at Tobin's and fill in when they need help or when someone wants off. In this way I am not on the schedule. I pick when I WANT to work, based on needing a little cash or boredom. I get out of the house for a while, get to hang out with some people I have known for years, make some VERY easy money, and get some free pizza to take home to the kids. No hassle, no responsibility, and no stress." They think it strange that I wouldn't rather have a "real" job (I sometimes think they think waitressing isn't real work).

People also wonder why I don't actively seek midwifery clients, or why my husband prefers to work for a non-union painter who owns his own business in town. Wouldn't we rather make a lot more money? Wouldn't Mark prefer to be self-

employed? Wouldn't we rather be less poor? After all, we are intelligent, college educated, have extremely marketable skills, and could have a lot more cash if we only went to the effort. I can usually not make them understand that we AREN'T poor, even though we don't have much money.

I know many think it is sheer laziness on our parts. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, we are extremely hard working and busy constantly. We just have a commitment to our happiness. This is our first priority in life. And



we are happy people. I don't actively seek clients because I believe those that truly want my services will find me, and I love to be at home with my kids doing other things. My husband works as he does for many reasons. He is not pro-union in today's society (though they did serve a purpose in the past), he enjoys his work, he likes his boss, and he would rather work for another person than a bigger BUSINESS. He doesn't want to be self-employed any time in the near future because he doesn't want the hassle of dealing with sometimes grumpy clients, trying to get people to pay on past-due bills, etc. He likes what he does in the way he does it. He isn't getting rich, but he has a fairly stress free life and is happy.

Many think this is unrealistic, or we are doing something wrong by living this way. It is not the American way. I have been told I am lucky that we can afford to have me stay home with the children, and they just couldn't possibly afford it so their children must be in child care. Yet, compare our lifestyles. We have 2 vehicles we own that we paid \$500 apiece for, while many others have 2 they are making enormous monthly payments on. Two children in childcare full time can easily cost \$175 a week...more than half of what we bring home a week. When both partners work full time, they usually need certain clothing for the job, which costs a lot in itself. We buy a few clothes new and the rest we either buy second hand at thrift stores or garage sales, garbage pick from ISU students in the spring when they leave (and let me tell you, the pickings are great!) or I sew them. Most then buy their lunches out, and often dinners because they are too tired to cook. The meals they do cook are often frozen or "prepared" foods lacking in nutrition and costing more. Our cupboards are filled with ingredients, which are cheaper and more nutritious. And when they come home to their expensive homes they are usually rushed to get the laundry and housework done, or pay someone else to do it. We may do laundry and cleaning, but we also spend much of our week pursuing pleasurable activities. My husband spends time doing woodworking projects (often from garbage picked

wood) or listening to music and reading. My list of "pleasure" activities is endless...I enjoy cooking our dinners, working in the yard, homeschooling our oldest child, reading daily, enjoy baking bread, making toys for the kids, and have recently taken up knitting to name a few. I would honestly say that 70% of my time is spent doing things I enjoy, though much of it may seem like "work". And, being a midwife and subbing at Tobin's comes under the category of "pleasure" to me. They are fun ways to pick up cash.

"THE MAN WHO OWNES LITTLE IS LITTLE OWNED"

Last night on public television I was watching a show on how we are social animals and learn to read other people's voices and faces at a young age. They said how people rarely smile when they are alone, and it is something they do for other's benefit. I chuckled out loud (alone) and smiled (alone). It is frequent that I am alone doing things and find myself smiling. Recently, when visiting a friend, I was feeling a little blue. She asked me on this day, "Are you always this happy?" and I thought she was teasing me. She was sincere.

When asked how we can be free of dependence as long as we are living in society, Krishnamurti responded:

Do you know what society is? Society is the relationship between man and man, is it not? Don't complicate it, don't quote a lot of books; think very simply about it and you will see that society is the relationship between you and me and others. Human relationship makes society; and our present society is built upon a relationship of acquisitiveness, is it not? Most of us want money, power, property, authority; at one level or another we want position, prestige, and so we have built an acquisitive society. As long as we are acquisitive, as long as we want position, prestige, power and all the rest of it, we belong to this society and are therefore dependent on it. But if one does not want any of these things and remains simply what one is with great humility, then one is out of it; one revolts against it and breaks with this society.

Unfortunately, education at present is aimed at making you conform, fit into and adjust yourself to this acquisitive society. That is all your parents, your teachers and your books are concerned with. As long as you conform, as long as you are ambitious, acquisitive, corrupting and destroying others in the pursuit of position and power, you are considered a respectable citizen. You are educated to fit into society; but that is not education, it is merely a process which conditions you to conform to a pattern. The real function of education is not to turn you out to be a clerk, or a judge, or a prime minister, but to help you understand the whole structure of this rotten society and allow you to grow to freedom, so that you will break away and create a different society, a new world. There must be those who are in revolt, not partially but totally in revolt against the old, for it is only such people who can create a new world--a world not based own acquisitiveness, on power and prestige.



I am not Miss Marcee-Sunshine. I can be cranky and sometimes downright miserable and bitchy, but mostly I am a very happy person. There is no magic formula. We just decided a while ago that trying to "get ahead" in and of itself is not much of a goal in life. The "American dream", from a global perspective, is a nightmare of environmental devastation. We are supposedly the richest nation, and yet we have extremely poor people, an extremely high infant mortality rate compared to the other industrialized nations, and no nationalized health care, guaranteeing help for all. People focus on a "more is better" philosophy. We assume we all deserve 2 televisions and VCR's, a stereo, and a nice car. Deserve? Where did this notion come from? These things are not what life is about.

Most people don't enjoy their work. They spend most of their waking hours working for someone or something they don't necessarily like with the goal being to make as much money as possible for themselves and their business. They develop ulcers, are stressed, have heart attacks. They are numb to the rest of the struggles of the world, and live in an egocentric shell. If they want to spend all their money on fast food, buying plastic cheap toys for their kids that will break in a month, they think they have a right to do so. What happens to the garbage this generates? What about the pollution to make the toys? Have you every really paid attention to the useless items in the world? A good example is the electric carving knife that gets pulled out only on holidays. The electric tooth brush or electric can opener are also examples of "worthless" items that waste electricity, when we can easily use a regular toothbrush or a hand powered can opener. We think we need more things, so we work for more money, and as we have more money and more things, the companies have to invent "new" worthless things and entice us to buy these with our hard earned money. Next time you are in the grocery store, check out the cracker aisle. How many varieties of crackers do we need!?!? You may as well eat the cardboard they are boxed in for all the nutrition you get out of them.



For an excellent view on how this all works and how our acquisitiveness is destroying the world, read Daniel Quinn's book *Ismael*. It will open your eyes as to how our world is populated by Takers, taking whatever we can get, not by Leavers, who live more gently in the world.

Much of this rush to grab what you can is taught in schools. We are educated not to learn how the world and life works to be happy people, but to become lawyers, business people, etc., to make money. Our families teach us to make something of ourselves. In my family art, theater, and music weren't looked upon highly. I wanted to be an art major in college but was "forbidden" to do so because it was completely impractical, so I majored in something practical--psychology. And what do I do with that degree? Nothing. I would have gotten much more out of an art major that would have been practical to my life, and maybe would have even enjoyed school, instead of seeing it as an unpleasant task I tried to get through as quickly as possible.

The only reason I ever feel poor has to do with old debts we accumulated B.C. (Before Children), when we spent more time and money on getting things we "wanted" and thought we couldn't live without. When that debt is paid off, we will actually feel a great burden lifted off of our shoulders that we will not get trapped under again. Yet without the fancy cars, the new furniture and clothes, we have something most people we know don't. We are a truly happy couple. We enjoy each other and our children and the time we spend together, and we enjoy our life. Nothing glamorous, but very fulfilled.

Much of the acquisitiveness in people comes from unhappiness inside themselves. They keep thinking that if only they had more money, everything would be fine, or if they had the right job, with power or prestige, something would be different. Happiness doesn't come from possessions, but from within. In the Wiccan religion, they have the Charge of the Goddess, and part of it says, "And you who seek to know Me, know that your seeking and yearning will avail you not, unless you know the Mystery: for if that which you seek, you find not within yourself, you will never find it without. For behold, I have been with you from the beginning, and I am that which is attained at the end of desire."

Yes, I often wish I had more money. Each month when I juggle our finances to pay bills I think, "Boy, if we only had another \$100 or \$200 a month, wouldn't that be grand!" Right now, I would like to get a more dependable car...maybe a \$2000 one for a change with less problems! I am trying to figure out how I can make this happen for myself, and can let myself think, "If just for once I didn't have to plan and scrimp and save for something..." but I stop myself. I think of how I can sleep with the kids until 8:30 in the

morning every day, or how we can take off on the spur of the moment to go to the woods somewhere for the day, or the pleasure I have in making my children a toy, reading them a book, or dancing around the livingroom, and I know how very rich I am, and I smile, even if I am by myself. Like I am doing right now.

For further reading on these topics or for having a happy life, I'd suggest these books:

- ILLUSIONS by Richard Bach
- THINK ON THESE THINGS by J. Krishnamurti
- THE GOOD LIFE by Helen and Scott Nearing
- THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED by J. Scott Peck
- LAFCADIO by Shel Silverstein (try the children's section)

Marcee Murray

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Personal Rights Under Attack Again

The U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision on March 4 that once again threatens the liberties of the American people. Be warned: you better know how your property is being used at all times or you could lose it. Property you co-own with a spouse or partner is not safe under the ruling.

