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Matt's Back

Lots of Community News

Interview with Angelo Capparella



# POST AMERICAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

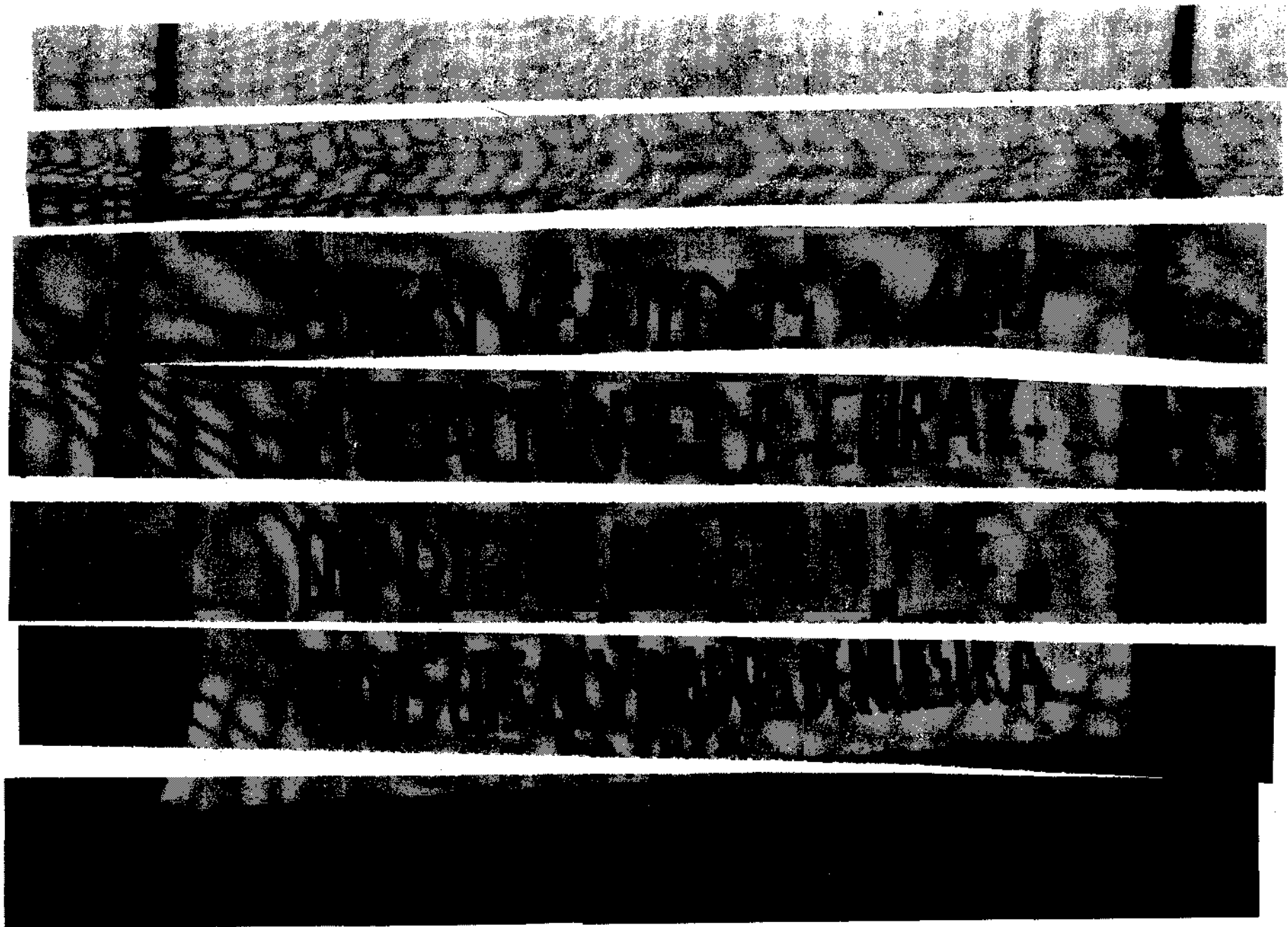
VOLUME 27

50¢

NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1998

## FACE TO FACE WITH THE MILITARY IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO.



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# PAGE 2



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 27

NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1998

## In this Issue:

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## OOPS

In our last issue we forgot to credit the poem "The Anonymous Girl at the Downtown Bar" to Michael Pacholiski and the review of Bones of Contention to *The McLean & Livingston Counties Labor News*.

## 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 \$6.00 per year for six complete issues. Please send a check (made payable to the *Post Amerikan*) to: *Post Amerikan*, P.O. Box 3452 Bloomington, IL 61702.

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

David, Gregg, Linda, Matt, Ralph, Sherrin, Steve

## Post Sellers

### Bloomington

AIDS Task Force, 313 N. Main (inside)  
 About Books, 221 E. Front (inside)  
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 Circus Video, (Emerson and Main)  
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main (inside)  
 Front and Center Building  
 Gaston's Upper Cut, 409 N. Main (inside)  
 Last Chance Newstand, 404 N. Main (inside)  
 Law and Justice Center, 104 W. Front  
 Lizard's Lounge, 612 N. Main St.  
 Medusa's, 420 N. Madison (inside)  
 Mystic Link, 1206 Towanda Ave. Su.4 (inside)  
 Once Upon a Time, 311 N. Main (inside)  
 The Park Store, Wood and Allin (inside)  
 Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main (inside)  
 U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe  
 U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire  
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton

### Normal

Acme Comics, 115 W. North (inside)  
 Amtrak Station, 100 Parkinson  
 Babbitt's Books, 104 North (inside)  
 Bus stop, (School and Fell)  
 Coffee World CoffeeHouse, 114 E. Beaufort  
 Deadpan Alley Records, 129 E. Beaufort (inside)  
 Koffee Kup, 205 W. North  
 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.

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## Due Date:

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

**Mar. 15**

## 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  
 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



# Community News



## Blue Moon Coffeehouse Spring Semester 1998

February 7

**Saffire: The Uppity Blues Women** bring to the Blue Moon Coffeehouse irresistible portions of sass and soul, tradition and attitude, all in the name of the blues.

February 21

**Karen Savoca** comes with a voice that has been called "veiled and mysterious, beaded and tie-dye bluesy." She also plays congas and percussion infusing the music with her love of soul, R&B and world rhythms.

February 28

**Ellis Paul** is a six-time winner at the Boston Music Awards, a Kerrville New Folk Award winner and winner of the Acoustic Underground Competition. He is a master storyteller and combines the sensibilities of Bob Dylan, Bill Morrissey and John Gorka and delivers it with a passion that sets him apart in the breed of new songwriters.

March 28

**Suzzy Roche/Greg Greenway** will mark the first split show as they each make their first Blue Moon Coffeehouse appearance. Suzzy Roche has twenty years experience as a performer and is a seasoned veteran of the music business having toured and recorded extensively as part of the sibling trio, The Roches. Greg Greenway has been described as having one of the strongest and finest voices in folk music. While he makes his mark on the national folk scene with foot-stomping passion, he creates a winning and credible between-song intimacy.

April 4

**Jennifer Kimball** is no stranger to the Blue Moon Coffeehouse, having played there as part of the renown duo, The Story, and in support of The Carrie Newcomer Band several years ago. With a voice that is unmistakable and true, Jennifer Kimball is playing to enthusiastic audiences across the country.

April 18

**Carrie Newcomer** returns with new songs and stories that are accesible, elemental and wrapped up with that *voice*. Carrie is a singer-songwriter who is a dynamic performer, able to touch audiences in a very personal way, as well as delight listeners with her midwestern storytelling and humor.

*The Blue Moon Coffeehouse is located in the Memorial Student Center on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University. Please refer to the map of IWU's campus in the local telephone directory.*

## Sweet Oblivion:

The Urban Landscapes of Martin Wong  
January 13 through February 22, 1997

This exhibition is the first museum survey of a Chinese-American artist's rapturous visions of ethnic urban experience. Born and raised in San Francisco's Chinatown, and a resident of New York's Lower East Side since the early 1980's, Wong became highly acclaimed for his paintings of crumbling tenement facades in fantastic landscapes featuring gilded constellation diagrams, stylized hearing-impaired symbols, and street-beat poetry by Miguel Pinero. Even within the quirky, flashier-than-thou East Village arts scene in the 1980's Wong's paintings always stood out. An eccentric character in the art world—a Chinese-American portraying an Hispanic neighborhood—he revitalized traditional landscape painting with bricks, iron gates, chain link, sign language, and verse.

Thirty-four paintings dating from 1983 to 1993 will be included. This exhibition, which is partially funded by the Illinois Arts Council, will travel to The New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York City from May-September, 1998.

Wong's painting are included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art. Wong recently had a one person show of his Chinatown series at the San Francisco Art Institute, and will have his second exhibition at P.P.O.W. in New York City in Spring 1998.

University Galleries is located at 100 Center for the Visual Arts on the Illinois State University campus off Beaufort between University and School Streets. Parking is available in the gravel lot off of University Avenue in spaces marked Gallery Parking.

## Beyond Normal Films

**Love!Valour!Compassion!**  
Thursday, Feb 5 7pm  
Friday, Feb 6 7pm

Terrence McNally's *Love!Valour!Compassion!* is about the intertwined lives of eight gay men who share three summer holiday weekends together in a spacious Victorian house outside of New York City. In 1994, Terrence McNally's *Love!Valour!Compassion!* opened off-Broadway to critical praise both for its direct portrayal of contemporary relationships among the gay middle-class and its much broader theme of how the human heart has had to find new and challenging ways to connect and stay true in this day and age.

**Mrs. Brown**  
Thursday, March 5 7pm  
Friday, March 6 7pm  
Saturday, March 7 7 & 9:15pm  
Sunday, March 8 7pm

It was a royal scandal. Queen Victoria, who reigned for 64 years during the heyday of the British Empire, was said to be enamored of a Scottish servant, a handsome Highlander in charge of the horses. So close was the relationship between the imperious widow and the brusque John Brown that Victoria was briefly dubbed Mrs. Brown by the chattering classes of the day.



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cont.

## Support group for families and friends of persons with HIV/AIDS

The McLean County AIDS Task Force, serving both McLean and Livingston Counties, has resumed its "support group meeting for families, friends, caregivers and significant others of persons with HIV/AIDS," with the next meeting on February 12 at the Connections Community Center, 313 N. Main Street in downtown Bloomington. This group meets from 7:30 - 9:00 pm on the second Thursday of each month. Each session includes discussion of important issues such as "So I know; now what?" and other topics which may be of interest to those attending.

This support group is provided as a free service to the community by the McLean County AIDS Task Force and is open to anyone who has a family member or friend with HIV or AIDS. Your confidentiality will be respected and membership in the Task Force is not a requirement to participate. Call (309)827-AIDS for information on this group or other activities of the Task Force.

## MCATF "1997 Annual Report" & new board

The McLean County AIDS Task Force announces its first 1998 General Meeting February 5. The "1997 Annual Report to the Membership" will be given and you will have the opportunity to meet the new 1998 board and officers. This meeting will be held at 6:00 pm in the downstairs meeting room at First of America Bank, 202 E. Washington, Bloomington.

This meeting is free and open to the public. Call (309)827-AIDS for information on this meeting and other Task Force activities.

The McLean County AIDS Task Force is pleased to announce the results of its 1998 officers election at its first meeting of the 1998 board, January 5. Bruce Lang was reelected for his second year as chairperson. David Bentlin and Lenore Clark, both new to the board in 1998, were elected Vice-Chairperson and Secretary, respectively. Arlene Valentine, last year's Vice-Chairperson, was elected as treasurer.

Lang briefed the new board on current AIDS Task Force projects and activities, led a discussion on priorities for 1998, and challenged the board to become a "working" board, actively seeking their place in the important work of the Task Force.

1997's successful "Dining With Friends" fund raising event that raised over \$17,000, will be repeated in 1998, with a tentative goal of \$20,000. The Task Force plans to continue its HIV prevention education activities, some of which were funded by the 1997 event, and by some grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Illinois State general revenues. The new board was also briefed on the major outreach projects begun by the AIDS Task Force this winter.

Call (309)827-AIDS for information on this meeting and other Task Force activities.

## Pride Fest update

A tentative compromise was reached at the December Pride Fest Committee meeting. That compromise consists of asking the Advocacy Council for Human Rights and the Illinois State University PRIDE group to co-host the 1988 festival while plans are made to hold a major festival at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in 1999. The Bloomington-Normal groups welcome other groups to assist in planning the 1998 event.

The committee had made a verbal statement of interest to rent facilities at the state fairgrounds on Oct. 3, 1998. However the state fair has been notified the group is no longer interested in that date. Some members of the committee felt there was not enough time, commitment, nor peoplepower at this time to sponsor a major festival in 1998. A major festival involves obtaining corporate sponsors and signing big name entertainment, both of which need at least a year of planning.

The Advocacy Council for Human Rights has sponsored the last two Pride Fests at the Unitarian Church in Bloomington. The ACFHR asked other groups to become involved to help the event grow and to share some of the responsibilities. A committee of interested people and groups has been meeting since the summer of 1997. That committee discussed moving the festival to the first weekend in October and having an event at the state fairgrounds in Springfield.

