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Corporate Welfare, Election Information, Hostelling & Much, Much More



POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOL. 25

50¢

NO. 5

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1996

MR VOTER, HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES?

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PAIGE 2



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOL. 25

NO. 5

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About us

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

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The *Post Amerikan* welcomes stories, graphics, photos, letters, and new tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 828-4473 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while--we don't meet every week.

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

Subscriptions

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

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

Andy, Cheryl, David, Kara,
Linda, Matt, Nick, Ralph,
Russ, Sherrin, Stacy and Steve.

Post Sellers

Bloomington

AIDS Task Force, 313 N. Main (inside)
 About Books, 221 E. Front (inside)
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East
 Circus Video, (Emerson and Main)
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main (inside)
 Front and Center Building
 Gaston's Upper Cut, 409 N. Main (inside)
 Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front
 Medusa's, 420 N. Madison (inside)
 Mystic Link, 901 E. Grove Suite M. (inside)
 Once Upon a Time, 311 N. Main (inside)
 The Park Store, Wood and Allin (inside)
 Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main (inside)
 U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
 U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

Normal

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

Champaign

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

What's your new address?

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

Name _____
 Street _____
 City/State/Zip _____

Due Date:

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

Nov. 15th

Good numbers

ACLU.....454-7223
 Advocacy Council for Human Rights.830-2521
 AIDS Hotlines
 National.....1-800-AID-AIDS
 Illinois.....1-800-243-2437
 Local.....827-AIDS
 Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-7092
 Animal Protection League.....828-5371
 Bloomington Housing Authority.....829-3360
 Boys and Girls Club.....829-3034
 Clare House (Catholic workers).....828-4035
 Countering Domestic Violence.....827-7070
 Dept. of Children/Family Services....828-0022
 Gay & Lesbian Resource Phonenumber...438-2429
 Habitat for Humanity.....829-0693
 HELP (transportation for senior citizens/handicapped).....828-8301
 Home Sweet Home Mission.....828-7356
 IL Dept. of Public Aid.....827-4621
 IL Lawyer Referral.....1-800-252-8916
 Incest Survivors Support Group.....827-5051
 Lighthouse (substance abuse treatment)....827-6026
 McLean Co. Center for Human Services...827-5351
 McLean Co. Health Dept.....888-5450
 McLean Co. Humane Society.....663-7387
 McLean Co. Peace Coalition.....828-7070
 Mid Central Community Action.....829-0691
 Mobile Meals.....828-8301
 Narcotics Anonymous.....1-800-779-6178
 NAAFA (size acceptance)
 Central IL chapter.....454-2128
 National Health Care Services/
 abortion assistance.....1-800-322-1622
 Occupational Development Center...452-7324
 Operation Recycle.....829-0691
 Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
 PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help) 827-4005
 Phone Friends.....827-4005
 PFLAG(Parents, Families and Friends
 of Lesbians and Gays).....663-0831
 Planned Parenthood (medical).....827-4014
 (bus/couns/edu).....827-4368
Post Amerikan.....828-4473
 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

SURGEON ADMIRAL'S WARNING: Conformity Causes Unconsciousness, Boredom, And May Lead To A Persistant Vegetative Dream-State.



Community News



Planned Parenthood Book Sale

Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois is having its second annual Book Sale! Come join the fun—we have over fifty categories of books including children's, mysteries, fiction, and hobbies with over 75,000 books to choose from. Prices are reasonable and you'll be supporting a great cause. The Book Sale is located at 200 W. Monroe, downtown Bloomington (the former Miller Hardware Building).

The dates of the Book Sale are:

Friday, October 4 from 4 - 9pm
Saturday, October 5 from 9am - 6pm
Sunday, October 6 from 10am - 5pm

Are You Registered to Vote?

Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois is registering people to vote. Please call 827-4014 for registration hours. We are located at 318 W. Washington, Bloomington (across from the Pantagraph building). The last day for registration is Monday, October 7.
--towanda!

Pope running for mayor?

Jerry Pope, who recently became vocal in the local gay rights battles, is considering running for mayor of Bloomington.

If he decides to run, Pope will join current mayor Jesse Smart, who most likely will run for re-election, and Judy Markowitz. Judy is an alderwoman who announced her candidacy in August. Mayor Smart's term ends in April 1997.

We all know Jesse is, well, an idiot, and most of you know that Judy had promise until she stabbed the gay community in the back for voting against the Human Rights Ordinance. This ordinance would have protected many of her supporters with job/housing/and legal rights. But nooooo...

Jerry Pope, and not by reason of default, appears to be the most qualified candidate. In a recent article in the Pantagraph (Sept. 12, 1996) Pope stated that his dealing with the city council left him disappointed. He also stated that he feels the community is more progressive than the council's current members.

Pope hopes that the community will put aside his sexual orientation when voting. Apparently the Pantagraph cannot because in a recent story about Pope and his prospective mayoral candidacy, the headline read: "Gay rights activist Pope exploring mayoral bid" But that didn't surprise most of us, did it.

Run, Jerry, Run!

--towanda! (who is currently considering moving herself and her vote to Bloomington)

Mission needs winter coats

Home Sweet Home Mission is in short supply of children's clothing for the upcoming cold weather. Especially needed at this time are items for fall and winter, including sweaters, jeans and coats. Donated children's clothing and other items can be dropped off at the Mission's Donation Center at 303 E. Oakland Ave., Bloomington between 9am - 5pm, Monday-Saturday. Donors may receive an acknowledgement, as donations to the Mission are tax deductible.

--from Livingston & McLean Counties Union News

HIV/AIDS Memorial Candlelight Service & Friendship Potluck

The McLean County AIDS Task Force, serving both McLean and Livingston Counties, announces a Candlelight Memorial Service of remembrance for family, partners and friends of those lost to AIDS. The activities will be held on Sunday, October 6. The service will begin at 7pm in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Church, 1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington.

Preceding the services will be a Friendship Potluck, beginning at 5pm. MCATF will provide soft drinks. Please bring a dish to share and tableware. The public is encouraged to participate in both events.

These activities are being co-sponsored by the McLean County AIDS Task Force, the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, the Normal Human Rights Commission, the Advocacy for Human Rights, Parents, Friends, and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the Normal Clergy Association, and the Pontiac National Bank.

For more information about these events or other AIDS Task Force activities call (309) 827-AIDS.

--from McLean County AIDS Task Force news release

National Coming Out Day October 9th

Bruce Hays, the first out Olympic swimmer will be speaking at the Old Main Room in the Bone Student Center at 8:00 pm. on October 9.

This event is sponsored by PRIDE. For more information call the PRIDE office at GET-AGAY (438-2429), ask for Dayna or Amanda.

"Take Back the Night"

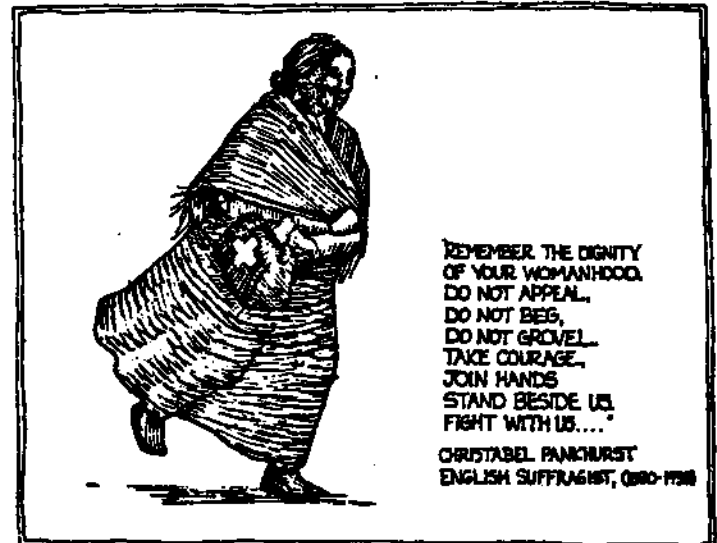
I.S.U. Women's Coalition will be sponsoring the Annual "Take Back the Night" march on Wednesday, October 16 at 7pm. "Take Back the Night" is a march protesting violence against women. The event will begin at Walker Hall's Large Lounge. The women will march from Walker Hall to Illinois Wesleyan's quad. The men will remain in the Large Lounge to discuss the violence many women face in life.

After the march, both women and men will listen to speeches given by Melanie Johnston of the Neville House and Deborah Wiatt of the McLean County Rape Crisis Center. The Guerrilla Troupe Theatre will perform following Johnston and Wiatt.

All participating in "Take Back the Night" will have the opportunity to share poems, songs, and/or personal experiences immediately following the Guerrilla Troupe Theatre performance during the open mic portion of the event.

Persons trained in domestic violence and sexual assault counseling will be available for anyone needing to talk.

The event is scheduled to last until approximately 10pm.



Karen Norberg



cont.

Blue Moon Coffeehouse Fall schedule

The Blue Moon Coffeehouse brings to the IWU community entertainment presented in a coffeehouse setting. All the Blue Moon Coffeehouse events are held in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center (west side of IWU's Quad). Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and performances consisting of two sets will begin at 8:00 p.m. All shows, except the Ani DiFranco concert in the Shirk Center, are free and open to the public.

October 4 --Ann Reed

Playing a 6-and 12- string guitar in a manner that gave Bonnie Raitt pause, Ann wraps a melody around the words to a ballad in a way that makes any hour of the day feel like the early morning of the heart.

October 11--Patty Larkin

It has been Larkin's poetic song writing along with her warm, emotive singing and guitar playing that has earned her the reputation of one of the most original artists in the burgeoning 'new folk' movement. In performance, Larkin juxtaposes her intimate, heartfelt love songs and her frank expressions of social conscience with ironic and comic material.

October 17--Ani DiFranco

Ani has emerged as one of the boldest alternative artists of the '90s, challenging the status quo and defining the discontents of her

generation. With an explosive guitar style, a dynamic voice and jaw dropping lyrics, she cuts through social conventions and sexual politics with uncompromising rage and humor. A true independent, Ani not only writes and publishes her own songs, but produces her own albums, creates her own artwork and releases them herself, rejecting offers from major and independent labels alike.

Tickets will be needed for this event and are available through the Office of Residential Life, IWU; Bec's, and Once Upon a Time Bookstore. Doors open a 7:00 at the Shirk Center (on Emerson between Franklin and Fell St.)

November 2-- Kristina Olsen

In the past, Kristina has wowed audiences with her renderings of sweet jazz-inspired sounds as well as the tough bittersweet blues that have become her trademark. Kristina is known for fine guitar work, stong and honest vocals, deliberate acoustic compositions and meaningful lyrics.

November 16-- Pierce Pettis

Pettis is considered by many to be at the very forefront of the contemporary new acoustic singer-songwriter movement. His live performances are emotionally moving and unforgettable--and his matery of guitar and harmonica coupled with a warm and resonant vocal style all make for a show that is passionate and emotional.

December 7-- Al and Andi Tauber

Comparisons to Tuck and Patti can be made--masterful guitar work that spans from jazzy ellipses to driving rhythms from Al punctuates strong fluid vocals from Andi. It's often difficult to believe that so much music is coming from two voices and a guitar.

--Source: Blue Moon Coffeehouse

Things You Can Do To Combat Discrimination

--Contact your state anti-discrimination campaign coordinator--ours is John Plesko of Pontiac; (815) 842-1514--for information about the campaign and how to get involved in state activities.

--Make joining NAMI as acceptable to the general public as supporting heart, lung, or cancer organizations.

--Contact area media outlets and ask them to present a program on brain disorders.

--Write letters in response to TV or radio programs and movies that portray the mentally ill in a negative or fear-inducing manner. Also be on the alert for this in advertisements. The media have, for a long time, portrayed the mentally ill as dangerous and violent. They have been and are no more violent than the general population.

--Most of all take time to learn about neurobiological disorders. Education is our best weapon against discrimination. If you want to learn more, call me at (309) 828-0530 or call our local Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) at (309) 454-4983. Please respond to discrimination by doing something; don't just turn away.

--by Faye Townsend



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WE RECYCLE:
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Plastic Milk Jugs
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923 E. Grove
Bloomington, IL

▪ DROP OFFS
▪ RECYCLE DRIVES

Mental Illness Awareness Week

Bloomington-Normal has something that has become a special event unlike any other in Central Illinois. This is the 6th year for a full program Mental Awareness Week. Most of us know someone with a mental illness, more aptly called a brain disease. If you would like to learn about various mental illnesses or help make a difference in the lives of those affected by them, you can attend one or all of the following events:

--Saturday, October 5, from 9am to 2:30pm at BroMenn Conference Center Dr. Scott Hamilton will speak on changes in medication and treatment; there will be a panel discussion on systems approach to treating borderline personality disorder and a talk on bringing consumers to the AMI family.

--October 6 at 10:30am at the Unitarian Church, 1613 E. Emerson, Bloomington, a group of family members will discuss and answer questions about biologically based brain disorders and how they affect the family.

--October 6 at 7pm at the McLean County Historical Society (old courthouse) there will

be a candlelight vigil, led by Rev. Raydean Davis, to remember those who have lost their lives as a result of mental illness.

--October 10 will be Depression Screening Day at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 1822 E. Lincoln, Bloomington, and First United Methodist Church at 211 N. School St., Normal. For more information, call 829-0790.

--October 12 there will be a Walk for the Mentally Ill starting at 11am on the Constitution Trail near Coleen Hoose School in Normal. This event is to raise money for research. Those able to contribute \$50 will receive a free T-shirt.

This year's theme, "Open Your Mind," is about the need to educate the public; our only realistic method of halting the stigma surrounding mental illness. Please join us for any or all of the events. For more information please call (309) 454-4983 or (815) 842-1514.

--by Faye Townsend



The Poetry Page

The Medicine of Haiku

The Asian poetry style known as haiku traditionally finds its muse in the activities of nature, subtle and sentient. They are structured in three lines and are but seventeen syllables long; five in the first, seven in the second, and five in the third. A haiku creates a single vivid picture portraying the aspect of nature which it seeks to embody.

Every haiku is a meditation in itself. Every word precisely chosen, the images they weave not only help us consciously experience nature from a different perspective, but in creating them we may remember a bit of our heritage that our race has been subconsciously grieving having lost. In this way haiku are potent spiritual medicine.

Due to the general theme and mechanics involved in these poems, their composition can reawaken the closeness to nature apparent in the lifestyles of all of our tribal ancestors. By attempting to take an observed natural phenomenon and precisely record it in the haiku structure, much analytical concentration must be devoted to said phenomena. In order to meet the syllabic requirements, new vocabulary, perspectives, and thought-speech patterns may be discovered, and never realized metaphors become apparent all around.

When this type of creative core imagery and language discipline concentrate on nature, the consciousness aligns and falls into better sync with the wisdom that lie therein. This is one step to reclaiming relationships with nature's other peoples and intimacy with the elements; both evolutionarily ingrained world views held by the tribes of the continents until forcefully denied in the last sixteen-hundred sixty years. In our struggle to recapture the perspective of a sane life in a society honoring natural balance, haiku can create powerful experiences of native harmony.

-by Matt Toczko

Alban Elved Equinox: Haiku Cycle

Restlessness lingers
with a ghost-frog at pre-dawn,
aging crops await.

Horizons radiate
azure tranquilities of
concave cloudless depths.

Pollen ascends with
heat in lazy currents from
wildflower daydreams.

Above the sighs of
yellowing grass, cicadas
chant Autumn's return.

Dryads don crimson
robes to reflect the descent
of summer's green reign.

Hesitating for
a moment, smoke rings pause to
delight voyeur winds.

Windchimes whisper in
the stagnant September chill,
rustled lullabies.

Twilight still grips pale
cornflower skies, refusing
to call it a day.

Ebbing waves travel
to communities of sand
with rhythmic tidings.

Prophetic winds lap
a bleeding harvest moon, their
warning grows anxious.

Tattered clouds gently
cup the domed night sky, the moon,
her nipple, erect.

-by Matt Toczko

Untitled

The Shaman Descends.
White Hot. White Insect.
Falling Like Snow
Onto Tongues.
Melting, Healing
Breeze Rustling Dead Soldiers
Like Leaves Of Autumn
Weapons Clutched, Rising To Fight
I Swallow.
I Die.

Untitled

Skin Stretched Tight Over Weak Bones.
The Doorman Stands In The Cold
Blowing Hot Air On His Chilled Hands
Alone
Cars Pass But No One Stops.
He Guards An Empty Building,
Touching the Brick With Cracked, Bleeding Fingers
His Savior Appears
She Steps From Her Car Like An Emerald Dawn
Smiling,
She Steps Into The Building Next Door

-by Laine

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to shop for :
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BLACKLIGHTS JEWELRY BIKER JACKETS
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315 N MAIN 828-4521
COME AND SEE HOW WE'VE
GROWN EXPERIENCE THE SHOCK!