Case in point, Tina Bennis and her husband owned a 1977 Pontiac. It's only worth about \$600, but it is Tina's only transportation to work. It's her husband's only transportation as well. So, one night her husband decides to go out in search of a little purchased fun. In plain English, he decided to hire a prostitute. They engaged in what ever pleasures he paid for in the 1977 Pontiac, only to be discovered by the Royal Oaks, Michigan cops. They are arrested. Under the delightful forfeiture laws, which allow authorities to seize property used in criminal enterprises, the cops also take the car, and they keep it.

Now Tina Bennis is a bit upset. First, her mate is out having purchased (unsafe?) sex, and if that's not enough, he's lost their car (her name also on the title) in the process. She appeals the seizure all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Mind you, the car was seized in 1988. This has taken 8 years. The Supreme Court splits 5 to 4 against Tina. Too bad.

According to Michigan Prosecutor George Ward, "At the time you put your name on the car you assume responsibility for the harm a vehicle causes, whether that be to another person, or in this case, the integrity of a neighborhood." Justice Ginsberg wrote that "Michigan has decided to deter "Johns" from using cars they own (or co-own) to contribute to neighborhood blight." So the next time your mate goes out, you better be sure where and why they're going. Better yet, maybe you better tag along. That pot seed in the ash tray from the joint shared with a buddy could cost you your wheels. And you never had a hit.

--W.W.

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WGLT Woes Continue Public Radio Remains Under Siege

You can't help but feel for the folks at WGLT.

After making it through the first volleys fired by Newt and company, the ISU FM station currently faces radical reconstruction by the university itself. Under a proposed change in departments, the station could see a shift in its current focus from public service and community programming toward teaching and campus oriented broadcasting. The shift is one that many in the community dread.

In its current format, the station provides an outlet for music (jazz, blues, acoustic, even--chokel--show tunes) that is not getting play anywhere else on the dial. As a news source, National Public Radio's programs are unparalleled, while fan favorites like "Car Talk" and "Whad'ya Know" also have their community proponents. Whether any of this programming would survive the shift is presently unknown. But it's likely that most of it won't.

First thing to go, though, will likely be many of the full-time employees that GLT currently has on staff.

Though the College of Arts and Sciences dean Paul Schollaert is attempting to justify the proposed change as answering the need for students to receive broadcast experience, the fact is that ISU already has two outlets for this (radio station WZND and TV10). Those close to the university point to interdepartmental fighting for funds as the real reason for the proposal. A committee being asked to currently consider the proposal was also told to add the likelihood that ISU would cut 50% of the dollars that it currently was giving to the station. University money accounts for about 39% of WGLT's budget.

Those of you who've sat through a public radio fundraising, of course, also know that a similar large amount comes from the community itself--from individual listeners and corporate underwriters. None of these folks have been consulted in the proposed plans, though, which is typical of the university's blinkered vision when it comes to the community that houses it. Public broadcasting? What are you talking about?


In response to this short-sighted perspective, some community members have taken to circulating a petition and writing letters to the university. Their aim: to have their voices

heard above administrators more interested in academic power brokering than in serving the community. The committee charged with checking out the feasibility of GLT's change is looking to an April 15 deadline to come up with a recommendation.

The community group, which calls itself the "GLTzers," hopes to garner enough community opinions to let the university know that there is strong support for the station's current operation. (If interested, you can contact Becky Fox at 454-2128.) Whether this will help to stay the course is anybody's guess.

After years of negative publicity around former president Thomas Wallace, though, you'd think that present president David Strand would be reluctant to show a cavalier attitude towards the community.


--billsher



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News From Voice for

Anti-Choice Legislation Introduced

The anti-choicers are up to it again. They have introduced new parental notification bills even as the Illinois Supreme Court has enjoined the law signed by Governor Edgar last spring. Write to your Senator and Representative and tell them to oppose parental notification.

Other bills introduced include:

HB 3412 - requires a medical consent form to be signed by a woman having an abortion which warns her of a risk of breast cancer related to having an abortion. Despite attempts by the anti-choice movement to exploit some recent studies on the possible link of breast cancer to abortion, a study recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association concludes that "the risk of breast cancer associated with any pregnancy termination is likely to be small, if it exists at all."

SB 1521 - this bill would ban Medicaid funding of abortion in Illinois except for preserving the life of the mother. It would not allow abortion to be paid for in cases of rape and incest.

SB 1492 - this bill would ban certain late term abortion procedures used to save the life of the mother in cases of severe fetal deformity. The procedure is used very rarely. Similar legislation in Ohio was struck down by the federal court.

Pat Buchanan Endorsed by David Duke Do we really need to say anything else?

Who's Who in the Christian Right

The following is the Reader's Digest version of a *Mother Jones* article dealing with the religious right. We thought it may be of some interest:

Paul Weyrich, the new right's strategic architect. He founded the Heritage Foundation in 1973, and helped start the Moral Majority in 1979, he inspired the foundation of the Christian Coalition. He now runs the Free Congress Foundation.

Richard Viguerie has raised millions for new right causes and candidates with the most lucrative direct-mail operations this side of L L Bean. According to Viguerie, "Direct is like having a water moccasin for a watchdog. Silent but deadly."

Howard Philips, with Weyrich and Viguerie, forms the new right's trinity. He founded the Conservative Caucus, helped start the Moral Majority, and now heads the U.S. Taxpayers Party, which helped draft Buchanan for president.

Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan's announcement of cultural war ignited the religious right at the 1992 GOP convention and he promises to do it again this year.

Pat Robertson, after his failed 1988 presidential bid, founded the Christian

Coalition. Robertson's 1991 book, *The New World Order*, charged that a cabal of Freemasons and Jewish bankers is leading the Western world into ruin.

Ralph Reed, the boyish executive director of the 1.7 million member Christian Coalition, has been Robertson's front man since 1989. Reed once boasted "I do guerrilla warfare... You don't know it's over until you're in a body bag."

James Dobson's daily radio program, "Focus on the Family," has 5 million listeners per week. "People in Washington don't know those people are out there," he says. "They don't realize that it's probably the majority of Americans."

Phyllis Schlafly, one of the religious right's few female leaders, despite it's large number of women, led fights against the ERA and a nuclear freeze, once saying "The atomic bomb is a marvelous gift that was given to our country by a wise God."



Thirty Something Years of the Christian Right

1960: William F. Buckley founds Young Americans for Freedom (YAF). Future new right leaders meet in YAF, which takes off after Lyndon Johnson defeats conservative Barry Goldwater in the 1964 presidential race.

1961: Pat Robertson launches Christian Broadcasting Network on TV.

1963: The 21st Ecumenical Council (Vatican II) "absolves" Jews for the crucifixion of Jesus.

1964: Richard Viguerie hand-copies Goldwater's campaign donor list and turns it into a highly successful direct-mail fund raising base by the early 1970's. Phyllis Schlafly's book "A Choice Not an Echo" founds future new right themes.

1966: Nixon hires Pat Buchanan as a speech writer. Howard Philips hired by Republicans National Committee; Pat Robertson's "700 Club" goes on the air.

1967: Paul Weyrich hired as Senate aid. He will be one of the first on the right to focus on abortion.

1968: Nixon elected on "silent majority" then prefiguring the Moral Majority.

1972: Phyllis Schlafly founds Stop ERA, a precursor to the Eagle Forum.

1973: Roe vs. Wade affirms abortion rights; Weyrich founds Heritage Foundation, which becomes an influential conservative think tank.

1974: Nixon forced out by Watergate; Philips founds Conservative Caucus and visits all 435 congressional districts to get support for conservative causes.

1976: Jimmy Carter becomes first elected president to describe himself as a born-again evangelical.

1977: James Dobson founds Focus on the Family; Weyrich founds Free Congress Foundation; Robertson creates the Family Channel.

1979: Weyrich helps found Moral Majority with Jerry Falwell as head, they help elect Ronald Reagan president in 1980.

1982: ERA fails; two Florida abortion clinics are firebombed; the owner of an Illinois abortion clinic and his wife are kidnapped and held for a week by the "Army of God."

1984: Abortion clinics are firebombed or burned by arsonists 24 times.

1987: Televangelist Jim Bakker caught in sex and financial scandals.

1988: Televangelist Jimmy Swagart caught in sex scandal; Televangelist Robertson fails in Republican nomination bid.

1989: Falwell disbands Moral Majority after several years of decline; Robertson founds Christian Coalition; hires Ralph Reed to be its director.

1992: Buchanan calls for "cultural war" in failed presidential bid; George Bush campaigns on "family values" platform.

1994: GOP wins House and Senate with Christian Coalition help; Christian right gains majority in 18 state parties.

Violence Prevention Plates

Illinois drivers can now show their support for violence prevention programs through-out the state by purchasing the Violence Prevention License Plate. Proceeds from the sale of the plates will be used by the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (a statewide coalition) to make grants to local and statewide programs working to prevent violence in homes, schools, workplaces and communities. To get your plate contact the Secretary of State's Office at (217) 785-6901.

PFLAG Chapter Starting

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is needed in this community. Efforts are underway to start a local group. If interested contact Once Upon a Time Alternative Gifts and Books for more information.



Choice

Hate Crimes Exist

It is unfortunate that, other than Mike Matejka, the members of the Bloomington City Council chose to turn their backs on the gay, lesbian and bi-sexual members of this community. Whether they wish to believe it or not, hate crimes do happen, even in this community.