The next 1999 Pride Fest Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 7 pm at the Connections Community Center, 313 North Main, Bloomington.

For more information call:

Dave Bentlin in Bloomington at 309-830-2521 (dmbentl@ilstu.edu)  
Buff Carmichael in Springfield at 217-544-1765 (pflame@eosinc.com)  
Greg Gravemier of Decatur at 217-425-2665 (gregleland@aol.com)

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### HOW TO USE A LATEX CONDOM



Make sure the condom is right-side-out with the roll on the outside. Put a drop or two of water-based lubricant in the tip of the inside of the condom.



Pinch a half inch of space at the tip before you roll the condom on the hard penis. Make sure there's no air inside. Roll the condom as far down the penis as it will go.



Apply plenty of water-based lubricant to the condom covered penis. Never use oil-based lubes like vaseline or baby oil. After ejaculation, and while you're still hard, hold on to the base of the condom as you pull out of your partner. Never reuse a condom. Use a new one every time.

Adapted from pamphlets by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center



## Seven Ten Front House

At 710 E Front St. in Bloomington some fascinating things are taking place! The building has a new name: Seven Ten Front House. It is serving as a center for people who are consumers of mental health services. Various activities, meetings and educational programs are offered, something for everybody.

Here is what is currently being offered:

- Open Art Studio 2 to 4 pm Saturdays, various media available.
- Creative Writing Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month 1 to 3 pm.
- Yoga class meets at 6 pm Thursdays
- DMDSG (Depressive Manic Depressive Support Group) meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday and alternating Thursdays at 7pm. This is a walk in meeting.
- February 11th NAMI-IL Family to Family Education Course, formerly the Journey of Hope, is a 12 week course meeting Wednesday 7 to 9:30 pm.
- A new consumer-run support group, NAMI CARE, meets monthly on the 3rd Monday at 7 pm.
- A Speakers Bureau is being organized.

There is also a library of books, videos and other educational materials concerning neurobiological illness.

All of this is happening NOW! Have an idea we haven't thought of? For more information call 888-4308 or 454-4983.

The Seven Ten Front House Board is PROUD of the new space and believes this will become an asset to this community.

## How families can cope with schizophrenia

A diagnosis of schizophrenia (SZ) can be very difficult, not only for the ill person, but also for his or her family. Because so many people are afraid and uninformed about the disorder, many families try to hide it from friends and deal with it on their own.

If someone in your family has SZ, you need understanding, love, and support from others. You may need help realizing that no one causes SZ, just as no one causes diabetes, cancer or heart disease. You are not to blame—and you are not alone.

To survive schizophrenia, one of the most important steps you can take is to join a family support group. More than 1,140 such groups are now active in local communities in all 50 states and a couple of foreign countries. Members of these groups share information and strategies for everything from coping with symptoms to finding financial, medical and other resources.

Families who deal most successfully with a relative who has SZ are those who come to accept the illness and its difficult consequences,

develop realistic expectations for the ill person and for themselves, and even keep a sense of humor. Developing such attitudes is a continuing process for most people, but it can be eased and hastened by the understanding support of others.

--NAMI Livingston/McLean Counties newsletter

## More private hospitals rejecting psychiatric patients, study finds

Under cost-cutting pressure of competition and managed care, two-thirds of the nation's private hospitals that are equipped to take mentally ill patients dump them on financially strapped public hospitals and community services, says a study in the Journal Health Services Research.

In a nationwide analysis, the authors, R. Dorwart, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and M. Schlesinger, an economist at Yale School of Medicine, say that hospitals sometimes reject mentally ill patients simply by denying admission to those who have no other medical problem.

They also report that hospitals discharge patients prematurely, either when their health insurance runs out or when the cost of their care exceeds the insurance reimbursement.

And the report says hospitals are the quickest to reject uninsured patients. Among adolescent psychiatric patients, for example, the researchers said it was five times harder for those without insurance to be admitted than for those with insurance.

Private, for-profit hospitals, appear to be the quickest to turn out the mentally ill.

--New York Times December 10, 1997

## A family to family education course, Formerly Journey of Hope

A free, comprehensive 12-week course designed for families of persons with a brain disorder, specifically major depression, manic-depression, schizophrenia, or shizoffective illnesses.

Offering: Information; Coping Skills; Problem Solving; Advocacy; Fighting Stigma; Emotional Support

Classes start Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1998 at 710 E Front St., Bloomington, IL, 61701.

For information and registration call (309) 454-4983.

--NAMI Livingston/McLean Counties newsletter

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# The world according to Matt

## Your world too

Right now in America, hundreds of thousands of people who are tax paying, job holding, productive citizens are considered criminals by the government. They live with the risk of harsh fines, loss of property, loss of livelihood, and imprisonment and all the stress said risk entails because they wish to smoke marijuana. This is done for a variety of reasons from the medical and therapeutic to the artistic and recreational, and has been since times before recorded history.

Until it was made illegal, and with the negative hysteria enforced to support the prohibition, it wasn't a big deal to hit the wacky-tobacchi. Now, however, and for the past 30 odd years, the production, possession, transportation and commerce of marijuana is illegal. Good people are criminalized and demonized, and our basic human liberties as a whole are eroded with each new more intrusive law passed. The bottom line is that the policy of pot prohibition is wrong, unethical, illegitimate, and the product of a government that shares these three qualities.

The start of this demonic policy and the insidious, racist, profiteering motives behind the legislation, as well as the mockery of our system the actual hearing turned out to be, were all covered in-depth and thoroughly by Nanny and The Professor in the Feb/Mar 1996 *Post Amerikan* (vol.26 no.1), but I will put it in a nutshell here. Basically, a new machine was invented which would effectively make hemp the U.S.'s first million dollar crop. This was because it separated the fibers from the (smokable) rest at a rate which would allow hemp to dominate the paper industry (among many others, I'm sure). Here's the catch: William Hearst, who owned a major paper producing company and was also a major newspaper publisher, and DuPont of the petrochem industry both faced bad losses due to the new hemp technology. DuPont's exclusive banker, Mellon Bank, was owned by Andrew Mellon, who was also the uncle-in-law of the head of the DEA equivalent of the time and Secretary of the Treasury under Hoover.

With the combination of media and political power, these men began a media blitz demonizing pot with ridiculous and unfounded claims of its effects, gaining support through hysteria they completely made up. They even called it evil because they claimed it was especially used by minorities, and this went against the US's embarrassing "racial purity" social policies that made interracial marriages illegal and tightly restricted immigration. Finally, the federal legislation was brought to the floor of the congress, and marijuana prohibition was passed with the only testimony coming from Hearst newspaper articles. A doctor who tried to object because no scientific or medical research had been done to back any of their claims was quickly and rudely silenced.

It should also be mentioned that one year after the initiation of pot prohibition, Adolph Hitler was *TIME Magazine's* "Man of the Year" and enemas were all the high society rage.

After the shameful passage of marijuana prohibition, the effort was taken up by officials on federal, state, and county levels, egged on by those who bought the unfounded and amplified hysteria the government was feeding the population. This created the unfortunate situation of people who, in believing they are doing good, enforce policies that are wrong to the core, including judges, police, and parents. It is unfortunate because they are dangerously wrong, and must be stopped, despite their good intentions.

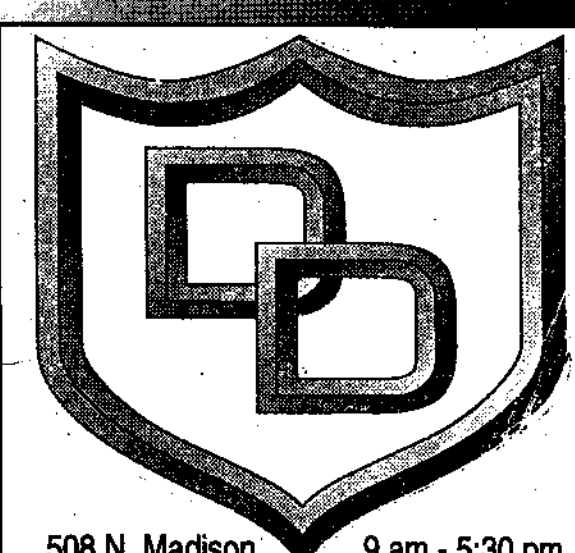
Marijuana prohibition demonstrates a very serious flaw in modern social thinking which affects the scope of issues we face today. Just because something is legal does not mean that it is condoned, or even held in good regard. It only means that it is not the law's domain to restrict it as a choice. If you feel something is wrong, you have that right. You can even try to educate others as to why you feel this way, and point out dangers you feel are present, but it is plain wrong to enforce these views with the threat of loss of money, property, and freedom. Laws should protect and serve.

Laws against DUI, murder, assault, theft, rape, extortion, etc. obviously fulfill this criteria, for they are meant to stop individuals from from impeding on the basic rights of others. Laws against pot, not wearing seat belts, prostitution (willing and informed), attempt to control individual behavior in situations that only affect themselves. Sure, it is smart to wear a seat belt, but if you choose not to or forget, you should not face civil fines. If a person wants to smoke pot in their home who is that hurting? A policy of allow but discourage would be preferred over discourage and oppress. Remember, there are no cases in court history where someone has beat their family because of pot. Think about it.

The lies created and enforced by the government through its propaganda machine are transparent and cannot stand objective scrutiny. In some cases, the lies are blatant. One commercial received government-special okay to lie to the population. In it a catatonic teenager's brain waves were said to be those of one under pot's influence. One trick they play is likening pot to other, harder drugs such as cocaine and heroin. This is ludicrous, as pot is a milder psychoactive agent than alcohol, cannot be classified as a toxin (THC), and is harder to overdose on than aspirin, beer, or steak. It is not even physically addictive, although it can be habit forming, or psychologically addictive.

The same can be said of almost anything pleasurable, including food, video games, sex, and gambling to name a few. Just because some individuals may develop a problem doesn't justify what Uncle Sam has done to thousands of lives daily for over sixty years. Of course, with pot illegal the propagandists can raise hysteria and funds by bemoaning a 9 million person drug problem and making everyone think that that's the equivalent of 9 million crack addicts. If pot were legal, they'd have a mere 1.7 million fear factor to net funds with. The numbers are relative to each other in the above explanation, not actual censuses.

Another lie perpetuated by our government is that pot leads to harder drug use, like cocaine, heroin, and crystal meth. Although statistics support this sad fact, the government's conclusion is backward and deadly wrong. It is not and property of pot or the high it provides that leads people into wanting hard drugs, but rather the efforts against pot themselves that allow for this deadly trap. Because pot is illegal, it must be purchased on the black market where other illegal substances are available. Because pot is illegal, shortages occur and people find themselves trying harder substances because the pot shortage didn't hurt their availability. The fact is, if pot were legal, people who smoke pot would have the same chances of being exposed to hard drugs as someone who legally acquires beer, wine, or



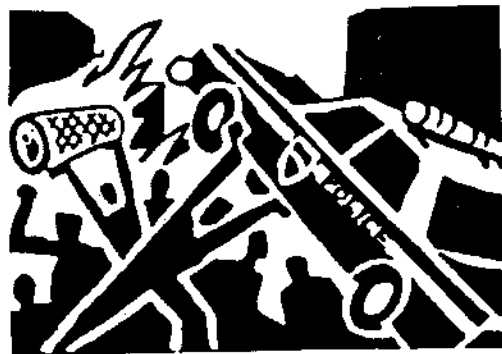
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cigarettes. the fact that pot prohibition leads to hard drug use is a more accurate conclusion given studies and data, and I find it very hard to believe that there is no one in our government intelligent enough to put this together.

Despite the overwhelming evidence pointing to how wrong marijuana prohibition is, the government clings onto its war on peaceful people with ever intensifying vigor and funding. In some states, public referendum votes have loosened some restrictions, only to be chastised by the federal government. In one state, the legislature voted to OVERRIDE the will of it citizens and replace the harsher restrictions. Although the surgeon general Joycelyn Elders was ostracized and practically fired (that came later, over masturbation) for suggesting at least studying marijuana decriminalization, such a study had already been done over a decade ago. In 1978, Nixon ordered an official, in depth study into marijuana legalization. After a lengthy and costly study, the conclusion was reached that there was NO REASON to continue considering possession of cannabis as a criminal offense. This study was quickly hidden, those participating hushed, and the funding for the war on pot was given a great big increase. Basically, the government has known for 20 years now that there is NO REASON to continue treating tens of thousands of its own

citizens as criminals. The government has known for twenty years that it is oppressing its own population, robbing citizens of property and dignity, for NO REASON. No reason, that is, which can be openly disclosed, for their reasons for spreading lies and fear would show the true depths of sickness embedded in their ambition and greed. Ambition and greed were considered bad qualities before this regime that oppresses us...