THE "KING" SEZ:
 "Buh-Baby This place is really cool!"



Welfare's Truly

The welfare queen who speaks legalese...

When the term "welfare" is addressed in these glorious days of electoral politics, the customary repertoire of phrases ("welfare leads to a cycle of dependence" or "welfare cheats the honest worker out of his deserved daily wage," references to "personal responsibility," and allusions to the pulling up of so-called "bootstraps") usually comes to the political fore. The utility of the social welfare system has long been debated by politicians in Washington. Who can forget Ron Reagan's apocryphal Chicago Welfare Queen driving her Welfare Cadillac using one of eighty of her fictitious names to collect a whopping \$150,000 in benefits? The press, never capable of passing up such scandal, attempted to track her down only to find that she had never existed. Well, the professor and I believe we've found her! And we didn't even have to cross to the "other side of the tracks" to uncover her trail of deception...

Consistent with the aims of the Republican congressional majority (and now, President Clinton), those re/seeking public office in November are apt to further probe and scrutinize social welfare. But just how many more rousing allusions to the "honest hard-working heartland" will these politicians bait us with before acknowledging that the largest and most expensive group of welfare recipients in the US is not poor (read "lazy" and/or "fraudulent") women and children; but rather is the rich, corporate greedheads that cunningly cost taxpayers our livelihood and future by amassing disproportionate sums of taxpayer money while turning profits, raising administrative salaries, and cutting jobs. In turn, these corporations stuff the political pockets of their allies thus creating the system we call "corporate capitalism." Its breath is bureaucratic propaganda, its bite is corporate welfare: i.e. subsidies, grants, below-cost or free provision of government goods and services, tax breaks and conspicuous tax loopholes for big businesses.

Given the present trickiness of our political players, the welfare controversy begs for two main disclosures: first, that welfare does not exist to give poor mothers a financial incentive to avoid work and have surplus babies, and second, that corporate capitalism does not exist to serve or advance the people, our nation, our beautiful planet, or, as the best of them try to invoke, our gods.

Let's look at some figures, shall we? During 1994, the federal government's corporate welfare expenditure was estimated to run anywhere from \$105 billion to \$800 billion, depending on how you slice it, while spending for social welfare programs for the poor totaled only \$75.1 billion. Together, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC, the most vilified form of welfare) and Food Stamps form only 2% of combined state and federal budgets in that same year. If you expand the definition of "welfare" to include all one-way transfers of benefits (such as Medicare, student grants, school lunches, help for the blind and deaf, assistance to the handicapped and elderly,

care for the mentally retarded, children's vaccination and immunization programs, pensions for needy veterans, etc.), then welfare takes up 12% of the combined budgets. By itself, the \$500 billion dollar Savings & Loan bailout would have funded 10 years of AFDC and Food Stamps. There is simply no question who receives the most welfare from our government.

Ah, but even 2% of our budget is too much to pay for those lousy deadbeats and all their rotten kids, right? Masters of political persuasion create a picture of the typical AFDC family as excessively libidinous, most likely criminal, presumably minority, and undoubtedly lazy. The facts, however, illustrate quite a different point: that we as a society are easily suckered down the road of fear and hatred by influential parties who are proficient at exploiting our inclinations toward loathing those who don't, for one reason or another, fit the Ward and June Cleaver profile. For, in fact, the majority of people receiving AFDC are single white mothers in their twenties and their average 1.9 children (slightly lower than the national average), they aren't likely to be very lazy as the entirety of their benefits fall 37% below the poverty line, and 70% of recipients are off welfare completely within 2 years.

But isn't this just 'soggy liberal drivel'?

No. Rather, this is an informed attempt to remedy misrepresentations of social welfare recipients, to expose the hypocritical silence of the corporate capitalist machine, and to rightly frame corporate welfare as the missing piece of the national debate on welfare reform. If you think that AFDC mothers and their children are ripping you off, then we challenge you to look at some facts. The professor and I guarantee that you'll uncover a new face for the typical welfare connoisseur - a face ironically responsible for driving many into poverty - the clever corporation.

Corporate welfare encourages certain industries to live off the taxpayers. You might say it has created a 'cycle of dependency.' Year after year, these companies receive subsidies or handouts from the federal government and 'never learn to fend for themselves' in the competitive marketplace. And, unlike the majority of individuals who receive public assistance, most corporate welfare recipients are not particularly needy. If we are to be critical of welfare in America, we must at least assess the reality of who is actually receiving it and why.

Some small but potent examples:

1. The Market Promotion Program is but one of several federal corporate welfare programs that subsidizes foreign advertising costs of U.S. businesses. Others include: \$500 million yearly to promote the exports of U.S. weapons by private industry (supplemented with \$5 billion in federal grants and loans to aid foreign buyers); \$220 million to promote U.S. tourism and trade; and, \$3.3 billion in tax savings due to IRS regulations that allow companies to deduct advertising expenses.

The fiscal year 1994 MPP budget exceeded \$99.5 million and included at least \$6.3 million to

promote alcohol, wine and beer products overseas, nearly \$2 million to help McDonald's market Chicken McNuggets to the Third World, \$1.9 million to promote mink sales, and more than \$1.1 million to assist M&M/Mars Corp. in its promotion of candy bars. Based on current law, taxpayers will spend \$110 million annually for the MPP in the future, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

"The MPP continues 'welfare as we know it' for large corporations, even as Congress decimates social spending programs," stated Janice Shields, a research analyst at the Center for Study of Responsive Law. "The government is insulting taxpayers when it maintains programs like the MPP, while cutting aid to poor people."

2. Kopin Corp., a US-based technology company, has received \$30 million in federal subsidies over the past four years and tens of millions more in savings through the lease of a state-owned laboratory. Despite its continuing profits and this huge public investment, the company plans to send even more of its new manufacturing jobs overseas.

3. Walt Disney Corp., whose profits in 1995 exceeded \$1 billion, received \$300,000 in federal assistance that year to perfect fireworks displays. Joseph and Phyllis Fagone of East Boston, who are in their mid-80s and struggling on a fixed income, were among 1,000 state residents whose federally funded fuel assistance ran out before the winter holidays last year.

Who's fooling who?

In the 1980s, the U.S. tax code was modified to drastically reduce corporate income taxes. In the 1950s and '60s, corporate taxes provided 25% of all federal government revenues. By 1991, that figure was reduced to only 7%. These billions of dollars appropriated by the Federal Government to support US industry are supposed to offer American taxpayers a "positive long-term return." Don't be fooled. What politicians in Washington consider beneficial industrial policy is merely the result of calculated lobbying by large corporations and trade industry groups. Corporate welfare is often little more than a payoff to companies or industries offering political contributions.

During the '80s, government spending on individuals increased for everyone but the poor. The poor have few advocates and cannot afford lobbyists to defend their interests in Washington; consequently, lawmakers find them easy targets for budget cuts. Between 1970 and 1991, the purchasing power of benefits for the typical AFDC family fell 42%, primarily as a result of state and federal cuts.

"While the corporate elite holds cap-in-hand for their annual entitlements from the poor and middle income taxpayers, millions of powerless people are left without the same economic opportunities provided to the corporation," says Ralph Nader. "Such blatant inequality in the distribution of wealth cannot be tolerated in any civil society," he added.



Illegitimate Child

While many federal programs have the stated purpose of creating jobs, a significant number of subsidized companies are downsizing. AT&T, General Electric, Raytheon, Digital -- among many large companies receiving federal assistance -- have together laid off close to 100,000 workers in recent years. Defense contractor Lockheed Martin is expected to receive \$1 billion to help defray the cost of its \$10 billion merger, including more than \$16 million in pay and performance bonuses for top executives while nearly 50,000 of the conglomerate's employees have been laid off over the past five years.

The magical & miraculous accounting ledger... Corporate dependence on federal dollars and tax loopholes distorts the free-market system and creates damaging incentives for companies to send jobs and capital overseas. Many large corporations (around 60% of US-controlled companies and 74% of foreign firms) pay no taxes at all. Of course, small businesses and local entrepreneurs are expected to pay taxes in full, just like the rest of us. (Move over mom & pop, we're pulling in another Pizza Hut!)

"The tax code is a major source of corporate welfare," says US Rep. Lane Evans, an Illinois Democrat. "Not only that, but we are using our tax dollars in a way that hurts our own economy. It drains our treasury. It forces average Americans to bear a larger share of the tax burden."

The trick is all in the wrist: the US taxes the worldwide profits of American companies; a million dollars earned in Ireland, for example, will be taxed at the US rate of 35%, minus the 10% tax the company must pay to the Irish government. But companies are not required to pay the US tax bill unless they move the money home to give to shareholders or to reinvest in domestic business. As long as the money remains overseas according to the accounting ledger -- invested in foreign plants or banks -- companies have no obligation to pay taxes on their profits abroad.

"The tax code literally says, 'Move your plant overseas and we'll give you a tax break,'" says Sen. Byron Dorgan, a North Dakota Democrat.

So where's Ted Koppel when you need him? As large multinational corporations own the major media outlets in this country it is not surprising that analysts have been slow to acknowledge and scrutinize corporate welfare. The story of Wal-Mart's ("Proudly Made in the USA!") involvement in unfair child labor practices overseas boldly made front page news, thanks to the (puzzling) celebrity status of Kathy Lee Gifford, but similar accounts go tragically unreported every day. One of the many we aren't likely to hear about takes place in the newly "democratized" Haiti where children assemble Lion King and Pocahontas clothing for the Walt Disney Company for as little as 11 U.S. cents per hour. These clothing items are then sold at J.C. Penny and Wal-Mart for about \$10 a piece. In 1993, Michael Eisner, CEO of the Walt Disney Company, made \$97,600 per hour (\$203 million) in 1993. Sewing clothes for Disney, a Haitian worker could put

in six full-time days a week for approximately 1,040 years before earning what Michael Eisner earns in just one day. By the way, Disney owns ABC.

More to the point...

Corporate capitalism is flat-out unconstitutional. Nowhere is it written in our Constitution that the government has the authority to subsidize certain pet food companies or establish price agreements with corporate dairy producers.

Meanwhile, we the people are instructed to scapegoat federal budget problems onto the weakened shoulders of the poor. In today's sea of official rhetoric most would find it difficult to believe that counting mortgage interest and other homeownership tax breaks (and don't forget that per child tax break), the government spends more than four times as much on middle and upper income families that it does on poor families. And for every \$1 of social welfare fraud, there is over \$100 of income tax fraud. What is perhaps most surprising is that child poverty looms at nearly 25% in America, the greatest level of child poverty anywhere in the industrialized world.

Have we peaked your interest? If so, you'll want to give serious thought to supporting Ralph Nader for president. He may not be running national ads on TV, but he is running for office, or did the corporate media forget to tell you...

--nanny & the professor...


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- Ralph Nader's Corporate Welfare Project
- The House Progressive Caucus
- The Public Library where you can still register to VOTE NOV. 5!

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Reviews, Reviews,

Linkages: Mumia, Community, and the Allied Discourse of Democracy

Review of "Live from Death Row: The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal" from RADIO FREE MAINE

by nanny & the professor

Steve Yip, Mark McClain Taylor, Tony Medina - respectively, a NYC Maoist and political activist, a Princeton Seminary academic, and an LA revolutionary street poet. It is a rare occasion that these three men might be drawn together on an issue, rarer yet that we here in Bloomington-Normal have the opportunity to participate in the experience. The 14th Annual Socialist Scholars Conference was held April 12-14, 1996 in New York City and recorded on audio and video tape by Roger Leisner for RADIO FREE MAINE. Panel 69, composed of the three individuals aforementioned, was titled, "Live from Death Row: The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal."

The panel sought not only to communicate and identify the current status and issues involved with Mumia's case, but more importantly, to unify the efforts and convictions of diverse sociopolitical groups toward his release.

For those of you unfamiliar with this case, Mumia Abu-Jamal is an uncompromising Black revolutionary journalist who was, as a teenager, a member of the Black Panther Party. For years, he exposed the racist brutality of the Philadelphia Police Department through his writings and publications. On December 9, 1981, Mumia was shot, beaten, and nearly killed by police in a street incident in which an officer was killed. It is widely accepted (human rights groups such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch agree) that Mumia was then framed up on murder charges and sentenced to die in a trial where he was denied even the most basic rights of legal defense. This being the case, Mumia Abu-Jamal remains the premier political prisoner in the US currently facing execution.

Mumia has been on death row for over 12 years. Throughout his imprisonment he has continued to speak out against the system, bringing revolutionary acumen to millions of people through his writings, in spite of attempts by prison authorities and others to censor him and break his spirit. Mumia's case has become the spearhead of a racist campaign to restore the death penalty in Pennsylvania where no one has been executed since 1962. Mumia's pending execution marks a major escalation in the use of state violence against the people by its attempts to establish the death penalty as an accepted weapon against revolutionary movements.

The panelists challenged conscious communities to recognize Mumia as a symbol of the war the system is waging on the people, to bear in mind that we are all vulnerable to oppression (not just those of us relegated to 6x10 cells), and to acknowledge that much of the fabric which undergirds our own security is threatened when we choose to critique, dissent, or expose injustices. They remind us that no matter what sector of society we identify ourselves with, we must act as a coalition against oppression and hatred, whether it be in the form of brute force, discrimination, or adversarial politics. They remind us too that we must do more than theorize about the subjugation of suppressed communities, but that we must openly participate, organize, mobilize, and rally for our right to live in an honest, peaceful, and free world.

Steve Yip is an assiduous activist in NYC who coordinates the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition; Mark McClain Taylor teaches at Princeton Seminary and organizes a group called AMAJ (Academics for Mumia Abu-Jamal); Tony Medina is a radical street poet from LA who recently co-edited an over 400 page book galvanizing the efforts of award-winning writers, artists, activists, academics, and revolutionaries entitled, *In Defense of traditional sources*. It is vitally important to a free society that information be impartial and unobstructed. As Cornell West says, "Communication is the life blood of democracy." We owe a great deal of respect and gratitude to citizens like Roger Leisner who are willing to distribute essential information without concern for the protection of their market share.

For a free copy of RADIO FREE MAINE's extensive audio and video tape catalogue, send SASE (.75 postage) to:
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(207) 662-6629 (TEL./FAX)

Judging books

Push
author
Sapphire

The world is full of people like Precious Jones. Some people (Republicans) choose to ignore them, others like Sapphire, want us all to remember them. Precious Jones is someone, although a fictitious character, I will never forget.

Precious Jones is a 16 year old teenager, twice impregnated by her father, who is trying to survive in a world that continually fails her. It is her triumph against illiteracy that gives Precious a voice, and us the hope that she will become a survivor and not a victim.

*available at both Bloomington and Normal Library

Hoop! Hoopi Donna

author
Susan Strempek Shea

A book about an all-girl polka band?! Cool! Actually only a bit part of this book was about a band.

Most of the story revolves around Donna's relationship with her father, a Polish immigrant. The beloved relationship between father and daughter and it's falling out after a tragic accident was the focal point of the story. Donna carries the burden of undeserved blame around her neck throughout most of her life until she *finally* finds someone who is willing to listen. And then 30 years of betrayal and hurt unfolds. It brought me to tears.

*available at both Bloomington and Normal Library

The White Boy Shuffle

author
Paul Beatty

Gunnar Kaufman was a lone African American growing up in a lily white California neighborhood. That is, until his mother asked he and his sisters if they would like to go to an all-black summer camp. When they gave an insistent "noooooo!!" with their reason being, "they're different from us." Their mother arched her eyebrow and said nothing. The next day Gunnar, his two sisters and mother were hitching up a U-Haul to their Volvo and headed for the 'hood.

I really enjoyed the wit and satire in the early part of the book. Beatty is a true master with the English vernacular. His writing combines a sharp sense of rhythm and poetic style that is very much of the moment.

*available at both Bloomington and Normal Library

The Happy Mutant Handbook: mischievous fun for higher primates

no primary author

The back cover tries to lure potential buyers by asking, "Are you sick of the packaged reality THEY keep trying to sell you? You know: bad TV, hideous magazines, clueless computer technology, and lame attempts at "leisure activities" It's enough to make you build your own rocket so you can find a solar system that doesn't suck so bad."





Reviews, Reviews!

Contributors from several well known publications, such as *Mondo 2000*, *Hacker Crackdown* and *BOING BOING* have compiled information on just about anything a happy mutant would find interesting. What is a happy mutant? They describe one as addicted to novelty, in constant need of brain candy, such as new ideas, entertainment, toys and high weirdness. Happy mutants, laugh at authority, "love" kitsch culture, follow the DIY philosophy, and think life is a gas.