In the short time between the Bloomington City Council's vote and this publication, the parents of a Normal Community High School student pulled their child out of school due to death threats against him. His only "crime" is that he is gay. The student had been harassed for some time; the schools only response was to allow him to leave classes and sit in the guidance counselor's office. According to one NAACP member, this is the same thing she was told to do twenty years ago at Normal when students harassed her based on her race. Too bad there has been no progress in the school's response to bigotry in the past twenty years.

Two weeks ago the Aids Task Force office received a threatening telephone call. Once Upon a Time Alternative Books and Gifts had their rainbow flag stolen from in front of the store. Those are only the reported incidents.



TO SEX WITH PRO LIFERS

According to the Illinois Coalition for the Prevention of Violence, victims of attacks motivated by hate are three times more likely to need hospitalization than victims of other attacks.

African Americans, members of different ethnic groups, Jews, and gays and lesbians are most likely to be victimized by hate crimes.

Of the 151 homicides reported to a national lesbian and gay coalition, nearly 60 percent were labeled "overkill." Overkill refers to murders that involve multiple gunshot wounds, more than four stab wounds, repeated use of blunt objects or dismemberment/mutilation.

Thrill hate crimes are committed by offenders who attack victims "for the fun of it." In a review of Boston Police Department Reports, 91 percent of perpetrators of thrill hate crimes did not know the person they were attacking.

Roughly 80-90 percent of all hate crimes are never reported.



It is truly unfortunate that those we once looked on as community leaders, especially Tom Whalen and Judy Markowitz, have demonstrated just the opposite, a lack of leadership and a lack of courage. In fact, none of the council members even attended the public hearings on the ordinance—that seems to us to be irresponsible. Based on Ms. Markowitz's statements at the city council meeting it is clear she didn't read the transcripts from the hearings either—she should be embarrassed as should Whalen who certainly did not live up to the principles of equality and justice. Please think long and hard about supporting any of the council members who voted against equal rights, it seems to us that they are sorely lacking in courage, compassion, leadership ability, conviction, principle and ethics. It certainly serves to remind us that what passes for good politics isn't necessarily good public policy or even the right thing to do.

Peltier's Parole

An authoritative source confirmed previous informal information to Peltier's Defense Committee that the parole hearing officer who conducted the hearing on December 11, 1995, has made a positive recommendation to the National Parole Commission for the parole release of Leonard Peltier without further delay.

This recommendation was based on the failure of the government to present evidence that Leonard Peltier was the person who killed the two FBI agents at close range.

A final decision from the National Commission was expected in January. Then the unusual delay in its decision of over two and a half months has caused great concern from the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and his supporters.

It is feared that the Parole Commission may conceal the positive parole recommendation made by the parole hearing officer in an attempt to deny Leonard Peltier parole.

Please help us to ensure that justice is done on behalf of Leonard Peltier. You can do this by requesting the public release of the parole hearing officer's recommendation for parole and demanding the approval of that recommendation by the National Parole Commission and the immediate parole release of Leonard Peltier.

Contact the United States Parole Commission at: Phone: 301-492-5952 or 301-492-5821
Fax: 301-492-6694, 301-492-5525, 301-492-5307

--From Leonard Peltier Defense Committee newsletter

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.

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RAPE CRISIS CENTER



The Christian Coalition

The Christian Coalition constitutes a potentially powerful adversary of individual liberty and should be opposed, in spite of the few legitimate grievances they may have about the policies of today's government.

Many Christians are legitimately upset about the fact that they generally have no choice but to send their children to government schools that are controlled by secularists. The secularists propagate values that are at variance with Christian teaching, whether by intention or default.

The problem stems from the fact that any attempt to operate a common school system necessarily presupposes that people share common values, an assumption that, even if possibly true in prior eras, certainly is not true today. I suspect, however, that the Christian Coalition and libertarians propose very different solutions to the problem. Libertarians call for a separation of school and state, with parents deciding which school and consequently which value system their children will be exposed to.

I suspect that the Christian Coalition, rather than question the entire idea of the common school, believes merely that the government schools should be controlled by "the majority" who, they believe, just so happen to be fundamentalists and evangelical Christians. In other words, they (and the secular humanists as well) do not see it as a culture war that could have been avoided had people simply recognized that the concept of the common school is obsolete and should be discontinued.

The Christian Coalition is also opposed to legal abortion and pornography. While the majority of libertarians favor keeping abortion legal, a significant minority of libertarians oppose legal abortion; abortion is an issue that divides all camps. Libertarians believe that pornography should be legal, at least for use by adults in private. The irksome thing about the Christian Coalition, however, is that they appear to say that unless they are allowed to outlaw abortion and pornography, then they, as Christians, are not being afforded their civil rights. They appear to say that the mere

legality of these things necessarily constitutes an assault on the family.

The head of the Christian Coalition, Ralph Reed, has adopted the language used by political minorities, claiming that his group seeks "inclusion." He has stated in interviews that his group merely seeks "a place at the table." And what is the source of this phrase? A recent book by a gay man seeking acceptance from straight society, if not as being normal, then at least as being harmless. Ralph Reed, in engaging in this clever act of "political cross-dressing", surely cannot be serious when he contends that Christians have somehow been denied "a place at the table." For decades, politically authoritarian Christians have owned the table.

It is incorrect to contend that for American society to accommodate people who do not lead the family lifestyle is to attack and oppose the family lifestyle. Libertarians do not believe in monopoly, and just as there should be no monopolies in business, so should there be no monopolies in lifestyle. To deny someone a monopoly is not to deny them their freedom.

The U.S. government has not become "anti-family." What has changed in recent decades is that the legally enforced dominance of one group has been discontinued in favor of competing lifestyles and value systems. When faced with competition, a group can respond in one of two ways: they can either use the coercive power of the state apparatus to eliminate the competition, or they can roll up their sleeves and meet the competition. Libertarians believe that people should choose the latter option. I suspect that the Christian Coalition prefers the former.

How should pro-family people "meet the competition?" They must teach their children that not everyone shares their views. They must warn their children that many of the images they see on television or on the street are not in keeping with family values and that they must learn to recognize and reject these ideas. They must donate money to strengthen pro-family cultural institutions.

If the Christian Coalition (and all other groups) adopted this attitude, then the "culture war" could end in a truce, with no group having vanquished their opponents—and no faction having felt the need to.

--by David Hoscheidt

David Hoscheidt is a member of the Central Illinois Libertarians. Call (309) 452-1219.

Wicked Government Schools? A Christian's View

The Rise and Fall of Government Education by Douglas Wilson

Horace Mann (1796-1858) was the father of the public schools in our country. He was deeply hostile to the historic Christian faith, and sought to replace that faith with a kinder, gentler faith, i.e. faith in man. (Historic Christianity had far too many sharp edges on which sinners might hurt themselves.) The engine selected to propagate this humanistic faith was the common or public school. But as a true man of faith, Mann did not expect tiny things from his god. As he put it, "Let the Common School be expanded to its capabilities, let it be worked with the efficiency of which it is susceptible, and nine-tenths of the crimes in the penal code would become obsolete; the long catalogue of human ill would be abridged; men would walk more safely by day; every pillow would be more inviolable by night; property, life and character held by a stronger tenure; all rational hopes respecting the future brightened."

But a century after the common schools were established, we are all confronted with a dismal spectacle. It does not compare at all well with the glowing messianic vision for public education that was set forth by the seers and prophets of humanism in the last century. Academic standards have plummeted, and parents now have to worry about the physical safety of their children. Many school officials have quit worrying about gum under the seats and have started worrying about whether the metal detectors at the doors are adequate. They usually are not.

This poor outcome, however, should not have been such a surprise. A few orthodox and thinking Christians of the nineteenth century were not at all taken in. R.L. Dabney, a staff officer for "Stonewall" Jackson, prophesied clearly where the attempt by the government to provide a good, "neutral" education would all lead. He knew what would happen to these government schools. "We have seen that their complete secularization is logically inevitable. Christians must prepare themselves then, for the following results: All prayers, catechisms, and Bibles will ultimately be driven out of the schools." A.A. Hodge, a great theologian at Princeton, said that if the government schools were established, they would prove to be the greatest engine of atheism the world had ever seen. Unfortunately, few Christians at that time had the insight of Dabney and Hodge.

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This was because, although the intellectual impetus behind government schools was unbelieving and clearly humanistic, the local schools were still controlled at the local level by Christians. Protestant evangelical Christians thought of the public schools as their schools. The Catholics agreed with this, and began their parochial school system as a response to the "evangelical" public schools. Only a few Christians had correctly identified the leaven of "neutrality," and where it would lead. It is hard to know what is more astonishing -- those few Christians who saw the real issues a century ago, or those thousands of Christians today who still do not see it.

The public schools were formed when the culture of the United States was overwhelmingly and openly Christian. This is why some Christians today look back at those days with some nostalgia. If only . . . If only we could return to the schools of the last century. If only we could return to McGuffey's Readers. Some of us wistfully look back to the public schools of our childhood, back before prayer was banned. If only . . . This nostalgic approach neglects one thing -- the public schools were a rebellious idea from the start. Is it bad for the humanists to take our tax money and force us to educate our children according to a worldview we reject? But if it is bad for them to do this to us, then how was it good for us to do it to them? Parents are responsible for the education of their own children, and must not employ the coercive power of the state to educate the children of others. With regard to education, parents must determine its character, bear its costs, set its direction, and through what they do in their childrearing, present their children before the Father at the last day. This is the law of God, and it is a law which cannot be obeyed through a civil magistrate pretending that the existence of God is a matter of educational indifference. Education is one of the most religious things we do. The idea that it can be conducted from a "secular" vantage point is laughable. The pretence of neutrality can be made for a time, but only as a transitional tactic. When a culture is changing her gods, she usually cannot bear to jettison them all at once. She must be persuaded to do so gradually, and the farce of neutrality usually provides sufficient time to do this.