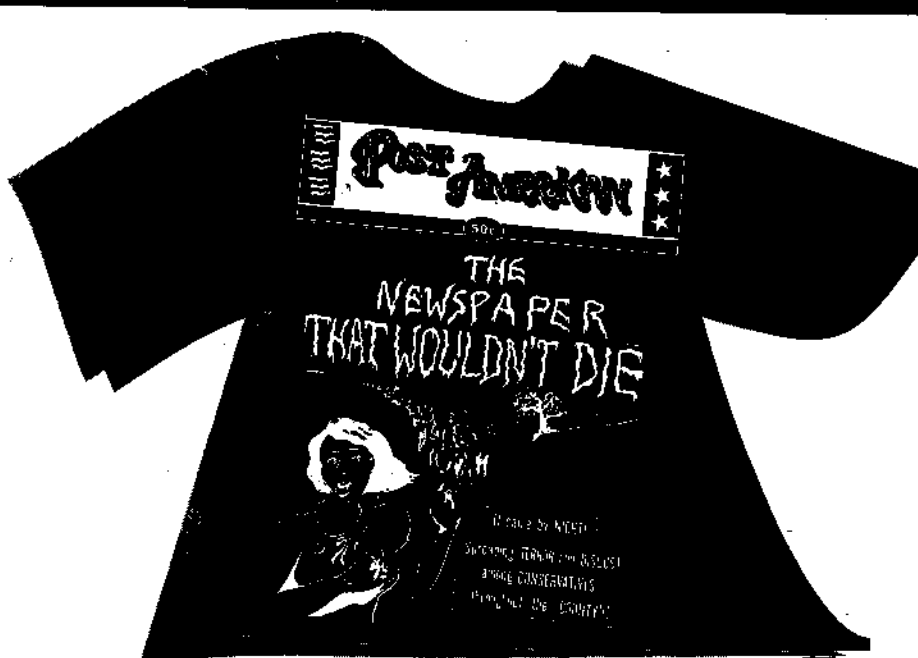
Remember, this is the same government which gave us Kent State, Vietnam, chemical and radiation tests on unwitting subjects, syphilis experiments on unwitting subjects, bloodshed for oil in Iraq, and scandal after scandal to distract us. Time and time again, this government has proven that it will lie, steal, deny, and kill to protect the interests of that elite 1% of the population. The Constitution is very clear about the rights of citizens facing obviously and unsubtly oppressive governments, and you cannot deny that our Evil Empire has become about the vilest. Look at what our "terrorist" forefathers put up with from England before they were willing to push back. What the cannabis culture has to deal with is the most obvious and encompassing issue where the government's true, demonic colors are apparent, but the evils of our Empire span the broad scope of issues, from personal liberties to social philosophy, to how we deal with subjects in other subordinate countries.



On May 2, in New York City, there will be a million person march to show support for marijuana legalization. They can't put us all in jail, and this is a wake-up call to those who enjoy marijuana, as well as those who believe in freedom at all, to stand up for our common rights. This will also be a wake-up call to those who still stand to wage war on our pacific population. The people are tearing away your armored layers of lies, and we won't stop tearing when we hit cold flesh. If you may be

interested in pitching in on a bus, call 829-9920. With 35-40 people to a bus, at \$20-\$30ea., this should be more than feasible. More specifics in the next *Post Amerikan*, until then, hope, perseverance, and stonedness!

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# News from Voice for

## Illinois abortion ban challenged in court

On December 15, 1997, Governor Edgar certified changes made to HB382 (Abortion Ban) making it law. However, it will not become effective until 60 days after becoming law. The new law, P.A. 90-560 bans certain broadly defined abortions both before and after viability. In addition, it provides for no exceptions if a woman's health is threatened. For these reasons, the ban is likely unconstitutional. The US Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* and other cases has found that states cannot ban abortions prior to viability and that any abortion ban must include exceptions to preserve the life and health of the woman.

The Illinois ACLU is challenging the new Illinois ban, in a lawsuit which seeks a declaration that the law is unconstitutional and an injunction on its enforcement. Litigation against laws similar to the new ban has been successful in keeping these bans from going into effect. As of October 1, lawsuits have been filed in eleven states challenging state statutes similar to the Illinois ban. The courts have found that the main flaws with these state bans have been that they include over broad definitions of the banned procedure, they apply prior to viability and they do not protect both the health and lives of women. In nine states, courts have prevented the laws from taking effect because they were ruled unconstitutional. In the remaining two states, the laws have been interpreted by the courts as applying only to abortions performed after fetal viability.

Source: Illinois Planned Parenthood Council

## Anti-choice law passed

By accepting Governor Edgar's amendment to HB 382, the so-called "partial"-birth abortion ban, the Illinois General Assembly has set the stage for a federal court battle with the ACLU and other organizations that support reproductive rights. Colleen K Connell, director of the ACLU's Reproductive Rights Project said, "The women of Illinois deserve better than to have politicians interfering with personal, and often painful, medical decisions." According to Connell, "The ACLU now will file a lawsuit on behalf of Illinois doctors and their patients; it obviously will take a federal court order to preserve the privacy of the physician-patient relationship."

Laws similar to HB 382 have fared poorly in the federal courts system. Nine states which passed such bans recently have had them either enjoined or their enforcement severely limited by federal courts. Connell said, "A majority of the General Assembly obviously has little knowledge of, and even less regard for, both medical exigencies and the health of Illinois women. The vagueness of this law, coupled with its application to pre-viability procedures, also puts physicians at risk of prosecution for performing any post-first trimester abortion - and perhaps even first trimester abortions. Physicians should not be subjected to criminal penalties and loss of their medical licenses as a cost of providing needed medical care to their patients. To force doctors to guess at which procedures a vague enactment such as HB 382 outlaws not only offends the

fundamental principles of due process, it also imposes an undue burden on a woman's right to decide whether and when to have an abortion." Source: *The Illinois Brief*, Winter, 1997

## Planned Parenthood appoints new president

Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois (PPECI) has announced the appointment of Mr. John H. Rich, as the new President and CEO for its seven clinic sites, one of which is located in Bloomington. PPECI will be providing service to 35 counties in Central Illinois.

Mr. Rich comes from Kansas City, Missouri, where he was Senior Vice President of operations for the Planned Parenthood of Mid-Missouri and Eastern Kansas.

PPECI is a not-for-profit corporation, with headquarters in Champaign, Illinois. Planned Parenthood offers: prescriptive and over-the-counter birth control methods; pregnancy testing; information and referrals for all pregnancy options - prenatal care, parenting, adoption, and abortion; screening for breast and cervical cancer; annual gynecological exams; prenatal care, delivery services and postnatal follow-up; WIC maternal - child nutrition; screening and treatment of sexually transmitted infections; information and referrals for HIV/AIDS testing and treatment; diagnosis, treatment and referral for a broad range of reproductive and general health conditions, such as high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and diabetes; mid-life (menopausal) services; education programs for groups and individuals, parents, and young people, lending library filled with books, videos and other information; and an Action Alert Line, 1-888-353-5303, with information about current state and federal challenges to reproductive health care.

Source: *African-American Voice*, December, 1997

## Illinois Now online

Illinois NOW has two new e-mail lists for feminists. The Illinois NOW Action Alert list will keep you posted about urgent actions and late breaking news across the state. The Illinois NOW Discussion list provides a way for NOW members from all over Illinois to share ideas, brainstorm actions, network with other feminists, and just chat.

To sign up for the Illinois NOW Action Alert list just sent an e-mail message to <kbojda@soltec.net> or <illinoisnow@juno.com> saying you'd like to be added to the IL NOW Action Alert list.

To join the Illinois Discussion list, send a message to <ilnow-list-request@netimageinc.com>. The body of the message should contain simply the word `subscribe`. After subscribing, you can post to the group by e-mailing to <ilnow-list@imageinc.com>

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# Choice

## In remembrance

On November 2, 1997, Patricia Alsader died after a long battle with breast cancer. Patty was the youth and community communications coordinator for Planned Parenthood in Bloomington for the past seven years. Patty's work included working closely with teens in our community, helping them develop the skills necessary to make responsible, mature decisions in life.

Patty received a degree in English from Moorhead State University. She served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was a member of College Park Christian Church. In addition to these contributions, Patty had agreed to be part of a *Pantagraph* series focusing on women and breast cancer. She shared her struggle against this disease with our community so that we might learn more about it and to focus more attention on finding a cure. Patty left this community a better place in which to live and we are grateful that she shared so much with us.

## Who's pro-choice and who's not?

As election time (primaries in March) approaches, we wanted to share some information about pro-choice candidates on both the Republican and Democratic tickets. In addition, Voice for Choice and Campus for Choice are planning an pre-election information session for the afternoon of February 22nd, at the Bone Student Center. More details will follow via the *Pantagraph*, *African-American Voice*, the *Normalite*, and the *Community News*.

As it is, it is probably just easier to describe the candidates' position on choice as follows:

**Republican Ticket** - the only pro-choice Republican on the primary ticket is Lolita Didrickson. Didrickson is running for U.S. Senate. Her primary opponent is ultra-conservative Peter Fitzgerald. Every other Republican running for statewide office is anti-choice, including all candidates for governor.

Tom Ewing is running for a third term for Congress for the 15th District - he is firmly anti-choice, anti-family planning and has a miserable record on women's rights, healthcare and labor issues. He has no opponent in the primary.

Attorney General Jim Ryan is running for another term. Ryan has a good record on issues of domestic violence, toughening stalking laws, and penalties for batterers. Unfortunately one of his first acts as Attorney General was to file a friend of the court brief supporting the efforts of anti-choice groups to weaken the rights of women in Illinois to obtain safe, legal abortions. Although Ryan argued during his last campaign that his position on abortion had no bearing on the office of attorney general, his actions in support of anti-choice groups and legislation tell a different tale.

Al Salvi is running for Secretary of State (egads, another Pat Quinn?). Salvi, you may remember is the conservative who ran for U.S. Senate against Dick Durbin. Salvi is anti-choice, he did oppose gun control legislation such as the Brady Bill but now says he supports it (this after incorrectly

accusing former White House staffer Jim Brady, after whom the Brady Bill was named, of selling guns - Salvi has since apologized for the error). Salvi says he wanted to run for an office in which his position on choice or guns would not be an issue. However, one must remember that Jim Edgar launched his bid for the governors office after serving as Secretary of State, George Ryan, the Republican front runner for governor is launching his bid after serving as Secretary of State. Despite what Salvi claims, his stand on issues does matter as this particular office serves as a spring board for higher, more influential offices, offices which definitely impact women's reproductive rights.

**Democratic Ticket** - The only Democrat on the statewide ticket who is anti-choice is Glen Poshard. Poshard in fact has a voting record similar to that of Al Salvi. Poshard, despite what his ads say about providing healthcare for grandma, has a relatively poor voting record on issues impacting women. He has only a mediocre record on labor, opposes gun control, and has consistently voted against family planning programs (which seems unconscionable given his anti-choice position).

The other candidates for governor, Schmidt, Burns, and Burris, are all proponents of a woman's right to choose. They vary somewhat on their positions regarding public funding of abortions for economically disadvantaged women.

Both of the Democratic candidates for Lt. Governor (Kane County Coroner Mary Lou Kearns and yes, once again, gadfly Patrick Quinn) are pro-choice. Kearns has served 6 consecutive terms as Coroner in Kane County, a predominantly Republican County. She won her last election by an almost 3 - 1 margin. Quinn served a term as Illinois Treasurer and has since lost his bid for almost every office imaginable - in fact, he often declares his candidacy for an office, any office, and then later narrows it down (which is what he did this time).

The candidates Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer and Comptroller are all pro-choice. Running for Secretary of State is State Senator Penny Severns, Tim McCarthy, and Cook County Recorder of Deeds Jesse White. Miriam Santos is running for Attorney General.



U.S. Senator Carol Mosely Braun is running for a second term in the Senate. She is unopposed in the primary. While Braun's actual performance in the Senate has been good, voting in support of reproductive rights, women's rights, increased healthcare coverage, and a strong record on agriculture bills, her personal troubles have weakened her position. Should Didrickson win the primary Braun will have a tough battle as she and Didrickson are both social moderates. However, if Fitzgerald wins the Republican primary, Braun's position as the only pro-choice candidate for U.S. Senate may help her win reelection.

Laurel Prussing is making another bid to unseat 15th District Congressman Tom Ewing. Prussing is a strong supporter of a woman's right to choose, in the Illinois House she had a strong record of supporting women's healthcare, labor, and the environment. Prussing is unopposed in the primary.

Reform Party - Lawrence Redmond is running for governor on the Reform Party Ticket. We regret that we don't have more information at this time. If you know a little something about Mr. Redmond please let us know so that we may include it in our next newsletter. In the meantime we will try to find out more about his position on choice.

cont. on next page

# Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

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

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cont.

For more information about the February 22nd candidate information session call Voice for Choice at 828-3108 after February 1, 1998. We will also try to have information sheets available for folks who cannot attend this event but would like more information.

Sources: Candidate Forum, held at I.S.U.; Bone Student Center, *Pantagraph*

## Surprise! women still behind in the workplace

According to a recent United Nations' survey, women in managerial jobs worldwide earn less than men in those positions and hold just 3-3 percent of top spots worldwide. The report, by the International Labor Organization said a glass ceiling - an invisible barrier of male-dominated networks and prejudices - still prevents women from reaching the top jobs. "Women today represent over 40 percent of the global work force and have gradually moved up the hierarchical ladder of enterprises," the report said. "Yet rarely does their share of management positions exceed 20 percent. The higher the position, the more glaring the gender gap."