Some of the topics discussed in this book are: Do-It-Yourself radio, TV and publishing, Church of the SubGenius, biodiesel recipes, zines, schwa, and mutant food. Interviews, comics and prank ideas are also included.

**available at Peoria Library. See if your local library can get it on interlibrary loan for you. Barnes & Noble also carries it.*

The Giant's House

Lisa McCracken

Picture this, it is 1950 somewhere in Massachusetts and a 26 year old librarian falls in love with an over-tall (8 foot) eleven year old boy.

The story is told by Peggy Cort, who is recalling the peculiar relationship she had with James Carlson Sweatt, the one person who's ever really understood her.

The Giant's House is a quirky love story of two misfits whose lonely paths cross at the circulation desk and ends prematurely when James' condition grows (and grows and grows). This tender story supports the old saying of "it's better to have loved and lost, then to not have loved at all."

Hey, you, put down that wallet!
Some these books are free - at your local library. If the book is not currently available, or not in the collection, put it on reserve or inter library loan, 'kay? You've got to eat too ya know.

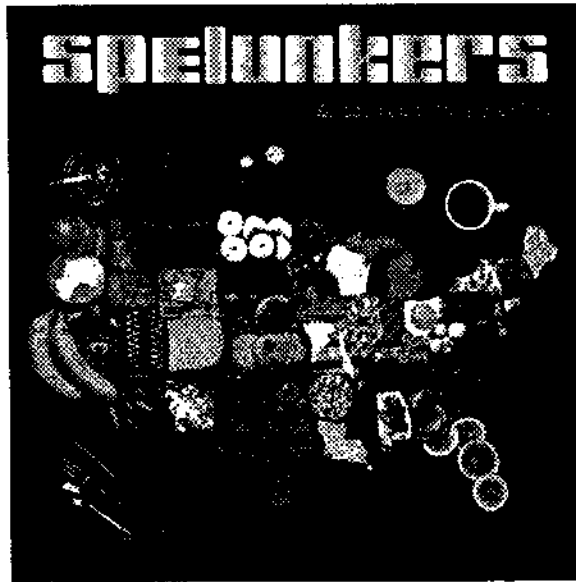
-towanda! the picky bibliophile

Polite Coyotes

If you haven't had a chance to hear the sounds by local group the Polite Coyotes, I highly recommend that you do. The three member group (Andy on guitar, John on keyboard and Mel on drums) provides a sound that is unique to the current local scene. All three members share in the songwriting process with each performing their own songs. Together, they combine a little bit of country and a little bit of pop with some rockabilly and blues thrown in. This is some great foot stompin' head bobbin' harmonizing music.

Catch their next show at The Bandstand in LeRoy's "Circle" on Oct. 5.

-towanda!



Spelunkers release "Breakfast is America"

Bloomington/Normal's the Spelunkers recently released their much anticipated debut album titled "Breakfast is America" The Spelunkers is a three piece band which includes songwriter, guitarist and vocalist Tommy O'Donnell, bass guitarist and vocalist Clay Thompson, and drummer/percussionist John Ganser. Combined, they construct powerful, fun rock songs with lyrical cleverness.

This talent also is apparent in the cover artwork. On it, the breakfast theme is continued by composing the United States out of various types of traditional breakfast foods, with each state represented by a different item. (I especially enjoyed Rhode Island being portrayed by a Flintstone™ vitamin).

If you happened to miss their fantastic c.d. release party held at the Gallery on Sept. 13th, it's not too late to join in on the fun. You can purchase the c.d. at local music stores, including Campustown in downtown Normal.

For a little over ten bucks, you not only get 46 minutes of great music, but you also help support a truly deserving band.

--towanda!

Trapped Under Ice

Trapped Under Ice: A Death Row Anthology, edited by Julie Zimmerman, is a collection of poems "written by, about or for the death row inmate." The original concept for the anthology was to be poems from only death row inmates. However, so many responses were received from inmates not on death row that the scope of the book was changed.

While the quality of the poetry ranges from amateurish to excellent—poems by Scott A. Antworth and Gene Hathorn are particularly noteworthy—the book provides a medium for a silenced and forgotten people.

Zimmerman, in the introduction, says that the book "is meant to be a protest against the death penalty" and reminds us that "we must at least acknowledge the humanity of the men and women we imprison and remember that they are still a part of our world."

And remind us it does. The poems express the alienation, fear, regret and humanity of these prisoners. This is a much-needed reminder in a society that all too easily forgets and separates itself from the people it incarcerates.

Royalties from the book are donated to the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, ACLU's Prison Project and American Friends Service Committee. The book can be purchased from Biddle Publishing, PO Box 1305, Brunswick, Maine 04011, (207)833-5016. The cost of the book is \$8.00; shipping is \$2.00 for the first book, \$.50 each additional book.

Look for reviews of other Biddle books concerning capital punishment and incarceration in future issues of the *Post*.

--by Sherrin Fitzer

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Musings on Life, Death,

I had a different article planned until last night. This changed when a friend was admitted to the hospital again for complications for an long-term life threatening illness. This time she will probably die. Please bear with all that follows. Everything is true, as far as I have experienced it in my life.

Jesus answered and said unto him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

--The Bible, John 3:3

"Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore!"

--Dorothy, The Wizard of Oz

I have had friends who were HIV positive. A few months ago a good friend from Chicago introduced me to one of her best friends who has AIDS. Her friend had been on the brink of death when she met him, but since then he has made a miraculous recovery and is healthier than he has been in years, in part due to the new outlook on life he has gained in knowing my friend.

...You can stop gettin' tan, you're still gonna die

Eat a lot of oat bran, you're still gonna die
You can search for U.F.O.'s way up in the sky

They might fly you to Mars, where you're still gonna die...

...You can get rid of stress, get a lot more rest
Get an AIDS test, enroll in EST

Move out west, where it's sunny and dry
And you'll live to be a hundred, but you're still gonna die...

--Shel Silverstein, "Still Gonna Die"

I must admit I went through a bit of a personal crisis before meeting him. I had already been talking with my friend who is now in the hospital whose illness at that time was not terminal, and we were focusing on life and living then, knowing that her illness could become terminal at any point in time. Now I found myself getting ready to go out to The Bistro with friends and this guy who was dying of AIDS. I sat around all day thinking about eating dinner before hand with them and then going out to party. What do I say? How do I

act? I felt foolish. I had worked in social services for years and thought myself sensitive, and what I lacked in sensitivity and awareness I thought I made up for in honesty. I could always state my inadequacies and my inability to understand. But this was different. This was a person who knew that he was going to die sooner rather than later. What do you say to someone who daily is faced with the reality of his or her own mortality?

In the back of my head the Shel Silverstein song "Still Gonna Die" began playing. I started thinking about it and about my philosophy towards death and how it related to going out with this man this evening. I suddenly realized that every day when I speak with anyone, I am talking to a dying creature. *We are all going to die.* We just don't always know the time. This man may know he probably won't be around in ten years, and I know I will probably be around in sixty or seventy (we live forever in my family, it seems), but I could get killed in a car wreck on the way over to meet them in my car. I could get killed tripping in my house over my freaky black cat who likes to run across my path in the dark when I get up at night! I finally figured that the difference between him and me is that he knows he probably won't be around as long as I could be. Still, every moment of every day could be our last in this lifetime, which should give us an appreciation for the small things daily that make life special.

Both of my parents, my husband's father, and my husband and I have talked about the right to die with dignity. My folks have made a living will, which we still need to do. I think of Dr. Kevorkian as a modern day hero, the champion of a cause...the right to die. Modern medicine has taken a very twisted turn in the world and believes, for the most part, in preserving life at all costs. It doesn't matter whether the body is worn out and ready to die. If a little more life can be wrestled out of it, then they do it. My husband's grandmother was kept alive for years without the families' permission, and they all had to watch her suffer, having no life at all, but too "out of it" to tell anyone *anything*, let alone "Please stop this intervention and just let me die." I am not saying that all medical intervention is bad, but our society worships life and is fearful of

death.

For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun? And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and see God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

--Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

I have no fear of death. Don't get me wrong, I don't want to die now. I want to be a mother and watch my children grow. Yet I learned when my plane from Russia was having so many problems and we all knew that we could possibly crash that death holds no fear for me. Wimp that I am, I just didn't want it to hurt as it happened, and started planning on how to make it as least painful as possible, which I am sure wouldn't have worked. I do find death familiar. I believe I have died many times, and have been born many times...reincarnation.

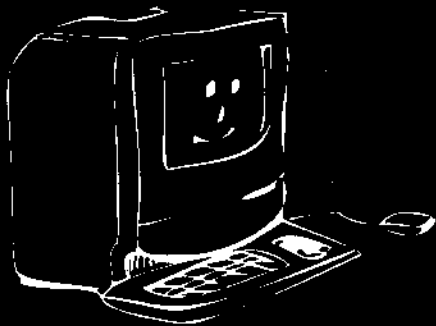
The mark of your ignorance is the depth of your belief in injustice and tragedy. What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the master calls a butterfly...

Don't be dismayed at good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends...

--Richard Bach, ILLUSIONS

Most religions of the world teach the philosophy of reincarnation. I respect all world religions and believe they teach the same things in general (though I may have strong disagreements with the practitioners of certain religions and what I view as their misinterpretations of the religion). Personally, I find the most meaningful expression of my religious tradition to be Wicca, often known as The Craft. It is a branch of the pagan religions, and honors nature, treating life and death as part of a continuum. My work as a midwife and herbalist is an expression of my deep religious views. At the same time, I could call myself just

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Reincarnation & Astral Projection

as easily a Christian or a Buddhist and find no contradiction. I see all religions as one religion, and view birth and death as polarities. They are both part of a whole, both very powerful and awe-inspiring, but neither should provoke fear. Our culture, though, seems to have a fear of both birth and death, as seen in our handling of both of these natural occurrences. Both are usually done in isolation from others, in a hospital (or nursing home setting). Both are treated as something the family cannot handle, and as something they cannot actively participate in. Instead, we turn our bodies and our loved ones over to "trained professionals" (i.e., doctors) to handle for us. In my religious view, birth should be at home when everything is normal, and death as well should occur at home with dignity. Death may be a sad time for those left behind, but it is an adventure for the one leaving. How their time is spent in "other realms" before being born again is largely determined by the type of spirit they are in general. In *The Craft*, life and death of the physical body and the rebirth and passing of the spirit is seen manifest in the cycles of the year, and is illustrated in the story of *The Wheel of the Year*:

In love, the Horned God, changing form and changing face, ever seeks the Goddess. In this world, the search and the seeking appear in the Wheel of the Year.

She is the Great Mother who gives birth to Him as the Divine Child Sun at the Winter Solstice. In spring, He is sower and seed who grows with the growing light, green as the new shoots. She is the Initiatrix who teaches Him the mysteries. He is the young bull; She the nymph, seductress. In summer, when light is longest, they meet in union, and the strength of their passion sustains the world. But the God's face darkens as the sun grows weaker, until at last, when the grain is cut for harvest, He too sacrifices Himself to Self that all may be nourished. She is the reaper, the grave of earth to which all must return.

Throughout the long nights and darkening days, He sleeps in her womb; in dreams He is Lord of Death who rules the Land of Youth beyond the gates of night and day. His dark tomb becomes the womb of rebirth, for at Midwinter She again gives birth to Him. The cycle ends and begins again, and the Wheel of the Year turns, on and on.

—Starhawk, *The Spiral Dance*

Ironically, modern Christians often argue the loudest and longest against this idea of reincarnation. They somehow seem to feel this goes against everything The Bible teaches, claiming you must admit what a horrible sinner you are and ask the Holy Spirit to enter your body (talk about possession!) and save you from these sins. If you don't, you'll burn forever in hell. None of this could be further from the truth! When critically examining the Bible, it seems Christ was talking about his example of how to live life in order for your soul to grow and advance so that you will eventually not need to be born again. There were many very clear cut references to reincarnation and other "metaphysical" ideas in The Bible which were edited out back in the sixth century.

The book, *Edgar Cayce On Reincarnation* by Noel Langley, gets very detailed in tracing the biblical references to reincarnation, and the history of the deletion of further references in the sixth century. For those of you who have a Bible and are interested in reading the biblical references to reincarnation, but don't have an interest in finding this book, read the following passages: Proverbs 8:22-31; Solomon 8:19-20; Romans 9:11-14 has an interesting point of discussion, for if there is "no unrighteousness" with God, why is He showing a most ungodly bias by loving Jacob for no reason, and hating Esau for no reason?; the Ninetieth Psalm has veiled references; Job 1:20-21; Revelation 3:12; John 9:1-3; John 3:3-14 (which modern Christians usually interpret as applying to the pros and cons of baptism, though the text itself does not seem to imply this).

Langley more specifically writes on page 172-173: "In Malachi 4:5, we come to perhaps the most persuasive example of all, for Elijah and Elias are only variations in spelling; both refer to the same prophet. 'Behold,' says Malachi in the fifth century B.C., 'I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.'

"Five hundred years later, according to Matthew 16:13, 'When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked His disciples, saying, "Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" And they said, "Some say that Thou art John the Baptist, some Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the Prophets.'" This is continued in Chapter 17, Verse 10. 'And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?" And Jesus answered and said unto them, "Elias truly shall first come and restore all things. But I say unto you that Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of Man suffer of them.'" Then the disciples understood that He spake unto them of John the Baptist.'

"What logical thought-process induced the disciples to draw such a conclusion so promptly, unless Jesus had made them thoroughly familiar with the laws of reincarnation? John the Baptist had been beheaded by Herod in

their own lifetime, and Elias was five hundred years dead."

For more on how and why the Christians' Bible was altered in the sixth century, read this book which is fairly easy to find, or search out more obscure, but also more scholarly references. Usually, I think one should accept truth where one finds it, and I find it in many writings and philosophies world-wide, The Bible included. Searching through all recorded histories and oral traditions, one will find numerous references to this topic. Reincarnation would also give a simple answer to child prodigies...those, who, for example, at age five, can sit down to a musical instrument and play with the proficiency and expertise of one who has studied for twenty years. If the child was proficient in a past life, why would this knowledge not be with him or her on some level? Could it not explain why some things come so easily to some people, such as foreign languages, or a certain handicraft or profession?

Beyond the topic of reincarnation itself is the topic of astral projection. This one is more difficult in many ways. It is hard to persuade a person who has never personally experienced it that this is real. Those who have experienced it know without a doubt the certainty of it. Many experiments have actually been done on this topic, including at prestigious medical institutions and at one U.S. Army hospital. Robert A. Monroe is considered a pioneer in this field, and quite a few reputable tests in this field have been run on him. He has written many books on this topic, has founded The Monroe Institute dedicated to the study of Out of Body Experiences. He is not alone in this. Again, many religions throughout the world accept this as a given. Rituals are done with the express purpose of aiding those present in leaving their bodies. Without experiencing it directly, though, many folks scorn this idea.

For me it is a fact of life. I have done it all my life and been aware of it. New to me, though, is actually learning to control it, and have some say over when I leave and where I go at times. It isn't always an exact thing with me (or anyone I have read about or talked with, actually). I have had experiences since early childhood on many levels. "Others" in our dimension, me being on different astral levels

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Musings Cont

with "others," and sometimes the help of some of these "others" when needed.

Some things are very specific to certain places and times. The home my folks moved into when I was twelve was and is still very much haunted. The activity of these "others" varies throughout the years, with the actions sometimes being much more powerful and at other times more subtle. Every person in my family has regularly experienced these occurrences, and sometimes visitors to our home have. My parents aren't scared of it and don't worry, but as a child I was terrified by the bangings on the walls, the footsteps through the attic, things turning on and off, and once "it" sat on my bed. I still feel uncomfortable there alone and don't like spending the night there.

I have had an experience at a birth where the soul of a client's deceased mother came into the room during the end of the labor when her daughter was scared, and a deceased father at another. I can't get into specifics on this (client confidentiality) but suffice it to say it was very apparent to all present at the same moment in time that this was occurring.

The home I live in now has friendly visitors from time to time who used to live here, I think. Their energy is part of what makes the house so happy. I saw them once, but others who have lived here in the past have told me stories of encountering them here as well. It was never a situation where fear was invoked in those inhabiting the house. It was more of a joyful recognition, and the past residents have always been glad to know that these "others" still visit occasionally.