Contrary to certain popular Christian assumptions, the crack-up of the government schools is not the result of them taking a "wrong turn" somewhere in the sixties. "We took God out of the schools, and look what happened." The god who was in the public schools before that time was an idol. It certainly made people who had little understanding of true religion feel good in praying to him, but this was only because this idol had all the divine characteristics and attributes of a celestial tapioca.

Christians must not be children in understanding; we must come to a mature mind. We must repent of our attempts to save "our" public schools. If the professing evangelical Christians in our nation were to take their children by their hands and walk away, they would soon hear the roar of a collapsing and fallen god behind them. If they do not leave, it will still fall, but with their children inside.

Credenda/Agenda Vol. 8, No. 1

And the *Pantagraph* considers us the competition?

Well, what can I say? For those of you who haven't yet seen the *Peoria Journal Star's* recent piece on the *Post*, I say don't rush to the reading room at Bloomington Public Library. That is, if you want to see a puff piece, or want a slyly supercilious, mainstream media reporting to stir your ire. As far as I'm concerned, David Moll tells the truth, and truth, like comedy, usually is not pretty.

An old Bloomington-Normal hand reminisces

I myself signed on to the *Post* in October 1989, and by then, its glory days of hard-core lefty investigative journalism were pretty much a proud memory. Oh, we'd get the occasional piece, such as X and Y's venture into the land of Crisis Pregnancy Counselling. X and Y pretended that X was pregnant. The "counsellor's" advice consisted of praying over X so that she would see the light and not abort. No tests, no lists of agencies and services for them to turn to for assistance with funds, prenatal care, or even adoption services. On another occasion, another *Post* staffer and I tried to investigate complaints about rats infesting the near west-side area. That fizzled, mostly because nobody answered our door-to-door, and we couldn't get the original complainant to get back in touch.

I'll admit that my reportage has always been a basic "just the facts, sir," though I like to believe that my advocacy journalism occasionally makes a scintilla of difference. These days, however, I don't even have time for that: I have two part-time jobs and I'm going to school full-time. Even though I'll get a breather in May, when the semester ends, and I myself will graduate in June, I can't make any bets on my energy level for a while.

Another bit of '70's nostalgia

That's the situation at the *Post* these days, folks. Like the man says, current staffers don't have the energy, time, or means to support themselves marginally and devote most of their time to the paper. I don't know about you, but my rent goes way over the \$20 a month the early staffers, who shared a communal residence, had to pay.

Oh yeah? Well, what have you done that's so damn important?

So now instead of bi-weekly, the *Post* comes out bi-monthly, which means we can't give the coverage to local issues that the paper once could. We announce community events, offer extended commentary on issues and events that matter--the trial over Mal Chaplin's murder, the more recent Human Rights Ordinance debacle.

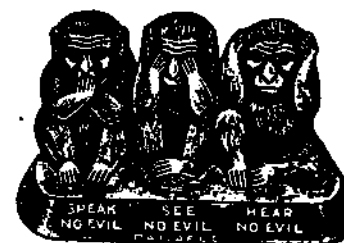
How long the paper will continue to chug along is anybody's guess. It seems that every time we seriously consider folding up our tent and calling it a day, we get just enough community interest to keep us going a few more years. But even that seems to be waning. Here it is our 25th volume year, and we've had virtually no community response. Maybe the *Post* has become like that dumpy old deli your parents

always took you to when you were a kid. You like to go there every now and again for an authentic Kosher dill pickle and a really good hot-corned beef on Jewish rye. The waitresses are still as bossily maternal as ever, if a little older, and just a little tired. Then one day you stop by, and the deli's now a dry-cleaner's.

Let me know when the jackpot gets up to 10 mil

Not too long ago, someone asked me what I would do if I had a million dollars. Several people who answered before me said they would invest it in mutual funds. I answered that I would turn the *Post* into a weekly--that is, if it was okay with everybody else (we are still a collective). That got a big--if affectionate--laugh. I meant it, though. I still do.

--Dr. Attitude



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International Union of Gas Workers

For the past year, the International Union of Gas Workers (IUGW) has been under attack from Washington Gas. Last summer, after their 1,100 members turned down a contract clearly calculated to destroy our union, the company locked them out for nearly four months. During that time IUGW members, half of whom were not eligible for unemployment benefits, suffered severe hardships and in several cases personal tragedy. Meanwhile, Washington Gas raked in record profits.

Members and their families have not taken all this lying down. They fought back during the lockout, and although they were forced to return to work, they're continuing the struggle. In recent months they have stepped up their Campaign to Fight Corporate Thugs. In December they expanded the struggle from Washington Gas itself to Crestar Bank, the company's closest financial ally. Because of those ties they have launched a boycott of Crestar. Already a number of unions with millions of dollars on deposit at Crestar have pledged their support.

Crestar is an important target not only because of its links to Washington Gas. The bank has in the past been repeatedly charged with discrimination in its lending and hiring practices. It also supports the right-wing, anti-labor agenda of groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has been a prime force in undermining health care reform, defeating the striker replacement bill, and attacking the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law. Crestar just recently sponsored the Chamber of Commerce legislative conference in Maryland.

The IUGW urgently needs your help:

— Send a strongly-worded letter to Crestar CEO Richard Tilghman expressing your concern about the close ties between Crestar and union-busting Washington Gas Co. Their union has a record of supporting other labor battles. Now they ask for your solidarity. Help them send a message to big business here in the nation's capital that union-busting will not be



tolerated. Their 1,100 members and their families wholeheartedly thank you for your support.

Richard Tilghman
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Crestar Financial Corporation
919 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23261

—From International Union of Gas Workers newsletter

Hershey Kisses American Jobs Good-Bye

Despite continuing protest by Bakery, Confectionery & Tobacco Workers Local 464 and area labor, Hershey Chocolate is holding firm in plans to move "Giant Kiss" — a one pound novelty candy — production from its hometown of Hershey, Pennsylvania to Guadalajara, Mexico.

This would make the "Giant Kiss" the only Hershey candy produced in Mexico and imported into the U.S., said Earl Light, Local 464 business manager. It will cost 60 Local 464 members their jobs.

Protests are being led by Local 464 members calling themselves the "Hershey Moms" and have included rallies, leafleting, and petitions by area schoolchildren.

The "Moms" want their children to have the same opportunities for good union jobs at Hershey's giant plant.

The Giant Kiss is sold mostly around holidays, particularly Valentine's Day. The "Moms" are encouraging people to call Hershey's consumer line at 1-800-468-1714 to express their concern about jobs leaving the U.S.

—From Livingston & McLean Counties Union News

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Roadsigns

—Amount Milwaukee County WI spent in 1988 to fight the effects of poverty: \$1 billion. Income to a three-member low-income family if this money had been converted into a direct payment: \$33,379. [The Neighborhood Works]

—Annual cost of UN and its peacekeeping for each US citizen: less than \$4. [Bulletin of Atomic Scientists]

---Number of Iraqi children who have died as a result of international sanctions: 500,000. [Lancet]

—Amount the government spends per death on three diseases, each killing 40,000-46,000 people a year: Breast cancer: \$11,500. Prostate cancer: \$2,000. AIDS: \$40,000. [Penthouse]

—Number of aircraft the military has given police departments since 1992: 183. Number of helicopters it plans to give police departments over the next few years: 2,000. [AP]

—Estimated annual cost in lost productivity of highway congestion according to the GAO: \$100 billion. [The Trainrider]

—Increase in the Drug Enforcement Agency's budget for LSD cases since 1989: 200%. Last



time DEA busted a major LSD lab: 1981.
[Pacific News Service]

--Number of blacks elected to Congress since 1870: 95. [Rainbow Coalition]

--Number of persons indicted in 1994 by the Justice department and US Attorneys: 51,253. Number of these indicted on drug charges: 19,533. Number indicted for crimes involving the environment, occupational safety or health: 250. Percent of corporate general counsels who told the *National Law Journal* that they believed their company had violated federal or state environmental laws in the previous year: 66%. [David Burnham, *Above the Law*]

--Percent of all cases referred to the Justice Department in 1994 in which it acted: 50%. Percent of all immigration cases it prosecuted: 85%. Percent of all drug cases: 63%. Percent of corruption cases: 35%. Percent of all white-collar crime cases: 30%. Percent of civil rights cases: less than 5%. [Burnham]

--Percent of all AIDS cases that occur in the developing world: 85%. Percent of money for AIDS prevention that is spent in the developing world: 15%. [Nation]

--*Progressive Review*

Zines to Consider

For those of you who don't know by now - a zine is a small handmade amateur publication done purely out of passion, rarely making a profit or breaking even. Sounds like "zeen." Sounds like Post Amerikan...!

Ordering tips

Please send cash ONLY. If you feel uncomfortable doing so, please write a blank check if no name is given. (Most publishers do not have checking accounts in the zine's name-hence, a useless check). Also, please note if you prefer the issue listed below, (by #) or the most current.