In the United States and Canada, women make up 46 percent and 42 percent of management respectively. But the report cited a survey of the top 500 U.S. companies that showed women held just 2.4 percent of the highest-paid management jobs in 1995. And weekly earnings of women managers in the United States averaged 68 percent of those of male managers, the report said.

A survey of 300 companies in Britain last year showed 3 percent of board members were women. Earnings of women professionals were 83 percent that of men, one of the highest levels in the world. In Germany in 1995, a survey of the 70,000 biggest companies showed women held 1-3 percent of the top executive and board positions. Although increasing numbers of mothers work outside the home in North America and Europe, in Japan most mothers still drop out of the labor force to care for their families, the report said. Linda Wirth, author of the report said she is optimistic that the remaining work force inequalities would be overcome in the next generation. The report said women did better in the public than the private sector and fared best in industries employing large numbers of women, such as health and community services and the hotel and catering industries.

Women in management tend to be concentrated in functions such as labor relations and personnel, which are less likely to lead to top jobs than those in product development or corporate finance, the report said. In politics, there have been only 25 female heads of state so far this century. But in the last decade the number of women in Cabinet posts had doubled worldwide to 6.8 percent from 3.4 percent. Scandinavia came out on top, with half of the 22 Cabinet posts in Sweden last year being taken by women. Women in developing countries generally are not faring as well as their counterparts in the industrialized world, the report said. Source: Associated Press

## Ami Neiberger's adventures with the Promise Keepers

Ami Neiberger, a freelance journalist, was asked by Skipp Porteous, publisher of *Freedom Writer* to cover the Promise Keepers "Stand in the Gap" rally in Washington D.C. The following are some excerpts from her article entitled "Women and Weirdos: My adventures at Promise Keepers."

"I was excited about the assignment because it gave me an opportunity few women are granted - to observe a PK event firsthand. The assignment brought with it a few challenges I hadn't anticipated.

I hadn't counted on being an instant curiosity for the entire weekend because of my gender. Just my appearance was enough to raise eyebrows. Laced with a few chuckles, comments like: "Aaah! It's a woman!", "Aren't you the wrong gender?" or "Women don't belong here," followed me wherever I went.

This made it easy to nab interviews, and often I joked with the men and chatted with them about PK. However, I found my patience wearing a bit thin after I was asked for the umpteenth time in one day, "so how does it feel to be outnumbered 52,000 to one?" and "What are you doing here?"

Being a member of the press was the only way to legitimize my presence as a woman in the stadium. Even if I wasn't taking photos, I took to wearing my large yellow PK press pass and my camera around my neck wherever I went. I even slipped on my press pass before I went down to breakfast in the hotel dining room, which was crowded with PK attendees.

Often PKers would read the name on press pass, take note of my dark hair, and assume that I was Jewish. A few asked my questions about spiritual matters trying to pry into my personal life, and I would try to steer the conversation back to PK. I could see those "I hope I can convert this member of the heathen liberal media" lights blinking in their eyes. These incidents were rather humorous to me, since I had served as a Christian missionary overseas for a couple of years.

I found myself treasuring my moments in the press box, where I could relax and avoid the scrutiny of the men in the bleachers. But even that hallowed professional domain was not entirely sacred.

During an interview in the press box, I was sexually harassed by an official PK volunteer. This man had just wandered into the press box and struck up a conversation with me, so with his permission I turned on my tape recorder.

Using comments loaded with sexual innuendo, the fiftyish PK volunteer railed against intellectuals, working mothers, and the separation of church and state. While he was talking, he leaned close to me, deliberately rubbing his leg firmly against my calf. Being the polite gal that my southern mother taught me to be, I just glowered and moved my legs. My interviewee rambled on, saying how PK was restoring order to American families and how women belonged in the home. Then he started stroking my hand. This time I glared and pulled my hands away. Things seemed to be escalating, with even a couple of cuss words spicing up his semi-flirtatious commentary. With a wink, he again rubbed my leg suggestively with his own. At this point I ended the interview.

On my way down to the main floor of the stadium, I retreated to the lonely silence of the women's bathroom for a moment. I was thankful that I'd worn jeans that day and not the dress I'd packed in my suitcase. If I'd been wearing pantyhose at that moment, I would have flung them into the trash to get the feeling of that lecherous interviewee away from my skin.

When I described my experience to a female PK staff member later in the day, she dismissed it as a run-in with "a weirdo." She told me these "men are actually more respectful of women than you would have in the secular workplace." When I asked her how she felt about PK attendees who said that women didn't belong inside the stadium, she said, it used to be really intimidating, but I don't notice it now."

I noticed that she also didn't go out in the bleachers very often and that she wore plenty of official PK gear. Like all of the PK's staff, she had a big PK pass around her neck - perhaps it was her own way of legitimizing her presence in an environment that could be "intimidating" for women.

Most of the men I met while attending the PK event at RFK stadium treated me with courtesy, but my weirdo experience does highlight some troubling concerns. A scribbled entry in my trip journal for the day candidly observed that these men needed some gender sensitivity training, not just spiritualized paternalistic pandering to their own wives.

PK does inspire many men to take greater interest in the lives of their families, but PK is not teaching men about how to deal fairly with women. If men go to PK with sexist assumptions about the inferiority of women, they certainly won't find anything there to change their minds.

When I mentioned PK's paternalism to my mother as we talked about my trip to DC, my polite southern mother gave a little sigh. In her gracious southern accent she said, "That's the worst kind of sexism. Because it's the kind that says it's for your own good, and it's the kind that never changes."

PK is providing men an excuse rooted in spirituality to be paternalistic. By telling me to love their wives and asserting that men should be in control of the household, PK has introduced a softer form of male dominance, tingeing it with paternalistic affection. PK may be creating kinder, gentler Neanderthals, but they are still Neanderthals.



# Seeing Red

## Coming Home to Roost

by Steve Eckardt

How ironic that opinion-makers, trying to prevent panic as Far Eastern markets and currencies plunged to unplumbed depths, settled on the oh-so clever phrase "the Asian flu."

Bad choice. For at that very moment a Hong Kong poultry flu virus was making an extraordinary mutation that enabled it to leap from chickens to humans—a dangerous "zoonotic" mutation of the type that gave us the spectacularly deadly Ebola virus.

Oops. The Asian flu, it seemed, might ravage the world like the Black Plague.

Could its financial brother do the same to the world's economy?

Frankly, it could.

But its origin is not in Hong Kong, but in the heretofore fabulously-wealthy imperial capitals. Blame their economic system and its simultaneous deep flaws and profound inequalities.

### Unpaid bills

It's the conjuncture of both these phenomena—global "overcapacity" and the collapse of unsustainable Third World economies—that account for the sudden appearance of phrases like "extremely acute financial panic," "deflation and depressions are unavoidable," and even "Herbert Hoover Hashimoto" [Japanese Prime Minister] in normally staid publications like the New York Times and The Economist.

After all, lots of poor nations allegedly "emerging" into First World status have gone suddenly belly-up for years now. It's Standard Operating Procedure for keeping the world divided into haves and have-nots:

Northern lenders, with glowing assurances, press Big Plans—dams, superhighways, nuclear reactors—on impoverished nations. The poor countries plunder their resources and pump out their cash in a fruitless race to keep up with interest charges. More loans are piled on to help pay for earlier ones. At last, the nations' currencies (the economies behind them now bled white) plummet, the entire venture collapses.

Back home, the bankers get bailed out by (mainly working class) taxpayers.

Overseas, the "bail-out" looks more like an enforcement visit from a loan-shark: companies and natural resources are signed over at fire-sale prices and austerity measures are imposed to squeeze even more from the poor.

### Too much

And so the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. If you're a lender, it's a great system—at least until you submerge a region that accounts for a third of all world trade. Or until plunder-driven collapse threatens to sweep plague-like across the globe.

True, previous bankrupted countries weren't quite the financial size of South Korea (world's 11th largest economy) or the human size of Indonesia (world's fourth most populous country).

But was the conjunction of the Far Eastern disaster with what New York Times financial writer Louis Uchitelle describes as "a developing world-wide crisis driven mainly by a phenomenon called over-capacity" that got even staid knees shaking.

"There is excess global capacity in almost every industry," the chairman of General Electric warned The Financial Times.

"[The global economy] produces," Uchitelle goes on, quoting another analyst, "more and more goods even as it suppresses wages...in both industrial and developing countries. You cannot do that—producing more and cutting the wages of those who buy—forever...."

Seems, says Uchitelle, that "the global economy appears, in effect, to be capable of self-destruction."

### Well, looky here

Now *that's* news, when The Communist Manifesto's basics are printed as analysis in the New York Times.

Of course none of this is news to those who didn't buy the last near-two decades' nonsense about "the triumph of capitalism" and miracle "trickle-down" wealth from free markets "raising everyone's boats." Nor is it news to the vast numbers of people long enduring economic calamity far worse than anything that has yet befallen the world's financial capitals.

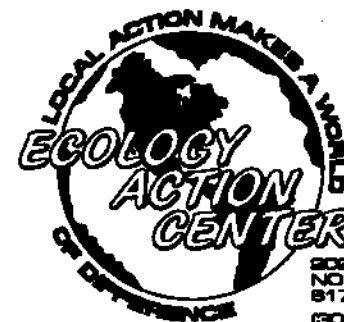
After all, nearly 70% of humanity has never made a phone call, more than 50% lack access to even a minimally sanitary toilet, and almost a quarter go without enough food to meet their basic daily needs.

No, the real news is—regardless of what happens with the immediate crisis—that millions of people in Far Eastern Asian people will not placidly accept the draconian cuts in their living standards now being dictated by international lenders.

Already, what The Financial Times called the "infamously militant South Korean workers" are on the move. So, too, are the vast peoples of Indonesia stirring, their uprising against the crumbling rule of the Suharto dictatorship a likely top story of 1998.

Our New York Times analyst declares, "There IS something to worry about." Hmm.... No doubt—if you're a chicken.

Eckardt, a Chicago writer, invites readers to visit his website [[www.SeeingRed.com](http://www.SeeingRed.com)] and leave comments or questions there.



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# Face to face with the

Over the New Year's holiday, my spouse and I traveled to Chiapas in southern Mexico to help build a school, to learn more about what is happening in that country, and to take a stance for peace and justice. We found ourselves, however, in a politically tense and militarized situation which threatened to explode at any moment. For me, this experience brought back strong memories of being 23 years old and driving over land mined roads in northern Nicaragua singing Dire Straits songs to myself to keep from going loopy. This is the story of what happened to us.

## Chiapas: A history of Marginalization

On January 1, 1994, Maya Indians in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas launched an armed uprising against the Mexican government. Calling themselves the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (Zapatista Army of National Liberation), they took over highland towns, including San Cristóbal de las Casas and Ocosingo. They protested centuries of oppression, exploitation, and exclusion from society. The Zapatistas, as they are commonly known, take their name from the Mexican Revolutionary war hero Emiliano Zapata who fought 80 years earlier for land and liberty. The uprising, which began the same day that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect, shocked people in Mexico and around the world.

Chiapas is an isolated area of Mexico. Originally, it had been part of the Central American country of Guatemala and only later became a Mexican state. The 1910-1920 Revolution made sweeping and progressive changes in Mexican society, but these changes were never felt at the country's southern border. Chiapas remained isolated and impoverished in 1994 when the Zapatista guerrillas decided to take things into their own hands and force changes in society.

People have asked whether this uprising is the last hurrah of 1980s-style leftist guerrilla wars in Central America or the beginning of a new type of ethnic struggle in Latin America. Because of its history, economy, language, and culture, Chiapas is much closer to Central America than Mexico. While guerrillas throughout Central America were signing peace accords and laying down their weapons, Indians in Chiapas were quietly planning to launch a new guerrilla war. Although concerned with all of the economic and class issues common to Marxist struggles in Central America, this struggle added clear new ethnic components. Above all, this would be an *Indian* struggle for land, autonomy, freedom, respect and liberty.

Rather than risking such sanctions, the Mexican government trains, equips, and supports informal paramilitary forces to carry out such campaigns. The members of these forces are local wealthy landowners who would lose their privileged position in society if a successful revolution would redistribute wealth and resources equally to the impoverished and marginalized Indians and peasants living in Chiapas. These paramilitary forces use such oxymoronic names as Paz y Justicia (Peace and Justice) and Guardias Blancas (White Guards).

**"I SAW HOW THE SHOOTING STARTED. They were killing the women, the boys, the girls, and the men."**

## Massacre of 45 Indians at Acteal

On December 22, 1997, paramilitary troops massacred 45 Tzotzil-Maya Indians in Acteal, Chenalhó, in the same general area where we would be traveling. Several dozen gunmen affiliated with and supported by the ruling Revolutionary Institutional Party (the PRI) spent over four hours hunting down and killing men, women, and children. In total, 16 children and 21 women were killed, 25 were seriously injured, and about a dozen were disappeared. Survivors reported that the gunmen, armed with AK-47 assault rifles, listened for crying babies in the brush, hunted them down, and killed entire families.