Astral projection is different from "hauntings" in that one's soul leaves the physical body and travels either on this level or on different astral levels. One theory is that we all do this from time to time during the night to

"rejuvenate" our souls, and only a few are actually aware of it occurring. This is what happens in "near death experiences" you read about when a person technically "dies" and can watch from outside the body as others try and resuscitate them, sometimes reporting the appearance of a deceased loved one or other "bright being" who tells them it is not time to go yet, and they need to go back into their body.

I am not trying to convince anyone of the validity of this. For me, personally, I accept it fully and without doubt. I have done it too many times, learned too many things, and had many strange and wonderful occurrences in my life (though some have been scary). Others may think I am out of my mind (which, in a twisted way, is a correct observation if I am as I claim to be at times...out of my body). For me, though, I haven't learned the secrets of heaven or hell, nor do I know if they exist or not. I do know that there is more to life than what is on this physical plane. I believe that we are in a cycle of death and rebirth, and at some point along the way we don't have to be reborn any longer, though I am not sure of this...this is just how it appears to work. Having felt an awareness since childhood that I have gone through this before, and then having traveled on these levels, I now have no fear of death. It is just another way of being.

Last night I left my body and went to visit my friend who is unconscious and in the hospital on the astral level. She seemed a bit surprised to see me. We talked about death, and I tried to encourage her at this point to let go. I told her that I knew there were "others" that would help her on her journey from this life, and that it really was safe and she would be fine. I told her that she had suffered enough in this life and now was the time to pass on and let herself heal, to stop suffering. She said yes, yes, she agreed with me, but she wasn't quite ready to go on yet, even though she was aware that she

couldn't continue living in her present body. And so she is hovering between life and death as I write this, on life support machines. I returned to my bedroom and floated above my body for a while, thinking of trying to contact her again and how I could help her. I heard my dog licking herself which seemed very, very loud and got distracted, so I decided to go back into my body. Many of you would say I dreamed it, but for those of you who have done this, you understand how I know it was real.

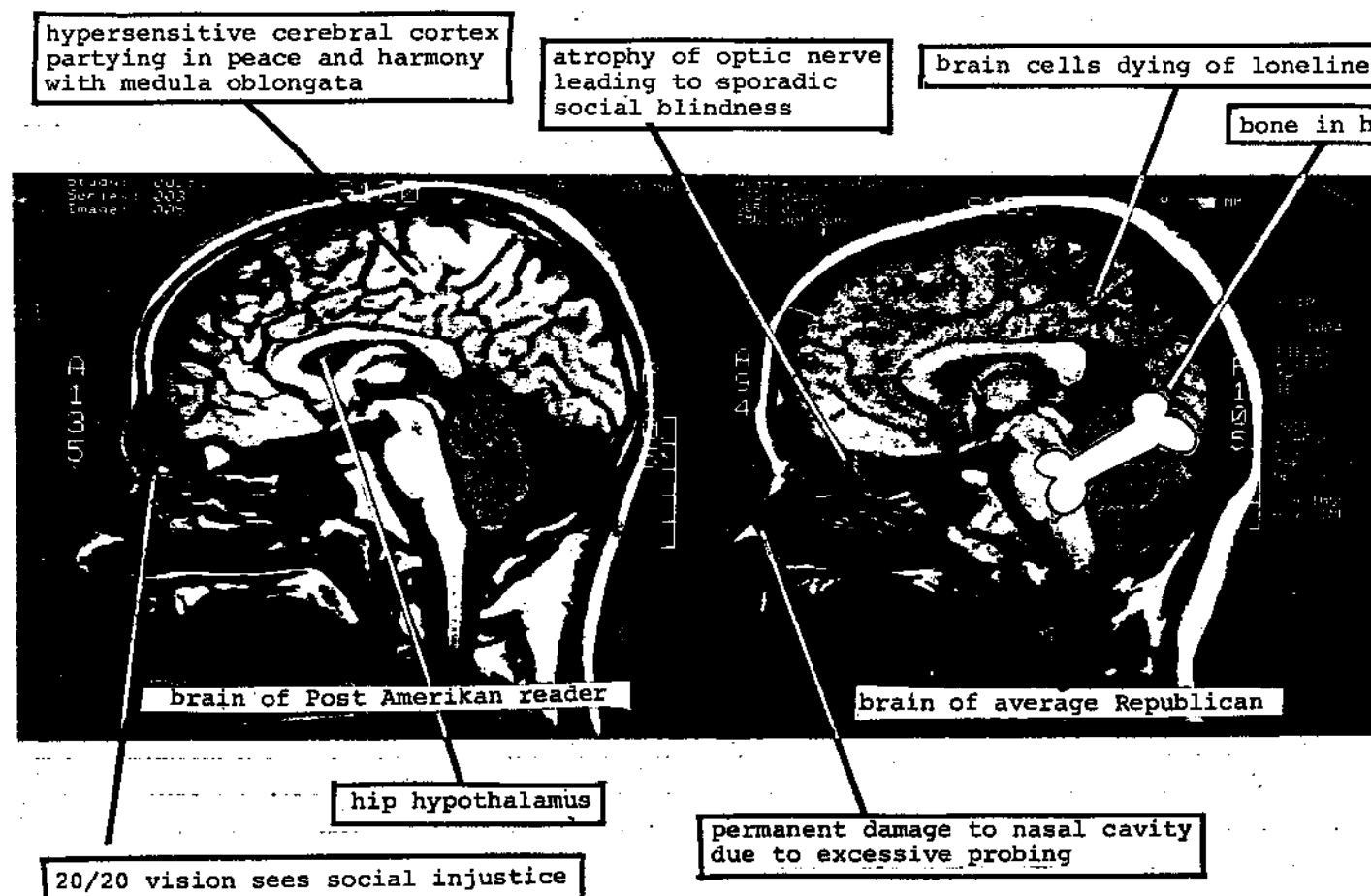
With my work as a midwife, I know there is a very fine line between life and death, and they are just reflections of each other and part of the same cycle. Death is only traumatic and sorrowful for those left behind missing the loved one. The loved one who dies, though he or she may be confused, goes on to new levels, preparing to enter the world once again, until their soul's journey is complete and they don't need to return anymore. Where one goes after the need to return to this world is beyond my knowledge.

-Marcee Murray

You can get started reading further on these and similar topics:

- JOURNEYS OUT OF THE BODY by Robert A. Monroe
- THE PROPHET by Kahlil Gibran
- THE SPIRAL DANCE by Starhawk
- EDGAR CAYCE ON REINCARNATION by Noel Langley
- REINCARNATION: AN EAST-WEST ANTHOLOGY by Joseph Head and S.L. Cranston
- ILLUSIONS by Richard Bach

Some of these books are fictional works which can cause you to think about life in a different way. If you desire a more complete list with other non-fictional works, or have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 827-5843.



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Yes, I want to enhance my motor skills and frontal lobe chemical/electrical impulses by 40%. I'm enclosing \$5.00 for a subscription (6 issues) to the Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702. I understand individual results may vary.

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Domestic violence Awareness Month

October 7 National Day of Unity Against Domestic Violence

Purple is the color for the Month's activities. Show your support for ending violence in our homes by wearing a purple ribbon throughout the month. The ribbon signifies support and solidarity for victims and survivors of family violence. Stop by Community Action at 923 E. Grove St. in Bloomington (8-12;1-4) on Oct. 7 to get your ribbon.

October 11 Countering Domestic Violence "Peace Festival"

This event will take place at the Miller Park Pavilion in Bloomington between 6 and 8 pm. Individuals and families are welcome to attend.

October 14 Cut-A-Thon

Finishing Touch Hair Studio is offering hair cuts for \$10 between 8am and 8pm. The proceeds will be donated to Neville House children's services. Appointments are preferred, so please call ahead of time at 454-8599. Finishing Touch is located at 1100 N. Beech St. in Normal.

October 16 Domestic Violence and Psychological Trauma Presentation

Dr. Chris Dunning of the University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee) will be lecturing on the assessment, treatment, and legal issues of domestic violence and psychological trauma.

The presentation will be held at the Bloomington Public Library (Community Room), 205 E. Olive St. from 6-9pm. The registration fee is \$15 (1/2 price for students and M.H.A. members) participants can pay at the door.

October 17 Friends, Family, and Other Interested Folks Forum

The forum will offer support and education for those individuals who have a loved one involved in a domestic violence situation, or individuals who want to learn about the cycle of violence and dynamics of abuse.

The forum will be offered from 7:08 pm at Community Action on 923 E. Grove St.

Women's Coalition Events

Monday, Oct. 7th--Rob Tufts, a liaison for AFSCME will speak on support for clerical workers.

Monday, Oct. 21st--There will be a workshop with the AAUW concerning gender and equality in the education system.

Monday, Oct. 28--Marcee Murray, childbirth educator, midwife & U.S. coordinator for The Russian Birth Project, will speak on natural childbirth & motherhood from a feminist perspective.

All programs are a 7pm at the Women's Studies Program Building at 604 S. Main Street in Normal.

National Forests in Danger

Envision a trip with your family to a national forest. You are expecting to get back to nature, but instead you are obstructed by a sign which reads, "Closed to the public-Reserved for commercial interests."

As scary as it may sound, this could happen if Congress has its way with our national heritage.

According to the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Congress has already won a budget resolution with the goal of "opening up all public lands to the possibility of sale to private industry."

Congress has even tried to establish a National Park Closure Commission with the intention of shutting down our parks and selling them off to commercial oil, timber, mining, and livestock corporations.

Not only does Congress want to shut down our national parks and sell them off, it wants to use the money for a quick deficit reduction claiming it's "necessary for the sake of future generations."

Under the proposal of conservative groups to liquidate national parks and public lands, the American public would not even be allowed to participate in the closure review process.

Last year, Congress created, with bi-partisan support, a national park protection for the new Mojave National Preserve. The House has already passed a budget bill to terminate protection for this preserve. Congress has passed a bill to speed up logging by suspending safeguards which protect the environment and wildlife. Both houses have voted to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development.

Unless actions are taken immediately, Congress could exploit our 504 national wildlife refuges, which equal over 268 million acres of public land.

Instead of planning a trip to the Painted Desert, you could be taking a trip to an oil field. The Redwood National Forest could be a wasteland.

If you find this information disturbing, here are some steps you can take to stop the destruction of our lands, and leave something for our children's children:

- Alert others by supplying the public with the facts.
- Flood Congress with letters voicing your concerns about the environment.
- Vote against representatives who vote for the destruction of our national parks.

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council

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Defending the Indefensible?

In our time, political speech and writing consist largely of a defense of the indefensible.
—George Orwell

In these, the final few weeks before the November election, I for one cannot work up too much hope over the possibilities for national reinvention that await us on November 5.

As of press time, Bill Clinton maintains a comfortable, double-digit lead over Bob Dole, but excuse me if I don't exactly faint from surprise. A duller, more colorless, adamantly obtuse candidate would be hard to find. God knows, the Republicans must be having serious second thoughts. Dole seems to believe that because he's married to a woman, he's closed the gender gap. Then there's youthful, urbane, handsome Jack Kemp. Surely *his* photogenic presence will reign in women voters. Moderate Republican women? Bolt over trifles such as Dole's firm opposition to abortion rights, the family and medical leave act, and breast cancer research funding? Pishtosh!

What's wrong with this picture?

During their campaign stop here in Bloomington-Normal, the heart of the heart of the heartland, Bob Dole and Jack Kemp posed for what surely will strike future historians as one of the odder photo ops of our time. Kemp, the vice-presidential candidate, stands behind the podium, dominating the foreground, while Dole, the man-who-would-be-president, stands

off to Kemp's right. Wide grins and joined hands somehow underscore rather than finesse Dole's breath-taking lack of voter appeal. Kemp—younger, better-looking, camera-friendly, and certainly more moderate a Republican—simply cannot airbrush out Bob Dole's many flaws. Instead, his presence just draws more attention to them. Choosing Jack Kemp as his running mate may very well figure as just another stupid move in a campaign that's pretty much consisted of one stupid move after another.

"Libby, I told you to set that alarm!"

Early last February, Bill Clinton started hitting the campaign trail like it was the middle of October, and hasn't slackened his pace much, except to take a few days out here and there to fire off some Patriots in the general direction of Baghdad, or preside over the most-ill considered response to a public aid crisis this country has seen since MacArthur led the attack on the World War I Veterans' Bonus Marchers during the last days of Hoover's administration.

Bob Dole, on the other hand, still has yet to act as though he really wants to be president. His detached tones and third-person references to himself may hint at stoicism, but stoicism just doesn't cut it unless you're marking time until your hour of deliverance arrives. Excuse me for asking, but don't the candidates usually cast themselves as the liberators, and not the liberated?

Hey, I haven't heard any fat lady singing. Don't misunderstand me—I'll be at my polling place bright and early on the morning of November 5, and I'll dutifully cast my vote for Bill Clinton, disappointed and disillusioned as I am with his administration. I encourage everybody else out there to boogie on in to the voting booths as well. Too much is at stake for us all to sit back and assume that (a) Clinton-Gore will just stampede Dole-Kemp anyway, so our presence is not required; or (b) there's no difference between them (see sidebar).

You'll never guess who's been sleeping in *my* bed. Women and children, and yes, even minorities and gay men and lesbians have a lot at stake here. Clinton blinked on the gays-in-the-military issue—and for that I may never quite forgive him. As far as I'm concerned, he should have simply issued the Executive Order to lift the ban, and told the military and the homophobes to get over it. Barry Goldwater, the grand old man of the Republican Party, and I saw eye to eye on that one. Well, we *are* approaching the third millennium.

Certainly, he's not someone whose friendship I would value: nominating Lani Granier for Attorney General—only to abandon her when the approval process got dicey—was reprehensible. And hers is hardly the only body that he's backpedaled over. But then my closest friends tell me that I can be loyal to a fault, and I know they're right.

These are the days of miracle and wonder. Sometimes, I even find myself wondering if Bob Dole is not perhaps the better man—he has integrity, a quality which in my darker moods I think totally foreign to our president's

character. Yet, I voted for Clinton in '92 in part because of his ability to compromise. If pressed, though, I would have to say that for all his flaws, I think he genuinely does want to do the right thing, God knows, his record on everything from abortion to student loan programs looks pretty damn good, and not just when you compare it to Bob Dole's.

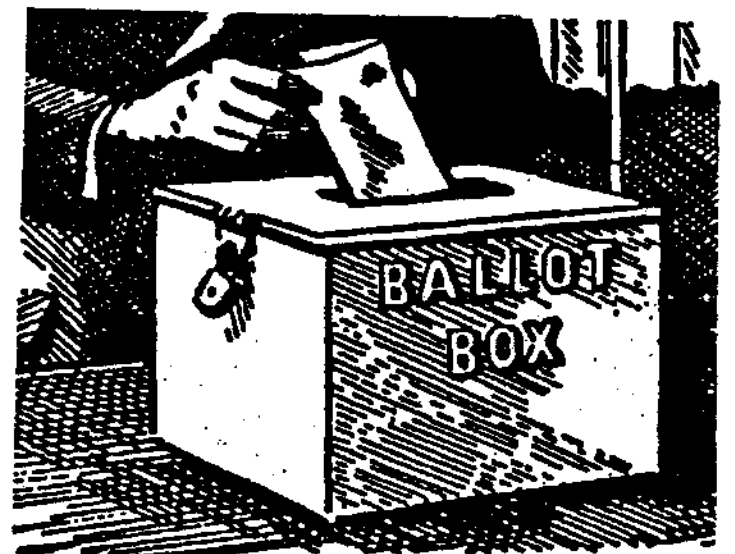
Looking back on the embarrassing blunders and gaffs of the early months of Clinton's presidency—the \$200 haircut, Zoe Baird's nanny-problem, the White House Travel brouhaha, though, I see not only inexperience operating, but something invidious and insidious.

Speaking as someone with a reasonable familiarity with American history—enough to get me through quite a few stiff rounds of Trivial Pursuit, anyway—I can't recall a president more relentlessly and viciously attacked than Bill Clinton. No one's life can bear up under such close scrutiny, but the "character issue" is really just a distraction, anyway. If Bob Dole has never been unfaithful to his wife, then more power to him. On the other hand, while Clinton's infidelities no doubt tested his marriage, the marriage survived—even perhaps became stronger. Frankly, folks, if Bill and Hillary have put it behind them, that's good enough for me. Marital fidelity has no bearing on the man's ability to govern.

Gennifer Flowers and joints-not-inhaled have nothing to do with our crumbling infrastructure: children still remain over-represented among those living in poverty; the public education system nation-wide still lacks adequate resources and equipment, while its teachers remain under-paid, over-worked, and totally dissed; our largest growth-industry seems to be building and over-populating prisons.