#8 (Sub)TEX

A paper of investigative journalism comparable to the *Washington Free Press* in its coverage of environmental and social issues. This issue contains articles on the Christian Right and its renewed focus on subjugating women under male authority. Groups like "Promise Keepers" are relying on the Bible for "gender truths" and preaching messages that "single motherhood is unacceptable."

Price: \$2 Subs: \$10 for 6 issues
(sub)TEX, Texas Union 314, P.O. Box 7338, Austin, TX 78713

#1 Blastphumy

Describes how radio stations were completely non-commercial, but when RCA realized the profits to be made by paid commercials, they forced the non-commercial station off the air in eight years. Also included; a heated piece on Rush Limbaugh, the inside look at telemarketing surveys, the truth about tort reform and the disturbing news of proposed spending cuts from the Republican-controlled Congress.

Price \$2
Rob Rickner, Blastphumy, P.O. Box 1252, Burlington, VT 05402

The Drug Policy Letter New Ways of Thinking about Drugs

#27 Summer 1995

A supremely informative and nicely produced newsletter that separates the under-reported facts from the over-blown fallacies on the government's War on (some) Drugs- a war that is costing us billions of dollars, hundreds of lives, and three Amendments of the Bill of Rights.

Subs: \$25 for 4 issues.

Arnold Trebach, Drug Policy Foundation, 4455 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite B-500, Washington, DC 20008-2302

Peace Magazine

Vol. 11, #5 Sept/Oct 1995

This is a thinking person's publication on the world around us with each issue dealing with current problems facing us. France resuming nuclear testing and how the UN's Security Council can be improved are a sampling of what this issue contains. The beauty of *Peace* is that it's written by intelligent people for an intelligent audience.

Price: \$2.50 subs: \$17.50 for 6 issues.

Peace Magazine, 736 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON M5S 2R4, Canada

The Washington Free Press

#18, November '95

Progressive coverage of political and environmental issues on the state and national level.

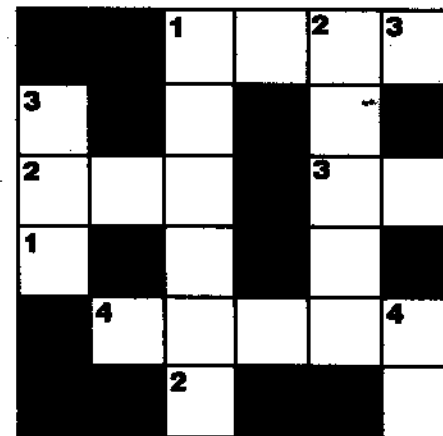
Price: \$2 Subs: \$12 for 6 issues

Free Press Collective, 1463 E. Republican St., Suite 178, Seattle, WA 98112.

These reviews were from *Factsheet Five*, which is a comprehensive guide to over 1,400 publications dealing with every topic imaginable. I highly recommend this as a

starting point if you are curious in ordering zines, but don't know what's available. A sample issue is \$6.00 (payable by cash, check or money order to Factsheet Five) Mail to: Factsheet Five, P.O. Box 170099, San Francisco, CA 94117

--towanda! the zine lover



Crossword Clues

Down

1. Keaton, Poindexter
2. what it seems like most people are lacking, sometimes
3. "___ I am"
4. hello

Across

1. a member of the greatest basketball team, ever
2. Kiss my ___
3. last two letters of a television station that shows Bulls games
4. James and the Giant ___

Diagonal

1. Mad Sort of Underground Utterance
2. Let it
3. Used to attract attention or to show surprise

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Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues

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Reauthorize the Hate Crimes Statistics Act

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 expired at the end of 1995 and needs to be reauthorized this year. The Act requires the Department of Justice to collect data on hate crimes that show evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Hate crimes, including murder, against individuals solely because of their sexual orientation, have unfortunately increased over the past several years, especially in areas with anti-gay and lesbian ballot initiatives. It is important that the FBI continue to collect these statistics so law enforcement and policy-makers will be better able to understand, and combat, these crimes.

Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Paul Simon (D-IL) are taking the lead on legislation to

reauthorize this legislation. It is important to get as many Senate co-sponsors as possible to assure the passage of this legislation, without any negative amendments, by this conservative Congress. Members already signed on as co-sponsors are Akaka (D-HI), Bradley (D-NJ), Campbell (R-CO), Chafee (R-RI), D'Amato (R-NY), Kennedy (D-MA), Kerry (D-MA), Kohl (D-WI), Lieberman (D-CT), Simpson (R-WY) and Spector (R-PA).

Action:

Call your Senators and urge them to co-sponsor this soon-to-be introduced legislation; tell them to call Senators Hatch or Simon to sign up. To get connected to your Senator's offices, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Keep Kentucky Free

In 1992 the Kentucky State Supreme Court struck down the state's sodomy law as unconstitutional. Right-wing legislators are now trying to recriminalize sodomy. In February, a sodomy amendment was tacked to an unrelated bill. The amendment calls for creating a new section to the state constitution that would grant the General Assembly "the authority to define and punish sodomy, including between consenting adults." If the bill is approved, the issue would be put before the voters in November for final approval.

Action:

The Kentucky legislature needs to hear from anyone and everyone concerned about this blatant intrusion on the right of privacy. Contact Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo by calling the legislative switchboard at (502) 564-8100, and let him know you won't support a state that discriminates. Urge him to ensure the defeat of Floor Amendment 1 to House Bill 219, any other attacks on privacy, or bills that target groups for discrimination. Faxes can be sent to Rep. Stumbo at (502) 564-6543.

Protect Utah's Youth

In the fall of 1995, students at East High School in Salt Lake City attempted to start a club for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students. When the Utah Eagle Forum heard about it, they went on the offensive. Efforts to ban the formation of such a club were impeded by the Attorney General's office who said that either all extra-curricular clubs would have to be banned or the state could lose federal education funds.

The Utah State School Board initially passed a resolution that read in part, "We express our concern over the formation of any organization in school that may create a disruptive or unsafe atmosphere for children or that may attract or entice children to make decisions that could have a long-term negative impact on their lives." On February 20th, the Salt Lake City School Board voted 4-3 to ban all extra-curricular student groups.

Action:

The ban is scheduled to be implemented in the fall. According to activists in Salt Lake City, there is still a chance the decision can be reversed. Letters and phone calls from concerned activists continue to make an impact. Contact the Salt Lake City School District; 440 East 100 South; Salt Lake City, UT, 84111-1898; Phone (801) 578-8599, fax (801) 578-8248 and let them know how you feel. Superintendent Darline Robles, spoke out very strongly in favor of the students who want the gay/straight alliances. Thank her for her support. Thank the school board members who voted in favor of the students: Marry Jo Rasmussen, Roger Thompson, Ila Rose Fife. Ask the "fence sitters"—Diane Barlow, Karen Derrick—if they really mean to punish the children they were elected to protect and serve. Encourage them to reconsider.



Stop California's Civil Wrongs

The California Civil Rights Initiative is a proposed constitutional amendment for the state November 1996 ballot. If passed, this initiative would, among other things, wipe out minority scholarships and diversity programs at state schools and prohibit any government agency in that state from instituting an affirmative action program—unless ordered by a judge.

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California is a test state for this type of initiative and if it passes, we can expect to see similar initiatives in other states in the future. Opponents of affirmative action have used racist and sexist rhetoric to convince voters that affirmative action programs should be dismantled. Just because affirmative action programs have not been applied perfectly, does not mean that we can or should do without them.

Action:

Contact Californians for Justice to see how you can become involved. Join the Million Voices For Justice Movement. Californians For Justice; 1611 Telegraph Ave; Suite 206; Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 452-2728; or 1010 S Flower; Suite 218; Los Angeles, CA 90015; (213) 747-4495. Contact Tommi Aviccolli-Mecca at Queers for Affirmative Action, (415) 552-6031.

Saturday Night Live Finds Humor In Death

On "Saturday Night Live's" February 24th show, regular Norm MacDonald appeared during the "Weekend Update" before a blowup of a USA Today story. It headlined the recent death sentence of convicted murderer John Lotter resulting from his part in the bloody, execution-style slaying of Brandon Teena, a 20 year old transsexual man in Falls City, Nebraska, and two of his friends.

Mr. MacDonald had this to say about the sentencing: "In Nebraska, a man was sentenced for killing a female crossdresser [sic] who had accused him of rape and two of her friends. Excuse me if this sounds harsh, but in my mind, they all deserved to die."

To date, NBC has declined to issue an apology or retraction, stating that it is not their policy to do so. If matters are not successfully resolved, the NYC Transsexual Menace is planning a peaceful picketing of SNL when it returns to production.