The people killed at Acteal were civilians who supported the opposition Zapatista movement. Despite a cease-fire and signed peace accords, the Mexican government has expressed a desire to wipe out, to "liquefy" this opposition. The best way to do this is by erasing their civilian base of support. The army as a formal institution of the Mexican state, however, cannot directly carry out this operation. To do so would mean that the Mexican government would have to face political, economic, and diplomatic sanctions from European governments and possibly even the United States.

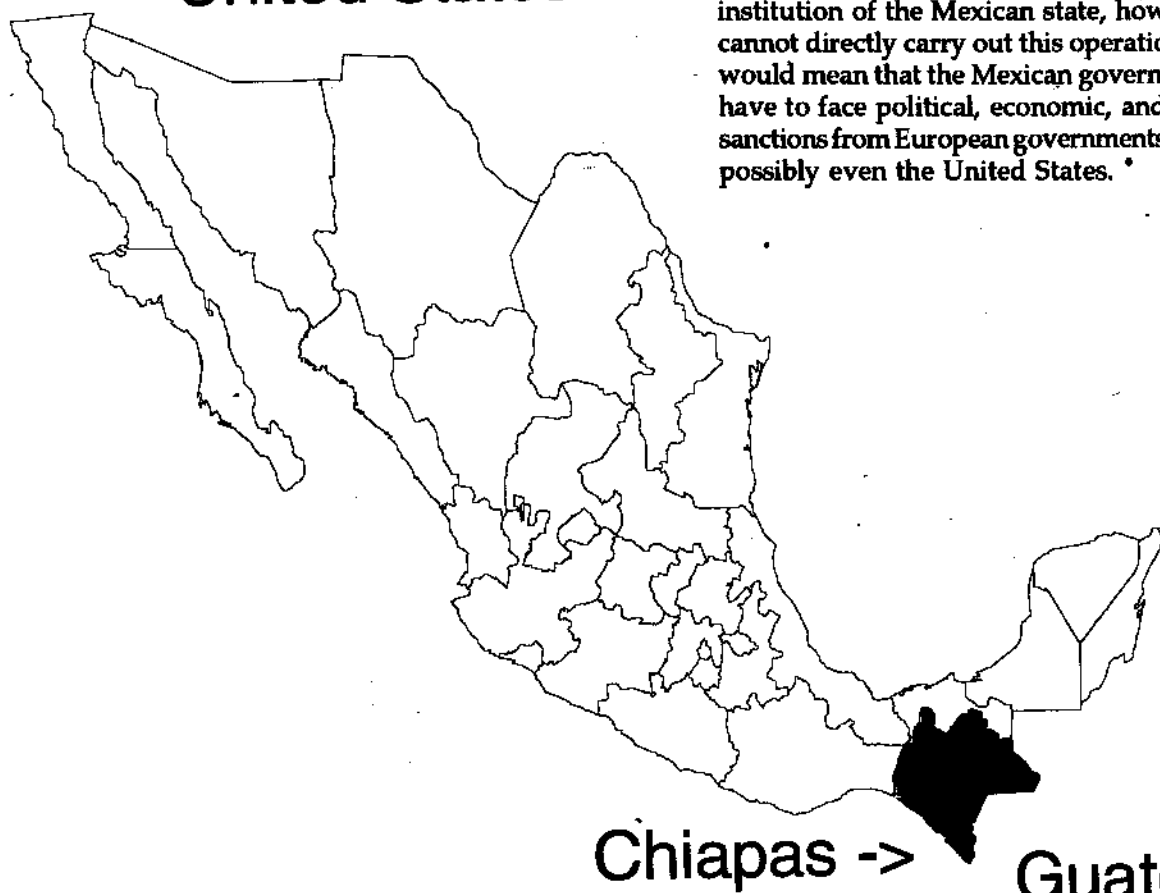
The strategy which these paramilitary forces appear to be following is to conduct egregious attacks on the Zapatista civilian base of support, thereby attempting to force the Zapatista guerrillas to respond militarily. This would therefore legitimize the formal Mexican military forces moving in and militarily crushing the armed opposition. The result would be a bloodbath, and the end of people's hopes for social change and justice in Chiapas.

## Pacifism in a violent land

I grew up in a family with a long pacifist tradition. I have a cousin who almost went to prison for refusing to register for the military draft in the 1980s. My dad spent 3 years working with a health clinic in Taiwan rather than fighting in Korea. My grandfather went to Canada so that he would not be drafted in World War I. My great-grandfather left Russia so that he would not have to serve in the Czar's army. And so my family history goes back for centuries. More important than consciously avoiding military duty, however, is the long struggle for social justice, and in this struggle a person occasionally has to take risks. Sometimes the risks are very great, and the penalties greater than what one would face picking up weapons and joining a military force. Anyone who thinks pacifists are cowards has never met a true pacifist.

In the mid-1980s I worked with Witness for Peace in Nicaragua. In 1979, Sandinista guerrillas swept into power promising social reforms much like those for which the Zapatistas in Chiapas are currently fighting. This was an inconvenient state of affairs for the wealthy elite and their supporters in the United States, and so they trained and armed the contra rebels. Much like the current paramilitary forces in Mexico, these extra-legal forces were not beholden to any laws and freely attacked, killed, and destroyed civilian populations. We discovered that the presence of United States citizens in militarized areas in Nicaragua stopped these attacks. If a United States citizen was killed, there would be a political backlash and the United States congress might cut off their military aid.

## United States





# military in Chiapas, Mexico

A similar situation with some interesting twists currently exists in Chiapas. In Nicaragua, my Nicaraguan friends would tell me to get my gringo face up in the front window of the vehicle to reduce the threat of the contras ambushing us. We traveled to Chiapas in a caravan of four buses with students from Mexico City. We internationalists hid among the students at immigration, police, and military checkpoints so that we would not be arrested and deported from the country.

We entered Chiapas in the immediate aftermath of the massacre at Acteal convinced that our presence would reduce tensions in the area. The military wanted to remove all international presence and attention in the area so that they would have free reign to conduct a campaign of terror against the Zapatistas. If we reported their human rights abuses, it would restrict their actions. Likewise, the presence of internationalists would cause the Zapatistas to hesitate in launching a military attack. It would be bad press for them if unarmed foreigners were accidentally killed in an offensive. Although a risky endeavor, we were optimistic that our presence would help bring peace to the region.

## The displaced at Polhó

On December 30, a week after the massacre at Acteal, we traveled to the community of Polhó where the survivors of the massacre were gathered in refugee camps. We delivered humanitarian aid and spent hours listening to testimonies about the massacre and other human rights abuses. The stories were all depressingly similar. Paramilitary forces supported by the ruling Mexican government party (the PRI) came in and shot, raped, and killed sons, daughters, mothers, and sisters. It gave me a sense of deja vu listening to the stories of survivors describing the horrors of contra attacks in Nicaragua in the 1980s.

While we listened to these accounts the Mexican army and public security forces were stationed around the refugee camp. After dark when we were ready to board our buses and return to our camp, the community sent us a message requesting that we ask the military to leave. This was, after all, the same military which had just trained and equipped the paramilitary forces which had massacred their families and neighbors.

We returned to where the army troops were stationed. We stood in a silent vigil demanding that the troops withdraw from the area. The air was tense as a soldier dropped the tailgate on their truck. What was their plan? Were they going to arrest us and throw us on the truck? Were they going to shoot us and throw our dead bodies in the truck? We held our ground. The truck rolled backwards toward our line. The soldiers slowly climbed into the truck and drove away. We cheered! We had gone face to face with the Mexican army and won! The next day the news media reported this event as an appropriate civilian response to a highly charged and militarized situation.

## Into the mountains

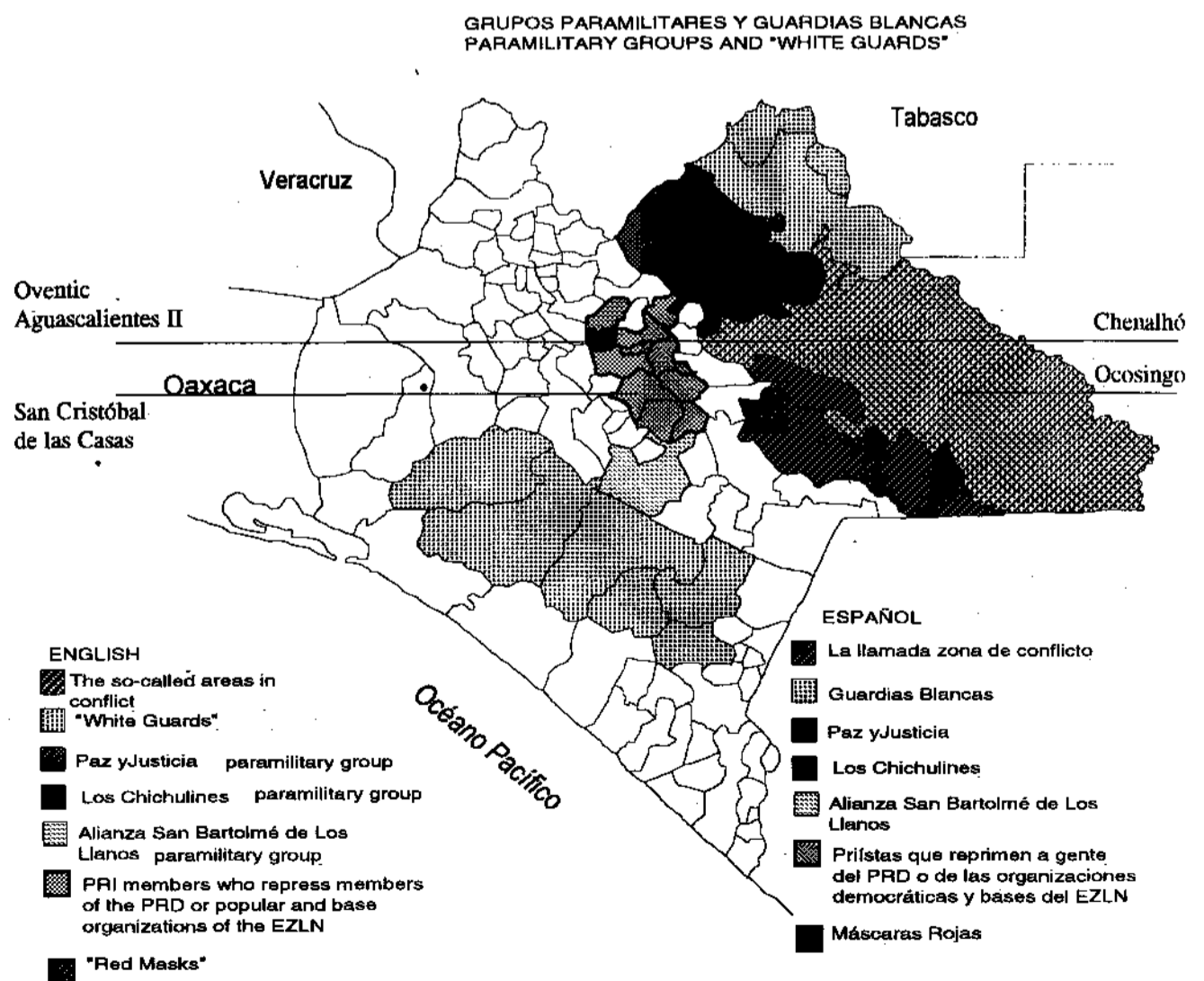
On the evening of January 1, we gathered after supper to discuss all of the events surrounding us. Commandante David, one of the Zapatista's principle leaders, interrupted our animated discussion. In a low voice which would not carry, he informed us that there was a possibility that paramilitary forces might attack our camp that night. We would have to evacuate under cover of night on foot. "Go quietly and calmly. Take what you can carry and everything will be alright," he told us. Although some internationalists unaccustomed to being told what to do protested, he made it clear that there was no room for discussion. "Es un orden." "It's an order." Then, with a deep sense of urgency in his voice, he whispered, "Prepare! Prepare!"

We gathered our sleeping bags, food, and what little we could carry and met back at the central auditorium. About three hours later the signal came to leave. Holding on to a cord so that we would not be separated in the night, we moved

out of the auditorium and up to the main road. We trotted along the road for about a kilometer before beginning an ascent up a steep, muddy trail. Heavily-armed Zapatista soldiers with radios guarded over our column of evacuees.

For about an hour, we slipped and fell up the dark and muddy trail, trying to move as quickly and quietly as possible. Finally we arrived at a village high up in the mountains. We were told we would be there for a while, but we might have to move on later that night. Planes and helicopters buzzed overhead. We were told to extinguish our flashlights and cover ourselves with plastic, a measure which seemed futile if the planes had infrared equipment. Some people tried to sleep. Others stayed awake, both from the cold and the sheer terror of an imminent attack by the same people who ten days earlier had conducted the massacre at Acteal where they had demonstrated their total lack of concern for civilian life, including that of women and children. In a situation like this, being an internationalist did not mean anything. If there was an attack, we would be killed along with everyone else.