As Gertrude Stein said, "A leader is someone who takes you where you don't want to go." Bill Clinton may not be the ideal president any more than he would make an ideal husband or an ideal friend. No human being can match an ideal, and we as a nation have to put aside such naive and self-defeating expectations. Right now, for all his flaws, his waffling, his growing conservatism, Bill Clinton is the best chance we have for social justice. I find that a very sobering thought.

—Dr. Attitude



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Candidate comparison on the issues

Abortion:

Clinton wants it safe and available.

Dole wants it criminalized

Affirmative action:

Clinton supports affirmative action for all qualified groups.

Dole sponsored a bill to completely eliminate all affirmative action programs.

Breast cancer funding:

Clinton nearly doubled funding for breast cancer research during his term.

Dole refused to sign a 1994 bipartisan Senate letter of support for increasing research funding.

Earned Income Tax Credit:

Clinton supports the credit, which is mostly claimed by women, including single mothers.

Dole supported cutting EITC by \$32 billion while giving tax breaks to those with six-figure incomes.

Family and Medical Leave Act:

Signed the act, which allows workers to take up to 12 weeks to care for family members.

Dole opposed the act, saying it is "Washington telling you what you have to do."

Job discrimination against lesbians and gays:

Clinton endorsed the Employment Nondiscrimination Act.

Opposed "the special-interest gay agenda." (His voting record earned a 100% rating from the anti-gay Christian Coalition.)

Medicaid cuts:

Clinton opposed cuts and opposed the lowering of standards for nursing homes.

Dole supported a \$163 million cut in funding and backed a proposal to eliminate federal quality standards for nursing homes.

Military budget:

Clinton proposed a \$100 million reduction in military funding from his 1996 to his 1997 budget.

Dole supported a \$7 billion addition to Clinton's 1996 defense budget.

Violence Against Women Act:

Clinton supported the act.

Dole proposed a 43% reduction in funds for the act.

Source: Ms. Magazine

National Endowment for The Arts:

Clinton proposed full funding for the NEA, without censorship.

Dole voted to cut funding, saying he knew the difference between "the artistic and the obscene, between Michelangelo and Mapplethorpe."

Student loans:

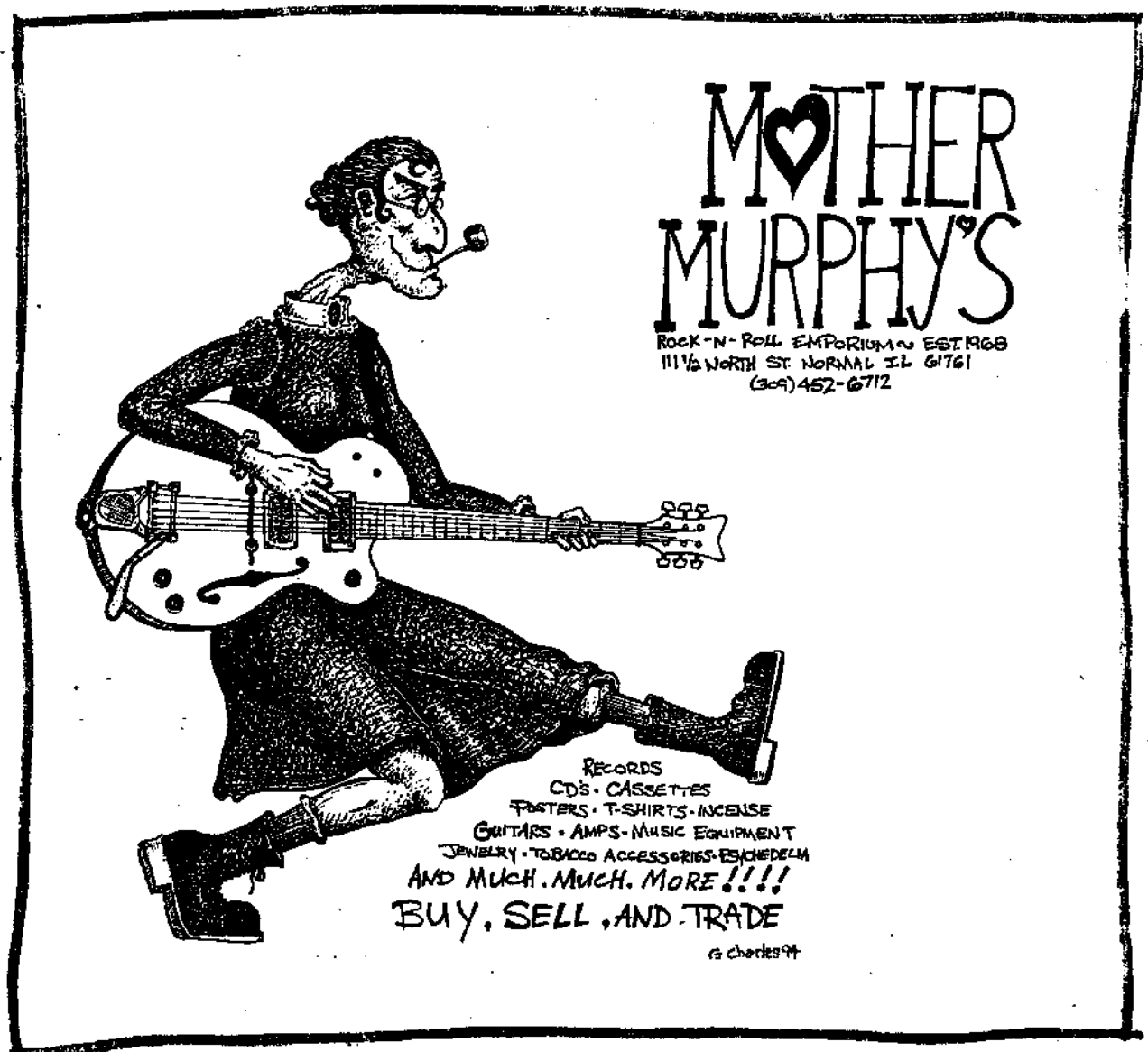
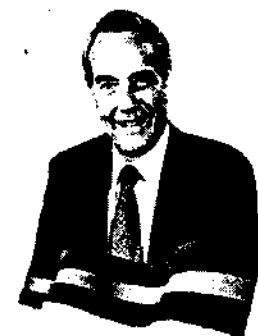
Clinton vetoed cuts in the student loan program and worked to maintain the Direct Student Loan Program, which makes loans more accessible.

Dole does not support the Direct Student Loan Program, and wants to shift costs from loan funding to private sector lenders.



President Clinton
The White House
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Washington, DC 20500
Comment Line - 202-456-1111
(F) 202-456-2461
E-Mail: President@Whitehouse.gov.

Dole for President
810 First St., NE, #300
Washington, DC 20002
(P) 202-414-6400
(F) 202-408-9468
E-Mail: bob.dole@dole96.com





Prussing & Ewing Respond to AAUW'S Questions

AAUW-IL used the following questions to prepare a voter education brochure for the Senatorial candidates: Dick Durbin and Al Salvi. These same questions were then asked of Rep. Thomas W. Ewing, member of Congress, 15th District and his political challenger, Laurel Lunt Prussing.

Individual Rights

Question: Do you support access to reproductive health care for all women? More specifically, will you support funding for the full range of reproductive health services including abortion, for federal employees, soldiers, and poor women?

Ewing: Federal funding of abortions is a highly divisive issue not only in Congress but among the taxpayers. I have opposed using taxpayer monies to perform abortions. In addition, I have supported policies to encourage adoption and foster care.

Prussing: I support access and funding for the full range of health services for all women. I do not support discrimination against women who are federal employees, soldiers, or poor. We should make every reasonable effort to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies by helping young children learn respect and responsibility for themselves and others by helping them understand the tremendous responsibilities of parenthood.



"Gee, I'm really sorry. You can sexually harass me back if you want."

Question: What role do you think the government should play in insuring that women and girls are given full opportunity to achieve educational excellence? Will you support restoration of the gender equity provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act passed in 1994? Will you support restoration of full funding of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program which combats sexual harassment and other violence in schools?

Ewing: The growing success of the American women at the Olympic games this summer clearly demonstrates the benefit of promoting greater participation and lowering barriers to women in sports. We must continue this effort, but we must find a way to expand opportunities without establishing quotas or expensive mandates on universities. I worked with others in Congress to direct the Department of Education to establish clear guidelines for universities on how to comply with Title IX requirements. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities act programs are being evaluated for effectiveness and a report is expected at the end of 1996.

Prussing: I support equal access for women in education. My alma mater, Wellesley College, was founded because women were not allowed to attend universities. I have three daughters. I believe the federal government has played a key role in opening up opportunities for minorities and women and that role should be continued. This Congress has been very short-sighted in cutting programs such as Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

Question: By the year 2000, women and minorities will constitute the largest pool of workers in America. What is the government's role in ensuring that needs of this work force are met? More specifically, will you oppose cuts in funding of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission which enforces anti-discrimination laws? Will you oppose amendments to the anti-discrimination laws which would lower caps on damages for plaintiffs?

Ewing: The federal government has a great responsibility to ensure that all Americans, including women and minorities, have the opportunity to freely participate in the work

force on a level playing field, and engage in our free market system. This is not only in the best interest of every individual American, it is in the best economic interest of our country as a whole. One of the most important things the federal government can do is to reduce the tax burden on working women. I am a supporter of tort reforms to reduce frivolous litigation which cost the economy billions of dollars.

Prussing: I oppose cutting the Equal Opportunity Commission. They were very helpful to me in the 1960's when I faced wage discrimination. I oppose caps on damages for plaintiffs. Oddly enough, the same people who support caps on damages support the government paying private property owners if the value of their property is reduced by environmental protection laws. They don't propose any caps on such payments. They do not say if they think landowners should pay the government if property values go up as the result of environmental protection.

Question: Many women who suffer sexual harassment and other forms of gender discrimination in employment are currently not allowed to sue for monetary damages even in cases of proven intentional discrimination. What steps would you take to ensure women fair treatment in employment? Will you support adding gender to the anti-discrimination laws to the same extent as race and other categories?

Ewing: My office has had an anti-sexual harassment policy in effect for some time, and I strongly believe that we as a country must do more not only to reduce and eliminate sexual harassment and discrimination, but to increase opportunities for women to compete for jobs and promotions on a level playing field. While women who are the victims of illegal discrimination may pursue legal remedies, it is unfortunate that the prohibitive time and cost of lawsuits, such as the high cost of attorneys, make it difficult for women. The most important steps we can take to reduce sexual discrimination are to better educate employers and change attitudes among all Americans.

Prussing: I think discrimination on the basis of gender should be included in anti-discrimination laws.

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Ewing votes yes on wages, no on other labor bills

With a changed vote on minimum wage Congressman Tom Ewing (15th District) supported the wage increase, but voted against labor on two other issues.

Ewing voted against the original minimum wage proposal, but did side with the final conference committee report, which included some small business tax breaks. "The negative impact on small business of the minimum wage was offset by the tax release in the final passage," according to Eric Nicoll, of Ewing's staff.

Ewing's opponent, Democrat Laurel Prussing of Champaign, said that "Working families have received short shrift in the Republican Congress. After over a year of Republican stalling and opposition, Democrats forced Gingrich and Ewing to give workers a long overdue raise."

Ewing went against the AFL-CIO on two other issues, the TEAM Act and Comp time.

The TEAM Act, Republicans claimed, was designed to allow labor-management discussion. The AFL-CIO charged that such

discussion already exists, but said that the Act would undermine labor by allowing the return of "company unions." The National Labor Relations Act currently does not allow company unions. Company unions are defined as those where management appoints the worker representatives, rather than the employees electing their own.

"There were some concerns about setting up committees for worker input," Nicoll said. "They felt they were prevented from doing that and needed this to encourage cooperation between labor and management."

President Bill Clinton, at organized labor's behest, vetoed the TEAM Act. The bill, "rather than promoting genuine teamwork, would undermine the system of collective bargaining that has served this country so well for decades," Clinton said. "Rather than encouraging true workplace cooperation, this bill would abolish protections that ensure independent and democratic representation in the workplace."

Supporting the President's veto, Prussing said the TEAM Act "would have unnecessarily


poisoned relations between owners and labor. The collective bargaining mechanism is the best way to negotiate differences."

The final bill of labor concern was a rewrite of the overtime law, to allow companies to give employees compensatory time-off instead of overtime pay. The bill was entitled the Working Families Flexibility Act.

The version of the bill which passed the house, unions charged, did not give employees enough choice. The way it was written the employer would decide when that comp time would be given, not the worker. That bill passed the House, 225-195, with Ewing's support, but did not make it to the Senate before recess.

Prussing said she would oppose such legislation. "It's the workers who put in the extra hours; they should decide how they are credited. This legislation does not allow workers that choice."

--from Livingston & McLean Counties Union News



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Seeing Red Icy Waters

Mid-July's stock market plunge and subsequent re-surfacing—including the Dow's fourth largest single day drop ever—proved once again the liveliness of the free enterprise system and the power of the market's newly-installed fail safe "circuit breakers."

Sure. And NATO troops are in Yugoslavia on a quick humanitarian mission, Castro's overthrow is imminent, and (as sworn to us by the Secretary of Transportation) "Valujet is a safe airline, as is our entire system."

Truth is—hold on to your socks now—the "free enterprise" (OK, *capitalist*) system is closer to sinking than any time this century. Let's look the forces vectoring the mighty imperial Titanic toward the iceberg.

Roller Coaster

The recent market gyrations are one example that volatility is a central component of what's supposed to be a New World Order. Of course it was preceded by drops of 36%, 21%, and 10% (in 1987, 1990, 1994 respectively) as well as what rings up as 7.42% in the thirty-six days before July 16 of this year.

Moreover, there's the astounding 332% market rise between 1987's bottom and 1996's top—a squeakingly stretched speculative bubble that has inflated corporate stock prices 25% above the companies' actual value.

Then there was the 1994 free-fall of the Mexican peso—on the eve of its putative entry into the First World—which sent shock waves through world financial markets and left so-called "emerging market" countries reeling.

And let's not forget the collapse of Japanese real estate prices, which at one point were so inflated that the value of The Emperor's Tokyo grounds exceeded that of the entire state of California. The damage from that has forced the Japanese government to fix prime interest rates somewhere around an amazing 1% for the past four or five years now.



Bad Times

But talk of plunges and run-ups—however flashy—obscures the fact that the imperial Titanic has *already* taken on enough water to drown many of those consigned to steerage class. (Count among the lucky survivors the over 100 million children in Asia alone who, according to the Anti-Slavery Society) toil in slave labor.

Today the majority of humanity lives in a genuine economic depression, dogged by poverty, disease, and illiteracy—and conditions are steadily worsening.

"If present trends continue, economic disparities between industrial and developing nations will move from inequitable to inhuman," said UN Human Development Report released July 15th.

"Even though the world's economy surged during the last three decades, 1.6 billion people—one fourth of the world's population—are actually worse off than they were 15 years ago," reported the July 16th *Chicago Tribune*.

"...[I]n hundreds of cities across Latin America... good jobs—those with steady paychecks and benefit plans—are vanishing just as free-market economic measures which were supposed to bring a brighter future take hold," stated the same paper in its March 25th issue. "Overall, unemployment in Latin America grew by 15 percent last year," leaving countries like Peru and Brazil with only 20% and 33% (respectively) officially working.


Oh, and there's this little stat: 5,000 children die per hour in the Third World because of unsanitary drinking water and lack of medicine.

Cancer

Behind increasing volatility and growing international economic depression lies a hidden, long-worsening structural flaw whose eventual toll is as certain as decades of smoking Chesterfields. Capitalists are driven by iron laws of economics toward monopolization (recognized in popular parlance as "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer"). At the same time, they are impelled to compete on the basis of nation states (yep, the fascists and populists are wrong: there is no international ruling class—instead there's American, German, Japanese [etc.] ruling classes competing against each other internationally).

Mix monopolization, pauperization, and international competition together long enough and you've got what's called a crisis of over-production, capitalism's obscene paradox wherein there's "too much" wheat, milk, steel and other goods—to sell at profit, that is—even while an ever-more poorer world needs them as never before.

Welcome to a world of failing farms and shrinking jobs, one where the top 358 billionaires now own more than the annual income of the bottom 2,500,000,000 people (that's 45% of Earth's population).



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Casino economy

Yet for the ruling elite there's something that goes with the crisis of over-production that's far more chilling: **falling rates of profit.**

Sure, the kept press dutifully recounts that many U.S. corporations are reporting record takes. But it's the old salted goldmine trick: profits increasingly derive from speculation alone—corporate takeovers, options and futures speculations, and stock market investments in the bubble. (This was essentially the source of profits reported by Caterpillar when its workforce was out on strike.)