Action:

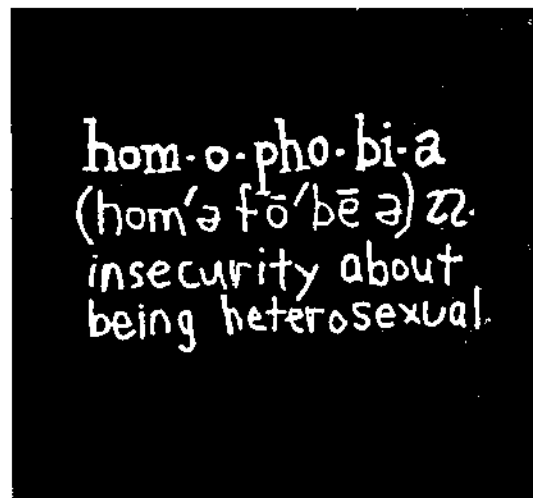
Demand that NBC issue a retraction and an apology. Let them know in no uncertain terms that hate violence is not funny, and no one deserves to die because they have the courage and dignity to express their gender identity. Lorne Michaels, SNL Executive Producer and Norm MacDonald, SNL Weekend Update anchor, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, NYC 10112, (212) 664-4444. Other NBC staff can be reached via phone at: Warren Littlefield, President of NBC Entertainment (818) 840-3870, Roz Wineman, head of NBC Standards and Practices (212) 664-5443, Daniel Ferguson, Media Relations (212) 664-3733, Andrew Brewer, Standards & Practices, Community Relations (212) 664-4458. The offices of Littlefield, Wineman, Ferguson brewer were both constructive and sympathetic. Contact Riki Anne Wilchins at the NYC chapter of Transsexual Menace to find out if and when they will picket NBC. (212) 645-1753, riki@pipeline.com

Same-Gender Marriage Attacks Increase

The tally of states facing anti-gay marriage legislation jumped in the past month from 4 to 23. These measures are the tactic du jour of anti-gay zealots who were victorious in South Dakota, making it the second state to explicitly ban recognition of same-gender marriage (Utah's measure passed last year). These efforts are an attempt to undermine an anticipated court ruling in Hawaii later this year or early next year granting same-gender couples the legal right to marry. Homophobes are also exploiting this hot-button issue to whip up anti-gay hatred and dollars. Of these 23 attacks this year, South Dakota is our only loss. Legislation was killed in 5 states thus far (ME, MS, NM, VA, WY), leaving 17 states still under attack (AL, AK, CA, CO, GA, HI, ID, IL, IA, KY, MD, MO, RI, SC, TN, WA, WI).

Action:

Roll back the anti-gay tide and help defeat the remainder of these measures. Call NGLTF Field Organizer Tracy Conaty at (202) 332-6483 ext. 3303 for contacts of those in your state fighting these bills. If your state hasn't been hit this session, it probably will next session.



Force WWF to Wrestle Its Homophobia

Goldust, a limp wristed and menacing World Wide Wrestling Federation (WWF) character, is the object of homo-hatred and anti-gay violence on the weekly cable TV series "Monday Night Raw." The villainously portrayed Goldust was pulverized outside the ring after professing his love for another male wrestler in a January 15 episode of the show. WWF officials thus far have refused to take responsibility for this glorification of gay bashing.

Action:

Contact WWF and demand they wrestle their homophobia. Demand they combat anti-gay violence, not promote it, by ending their exaltation of homophobic violence. Demand

also that they add anti-violence info to its AOL site and providing its links to AOL's gay and lesbian forum and to web pages of groups battling anti-gay violence. Contact Christine M. Wypy; Fan Services Coordinator; WWF, TitanSports, Inc.; Titan Tower; 1241 East Main Street; PO Box 3857; Stamford, CT 06902. Telephone: (203) 352-8600; Fax (203) 352-8699. Copy correspondence to Linda E. McMahon, President of TitanSports, at the same address.

Men Seeking Men

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Notes From The Land Of Anti-Fat

Medical Madness

A recent news story about a woman who recently had a ninety-plus pound cyst removed got this column thinkin' about matters medical again.

To those who missed the story (which was treated in the media with the usual Barnumesque sensitivity one associates with such pieces), it can be briefly parsed like so: super-sized woman has an ovarian cyst that grows to mammoth proportions because her size masks the condition. When she finally does receive medical treatment, the cyst is found to be of newsworthy size.

No doubt, some enterprising would-be stand-up comedian has already developed a full routine around this story. But behind it's fantastic nature lie some depressing facts about the state of medical treatment for fat adults today. When members of the pharmaceutical community can defend an inadequately tested and potentially harmful drug like fenfluramine by stating that "no matter what the risks are, they can't be as bad as obesity," you know that a certain short sightedness holds sway in the health industry.

For many fat men and women, the thought of a trip to the doctor's office ranks somewhere beneath beatings with a two-by-four on their list of Fun Things To Do. Too many doctors are prone to blame all medical problems that a fat adult faces on the patients size. A medical appointment is bound to end up with a lecture on the importance of dieting--as if any reasonable, sentient adult hadn't already been bombarded with years of pro-diet propaganda. Too often, the doctor in question won't even see their patient's primary presenting problem when faced with their fatness.

And how encouraging can it be for patients to keep getting the same prescription (lose weight), when we know how statistically slight their chances are of accomplishing this feat?

That encourages dieting and untested medication as the treatment of choice for the "killer disease" of obesity. That discourages many fat adults from coming into the doctor's office even when they are in need.

So what about the woman from our news story? Did her cyst go untreated for so long because she had a fear of doctors? Was her doctor short-sighted? Or was the woman just plain dim?

That last is a possibility, of course. But considering the track record of today's medical establishment, this column would tend to look elsewhere when it comes to assigning blame.

Not-So Peachy

Another news story crossed our desk in February, concerning a lawsuit against the "most powerful man in show biz" himself, David Letterman.

Said suit was pressed by a 54-year-old New York woman who was made a running gag on Letterman's "Late Show" when a picture of her from the stands of the U.S. Open Tennis tournament was snapped, showing her eating a peach. Citing a statement on the back of her ticket to the effect that a spectator's image may be used "incidental to any live or recorded video display" of the tournament, Letterman's show did a series of jokes at the woman's expense.

The woman, who is fiftyish and mid-sized, was described by Letterman in one show as a "seductive temptress." Point of the punchline? This woman is middle-aged and fat--what the hell is she doing out in public?

This kind of joke is reminiscent of those wonderful "No Fat Chicks" bumpertickers. It's the kind of joke that makes you want to go tappin' on the windshield of their beater and ask, "Hey, what makes you think you're any aesthetic treasure, buddy?" Is it any wonder so many large-sized people spend the majority of their lives trying to hide from the marketplace?

So what have we got here? A medical system that tells fat adults that unless they lose weight, there is no way they can be healthy.

Fat Comix

Let's end this column with another friendly plug. Artist Ned Sonntag, an active figure from the beginning of the underground comix movement, has most recently made a name for himself within the size acceptance movement through his fat positive renderings. A series of comic strips from *Dimensions* magazine featuring the super-sized, superheroine Dimensia ("Super-Goddess of the 13 Major Alternate Universes") has been collected in a mini-comic format by Ned himself. *Etta Quantum*, the premiere ish, contains delightful s-f trappings, obscure comix refs and dynamic fat women graphics. For a copy, send several bucks to 51 Cod Lane, MA, 02633. Tell Ned this column sent ya...

--billsher




New Home for McLean County Humane Society

The McLean County Humane Society has acquired a new building located at 3001 Gill Street in Bloomington. They will retain the same phone number (309)454-7387 (PETS). They will also have the same mailing address--P.O. Box 411, Bloomington, IL 61702-0402. Please do not send mail to the new address. MCHS hopes to be ready to take in animals by July.

At the Society's Pet Adoption Center, MCHS will
-- care for pets until adoptive homes can be found
-- care for and treat impounded and abused pets
-- care for lost pets until they can be reunited with their families.

The need for a facility became more urgent with the enactment of restrictive state legislation concerning foster care home for animals. While MCHS has raised a little over \$1,000,000 for the building of their own shelter, they felt they could proceed more quickly in their efforts to house animals by renting a building.



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Evidence and Testimony

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1996 Fine Arts Festival

EXHIBITION

Jeffrey Wolin: *Portraits of the Holocaust*

April 9-June 1, 1996
110 Center for the Visual Arts

Selections from a large traveling exhibition consisting of black and white portraits of Holocaust survivors, surrounded by handwritten texts with vivid details of their experiences in the Nazi death camps. Well-known as a documentary photographer, Wolin concentrates on the individual subjective experience. His intense environmental portraits eloquently use the symbolic language of gesture, light and darkness. A series of immense historical significance and emotional intensity, *Portraits of the Holocaust* will provide an educational opportunity that will leave a deep and lasting impression.

Jeffrey Wolin will make a public presentation Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 at University Galleries.



Moses Wloski, B. 1921, Wolkowisk, White Russia. Jeffrey Wolin.

MUSIC

Illinois State University, Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, April 14, 7:00pm
ISU Galleries, 110 CVA

Featuring music by composers lost during the Holocaust.

- Glenn Block, Conductor
 - Pavel Haas - *Serenade for Strings*
 - Bloch - *Concerto Grosso No. 1*
- Julian Dawson, piano

Illinois State University Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, April 21 at 3:00 pm
Braden Auditorium

- Glenn Block, Conductor
- Gould - *Suite From Film "The Holocaust"*
- Schoenberg - *A Survivor from Warsaw*, Rabbi John Spiro, narrator
- Gorecki - *Symphony No. 3*, Bonnie Pomfret, soprano

Tickets: \$5 General Admission, \$3 Students and Seniors

FILM

Night and Fog (Nuit et Brouillard)

by Alain Resnais (1955).
Narrative by Jean Cayrol.

Tuesday, April 23, 8pm
University Galleries
Admission Free

Searing documentary on Nazi camps where human beings and physical objects are interchangeable. A dark and poetic exploration of how time softens memory and a warning of the danger in forgetting. Perhaps the most disturbing and significant war documentary ever made.

LECTURES

Leopold Pfefferberg

Holocaust Survivor from Schindler's List and consultant for the Stephen Spielberg film.