## CHIAPAS PRESENCIA DE GRUPOS PARAMILITARES Y GUARDIAS BLANCAS PRESENCE OF PARAMILITARY GROUPS AND "WHITE GUARDS"





I had not been this terrified since evacuating a family who had just escaped from the contras in northern Nicaragua in April of 1986. As we drove them to safety dodging puddles in the road where the contras hid land mines, Sandinista soldiers patrolling the area yelled at us that the contras were going to get us. We knew they were there, and we knew that at that point our lives did not mean anything to them. Much like the contras who killed Ben Linder, the civil engineer from Oregon who was building micro hydroelectric plants in Nicaragua, the paramilitary forces in Mexico would have killed us, partially because human life means nothing to them and partially to discourage other internationalists from following in our footsteps.

Finally, daylight broke in the eastern sky. We received word that although the military was near, we would return to the camp, gather our stuff, board the buses, and leave for Mexico City. In the daylight, the trip back down the mountain was easier. We gathered the belongings we had left behind at the camp and said our good-byes. A kilometer from the camp, we passed military trucks which were waiting there. The following day, the villagers at Oventic once again had to evacuate their community because of repeated threats. Military patrols were much more severe and, according to press reports, there were rigorous checkpoints throughout the area. The government increased its talk of "liquidating" the Zapatistas.

For many of us on this trip, this was a deeply troubling, terrifying, traumatizing, and politicizing experience. We went into this camp with the intent of building a school, not of being involved in overt political actions. But when the Zapatista army protected us from the Mexican army and their brutal extra-legal paramilitary forces, it is difficult to remain politically neutral. We became players in a deadly game with ever-increasingly higher stakes. This is not a time to back down. Justice and life itself hangs in the balance.

—Marc Becker



**Authornote**

Marc Becker, a professor of Latin American History at Illinois State University, and his spouse Cheryl Musch traveled to the southern Mexican state of Chiapas from December 27 to January 2 to help build an Indigenous autonomous secondary school designed to instruct and train the local children in their native Maya languages.

**For more information**

There is a lot of good information on the Zapatistas and the current situation in Chiapas on the Internet. The following is a brief guide to some of the available material to help you start your search.

\* Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (<http://www.ezln.org>)

This site includes the official communiques (in Spanish and English) from the Zapatista Army, as well as other related information.

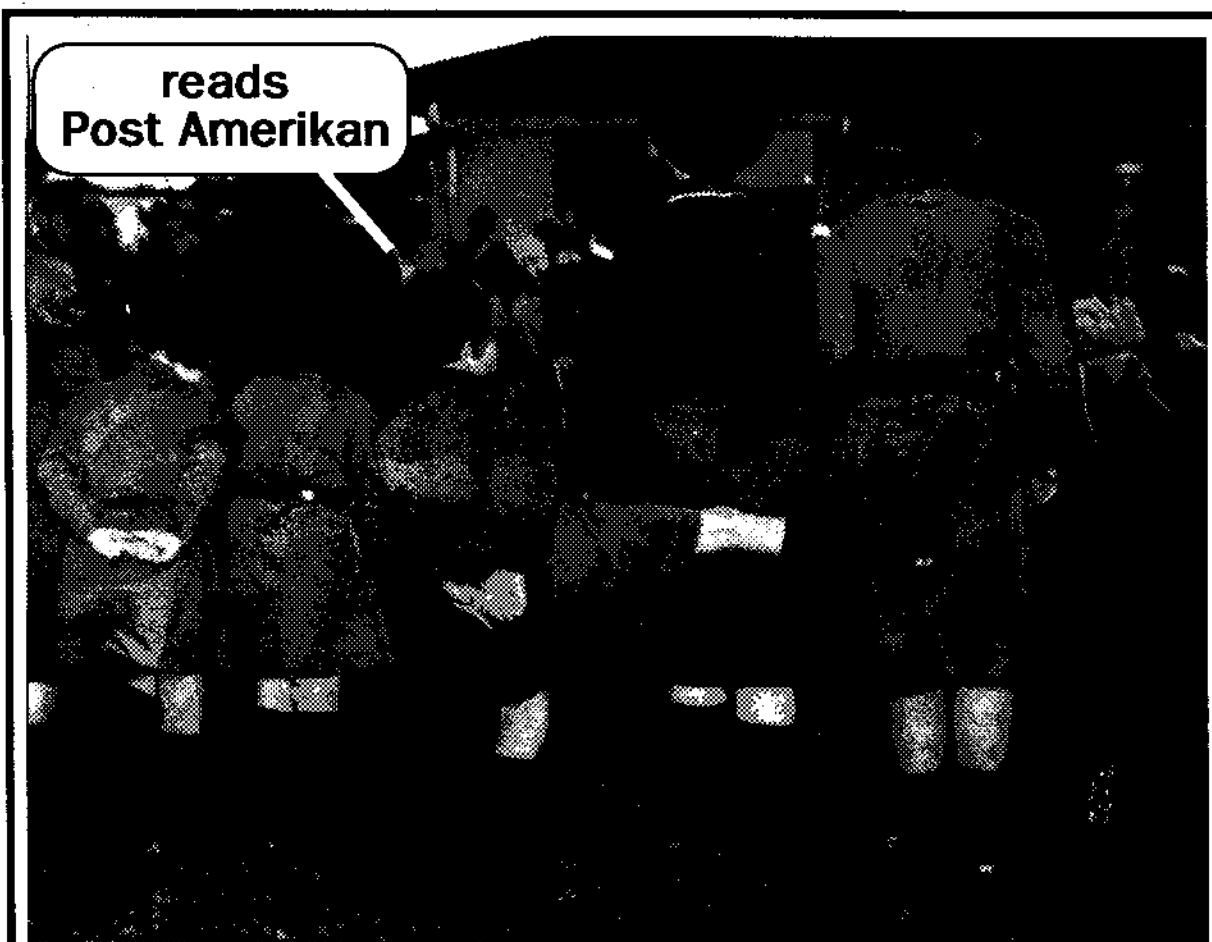
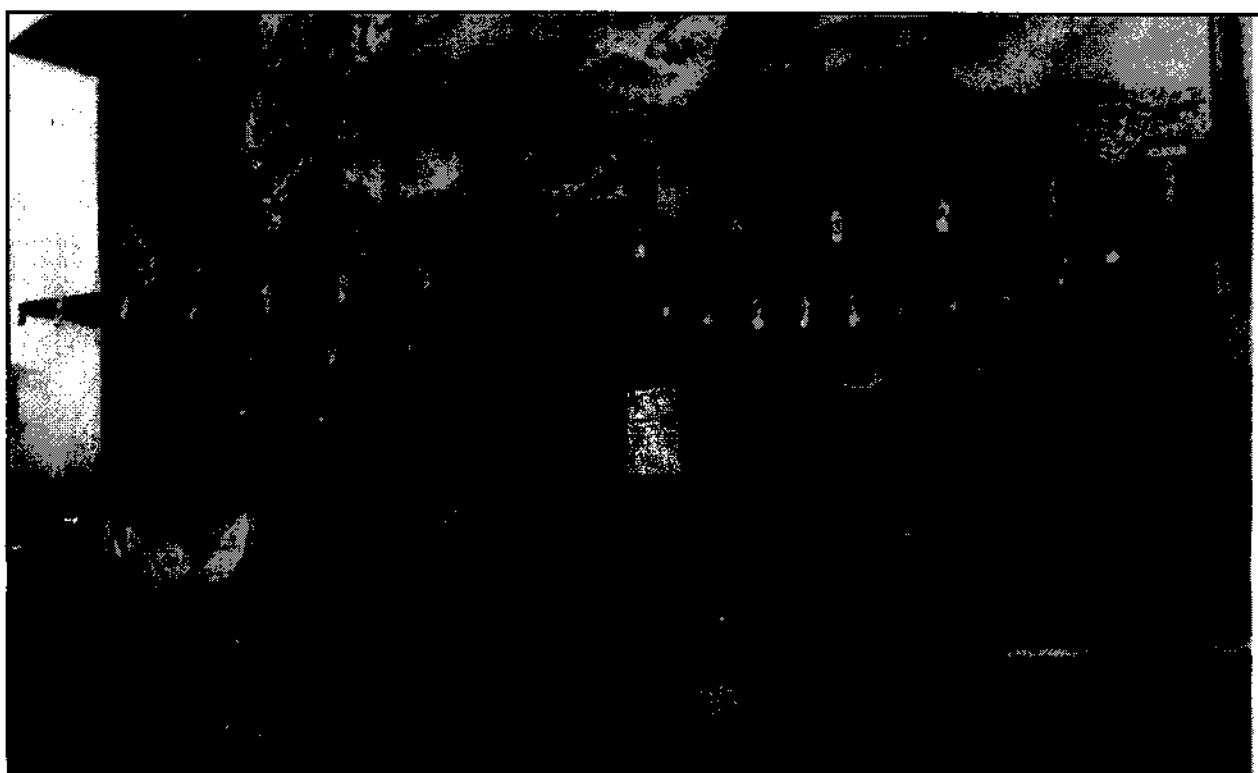
\* Frente Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (<http://spin.com.mx/~floresu/FZLN/>)

This is the official site of the political wing of the Zapatistas. There is an English version of this page at

<http://www.peak.org/~joshua/fzln/>.

\* Oventic Aguascalientes II School (<http://www.lightlink.com/wrehberg/ezschool.htm>)

This site describes the Indigenous secondary school at Oventic.



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# Testimonies collected at Polhó, Chenalhó, Chiapas, Mexico

On the afternoon of December 30, we collected testimonies in Polhó, Chenalhó, Chiapas from people displaced by the massacre in Acteal of 45 people, mostly women and children on December 22. It is evident from these testimonies that the massacre is only a piece of a much larger story. Many other people told us stories of fleeing governmental and paramilitary human rights abuses in the area. This story is best told by the people who live it. Please help distribute these testimonies as widely as possible.

"I saw how the shooting started. They were killing the women, the boys, the girls, and the men. We escaped into the mountains and when they saw us leaving the Zapatista bases, the authorities the police department assigned to the ejido (communal land) started to sell everyone's belongings, and they sold our land. They said that if we return to our community that they will kill us. I heard what the PRI-istas [people affiliated with the ruling governmental party] said: 'We have no fear; we have orders from the governor and he has bought plenty of AK-47s.' That is what the PRI-istas said. 'We have plenty of guns and enough bullets to kill all the Zapatistas. We are not afraid; if they return, we will kill them.' The municipal president ordered the bullets and bought the arms. I want to mention that I am very scared because if I say this they are going to punish me; they are going to kill us. I want to say the names of the people who have guns, who are the murderers, but I am very afraid."

—Displaced man

"I was in a church asking forgiveness from God and for peace in the world when I saw three trucks of PRI-istas pulling up that were cooperating with the state police. All of the people who were in the church escaped to the coffee fields and streams. We dispersed. The paramilitary PRI-ista groups managed to take everything out of our houses with the help of the state police. When the shooting finished, we started walking slowly, covering the children's mouths with cloth so the paramilitaries would not hear us."

—Displaced woman

"On December 22 in Acteal, community members were in the mountains praying to God. They had no weapons. We are not an army. We have no troops, but we are a Zapatista base community. Here our towns need more support. Three babies have died already from the cold. They have killed many people from the Zapatista base communities. The paramilitary, PRI-ista groups and the municipal president are organizing every day to help run people out."

—Representative of the Autonomous Municipality of Polhó

"Since we escaped and went into hiding a week ago, we have been safe. But the state police arrived with many paramilitaries and have been shooting nearby. For a week we haven't eaten for fear of being shot. For one week we have gone without food."

—Displaced woman

"What happens is that the state police are involved with the paramilitary. Three times the state police and the paramilitary groups ran people out of their houses. The municipal president told them to buy arms and ammunitions, and he gave them out like food in boxes, saying it was food for the Zapatistas. But what is going to happen? It is not food, but bullets to finish off the Zapatistas. That was how they killed these 45 people with high caliber ammunitions. The proof that we have is that they brought us a lot of shells here that are from the soldiers and the state police.

"Now the displaced people are here. They are very sick, looking very pallid. Yesterday a baby died from the cold and today at 6 a.m. another baby died. We have many problems here; we are beset by many health problems. The refugees are very afraid because the soldiers and the police are here. For all of us here in Polhó, we are afraid of the federal soldiers because we have seen what happens. The police do not protect us but together with the paramilitaries and the white guards, they are killing us. If the people see the soldiers or police, they run because they know they can start firing. We hope no more people die."

—Genaro, Autonomous Authority of Polhó

"I am not afraid to say my name. I to make my statement so that all nations will hear what is happening here. My name is Yolanda Tortuj Jimenez. They killed 8 members of my family. First my father died, then my brother, my little brother, and then the rest of the family. I am not afraid. This is my anger: Listen to the damned lies of the government. It is a bad government that ordered them to rob my store, that ordered them to kill my father. The public security police came to make sure that they had stolen everything from our store. This same government and the municipal president sent the public security. This is what I want to tell the public and the world."

—Woman from Tzajalukum

## Abuelita

An elderly woman from Mexico City was a member of our delegation to Chiapas. We knew her simply as "abuelita" (dear old grandmother). She obviously has been involved in struggles for justice her entire life. Upon our return to Mexico City, she gave the following moving description of our evacuation from Oventic Aguascalientes II.