Put it this way: the capitalists may be making money, but they are no longer *making* anything. And guess what happens when the last person buys into a pyramid scam?

Fear

The precariousness of capitalism doesn't end here: don't forget the **internationalization of the world economy** wherein the collapse of a single bank—or the uprising of Mayan Indians armed with carved wooden rifles—threaten to bring down global financial markets.

Then there's the **loss of the Cold War**—but that surely deserves another column. For now just consider that the United States and Germany have poured billions into Eastern Europe and Russia without reaping hardly a penny. A triumph of capitalism??

No doubt all this sounds like the ravings of the world's last Marxist, deranged by the awful "death of socialism" that everybody, just *everybody* knows about.

But ask one of the 358 billionaires himself: George Soros. "[H]e's worried about the fragile state of the world financial system, which he believes has been driven to the brink by unsound trading in financial derivatives, such as options and futures," reported Bill Barnhart in the April 14 *Chicago Tribune*. "I think we are in danger of breaking down."

Even back in 1993 the Merrill Lynch year-end report warned that "the reckless acquisition of productive assets and the relentless pursuit of growth now entail distressingly low returns...[C]orporate profit growth is slowing, returns on investments are declining, and the pressure to downsize, improve asset utilization and increase productivity are unrelenting..."

And look at how quickly Wall Street panicked July 15th....

Distant?

Of course Americans are not unfamiliar with spectacular Third World disease, deforestation, and pauperization stories peddled as thrill pieces in the media (with the not-so-subtle messages of alien-fear and thank-god-I-live-in-the-USA).

But here in the richest country in the world—where nearly 2 million have been "downsized" in the last two years—"the gap between the haves and have-nots is greater...than in other Western countries and appears to be widening," according to the April 17th *New York Times*. *The Times* quoted professor Edward Wolff: "We are the most unequal industrialized country in terms of income and wealth, and we're growing more unequal faster...."

Vote???

It's not policies or politicians that's behind the sinking imperial Titanic: it's the destructive forces inherent in the profit system itself.

Campaigning for either of the two Republican candidates—Dole or Clinton—or the Democratic wannabe, Ralph Nader, will neither halt nor soften the disaster. Seat belts ain't gonna help....

Mutiny is what is called for. The humanity that's now just spectating passengers on the road to hell need to seize the helm.

Of course mutiny is serious business indeed, for the yardarm awaits. But mutiny doesn't start with a terrorist push, it starts with talk that gradually enlists the crew in modest, initial actions which gain experience and increase mutual trust and confidence.

Playing with retro—cigars, martinis, and the 1968 Democratic Convention—might be fun, but if it's not about dealing with 1996 it picks up a hint of the late '20s decadent German cabaret scene. True, nowadays there's no thrilling mass mobilizations against imperial military action like the '60s.

But general strikes have shaken Turkey, Argentina, Germany, Brazil and France just in the last year. And here there's plenty of opportunities to **fight back** if you want to. (We're not talking recycling or buying a square foot of rainforest here.)

Just go wherever people are picketing, striking, or marching against the powers-that-be and start pitching in. Hell, help build the big March on Washington called for October 12 by a broad array of Latino organizations (call (312) 563-0002).

So avast, ye lads and lassies, stand up for yer mates! The current course heads right to the bottom of the ocean.

—by Steve Eckardt

Oh Shinnah Fast Wolf Comes to Bloom-Nor

See the world
Through Indian eyes
The world will come alive
For you

Walk a mile
In bear mocassins
You will be
Transformed

—by Gregg Brown

On Tuesday, October 15 a true spiritual warrior woman arrives in the Bloomington-Normal area to spend a few days participating in various activities.

Her name is Oh Shinnah Fast Wolf and she is an Apache-Mohawk teacher, healer, and visionary. She has been called "a true wise woman sharing teachings from beyond space and time." She has studied with Elders from many tribes and has been given permission to share their wisdom.

A local group who jokingly call themselves the "Goddess Girlscouts" sponsors her coming to this area in the fall and the spring. I talked with Kim Ryburn from that group and asked her what effect Oh Shinnah has had on her life.

"She has taken away my feeling of hopelessness about the world situation. She teaches practical things that you and I can do to make a difference. She has been responsible for leading me on the most incredible mystifying experiences of my life."

Here is the schedule as it is currently set for Oh Shinnah Fast Wolf:

—Wednesday, October 16 at 7pm she will speak at the Whole Life Center in Champaign at 118 1/2 N. Neil St..

—Thursday, October 17 she will be on WJBC with Ken Behrens at 10am.

—Friday, October 18 she will be available for private consultations. Please call Kim Ryburn at (309) 724-8577 to arrange an interview.

—Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20 she will lead a workshop open to men and women entitled "The Sacred Path of the

Feminine." The workshop hours are 9am - 6pm on both days. It will be held at the Community Center in Leroy, IL. The cost for the workshop is \$165, but it is negotiable for students and teens.

The titles of some of the other workshops she leads gives some idea of the breadth of her knowledge and the brightness of her vision:

—"Physical and Spiritual Survival in the Age of Purification"

—"The Shamanic Quest"

—"Crystals and Therapeutic Touch"

—"Dreaming and Dying as a Way of Knowledge"

—"Children of the Star Way"

—"Grief Transformed through the Heart of a Warrior"

And besides that, she has some great stories to tell and she's a lot of fun to be with. Welcome to Bloomington-Normal, Oh Shinnah Fast Wolf.

—by Gregg Brown





The World According To Matt

Why the United States Empire is Afraid of Marijuana 90's Pot

Although many superficial reasons for the United State's criminal war on pot readily surface to the casual observer, the true reasons for its demonic policy lie far deeper in this nation's psyche, and are more diabolic than bloated police budgets and politicians who depend on dishonest hysteria.

As with most undertakings that actively oppress and seek to destroy those of different perspectives, the war on marijuana is based on fear. This is not fear based on ignorance, for there are those in government (or who work for it independently) who realize the full potential of an unhindered marijuana culture.

Bob Marley openly sang about this in his song "Slave Driver." In the lyrics, which read, "Slave driver, tables are turn'd, Ganja Fire, you're gonna be burn'd," he touches at the greater truth that pot can effectively topple their cancerous capitalist society, which is destroying the planet and enslaving humankind under an untouchable, inaccessible overclass straight out of science fiction.

One of the major psychological effects of marijuana documented by institutional science is a general loss of ambition and motivation. When one takes into account the perspective of those doing the tests and that of who they are doing them for, this conclusion requires unbiased embellishment.

What they really mean is that it reduces the user's "marketplace motivation" and "economic ambition." People who regularly smoke weed are more likely to be content with an average job and less likely to constantly be trying to get farther ahead. Instead of occupying their minds with the dog-eat-dog competitive ratrace, they find a niche and exist peacefully. The joys of nature, companionship, artistic expression, and just plain relaxing and being stoned replace the society-driven, corporation imposed goals of better cars, better homes, bigger stereos, and higher class circles.

If this idea, this contentment, were allowed to catch on, our all-consuming, unsatiable corporate greed machine would starve.

There is another psychological effect of marijuana that scares Uncle Sam even more, although for similar reasons. Not only does marijuana undermine Koyanisquatsi (society grossly out of balance) by opening people's eyes to the futility of the ratrace, but it can also open their minds to their true roots and intimacy with nature's other peoples. Needless to say, this effect has not been "scientifically" documented, but from the experience of users and historical documentation of marijuana's ritual use in tribal earth religions this effect cannot be ignored.

If accepted on a conscious level, the evils of our society, down to its roots, become all too apparent. It urges one to study, remember, and

practice the universal, God and Goddess revering, ways that allowed the ancestors of every race to exist for millennia in Natural Balance. If the weed smoker is not open to these messages from the spirit realm, or never contemplates the ancestral ways evolutionarily engrained in the backs of our minds, this effect can manifest itself as inaction or depression (extreme boredom). Subconsciously, the person knows that none of the past times/occupations offered by a society so primarily destructive and offensive to life are worth human effort.

However, this effect shows up on an individual level, the bottom line is that stoners won't play the government's game, and the overclass gets pissy when it can't make money off of you. As Tim Leary so wisely said, turning on is the first step, These and the other two follow naturally.

Marijuana use, today as well as in more ancient times, has been a joyous part of life for peaceful people more interested in enjoying the simple, creative, and leisurely pleasures of existence on our wonderful planet. A society with these priorities finds ways to communally share burden for the betterment of all, rather than being composed of individual ambitions and worldly greed.

These attributes that allow for our tumorous empire to spread cannot exist if the empire's goals cannot be imposed, and if you know the earth you cannot rape her.

"Case Dismissed"

Here's a follow-up to my pot bust on July 9, 1996. I went to court on Aug. 13 and arrived 15 min. early. After waiting 10 minutes in line at the 3rd floor counter (I had to find out which courtroom to go to), under a large "CRIMINAL" sign, a woman approached. I asked her where I should be, and she entered my name in the computer. To my surprise and delight, she told me that all charges had been dismissed. Not trusting computers, I made her check the paper files, and they confirmed the truth. I could leave, and my money [bond] would be returned in the mail. It came, in full, about a week later. The form letter attached stressed that charges were not being pressed at this time, so I (and my Tarot Deck...) have decided not to sue at this time. Besides, I made my point.

It could be that this minor case was dismissed because of an overload of more important (expensive) cases, but on the off chance that it was because I made it evident that officer Liebach was really wrong and they hadn't a case, this can be a valuable lesson. If you let them know that you know your rights and will make a big stink over even minor infringements, they might back down first. Be graceful, but don't be afraid to call a pig a pig.

A recent smear campaign against the newly revitalized hemp subculture warns parents that "Today's weed is not the same stuff you smoked in college." They claim that it is a much worse drug since it is 3 to 10 times stronger. Of course, the entire thing basically consists of people who have never smoked pot trying to convince open-minded parents who, from experience know what reefer is, to blindly change their position. In this sad attempt, these schmucks miss an obvious point that turns their message inside out.

Yes, 90's pot is stronger, and it has more potential carcinogens (so does 90's air, water, etc). This, doesn't, however, make it more dangerous, and in fact may make it better for you. Let me explain. When you smoke anything, a lot of the damage done is from the sheer heat of the smoke. It also goes to figure that the frequency of smoking figures on the damage, as a chainer's lungs have no time to rest, regroup, and clear one layer of gunk before another is laid. Method of smoking also can increase or decrease lung damage. Water pipes/bongs cool the smoke considerably and filter most of the tars. Pipes, hitters and steamrollers are okay, the longer the better. Joints do the most harm. As they burn down, you smoke the collected tar from from earlier drags. When they get short, the burning cherry releases smoke much hotter than even filter cigarettes.

It is admitted that 60's pot was weaker, but look what the effects of that were. For a group of five people to get high, the only convenient approach was to smoke a fat joint. Otherwise, you would have to reload an average waterbong eight to ten times in the process of weeding out. At any rate, they had to smoke a lot of cheap weed, (probably 6-10 grams, but it was cheaper, usually in the most harmful way to achieve a pot high.

With the stronger 90's ganja, a group of 5 stoners with good experience (some tolerance...) can get high on 3 waterbongs. About 1.5 grams are smoked in the healthiest way possible. Both by quantity necessary and means used, 90's pot is as least the same danger as 60's pot (that danger being less than that of alcohol or video games...), and in all probability the modern weed is better for you.

A marijuana high is a marijuana high, you just have to smoke more soap schwag (eech!) than Northern Lights or Kush to get there. The logic of this and the actual mechanics of getting stoned completely shatter the misleading propaganda THEY would have you believe, and their agenda is hatred for a culture not their own. If you only hear their ads counselor, and DARE Officers (hee, heel), and only think what they tell you to, you are another tool of oppression. Look for the truth, and it will set the stoners free!



Third encounters of the pig kind

These are a few stories off of the "Third Encounters of the Pig Kind" hotline - 829-9920. Names are only used where permission was expressly given.

I. Four people have been literally jumped by groups of two to four Bloomington cops just for walking down the sidewalk past a purported crack house. One of the four people has had three such experiences! In all cases, the police searched the individual and were generally rude and gung-ho.

It should be noted that of these four (six) encounters, only one resulted in any type of violation. They got a guy for under 2.5 grams of cannabis and a hitter rod, and they were proud.

-3 anons and Stanley

II. On a happier note, during a roadside pot bust on campus (1993) where two officers handling four suspects had placed four large sacks of hemp on the suspects' car, a pedestrian grabbed two of said sacks and got away clean on foot. This was told to me by the party pulled over, not the gallant walker. As far as anyone knows, he (she?) has not yet been caught.

There are still a few stories left for next issue, but plenty of room for more! Patterns are already emerging, and with each person willing to share their encounter(s) with out-of-line police, (not necessarily, but always welcome, weed horror stories) we can lay the groundwork for actions in our defense. Fuck da pigs, call 829-9920.

-Matt Toczko

A Phish Story

It was a Thursday. With no work and the folks out of town it was a perfect night to totally relax. I decided to go to Denny's with my friend Matt and then back to his place to watch some films. At 1:30 A.M., on the way from Denny's to his house, we decided to swing into Fairview Park to see if any of our summertime friends were there.

After traveling approximately two to three hundred yards into the park we passed a blue sedan going the opposite direction. No problem, probably just some more people hanging out at the park. After realizing that the park was otherwise devoid of life we decided to head back out and onto Matt's house. Here was something interesting, however. The same blue sedan we had passed on the way in was parked on the right side of the road. Suspicious raised, I passed the car and made for the exit. Immediately after passing it, the sedan pulled out behind me.

"Why is this guy following me," I asked aloud. It was about this time that the red light started spinning on the dash board. That's right, an undercover pig car. I pulled to the right but kept the engine running, for I heard stories of violence and theft perpetrated by impostor undercover cops (real ones, for that matter). A man stepped out of the driver's side of the sedan and began viciously waving a police badge in the air. I took this as a sign to shut my vehicle off. Having done so, I got out my license and proof of insurance. It was three minutes before the cop approached my window.

"What are you boys doing here," he queried. "Just out seeing if any of our friends are hanging out here, officer." To which he informed me, "Park closes at ten, it's two in the morning." Still being polite I said, "yes, I know it's two in the morning, but I honestly didn't know parks close at ten." After this exchange he took my license and insurance card. I suddenly heard an unfamiliar voice on the passenger side. I looked to my right to see undercover cop number two asking Matt for his license. Matt asked why they needed his license, to which cop number two responded, "Because you're here."



I had never been pulled over before, nary a ticket. For this reason, the fifteen minute license check they ran on me seemed ridiculously long. Upon returning to my window, the cop handed back our licenses and told me everything checked out. He proceeded to deliver a long lecture on not being in the park after ten, ect. As he turned from my car to leave, a black and white pulled up and another officer stepped out to join the party (bringing the swine total to three).

Not having been officially told I could leave, I asked cop number one if it would be alright. "Yeah, go ahead. Unless you have any illegal substances; do you?" "No, Sir."

"Do you mind if I perform a quick search?" "Yes I do, we're in a hurry." "It could take up to 45 minutes to get a police dog out here." Knowing the car was totally clean I decided to let him have his fun. After I stepped from the car, the cop asked me if he would find any contraband. I informed him of a dagger under the driver's seat, but told him that was as close to contraband as he was going to get.

"Well, while we're doing this," he asked, "do you mind if I search you?" I told him to go ahead. He then had me assume the position against my vehicle and began patting me down. He felt a pack of gum in my pocket. "What's this," he asked, "oh, just a lighter." "Yeah, just a lighter." "No, wait! It's gum. But you thought it was a lighter. Do you smoke?" "Occasionally, officer." "What do you smoke?" "Cigarettes." "Do you smoke grass?" "No, officer." "Yeah, right, you never smoke pot." "No," I protested.

At this point he motioned for me to go stand by cop number three who was busy frisking Matt. The two undercover cops began a search of my vehicle as Matt and I stood with the pig from the black and white. The guy was a real joke, the proverbial good cop. He stood there attempting to engage us in all sorts of conversation. In the course of this small talk he informed us that in addition to people going to Fairview to smoke pot, people also headed there to engage in gang activity and to have sex. "That wouldn't apply to you boys though, would it," he said, and laughed. Eventually the conversing cop brought up music. He informed us that he likes stuff like Led Zeppelin but not punk rock (my friends studded leather jacket) or any stuff like Phish (my Phish T-shirt). Here he paused and, looking at me, said, "that's obvious tip-off right there. People with Phish shirts are all smoking dope. You'd be amazed how many kids we bust for pot who have Phish shirts, the Phish decals..." I informed him that was a stereotype. He agreed with me but said that it holds true most of the time. At this point cop number one popped out of the vehicle with the dagger in his hand.