Wednesday, April 17 at 8pm
Bone Student Center Ball Room

Alvin Goldfarb

Dean of the College of Fine Arts, will present: "Holocaust on the Air: The US Reaction to the Radio Plays of The Writers War Board" Immediately followed by a panel discussion.

Thursday, April 18, 7pm
University Galleries, CVA 110

THEATRE

April 10-13 8:pm, April 14 at 3:00 pm
The Studio Theatre
Centennial East
\$2.00 general admission

Kindertransport

A play by Diane Samuels
Directed by Jaclyn Greenberg

In 1939, nine-year old Eva Schlesinger is put aboard a train filled with other Jewish children and carried away from Nazi Germany in a little-known rescue operation called "Kindertransport." More than four decades later, she has become a quintessential Englishwoman who hides her origins from everyone, including her own daughter. We see her past and present collide. We see the terrified child who possesses only two gold rings and a Star of David hidden in the heel of her shoe to the parents she left behind. And we watch the grown woman who has tried to forget the Kindertransport at the moment when her daughter discovers a storage box of papers. As her daughter question her, a shattering truth emerges about Eva's identity, the true cost of survival, and the future that grows out of a traumatized past. A stunning dramatic creation, "Kindertransport" tells of a miracle amid unimaginable horror and probes the complexity of emotions in those who must lose everything they love in order to live.

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Seeing Red

Search and Destroy

Back from a weekend visit to my birthplace in the Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley, once home to the now-closed Bethlehem Steel and Mack truck. But you heard all about it in Billy Joel's "Allentown."

The occasion was a special banquet and lecture given to honor my parents—Alice and Roy Eckardt—for their leading role in decades of fighting Christian anti-semitism (recognition well-deserved, if a bit overdue).

Wearing —and trying to be on—my best, still I stumbled while listening to "Hillary" (hey, she was a dead ringer) mouth platitudes about the wonderful progress in combating official church-taught Jew-hatred. Hard stuff to swallow while Pat Buchanan—and other national socialists (i.e. "Nazis") fill front pages from here to Russia and Germany.

No question that the struggle to expunge official, doctrinal church anti-semitism is valuable," I opined, "but doesn't the open

campaigning of Nazis on the international scale tell you that Jew-hatred comes from something deeper than erroneous gospel?

"Isn't anti-semitism and fascism—not to mention war—a recurrent component of the existing order of things?" (Hey, I might have stumbled, but I wasn't lost enough to actually utter the word "capitalism" in public.)

In the ensuing silence brought on by my breach of etiquette (never say anything controversial at affairs like these), my brother-in-law confided to Hillary that I was a Red. Wanting badly to knee him in the balls, I settled for an internal vow to unleash a plague of Mormons on his house.

Hillary gave me a raised chin, the superior smile, and the inevitable "Socialism is a great idea on paper, but it will never work. It's against human nature—I mean look at bees, for instance: there's queens and workers, right?"

"But don't get me wrong," she added brightly, "I'm in favor of taxing the rich—but we shouldn't just give out money to people who don't work."

"Dead from the neck up," I thought—she, of course, was thinking about welfare mothers. Had I not been on good behavior I would have of course savaged her right then and there: Unplug the two-pound preemie non-working motherfuckers!"

But perhaps I did something worse. I said, "yes: people who don't work—capitalists—shouldn't get money." I was rewarded with a blank look of incomprehension—I knew she was thinking about CEO's gone long hours from home.

"If you've got a portfolio"—I saw *that* word click—"then you get dividend checks for doing absolutely nothing." I nodded. "Yep, no money for not working is OK with me."

Later I realized why Hillary was seated at the number one table with us: her husband popped a contribution several times the annual income of a minimum wage worker to the organization sponsoring my parents' award banquet. She and the man she was seated next to—a college president who was formerly head of CBS—had portfolio incomes probably greater than 1/3rd of Africa.

Oops.

Guess Ma and Pa won't be hearing form *those* people anymore.

Of course I was wrong, wrong, wrong. Wrong—obviously—to breathe a word like this at my parents' lifetime achievement celebration.

But politically I was wrong as well. Humanity won't be liberated from evil—not only war, starvation and fascism, but the alienation that produces child abuse, rape and murder—by eating the rich.

Redistribution of income—the *el dorado* of liberal and social democratic reformers—is just another "lesser evil" form of buying into the existing order. "One B-1 bomber would build 700 day care centers," we're often told.

Absolutely true—but also an utterly irrelevant fantasy. It's like top Mexican political scientist Jorge Casteneda's stunning solution (offered up in his well-reviewed Utopia Unarmed for decades of south-of-the-border agony: *Make Latin America like Sweden*).

Of course the richest country in the world isn't like Sweden; for that matter *Sweden* isn't even like Sweden, not anymore. Actually, every imperialist country is gutting social services these days—and in the U.S. not one politician even bothers to pretend support for a massive public works, health, and education program.

As for the likelihood of the Good fairy descending on Chiapas or Haiti . . . words fail me.

But. But if *somehow* it could happen . . . the profit machine—and its inevitable byproducts of war and fascism—would remain intact. Ask United Airlines workers—now "owners" of the company—whether they've achieved liberation.

In the end it's not about money, it's about power. Humanity doesn't need a better deal at the marketplace—it needs to destroy the marketplace. The interests of people should rule instead of profits; do that and any five year-old can solve problems like unemployment and homelessness by simply offering jobs to build houses.

What's stopping *that* is not the N.Y. Stock Exchange; it's not even the all-pervasive propaganda machine that feeds us lies, diversions, and false enemies. Behind it all lies the massively-armed state apparatus that defends the existing profit-first order through the world's largest prison system, CIA-trained torture squads, and the incessant military "interventions."

So Hillary, relax: your portfolio is the least of our problems. The enemy is not Wall Street, it's Pennsylvania Avenue.

—Steve Eckardt
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Unbelievable

On my last night in Havana eight weeks ago I heard a story I couldn't believe.

Of course, I was in the hotel bar. My informant—a well-educated Afro-Cuban artist—told me a plane from the United States flew over the capital dropping anti-government leaflets just the weekend before.

"Yeah right," I said. "As if any country would let hostile aircraft to fly over its capital unmolested. Especially Cuba—it's only had 37 years of U.S.-sponsored invasions, assassination squads, germ warfare, bombings and blockades."

"Es verdad," she assured me. "And they did it last summer, too."

Internally I groaned; now I was supposed to believe it happened twice. Instead I diplomatically said as a journalist specializing in Cuba and Mexico I myself had heard nothing about it.

She shrugged. "You don't believe me. Ask someone else—they'll tell you the same thing."

So I did—And they did.

"Damn language barrier," I thought, cursing my inadequate Spanish. Well, this was one unbelievable story I wasn't going to humiliate myself by trying to report. Hell, there's people who'll tell you they've been kidnapped by aliens.

Only one thing gave me pause as I took an early leave: "You know," she said with a touch of petulance, "the government *did* tell them that if they ever do it again, the Air Force will shoot them down."

At least *that* part's credible, I thought, but... nah.

Who's right?

Of course now it's common knowledge that the woman's story was true: Cuba *did* allow hostile aircraft to fly over Havana both in July and January, and it *did* issue repeated warnings of what would happen the next time.

Now, we are all expected to believe a far more incredible tale, in fact one that appears demonstrably false: murderous Cubans shot down "clearly unarmed" civilian airplanes.

Leave aside one wag's remark: the only thing that's clearly unarmed is a naked man—and not if he's carrying a lunch box.

Leave aside, too, Cuba's forced existence in a virtual state of war with Washington for over 35 years: the uncountable CIA operations against it and the onerous U.S. embargo (unsupported by a single other country in to world).

Truth is that the "Brother to the Rescue" (the organization responsible for penetrations of Cuban airspace) is about as humanitarian as Pat Buchanan, and its aircraft about as civilian as Schwarzkopf in his retirement business suit. It is an organization of Cuban exiles devoted to the overthrow of Cuba's government; its leader is distinguished by having participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion and subsequently firing a cannon at a Havana hotel.

"You know, the government did tell them that if they ever do it again the Air Force will shoot them down."

Moreover, the real activities of the "Brothers" were exposed at a news conference (poorly reported in the mainstream press) in Havana by a major in the Cuban Air Force who defected to the United States, joined "Brothers" and became the darling of the Cuban exile community in Florida. Juan Roque told a national television audience that "I'm in Cuba to denounce to the world the real character of Brothers to the Rescue. They carried out terrorist plans."

Roque went on to detail CIA involvement in the organization as well as their regular illegal landings on Cuban soil and their plans for introducing weapons and terror squads to the island.

Indeed, it is Washington that has to answer for the actions of the "Brothers"—and the lives of the downed pilots. After all, it was the U.S. government that allowed—and apparently even aided—the exiles' violations of both U.S. and international law.

Contrast its treatment of Harlem-based Rev. Lucius Walker (now on a protest hunger strike). His open effort to send medical aid to Cuban hospitals by way of Cuban churches was met by U.S. police and Customs agents in full riot gear in early February as he and 300 supporters attempted to cross the border into Mexico.

Who's against Democracy?

Perhaps the most telling of all was the U.S. response to the downing of the aircraft: it moved swiftly to restrict Cuban spokespeople from traveling to speak to Americans, while simultaneously terminating flights for those wishing to travel to Cuba. Both these actions were clear efforts to prevent the U.S. populace from getting the other side of the story.