We were at a fantastic party, as those of our Indigenous brothers and sisters always are. These parties are full of color, of soul, of life. After the party, they warned us that the White Guards were going to take Oventic. This is an impressive thing that one can not easily describe. The peacefulness and organization of our Indigenous brothers and sisters is truly impressive. They gave us orders to follow: "Take what you can carry and everything will be alright." We were in an auditorium

beautifully adorned with pine needles, precious flowers from the jungle, and other decorations which the Indigenous peoples had made. We waited there about two hours, each one with the belongings that they could carry, waiting for the order to leave. It was impressive to see how the entire caravan peacefully waited for the orders to leave. Like I said, we waited there for about two hours, ready to leave. We had a cord to hold on to so that we would go together. At the appointed time, they notified us that it was time to leave. Like a single person, we all stood up and followed the instructions they gave us. We had to leave Oventic and walk toward the mountains amidst a heavy fog and on unknown paths. But our Zapatistas brothers and sisters were always protecting us. They were always giving us the necessary instructions so that we would not panic, so that everything would be in order. After a long walk up a hill which was quite high we finally arrived at some houses where they accepted us so that we could sleep a little bit that night. Friends, the love of the Zapatistas is impressive. They have very little, but what little they have they shared with us with true love and a desire that we would not be the least bit uncomfortable. There we passed the night until finally they gave us an order to leave. And so here we all are safe and sound. But what we experienced is very little. They face this threat continually. It could happen at any moment. It could be in the morning. It could be at night. It could be at any hour that the army decides to enter to massacre, to destroy, because that is the only thing they know how to do. We felt content that we could share this moment with them, but we realized what it means for our brothers and sisters to be living under this terrible pressure. We need people to be very valiant and consistent, and to make ourselves available to these brothers and sisters who are giving their lives for us. This is what I have to say. Thank you.

## Photos

1. The sign "Bienvenidos a Aguascalientes II, corazón digno del EZLN y de todos los olvidados de nuestra patria" (Welcome to Aguascalientes II, dignified heart of the EZLN and of all the forgotten ones of our country) greeted us upon our arrival to the camp where we spent the week.

2. A mural on the front of the local health clinic (which was closed after our departure because of military threats in the region) featured a Maya god, Cuban revolutionary hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara, and the Mexican Revolution war hero Emiliano Zapata, after whom the Zapatistas take their name.

3. Author and historian Marc Becker pensively drinks a cup of campesino coffee for breakfast in the muddy open-air dining room of the camp. The coffee is made by mixing a cup of locally grown and ground coffee beans and a cup of sugar in water and allowing it to sit on top of a smoky fire all day long.





# Interview with Angelo Capparella

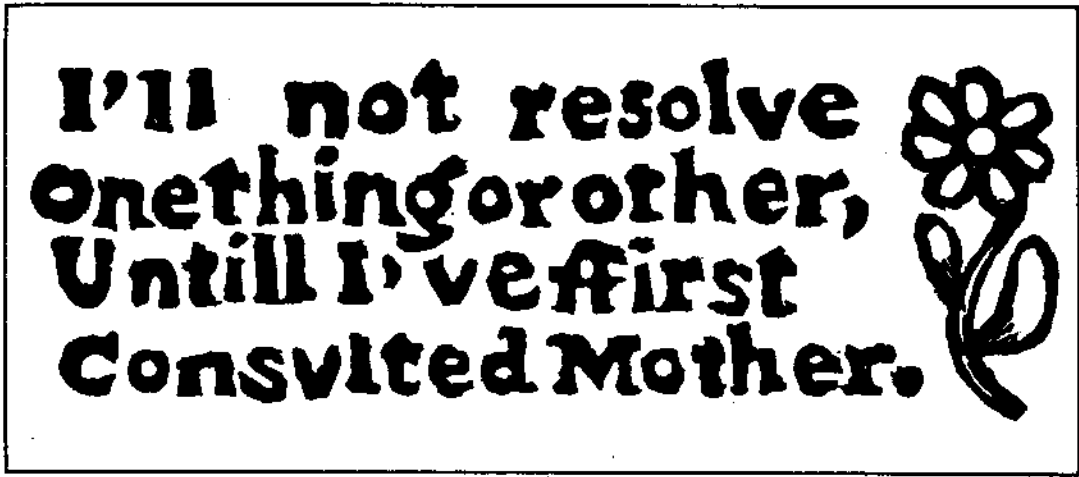
For this article I am going to interview Angelo Capparella who is an associate professor of biology at I.S.U. and a faculty advisor for S.E.A.C. (the Student Environmental Action Coalition). He has been quoted a number of times in the Pantagraph regarding environmental issues and he has agreed to be interviewed for the Post.

His approach now is to inform people of the World Scientists' Warning to Humanity, which was issued in 1992 and signed by many Nobel Prize winning scientists and many other scientists from many countries.

I consider the word "warning" to be a very strong word. I asked for his thoughts on the use of that word. Angelo said, "It is a serious word. But scientists recognize that we are causing severe stresses on the life support system of the planet. The warning signs are everywhere; from such things as the increased extinction rate, hundreds of times above normal, the first signs of human caused global climate change, and the decline of the ozone layer."

G.B.: "Warning implies danger. Is that right?"

A.C.: "Yes. Both our human health and our economic health ultimately depend on the health of the biosphere."



G.B.: "Our society doesn't seem to understand the connection between a healthy ecosystem and the economy."

A.C.: "I define a healthy economy as a sustainable economy. Obviously, if your economy is based on damaging natural resources such as air, water, forests, fisheries, and soil, then it is not an economy that will last very long."

G.B.: "Obviously."

A.C.: "The conflict between jobs and the environment is a false conflict. Most people with jobs want their jobs to be sustainable and not lead to health problems for themselves or their families."

G.B.: "Corporate spokespeople will usually present an opposing view. How do you see that view?"

A.C.: "It is a case of ecological denial either through ignorance or willful rejection of basic scientific understanding. Unfortunately, corporate interests take an extremely short-term perspective on what they are doing. That is why it is incumbent on the public, through their elected government, to force corporations to take a long-term perspective."

G.B.: "Hopefully, we understand that we need air to breathe and water to drink and food to eat and so will our children and so will their children and so will their children and on and on. And only the natural world can provide those things."

A.C.: "The problem is not enough people understand the interconnection between our modern society and the biosphere. People don't understand the many ways we are damaging and degrading the natural world."

G.B.: "So, it would seem as if that understanding would be very necessary for people to act rightly here."

A.C.: "People need to become ecologically literate in a scientific and moral sense."

G.B.: "Please comment on the 'moral' aspect of this."

A.C.: "We need to, in the words of Aldo Leopold (author of A Sand County Almanac), 'develop a land ethic that recognizes that the land, i.e. biosphere, is a community and not a commodity. And we humans are merely one species who are temporary tenants of the land'."

G.B.: "For this society to recognize the natural world as a community that we are a part of, rather than a commodity that we can selfishly and thoughtlessly use, would represent a huge change in consciousness. How can we make that leap?"

A.C.: "That is the challenge. It is not a choice. We either make it soon, or nature will make it for us."

G.B.: "A thinning of the human herd, in other words."

A.C.: "That is usually done in three ways: famine, disease, and war for scarce resources."

G.B.: "So we make good choices or we face consequences we won't like."

A.C.: "We still have time to avoid those consequences, but the window of opportunity is narrowing."

G.B.: "So time is critical. People need to be thinking seriously about these issues. What are some books that would help people grasp what is involved here?"

A.C.: "Any recent book by Paul Ehrlich. Any publication by the World Watch Institute. They can also contact me directly at I.S.U. at 438-5124."

G.B.: "Any final thoughts?"

A.C.: "I hope people will become a part of the global community in terms of their knowledge and their actions. I hope people will turn their concerns into grassroots political activities because, like it or not, politics is the way we develop public policy."

-Gregg Brown

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## Gay Relationships: A book review by Don Faust

I picked up the book *Gay Relationships*, by Tina Tessina thinking it might help me meet someone. Little did I know it would cover all the bases, from meeting someone for the first time, to "happily ever after."

The book was written by a therapist (of course!), in a fairly up-front, not-too-schmaltzy way. She discusses some of the differences between traditional heterosexual relationships and gay ones: in particular, the issue of being out vs. not being out, and the tensions that can be created if each person is at a different stage; the issue of homophobia; the importance of a social network, especially if the families or work environments aren't particularly supportive, etc.

Having read many a book on relationships, I found this to be somewhat simplistic and more of an overview of gay relationships, as opposed to delving heavily into the various issues. But the book does provide some helpful advice about establishing ourselves as capable persons having and maintaining healthy relationships and families. Above all, the author emphasized the need for each couple to be honest in all areas of the relationship, something which appears easy on the surface, but can be very complex and difficult when tender emotions are involved.

The part I appreciated most, since I'm not currently in a relationship, was the discussion about meeting people. Having been on various "squirrel hunts" myself, it's nice to be reminded that chasing them seldom works. They only run faster! Simply being in places you like to be, doing the things you like to do, is usually enough to at least spark a common interest with someone.

With the above reservation, I recommend this book as a "how to" manual for anyone, whether single, or coupled for many years. It has chapters dealing with conflict resolution, negotiating skills, and even breaking up, if that becomes necessary. On the whole, *Gay Relationships* is a practical, if sometimes too simple, guide.

--QCAD News

## Brassed Off--Working Class survival

If Americans often judge and act according to racial categories, Britains act on class. British society is defined by class status, with little mobility from the working class to the middle or upper.

That raw divide, open in British society but hidden in America, is the underlying theme of *Brassed Off*, a British film available for rental soon.

You can label *Brassed Off* a comedy, though it's also a very serious film, with a gutsy message of working class endurance and survival.

The film is set in the Yorkshire mining district in 1992, when British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is closing mine after mine, ravaging the small mining towns. The Grimley mine is next on the block, with the miners offered a pay-off in exchange for an early shut-down. Or do they press their luck, hoping their mine and their jobs will survive the closings?

More than a coal mine is at stake here--it's the community's survival. Will their town become another grim British working class town, marked by high unemployment and no future? Or will they hang onto their traditions and their roots?

The greatest expression of those roots is their brass band--the Grimley Colliery Band. A British tradition, many mining and working class communities organized bands in the 19th century as signs of community pride.

Danny (Peter Postlethwaite), an older miner, lives for the band. His fellow miners are less than enthusiastic, ready to let the band, and the mine, end. Danny's relentless dream is to polish the band to such precision and musical grace that they can win the National Championships in London. But few share his single-minded vision.

Danny, living for his band, can't see that his son Phil (Stephen Tompkinson) is in danger, just like the town. Imprisoned for earlier strike action, in debt, his marriage endangered, Phil

is ready to crack. Playing a clown at children's parties to pay the rent, he barely retains his sanity. He even loses his clown job when he cracks at an upper-class church party, launching into a tirade against a society that now finds miners and workers useless.

The band barely survives. A band member's grand-daughter, Gloria (Tara Fitzgerald) returns, awakening an old flame in miner Andy (Ewan McGregor) and helping pull the band back together. Until the miners realize she's working for the British Coal Board and helping decide their fate. And Danny, with his dream of the national finals, is stricken with the black lung.

This film is a very human story of a working class town, proud of its hard work and roots, a product of the iron and coal age, now an industrial by-product in the electronic age. A telling scene of worker pride comes in the pub, when one of the workers calls Andy a "scab." The strength of British working class roots shake and Andy is ready to fight. The confrontation cools when the perpetrator backs down, telling Andy he's not a "scab," but an "MF." That Andy accepts, but not the scab label.

Although deathly serious, the film is still very enjoyable. This is not rollicking, slapstick comedy, but instead a human comedy -- a story of very real people suddenly faced with a dramatic life change. Larger economic forces have disrupted their lives. Do they cave in or survive to fight another day?

The brass instruments are polished, the rehearsals increased, and the Grimley Colliery Band becomes a symbol of proud defiance.

Watch this film and you'll see echoes of what many Americans have endured in this free-trade, downsized world. And you'll see again that that spirit that helps working people pull themselves together to survive another day.

--Livingston & McLean Counties Union News

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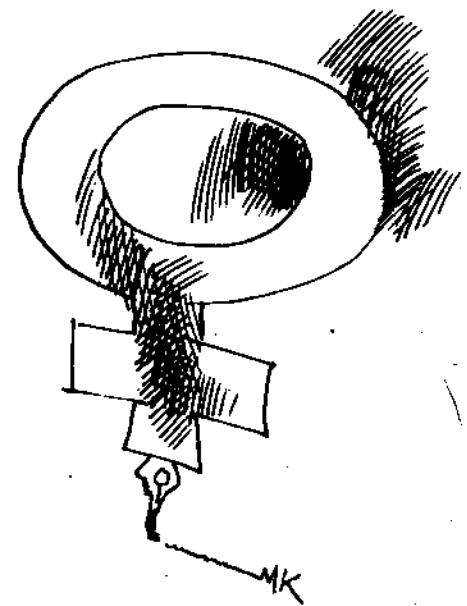
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STYLIST: TRISHA WULF

All types of hair



# Towanda reviews girly magazines



## All About You!

Published by Peterson Publishing Co.  
Monthly \$2.95

**Who reads it?** Apparently females 10-14 year old-ish who are not yet girlish enough for *Seventeen*; who like to spend their babysitting money on raspberry perfume and orange glitter nail polish. Likes to take quizzes!