"We've got a dagger, we've got a dagger," he shouted.

"I already told you that."

"I know. I just wanted everyone to know it was here."

After a half hour, the search was over. Since the car was immaculately clean this was, once again, a ridiculously long time. After telling me that they found nothing, they let me go. Getting back into the vehicle, I noticed it was pretty much in shambles. My notebooks were strewn about, a first aid kit was not put away, clothes were unfolded, and change was spilled around. Perhaps the most miraculous thing of all, however, was that my audio tape had somehow managed to attach itself to the underside of the driver's seat.

Anyway, after straightening the car and locating my tape, I had time to think about the whole situation. It was then that I realized how grossly my rights had been violated. Aside from wasting my time, these cops had stereotyped, badgered, and harassed me, in addition to trashing my vehicle. This is America? This is Justice?

-by Laine



An Interview With a Stumptwhoopin' Band

I wasn't quite sure how I would handle this interview. I expected it would be simple. I would ask questions and they would answer. As it turned out, it was that simple, and even fun.

I got to Scott's house (Scott is the drummer) to sit in on a practice around 7pm. Scott was the only one there and to make me feel comfortable, he offered me a cold beer, which I heartily accepted. Eventually the other three guys arrived, and after a little smoking and drinking we began the interview as officially as we could.

Though many people consider Stumptwhoop's style of music country or folk, I was curious about what they considered it to be. Brian (on guitar) covered all the bases by describing their music as "Rock, country rock, blues, [blue]grass, and others." That's quite a lot of types of music for one band to play. Scott narrowed it down calling it "Rock, because it's so free with weird changes...doesn't have any rules." Pretty interesting opinions from the music makers about their music. I'm not surprised that these guys have been together since 1988.



If you've ever heard Stumptwhoop, you won't be surprised by what kind of music inspires them. It was Brian who said that "Real music by real people" is an influence for his music. Scott added a nice touch by describing "Music done with love" as what stimulates him.

However, I think it was James (on bass guitar) who called "old hillbilly music" an inspiration, and I think that if you listen to Stumptwhoop you can hear it in their music. Gary (on lead vocals and harmonica) didn't say much at the interview, but I think it's safe to assume that he didn't need to—everyone pretty much covered Stumptwhoop's sound.

As time went by, and more beer consumed, and the smoke grew thicker, and the laughs grew louder, I realized that we were straying away from the interview. Reluctantly (I was having oh, so much fun!) I got things back on track by asking yet another question. They have played various places throughout the Midwest, but The Gallery, I happily discovered, is their favorite place. They've been playing there for so many years that it's like home sweet home.

Speaking of The Gallery, Stumptwhoop will be playing there on October 26. So, if you are into having a good time with some foot-stompin', rockin' music, come check 'em out!

--by David Hall

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



Send \$5.00 in for a one-year subscription (6 issues) to one of America's juiciest newspapers!

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



Hostelling--it's for me and for you

Martha's Vineyard, MA...ten bucks a night.

San Francisco, CA...fifteen bucks a night.

Cleveland, OH...ten bucks a night.

Chinook, WA...nine bucks a night.

No, this isn't some advertisement for psychic mind traveling. It's an advertisement for hostelling. A cheap alternative to stuffy, overpriced hotel rooms which allow the non-rich travel lovers to, well, travel.

Basic Information/Rules and Regulations

-- Hostelling International is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1933-34. The mission of the Federation is "To promote the education of all young people of all nations, but especially young people of limited means, by encouraging in them a greater knowledge, love, and care of the countryside and an appreciation of the cultural values of towns and cities in all parts of the world, and as ancillary thereto to provide hostels or other accommodation in which there shall be no distinctions of race, nationality, color, religion, sex, class or political opinions and thereby to develop a better understanding of their fellow men, both at home and abroad."

-- There are 260 hostels in Canada and the United States that offer a place to stay from \$5 to \$22 a night.

-- Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to be a "youth" to be a member of youth hostels. People of all ages are welcomed as members.

-- In the U.S. most hostels are closed between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., but many have expanded hours or a common room set aside for day use or luggage storage. Blankets and pillows are provided, and guest may wish to bring a sleep sack (make your own sleep sack by sewing together the sides of a blanket). To help keep prices as low as possible and foster the community of hostelling, guests are expected to clean up after themselves. It's also not a bad idea to perform simple tasks such as sweeping or emptying the trash.

-- Hostels are equipped with complete kitchen facilities which include a stove, refrigerator, dishes, pots and pans, microwave...

-- All hostels have dormitory-style gender-separate accommodations. Many hostels have private rooms for families or individuals traveling together. Separate shower facilities are offered.

--The only pets allowed at hostels are guide dogs for the disabled.

--Hostels are smoke-free environments, and alcohol is prohibited on hostel premises, but some hostels have separate cafes or cafeterias where beer and wine may be available. (In Europe they don't care if you smoke or drink usually do not have a lock out time or curfews)

Hostelling in Europe

My experiences with hostelling in Europe is what led me to explore hostelling in America. While in Eastern Europe, I stayed in hostels in 4 different countries. They each provided me with affordable housing that was easily accessible via public transportation and were a simple transfer from the bus and train terminals.

Many European travelers rely heavily on the availability of hostels and most buildings show it. The well traveled sites (Berlin, Florence, and other Western cities) can be booked up in advance and rooms usually consist of multiple bunk beds sharing a large gymnasium type room. In Eastern Europe it was quite different. All of the hostels I stayed in were dorm rooms consisting of two single beds, a shower and toilet. Take in mind that many of the Eastern European high schools function as our colleges do- meaning fourteen through eighteen year old students leave home to attend a secondary school where they develop a trade. During the summer, these rooms are empty - and waiting for hostellers to come along.

In Krakow, Poland for example, I stayed at a student dorm, the room came with a shower, toilet and even a balcony. Plus, the top floor of the dorm consisted entirely of a bar (no legal drinking age). A five minute tram ride to the center of town costs roughly 20¢.

In Budapest, my dorm neighbors (we shared a shower and refrigerator) were Alex and Dan from San Francisco. By some weird coincidence, we had each known the same two guys (Jerry and Dave) several hundred miles away in Prague. Alex and Dan shared a hostel dorm with them, I did my laundry with them. In Brno, Czech Republic, I met an Indian-born dentist who attended medical school in Kansas City and was practicing in Poland. We spent the day crashing a local wedding, touring an old castle and viewing its Medieval torturing devices. We capped the day off with a ice-cold 40¢ pint of beer. Ahhh...

Hostelling in America

This year, I didn't have enough money for a second trip to Europe. Although I wanted to return, I couldn't bring myself to work the 70+ hour weeks that enabled me to go before. (But hey, maybe this winter...) So instead, I decided to broaden my continental travels and head to unseen territory. For me, sadly, that consisted of anything east of Pittsburgh. Being one who naturally follows the road less traveled, my sister and I decided to base our vacation on a PBS show that documented various old diners (the old stainless steel train compartment ones) in Pennsylvania. It also was a plus that Pennsylvania not only has a wonderful state park system, but many hostels are located within them and the facilities are maintained by the park.

Outside of Akron/Cleveland, Ohio, in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area,

there is a wonderful hostel. It is located in an old Greek Revival farmhouse. Like many other hostels, it is also on the National Register of Historic Places. A hiking trail runs along the hostel - and after 45 minutes of steep climbing and winding trails, populated by some pretty tame deer, it takes you to a breathtaking 4 story waterfall.

"Hostelling is a philosophy. A hosteller trades services and privacy for a chance to live simply and in cooperation with people from around the world."

--Rick Steeves,
Asia/Europe Through the Back Door

In the Poconos of Pennsylvania, you can stay at a rustic ski lodge in LaAnna for 8 bucks. In the south eastern portion, you can stay in Quakerstown for 10 bucks. It's about an hour from Philly and is home to an original five and dime store complete with lunch counter. Small town America is indeed alive and well. The Pine Grove Forrest State Park also has a hostel on site. This hostel was built in 1827 as the home of the ironmaster of the Pine Grove Furnace Ironworks. The ironworks manufactured cannonballs during the Revolutionary War, and the hostel was a stop on the Underground Railroad. A portion of the Appalachian Trail runs right outside of the building. You can spend your time hiking part of it or talking to many of the adventurous people that are making the 2,000 mile hike. I met an accountant who works in an Massachusetts hospital. He took a six month leave of absence in order to hike from Georgia to Maine. When I met him he had been hiking continuously for 3 months and was half-way finished.

I hope this gives you an idea of what hostelling is all about. I've enjoyed my brief experiences with it and have quickly come to realize that hostelling has become a permanent way of travel for me.

Resources:

American Youth Hostels International
733 15th St. NW, Ste. 840
Washington, DC 20005

Write to them for information on hostels and membership applications.

For \$25 dollars a year, you get a membership card, discount coupons and a detailed 400 page guide listing all 260 hostels in North America. This book should be available in your local library's reference section.

--towanda!, the happy hosteller



News From Voice

Don't Forget To Register To Vote

If you are not currently registered to vote and would like to be call us at 828-3108. This year our reproductive rights really are on the line. Don't forget, Newt Gingrich is what happens when the electorate stays home on election day. Your rights really are at stake. October 5th is the cut off date for registration for the November election.

Voice For Choice Needs Volunteers

Voice for Choice meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Women's Center, 604 S. Main Street, Normal. All pro-choice individuals are invited to attend meetings.

Our current projects include the development and editing of a book on Central Illinois women's stories about abortion. If you have had an abortion and would like to be part of this project (You may remain anonymous) please call Kim at 828-3108 or Julie at 828-8174. All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Abortion Assistance Fund. We also hope to compile a voters' guide for the upcoming November election (you are of course registered to vote aren't you?). If you would like to help us with this project please call Linda at 828-3108.

Y.W.C.A. Announces Week Without Violence Events

The YWCA's annual "Week Without Violence" is October 6-12. Events scheduled so far include: a Day of Remembrance, Protecting our Children, Making our Schools, Neighborhoods and Workplaces Safer, Confronting Violence Against Women, Facing Violence Among Men, Elimination of Racism and Hate Crime, Replacing Violence with Fun. For information about the dates, times and locations of these events contact the Y.W.C.A.

This year's "Violence - Take A Hike" Peace March will serve as a lead in event to the YWCA's activities and to numerous activities to be announced by Neville House as they commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness month (October).

Lefty Follies Variety Show And Costume Ball

That's right, it's follies time again. For those of you attending last year's event, we have made some changes. The show will consist of no more than 12 acts of 5 minutes each or less, thereby keeping the show to 90 minutes or less (we promise).

We want the spirit of the show to be fun and non-competitive so we've done away with judging--everyone participating will receive a thank you gift. Acts may sign up first come, first serve; we will accept entries until the twelve slots are filled.

The show will be held Saturday, October 26, 1996, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30, with a Halloween costume dance immediately following and going until midnight. Child care will be available from 7:00 p.m until 10:00 p.m. at a cost of three dollars per child.

Tickets will be five dollars for both the show and the dance. Tickets will be available in advance and at the door. There is no entry fee for acts, although everyone participating in an act must have a ticket. If you would like to be in this year's show, call us at 828-3108 to reserve your performance space now.

Edgar Signs Bill Against Drive Through Deliveries

Governor Edgar has signed legislation that requires that certain kinds of insurers cover a 48-hour hospital stay after a normal delivery and a 96-hour stay after a Caesarean delivery. The measure applies to Medicaid recipients and about a third of employees who receive insurance coverage from their employers. Large, self-insured employers would not be required to change their coverage since they cant' be regulated by the state.

Moderate Republican Chosen To Fill Dole's Seat Loses Primary

The Lt. Governor of Kansas, Sheila Frahm, a leader of the moderate wing among Kansas Republicans, was chosen to fill the Senate vacancy left by the resignation of Bob Dole.

The selection of Frahm, a pro-choice Republican, by Republican Governor Bill Graves, dismayed religious conservatives but was no surprise. The appointment means that for the next few months, at least, Kansas will be represented in the Senate by two women.

Unfortunately Frahm had to begin campaigning immediately in an attempt to hold on to the seat. In a primary election held in August, Frahm faced Representative Sam Brownback, an anti-chooser. Unfortunately Brownback won.

Source: *New York Times*

The Republican Convention and Tolerance

It seemed only marginally better than the 1992 convention to those of us who care about women's rights, reproductive rights, and affirmative action. Certainly the events leading up to the four day info-mercial begged the question "would a party that truly embraced diversity and tolerance have to spend so much time debating whether or not tolerance should be mentioned in the party platform?" Bob Dole chose Jack Kemp, another anti-choice Republican. Don't fool yourself, as far as women's reproductive rights are concerned, Kemp is no better than Dole. The affinity this ticket has for football imagery and analogies just might be an indication that they see ruling the country and setting policy as more of a game than a responsibility. In fact, if you haven't had the opportunity to read the book "The Stronger Women Get The More Men Like Football" read the book before the election. Would a party that is all inclusive be using the imagery of football? No, it is primarily a male sport; it is a violent sport, a sport women aren't expected to understand. In short, it's a manly game. The underlying message? Politics is a manly endeavor; oh sure it's great to have intelligent, articulate wives (especially if one of the candidates is lacking in both skills), but it's even better to have a pretty wife that can walk around the convention floor and talk to the real people.

If you have a chance to watch Bob and Elizabeth in an interview together, pay close attention to the body language. When the two recently appeared together on television, they seemed to have a code. Bob would begin to answer a question; he'd begin rambling, sometimes making little sense. At that point Elizabeth would touch his arm; he would end his remarks and she would then summarize by stating "I think what Bob is saying is....." Of course Elizabeth is so much more articulate than her husband it's hard to know if she really summarized what Bob said or not. It can be like comparing apples and oranges.

The Myth Of "Partial Birth Abortion"

Anti-choicers have launched a new campaign. Actually we've written about it before. They are trying to turn back legalized abortion by focusing on what they, not the medical

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For Choice

community, have termed "Partial birth abortion." Fortunately President Clinton vetoed a bill banning the procedure earlier this year.

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League said "Frankly, we're afraid of this." when referring to a tendency among some moderate pro-choice voters to waffle on this issue. The procedure is a rare late term abortion procedure used in cases where the fetus is

severely deformed; it is used in less than one percent of all legal abortions.

Anti-choicers rely on descriptions of the procedure to turn people's stomachs and minds against it, never mentioning the mother's health or family circumstances. "Clearly, at the outset the opposition had the upper hand with sensationalistic diagrams and 30-second attack ads. But the women's own stories are turning it, around," said James Wagoner, of NARAL. Wagoner was referring to NARAL's counter offensive of having women come forward to defend their decisions to follow doctors' recommendations for late-term abortions. Wagoner said studies of focus groups had shown that the best way to counter the opposition's grisly characterization of the procedure was with the wrenching testimony of women who discovered, late in pregnancy, that their fetuses were lethally deformed.

The league intends to have some of these women and their families at the Republican Presidential convention and on satellite television programs next month to present their side of the issue, if, as expected, convention delegates dwell on the procedure graphically. Both sides are preparing for the issue to be revisited intently in mid campaign when Congress tries to override the President's veto. The President argued the ban passed by Congress was unconstitutional because it failed to protect the lives of women.

Late term abortion is already an issue between President Clinton and Mr. Dole. Dole accused the President of pushing "the limits of decency too far" with his veto in May. We suggest Mr. Dole has no sense of decency if he fails to recognize the agonizing decision women face in choosing late term abortions. To deny them the procedure is cruel and may put their lives and health at risk. To promote the override effort, Roman Catholic bishops across the nation ordered special Masses, bell tolling, prayer and fasting one day last May. In addition, the National Right to Life Committee has an extensive grass-roots protest under way pressing for an override. I'll admit I'm not Catholic so maybe I just don't know, but are there ever bell tolling, fasting, prayers and special masses for women who die in child birth, or for terminally deformed fetuses and their families who suffer through the emotional, psychological and financial traumas brought on by the birth of a terminally deformed child? Maybe they do. I hope so, otherwise it would appear that the Catholic Church doesn't really care much about women.

Anyway, the anti-choicers are trying to use late term abortions as a wedge issue. They are trying to woo moderate pro-choicers away from pro-choice candidates by luring them in on this

issue. NARAL knows this argument, that late term abortions are too extreme (since when did saving a woman's life become extreme?), must be countered. "The big lesson for pro-choice candidates this year will be to not sit on your hands in the face of the 'partial birth' attacks," said Mr. Wagoner.