These attempts to stifle free communication and free travel are of a piece with the recent hue and cry raised against the reactionary leader Louis Farrakhan for daring to express his own opinions—and listen to others—outside the borders of the United States.

Of course Cuba itself is eminently more guilty of thinking globally; for instance, "internationalist Cuba," according to Nelson Mandela, "it has done so much for the people of Africa."

The hostile aircraft provocations against Cuba, the subsequent restriction on free communication and travel, and the threats against Farrakhan add up to one thing: U.S. government action against those bold enough to make alliances across international borders. Taken together with Malcolm X's injunction to "look upon the struggle on the world [not the national] stage," doesn't it speak volumes about what should be done?

Perhaps a good place to start (beginning with yours truly, Mr. Egg-on-the-face) is believing what folks overseas have to tell us.

—Steve Eckardt (e-mail: seckardt@aol.com) covered the "Solidarity with the Third World" international meeting held in Havana this January.

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The World

Cause for Alarm



If you believe in basic human freedoms and don't have a Big Ben ringing between your ears by now, it may soon be too late to preserve these liberties. The facts are all apparent, yet continuously ignored. Every year, our government wastes billions of dollars to wage an unconstitutional war on approximately thirty million of its own citizens.

This oppressive war against otherwise law abiding men and women continues to escalate despite the proven fact that there is not one single good reason to continue it; not morally, economically, socially, or environmentally. The government, by crushing the people's rights, not only wastes their money and tax dollars, but also ignores a solution to our deficit that would not cut a single important social program. This solution would also create hundreds of thousands of jobs and save us money on the global market by letting countries that we give aid to support themselves. All of these, and countless other reasons for ending this program of human rights atrocities, have been ignored.

Efforts to work within the system to catalyze change have proven utterly futile. It seems Big Brother is determined to win this immoral war on his own terms, and our overcrowded prisons, sprawling ghettos and oppressed multitudes are testimonies to these said terms. Now, as we sit idly by and let 1500 fellow citizens everyday be stripped of dignity and possession, signs of a frightening future are falling into place. It is a future in which peaceful citizens become the target for a government gone power mad. Although this sounds sci-fi, for the thirty million of us who smoke pot it could become too real. Wake Up!

In order to succeed in this war, the government has been slowly setting the stage for a brutal, military crackdown on American citizens. Through the popular media they fuel unfounded marijuana hysteria and impose their political agenda on the consumer masses. Public figures who even mention studying marijuana

decriminalization are ostracized, silenced, and even forced out of their jobs. In this way, they limit our choices to insignificant variations of their master choice. By aggressively allowing no alternatives, their policies of control have grown practically unhindered.

As this basic control of public opinion grows, along with the effective demonizing of not only pot, but also pot smokers, more and more draconian laws are allowed to pass. In some places this is so out of control that a first time marijuana offense nets a stiffer mandatory sentence than rape or spousal abuse. Furthermore, in the name of the Drug War, the police are allowed to make Third World breaches in human rights, denying the rights given to every citizen to enforce their policies.

Little by little, the line between domestic law enforcement and military operation is being erased. For years now, state, county, and local police have been standardizing their weapons and ammunition with the military. Former President Bush literally compared the appalling force used to "liberate Kuwait" to the kind of action necessary to win the War on Drugs. Now, in 1996, President Clinton has appointed a battle experienced ex-general to head these efforts.

In light of the current budget slashing frenzy, the police and military have been exempted or given more funding. This, at a time when there are no threats to our security that massive armed forces could not avert. Of course, that money is going somewhere, and the people dolling it out must feel threatened by someone. They also keep closing bases here and there, and one has to ask what they are saving.

The police, besides greatly increasing their manpower, are constantly investing in hard-core hardware. In some areas, police use heat detecting helicopters, high-tech surveillance systems, and pressure grenades that drastically increase the pressure in a room, causing the inhabitants to black out. Trucks mounted with multi-directional, ultra-high intensity lights that can blind at night are used in cities; and rumors allege that tests are being done on transmitters that can create a concentrated sound vibration. If focused on a human target, the individual becomes incapacitated and can

even bleed out of facial orifices. All of this (and who knows what else) on top of the standard guns, rifles, bugs, wire taps, tear gas, batons, mace, fire hoses, shields, body armor, and other assorted "riot gear," including tanks and armored personnel carriers. At the high prices they pay for these toys, it is unreasonable to assume they have them "just in case."

This is a wake-up call, not only for the estimated 30 million people who have been targeted for marijuana use, but to every citizen who claims to be free. Now is the time to stand up for our rights. The oppression of the marijuana sub-culture is a test, and as such the government has chosen a population they believe no one will defend (not after all the money they spent demonizing these peaceful people). If we wake up tomorrow to armed squads marching down our streets, pounding on every door, and indiscriminately rounding up suspects by force, it will be too late.

Unlike in the past, the hysteria over armed criminals and children is very much instilled in and by our leaders in law enforcement and the national guard. Remember what happened to unarmed students at Kent State? If this final ethnic cleansing of the pot culture occurs, other groups that defy the status quo could meet similar fates. McCarthyism is McCarthyism, no matter what the cause. Communism gave way to the drug scare, and who knows what the drug scare will give way to if we are defeated. Who that will be is unclear, but if the current Republican congress has its way, it could be the poor non-Christians, homosexuals, elderly, children, or even Democrats. If "we the people" still hold any power, let's not find out who's next and stop the war now, through whatever means necessary.

For more info on how you can help end this aggressive attack on our civil liberties, write to: Green Panthers, P.O. Box 9845, Washington, D.C., 20016

Unlike organizations who are good at heart, do a decent job at getting exposure, and try to work within the perimeters of the accepted bureaucracy to cause reform (but end up preaching to those who already agree and

lobbying the irrational and blind), the Green Panthers offer the knowledge needed to wage a counter-war of peaceful, creative interference. It seems as though this is a revolution that can't be won on paper, through legislation, or by common sense. Their loss!



According to Matt

Hairy Business at Blockbuster

Ladies and gentlemen, right now, as you read this, a local outlet of a video rental chain is denying citizen employment based upon a test that has no official credibility, and faults that are even racially biased. What's worse, the former owner of the chain stands to make a lot of money on it. This has been going on for quite a while, totally unhindered. I'm talking about Blockbuster Videos, and their policy of using hair testing (for drugs) in their hiring system.

First of all, let's look at hair testing. Due to bodily mechanics, traces of drugs can be found in hair. Unlike urine testing, traces remain (so they say) for up to 90 days. Also, unlike urine testing, hair testing has continuously been denied approval by the FDA as an accurate

means of testing for drug use. One reason is that passive exposure shows up on tests. If, in the last 90 days, you were at a concert, school restroom, dim bar, or other function where an illegal substance was smoked, there could be traces of that substance in your hair. Another reason is that darker, coarser hair absorbs more of the substances (both from use and passive exposure) and retains them up to twice as long. These reasons alone should nullify its use in determining employment. So why is it still used?

The man who owned Blockbuster, prior to its being sold to Viacom, is Wayne Huizenga. Besides being the prior owner of Blockbuster, he also owns Waste Management, Inc. and is the

leading investor in a company that is currently promoting hair testing. They are even trying to push it to school systems for testing students (\$50 each, paid by parents) and to parents (\$75 a pop) who wish to test for themselves. With each test sold, some of the profit is pocketed by Mr. Huizenga in one way or another.

What this boils down to, as I mentioned, is a man using the drug hype and good marketing to invalidly deny people employment, while getting rich(er) doing it. In the future, if they have their way, this violation of our rights will further infiltrate the private sector. I say we send a message to all those who profit from hysteria and human right's violations by completely boycotting Blockbuster and letting those who carry their advertising know where we stand. There are plenty of other video rental stores that can be frequented without aiding those who would oppress in the name of money.

--Matt Toczko

The info contained herein was taken from an article in the magazine *The Nation* (Jan. 29, 1996) called "Mom and Pop Test for Drugs" by Mark Frankel. Upon reading it, I felt that local action was necessary.

Know Your Argument, Anti-Choicers!

In following the arguments for and against abortion, the argument against it seems to boil down to the fact that people holding this opinion believe that abortion is murder. The argument for abortion is backed by those who feel that an unborn child is not yet alive until it can survive free from the mother's womb. This is often a religious argument, since those who are against abortion claim that a mother-dependant fetus is alive since it was imbued with an immortal soul at the instant of conception. Now, aside from the fact that this is debatable and to atheists it doesn't matter (although anti-abortion legislation based on this argument would violate their rights), history teaches us that the largely Christian anti-abortionists don't believe that unborn, mother-dependent babies have a soul, thus legitimizing the root of their case.

When the Christian Europeans were "discovering America," they also sent along missionaries. As their legions moved across the land, they practiced outright genocide. When a soldier killed a Native American, a missionary would baptize them in their death throes to instantly "save" their soul. Pregnant Native American women had their wombs cut open. If the child showed signs of being able to survive outside its mothers body, it was baptized and killed. If the child showed no signs of being able to independently survive, it was discarded. The killing was justifiable because it was believed that the child had never been alive, and had no soul that was lost. Now, in order to gain political power through unity, the fragmented Christian denominations are trying to change their minds, saying that these fetuses have souls. If this is true, all church leaders should be held publicly and criminally responsible for the murders of living Native American children. If this is untrue, then abortion is not murder according to their own beliefs.

An apology to Matt for making his world appear a bit more bizarre than it really is. We mixed up the order of his stories in the last issue. Sorry!



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