Source: *New York Times*

The Truth About Late Term Abortions

Last spring the President vetoed a bill banning late-term abortions, but the issue is far from settled. A vote to override the veto is expected soon, and pro-choice groups want to make sure that people have the facts. The bottom line is that legislators are not physicians; they should not be making decisions about what types of surgical procedures are available for women who find themselves and their health, threatened by a pregnancy.

On July 23, 1996, Sophie and Bob Horak of Batavia stopped in Bloomington. The Horaks found out late in Sophie's pregnancy that their baby, already named Joey, would not live because his heart and lungs were not properly developed and most other major organs were located in the baby's chest, not in their proper place. An option that involved surgery of the fetus was thought possible until the full extent of Joey's condition was discovered.

"There's no way your baby will survive this," Mrs. Horak recalled her doctor telling her at the San Francisco hospital where the surgery would have been performed. It was then that a third trimester abortion was decided upon. She told how in preparing for the baby's death she bought an outfit. The baby actually died in the hours before the abortion, she noted, but the staff at the Los Angeles clinic where the procedure would have been performed allowed her and her husband to see their child and bathe him in preparation for the return home for burial. "He was just so adorable - 10 fingers, 10 toes, blond hair," she said.

Horak said she decided to come forward with her family's story several months ago to give people an understanding of the circumstances most often surrounding a late-term abortion. "It's very therapeutic for me," she said of relating her story. "I do this for other women who might have to make this decision." Planned Parenthood President Karen Carlson pointed out that these procedures are not "elective abortions," but medically necessary.

Tom Shilgalis of McLean County Right to Life disagreed, saying that unless the mother's life is endangered, a procedure performed strictly to end the life of the baby should not be an option. Karen Carlson pointed out that this suggests to a woman carrying a hopelessly deformed baby that it doesn't matter if carrying to term leaves her infertile or harms her in some other way. Mr. Shilgalis should remember that the mother's health goes beyond whether she lives. His argument is that only if the life of



ODDS AND ENDS

Pat Buchanan stood by Mike Farris, a top campaign aide and former GOP candidate for Virginia Lt. Governor, who says he inadvertently attended a dinner that included support for people who shot doctors who performed abortions.

Source: *Anti-Racist Action Newsletter*

Some legislators in Kansas objected to a guest chaplain's prayer. The Rev. Joe Wright of Wichita's Central Christian Church said the state "killed our unborn children and called it choice" and "rewarded laziness and called it welfare."

Source: *UPI wire service*

In Sarasota, Florida, a Catholic high school gave students a choice: remove the abortion-rights stickers from your cars or don't come back to school. Six students at Cardinal Mooney High School were found with the bumper stickers advocating abortion rights this week, and four of them immediately agreed to take them off. Two refused and were given one-day suspensions before they relented.

"My job as principal of a Catholic school is to make sure we have an environment that is not offensive to Catholics," Principal Robert Siccone said. "They had to make the choice if they wanted to remain in Catholic school or not."

Source: *Anti-Racist Action Newsletter*



Voice for Choice (cont.)

the mother is at stake should the option of abortion be considered. He forgets that a difficult pregnancy and delivery can cause infertility, emotional trauma and for some women, child birth results in death.

Horak said that since her pregnancy ended, her family, friends and church have been very supportive. She has since testified in Washington, D.C. and before Maryland legislators. She noted that once in Annapolis someone told her she was going to burn in hell because of her decision. "I've been in hell," she said of the anguish she has experienced after discovering her baby's problems, "Hell would be a vacation at this point."

Source: *Pantagraph*

Planned Parenthood Approved To Test Drug-induced Abortions

Planned Parenthood Federation of America will begin offering a drug-induced form of abortion later this month at many of its clinics across the country. The Food and Drug Administration has approved a Planned Parenthood study of the two-drug abortion method. Planned Parenthood said Wednesday it hopes to persuade the FDA to pronounce the combination safe and effective.

Seventeen of Planned Parenthood's 150 affiliates—including New York City, Long Island, San Diego, Boston-Cambridge, Houston, Phoenix and the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin - will participate initially in the study. As many as 45 affiliates may sign on by early next year, officials said.

In the drug-induced abortion method, which costs \$250-\$350, a woman who is no more than seven weeks' pregnant is injected with methotrexate, which stops development of the placenta and embryo.

Four to seven days later, misoprostol tablets are inserted into her vagina, causing the uterus to contract and expel the fetus. For many women, the tablets take two weeks or more to work.

The two drugs have long been approved by the FDA for other uses - methotrexate to treat cancer, arthritis and psoriasis, and misoprostol as an ulcer medicine - and a growing number of doctors already use them to induce abortions.

Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood of America, said the procedure could have been offered without FDA approval, "but because abortion is such a sensitive, politically charged issue, Planned Parenthood wanted to go the extra mile."

The National Right to Life Committee condemned the two-drug abortion method. "Methotrexate may cause serious complications for the mother and stops the beating heart of her unborn child," said Olivia Gans, of the Committee.

Dr. Michael Burnhill, vice president of medical affairs for Planned Parenthood, said there are infrequent, minor side effects such as vomiting, nausea, diarrhea - from the methotrexate. Misoprostol, he said, brings on

the cramping and bleeding needed to expel the embryo, as well as nausea and vomiting.

Source: *The Pantagraph*

Pro-choicers Focus On Anti-choice Representatives

The pro-choice lobby has targeted 15 vulnerable freshman Republicans in the House for defeat. The group is preparing to publicize their votes on more than a score of anti-choice measures as too radical for their moderate suburban constituencies.

All of these freshmen won by margins of less than 5 percentage points two years ago, and the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights League has rated them the most susceptible to defeat in November. Its strategists have decided that a crucial bloc of independent and Republican women can be mobilized to vote the freshmen from office once the extent of the Republican Congress's repeated votes against abortion rights and family planning is highlighted.

"This is the most intensive public education effort on abortion that we've ever undertaken," said James Wagoner, the League's vice president, contending that the Republican Congress had proved to be the most militantly anti-choice since the Supreme Court upheld the right to abortion in 1973.

The Contract with America platform that helped sweep the targeted members into office did not emphasize opposition to abortion as strongly as the Republican House agenda has, the league's strategist said.

The League intends to flood the 15 districts with workers and pamphlets directed at moderate women, accusing the incumbents of voting to "close the door on your right to choose."

The incumbents' votes on more than 25 measures will be explained at campaign forums and in waves of pamphletting that begin next month. The highlighted votes were on measures that would, among other things, deny money to protect women's health clinics from being disrupted, end access to abortion service for women overseas, crimp family planning aid, bar health plans for Federal employees that include abortion coverage, end support for international family planning and ban human embryo research.

While the League declined to identify the representatives yet, one of those expected to be targeted, Representative Randy Tate of Washington State, has made no secret of his opposition to abortion and expects to survive the league's single-issue assault, said Marjorie Strayer, his chief of staff. "Our voters look beyond abortion, at real people issues [apparently pregnancy is not a real people issue which of course verifies what many have long suspected, we are being invaded by space

aliens. Ah but we digress] the fact that Randy voted for families raising children and credits for adoption," she said. Now pardon us but it seems that adoption, while important to those undertaking it, is not as prevalent an issue as unplanned pregnancy. So just how one defines a "real people" issue is unclear to us, at least by Randy's standards.

In reaching out to moderates, the league will be trying to counter the efforts of anti-choicers, which are already well into an intensive campaign of their own. They are trying to turn the abortion issue on the what they have termed "partial birth abortion."

Source: *New York Times*

Fewer Teens Having Abortions

Fewer teenagers are having abortions according to a survey of nearly 10,000 women who have had the procedures. Six in 10 of the women say they were using contraceptives that failed. The study, conducted by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, was published last month. It provides the most extensive look at who gets abortions since the nonprofit organization's last check in 1987.

While government data show 1.3 million Americans have abortions every year, it provides little information on the demographics of abortion. Although Guttmacher is affiliated with Planned Parenthood and is regarded as being a pro-choice organization, the government often cites its abortion figures as reliable supplements to the meager federal data.

The Guttmacher report confirms mostly white, middle-class women get abortions, because they make up the bulk of the nation's women of child-bearing age. Young women still are most likely to get abortions—but the teenagers share has dropped from 22.5 percent in 1987 to 21.5 percent last year.

"We can't entirely account for that drop," said study author Stanley Hensho, who noted that the overall U.S. abortion rate has dropped about 10 percent in recent years while the rate of teenagers who gave birth at the same time rose. 57.5 percent of abortion recipients surveyed say they were using a contraceptive the month they became pregnant. That's a rise from the 51.3 percent in 1987, and the increase was greatest among teens.

No contraceptive is perfect, but studies show they usually fail when they're misused. A second study conducted by Guttmacher found that half of 103 college students given the birth control pill were skipping at least three pills a month.

Source: *Pantagraph*



Animal Magnetism



Dogs and kitties need only apply

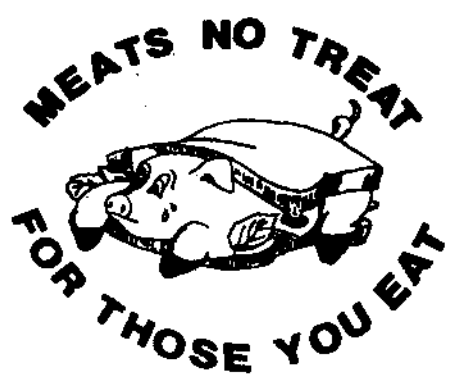
I always knew the small town I grew up in was a little off kilter, but it was during the recent Labor Day parade that I realized how backwards the thinking really is.

I was having a great time. Not only were there 60+ entries in the parade (my grandma was grand Marshall!) but, I'd gathered two handfuls of candy, a free frisbee and other assorted goodies! Of course something had to offset all this joy. IT came halfway through the parade and IT returned my briefly - vacationed cynical disposition back to me.

Puttering down the street was the local McDonald's float. At first I thought there was a cow on the top, but as it came nearer, I discovered it was an 8 foot tall fiberglass horse. "Could that be the special sauce", I wondered. The horse was surrounded by other less noticeable and meeker stuffed animal monkeys and teddy bears. And, *gasp*, the float was sponsored by the Grundy County Humane Society. Yes, folks, it is a sad day when a non-profit organization helps to sponsor a float for a mega-billion dollar industry. How ironic that it is McDonald's, a corporation that profits from the murder of millions of animals every year just so you and I can "deserve a break today".

What I will never understand about most humane societies is that a majority of its members think nothing of sinking their teeth into a fried chicken leg as they discuss the dire need for people to spay and neuter their pets. Don't they realize that you can't pick and chose which animals you can be humane to? You may love little kitty and doggie, but what about that chicken you ate for lunch?

-towanda!



Pariah

A new animal rights group--Pariah--is meeting at Stevenson Hall 36B, ISU campus on Wednesday evenings at 5pm. For more information call Devin Hansen at 452-0034 or John Dverk at 436-4898.

Cruelty-Free Holiday Recipes

Yes, it's that time of year again. The time of year when millions of turkeys are slaughtered for Thanksgiving dinners (not to mention their brief and painful lives in factory farming conditions). Don't let cruelty be a part of your holiday tradition. Here are some vegan holiday recipes from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Sweet and Creamy Topping

- 1/2 lb tofu
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Blend all ingredients in a blender until smooth and creamy.

Chill and serve as you would whipped cream. makes 1 1/2 cups.



Corn Chowder

- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- Oil
- 3 potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 (16 oz.) can creamed corn
- 1 (16 oz.) can whole kernel corn
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup soy milk
- Salt and pepper to taste

Saute onion in small amount of oil until brown. Add potatoes and stir. Add enough water to cover and cook until tender. Add corn and soy milk. Cook until warm and season with salt and pepper.

Harvest Stuffing

Flavored with Apples and Walnuts

- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 8 cups dry bread cubes
- 2 cups finely chopped peeled apple
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup toasted wheat germ
- 1/2 to 1 cup water or vegetable stock

Pumpkin Pie

- 1 unbaked 9-inch pastry crust
- 3/4 lb. tofu
- 1 (16oz.) can pumpkin
- 1 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoon molasses

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Have ready 1 unbaked 9-inch pastry crust.

Blend all ingredients in a blender until smooth and creamy. Pour this mixture into unbaked pastry shell. Bake for 1 hour. Chill and serve with Sweet and Creamy topping.

Sweet and Creamy Topping

- 1/2 lb tofu
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1/5 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

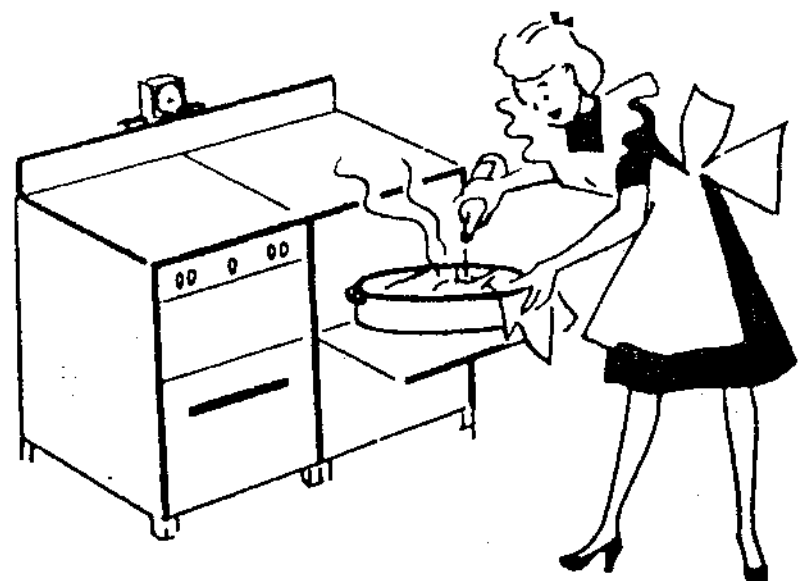
Blend all ingredients in a blender until smooth and creamy.

Chill and serve as you would whipped cream. makes 1 1/2 cups.

In a large skillet cook carrots, celery and onion in margarine until tender. Stir in nutmeg and pepper. In a bowl combine bread cubes, apples, walnuts and wheat germ.

Add carrot mixture. Add enough water or vegetable stock to moisten, tossing lightly.

If desired, bake the stuffing mixture separately in a casserole, covered, in a 325 degree oven for 40 to 45 minutes or in a 375 degree oven for 20 to 30 minutes.





Community Marches for Peace

The second annual Violence Take a Hike Peace March took place on Sunday, September 29 at the Old McLean County Courthouse in Bloomington.

The event was sponsored by the McLean Co. Peace Coalition and co sponsored by over 20 local organizations and businesses.

Unlike last year, the March took place in Bloomington (last year it was held on the Constitution Trail) and winded both east and west through several neighborhoods before arriving at the Miller Park bandstand.

Event organizer, Linda Ketchum, explained that this route was taken because our town is usually divided by east and west, but violence is something that involves us all.

The March, led by Ron Frazier and Peggy Burton, included over 160 people and stretched over several city blocks.

Awaiting the marchers at Miller Park was the Clothesline Project, which displayed shirts decorated by victims of violence. The bell

tower eerily rang every five seconds to symbolize and remind us of another woman being abused.

Several people donated their musical talent for this event. Gregg Brown, Matt Toszco, and Laura Roach played dulcimer, drums and flute, Patty Nicholson, played her acoustic guitar and sang a few 60's peace song, including "Imagine" and "Put a Little Love in Your Heart".

Barbara Wesby, from the YWCA in Aurora recounted the night in August of 1995 when her son Larry was killed as a result of a drive-by shooting. She stated that she never thought that she or her son would ever be a victim of violence. She mentioned that we need each other because violence has no name and rich and poor are both immune to it, and indeed it does take a whole village to raise a child.

Sandra Gilbert from the UAW spoke briefly about workplace violence. She stated that 15% of all workers have been attacked at work, and that homicide is the second leading cause of death on the job. She gave us suggestions on

how to avoid violent confrontations. Debbie White from the Neville House reminded us that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urged us to wear purple ribbons to show unity and awareness of this important issue. (for a schedule of events, see page 13)

Harry Hightower was the last speaker. He spoke about the evils of the recent budget cuts to welfare and said it was a form of economic violence. He noted that the gap between rich and poor is now greater in the U.S. than in any other country except Russia.

Evelyn Young capped off the afternoon event with a wonderful a Capella performance of "Go Light your World" and "Wind Beneath My Wings."

Mark your calendars for next years March. It will take place the last Sunday in September. Hopefully same time and place. Hope to see all of you there supporting this great cause and sending an important message to our community that violence of any kind will not be tolerated.

--towanda!

Most people think they know what they like,
but the real truth is we like what we know'



Get to know (& like) the different people around you.

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