At first glance, I thought this magazine had more substance than *Teen* or *Seventeen*. Boy, was I wrong! "All About You!" should be renamed "All About You Trying All To Be Alike" or, "All About Quizzes." There are eight, count them, eight quizzes in this issue. Two of them are titled, "Do you love to shop?" and "Does your social life need a makeover."

Aside from a two page Columbia House™ ad, the other entertainment ad comes from a 4 page spread for three Milton Bradley™ games. "Dream Phone-with over 20 cute guys to talk to!" "Girl Talk- dare to find out all about your friends and what they think of you!" and "Mall Madness- Go totally mad shopping spree whenever you want!" What's even grosser is Milton Bradley's slogan - "It's our world, girls." This jump on the bandwagon false girl power sentiment seems to sum up the whole magazine.

It's our world, girls - stay away.

## Teen

Published by Peterson Publishing Co.  
Monthly \$2.95

**Who reads it?** See above.

What a coincidence! Peterson Publishing Co. also publishes *Teen*. The only difference I can see is that it targets a market that is much more obsessed with beauty and health and personal care. (Or will be after reading this) A whopping 25% of the magazine consists of *advertising* for makeup, soap, hairspray, tampons, nail polish, etc. The rest of the magazine consisted of articles that talked about makeup, soap, hairspray, tampons, nail polish, etc.

Yick!

## Bitch

Published/Edited by Lisa Jervis  
3 times a year \$3.25

**Who reads it?** This zine caters to smart media savvy people who keep advertising executives scratching their heads over demographic categories.

*Bitch: feminist response to pop culture* lives up to its name in every way. (I picked this up at Qvimby's in Chicago.) The current issue (El Nino 1997, vol. 2, no.3.) contains a disturbing article/interview on RealDolls™ (www.realdoll.com). These silicone sex toys can be customized for virtual sex for a cost of \$3,999. Also included is an interesting review that slams the *Sports Illustrated Women/Sport* magazine, a critique of men's magazines, and reviews of books and music. There is even an article criticizing Dr. Laura.

Subscriptions to *Bitch* are available for twelve bucks. Make checks out to Bitch Publications and mail it to: Bitch Publications, 3128 16th Street, Box 201, San Francisco, CA 94103.

## Jane

Published by Fairchild aka ABC  
Bimonthly \$2.95

**Who reads it?** Post *Sassy* chicks who can't really relate to (or don't want to) *Cosmo* or *Mademoiselle*. Readers secretly hope *Jane* is everything *Sassy* was, but all grown up.

Named after Jane Pratt, editor in chief, but better known as the goddess who started *Sassy* when it was sassy. Now a few years later, Jane has decided to start up another mag to recapture the hip kids (now twentysomethings) she tried to attract six years ago.

The very first issue of *Jane* was published last fall and it featured Drew Barrymore (one of my favorite's so I picked it up.) I can honestly say that I wasn't too impressed. The writing seemed interesting and there was a good variety of different articles, but something just didn't feel right. I finally figured out one of the reasons - the photography. Nice artsy

pictures, but way too many full pages all layed out one after another. The magazine is not cohesive - the articles seemed clumped together.

Anyway, this month's *Jane* (Jan/Feb. 1998) has some redeeming qualities. For starters, Jane Pratt poses the question of if we should reclaim the word "broad" just like others have with "girl" and "queer". Also, *Jane* released their list of the 15 gutsiest women of 1997, and making that list were two of my other favs - Janeane Garofolo and Ani DiFranco.

Although the people at *Jane* would like to believe they are on the cutting edge, unfortunately all the models were waifish and the articles too predictable.

## Jump

Published by Weider Publications

**Who reads it?** Girls 15-up that are interested in what other girls their age are doing, wearing and reading.

Hey, this is kinda new, and I'm sorta diggin' it! *Jump* seems to pick up where *Sassy* left off. It's filled with articles of substance and (so far) lives up to its slogan of "for girls who dare to be real".

A few of the articles that caught my eye were ones on positive body image, safe sex, unnecessary dieting, female snowboarders and female hockey players. Although, articles like the above, seem to be staples in this magazine, it also contains articles on affordable fashion (not just for kids), recipes, fun makeovers and quotes from your fav Hollywood stars.

Although this magazine contains advertisements for health and beauty products, it is not defined by them. *Jump* gives a teenage girls a strong, and very necessary message that they don't have to look like a super model, they can look like themselves!

Move over *Teen* there's a new kid on the block!

## e-zines on the web

try the following for personal/political/feminist/etc. zines

www.bust.com  
www.desertmoon.com  
www.bguide.com

towanda!

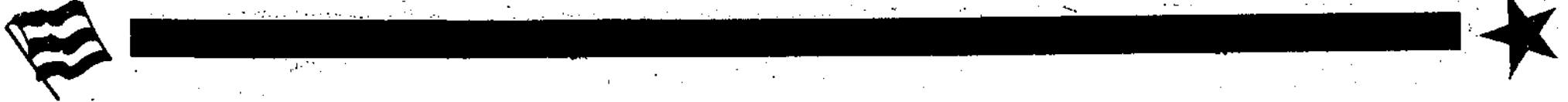
WHAT'S GOING ON!

**ESCAPIST**

MAGAZINE

Central Illinois' Entertainment Authority

Available in Greater Peoria, Bloomington/Normal, and Champaign/Urbana.



# Socialist tape probes labor questions

With all the wide variety of communication technologies available these days, perhaps one not getting its due is that slim little cassette tape. It's inexpensive to produce and reproduce and can be listened to in a variety of settings.

"Radio Free Maine" has recently done a series of tapes on a variety of political topics. These can be a nice break from the usual musical offerings available on tape though they probably don't pack the same excitement.

"What's Happening to Labor" was a panel at the 14th Socialist Scholars Conference in New York, April 1996, available from RFM.

It's weakness lies in what it is--a scholarly conference--with speakers going in round-robin fashion. You'll find no electronic exploration of the medium or cross-dubbing here.

Basically you get five speakers reflecting on the current state of labor. Jose LaLuz, an Hispanic organizer with the Service Employees International Union, shares an exciting and poetic vision of cross-cultural, cross-national organizing, looking to a labor movement that moves beyond national boundaries to challenge global capital.

His message is echoed by Chris Woods, a veteran organizer, who shares her disappointments with too-often bureaucratic organizations, yet also has a multi-cultural vision of organizing potentials,

alienated from the political system. She sees campaigns like the AFL-CIO's "America Needs a Raise" and community-based living wage efforts as activism that can re-energize people to political involvement and challenging power structures.

Since this is a scholars conference in New York City, it wouldn't be complete without a parochial New York intellectual. Robert Fitch nicely plays the role, whining about New York workers and unions because they're not like the French. It gives him an excuse to drop lots of French phrases and place names. Like a good

New Yorker, his vision is as wide as that narrow strip from the East to the Hudson rivers and is full of political references that only someone well-versed in New York politics would understand. If this is your idea of a good time check out a Woody Allen movie for someone who does it much better.

Perhaps the highlight of the tape, just for sure liveliness, spirit and, as Fitch would say, "joie de vivre," is Kate DeSmet, a striking Detroit Times reporter who helped start the workers' alternative weekly, the *Detroit Sunday Journal*. There's no abstract theory here, just a heartfelt story of someone on strike, struggling to keep her own spirits up and finding unique ways to resist two national chains (Gannett and Knight-Ridder) that are intent on breaking Detroit's newspaper unions.

For a current list of tapes available from Radio Free Maine write to Roger Leisner, Radio Free Maine, PO Box 2705, Augusta, Maine 04338. For up-to-the-minute labor information and to support Kate DeSmet in her efforts the *Detroit Sunday Journal* costs \$15 for 3 months and this publication is a direct affront to the big newspaper chains. Send your check to the *Sunday Journal*, 450 W. Fort St., Detroit MI 48226--and boycott *USA Today*, the big chain paper behind the Detroit union bust.

-MgM

It's obvious to all of us that this country is racked with a stunning number of problems, ills and injustices. We don't have to go very far to see them first hand, but where we do need to go the distance is in the neighborhood of action. And that starts with us. We, as a society, need to start investing in ourselves where the government programs stepped off. It's no secret that a large portion of government programs to fix our defects are usually "too little, too late" or even devoid of a clue when it comes to relief. But if we stand up, take a call to arms and legs and start right here in our home to work for betterment, goals will be accomplished.

There are a number of places right here in our own backyard that will be more than grateful for even just a few hours of our week. There is even a wide variety of volunteer opportunities to suit every kind of interest and need. Everything from the Baby Fold to nursing homes. The AIDS Task Force to the YMCA. Even the David Davis mansion and the local library can use volunteers. Just turn this copy of the *Post Amerikan* back to Page 2 and look at the list of "Good Numbers". Right there is a list of some community organizations complete with phone numbers for us to call up and ask how we can get involved.

Also, remember that excuses have never changed a thing. And talking about change has produced nothing. With or without government programs, in the end it is up to us. A few hours a week, even a month, soon adds up to results. Take initiative this year. Make a difference. Give a little time. The feeling we will receive just knowing that we had an impact on our community, or even just *one person*, will be all the reward we can ask for. It's an amazing sense of fulfillment. And it starts here, in our home, with us.

Here's for a better year, my friends. A year of motion and change.

--Dan Knestaut

Editors Note: The *Post Amerikan* is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in writing, helping with editing or layout, or would like to help us with advertisements, please call 828-4473 and ask for Sherrin.

## Letters

### A call to arms...and legs

Can you believe it? We're already a whole month into 1998! Before we know it, the holiday season will boldly be back again and the year will be over. However, there are still eleven months of opportunities to be taken advantage of. Plenty of time for all of us to get out into our community, move and shake and make a difference in our lives.

the Lavenders

-david.Ⓟ





# Finding the

*There is only one difference between a madman and me. I am not mad.*

-Salvador Dali

*Imagination is more important than knowledge.*

-Albert Einstein

*If there is a soul, it is a mistake to believe that it is given to us fully created. It is created here, throughout a whole life. And living is nothing else but that long and painful bringing forth.*

-Albert Camus

*Taking a new step, uttering a new word is what people fear most.*

-Fyodor Dostoevsky

*What is important to me is not the truth outside myself, but the truth within myself.*

-Konstantin Stanislavsky

Creativity seems to be inherent to the human soul. I believe it is what makes us human and life a joy to live. It needs nurturing to flourish and develop, and is not honored in our society, and is thus sadly lacking.

In each of us lies the potential for wildness and greatness. We each possess something we could potentially excel at, given the proper nurturing in our childhood. Not only are they not nurtured, the "arts" are seen as less valued than the "three r's" that are emphasized in our public school system. If you can just get through school, learn to read, do well in science, math or computers, and be like everyone else, then you will succeed in the business world. Granted, there is much creativity and beauty found in these, but the emphasis is placed on the "practical" and "rationality" of these. Heaven forbid that a child isn't good at math, but excels in drawing, music, sculpting, or other arts. They are seen as less successful, and a cause for concern.

When talking with creative people or artists, I am usually struck by how somewhere in their lives they were acknowledged in their family for their creativity. It was honored. They were given the freedom to succeed and experience joy in the creative process. They often have creative people or other artists in their family. They have usually seen a parent or close family member "make things" even if it is sewing, knitting, building, or other crafts that aren't commonly acknowledged as art, though this isn't always the case. Sometimes their family doesn't have a creative bone in their collective bodies, but it was the family's approval of and the freedom to pursue the creative process that brought them to be the wild folks they are today.

Creativity requires wildness. A freedom of spirit. A freedom often fought for throughout a person's life.

Recently I have been tracking the roots of creativity in my life and in those of my friends, and the cost of creating. I have been in pursuit

of something lost in my childhood...my art. My ability to draw and paint and create with freedom and joy.

My parents were divorced back in 1965 when I was two and a half years old. My father, thankfully, got custody of me, and my mother was, blessedly, only in my life sporadically. She caused much pain and suffering in my life, but she and my aunt and grandparents on that side of the family gave me one great gift. They introduced me to my creative spirit. In the midst of their mental illnesses, rages, inability to function in normal relationships, many beautiful things happened.

## Enter the Dugans

My grandfather's uncle walked through a snowstorm when he was thirteen to give him a guitar for Christmas, and he taught himself to play the guitar, first by ear, and then to read music. He began playing and singing in churches and continued to do so for the rest of his life, into his sixties and maybe older. He eventually would also learn to restore them, and in his fifties bought his first electric guitar. Many were the Sunday afternoons that he and I would sit upstairs and sing together while he played the electric guitar. He bought me a guitar and paid for lessons for my ninth birthday.

In high school, he taught himself calligraphy from a dictionary. He wrote poetry, and once had some published when he was young, which wasn't so common then and he was very proud of this. In his fifties he started college, and began taking art classes. Eventually he began selling his work, won some awards in art shows, and had one of his pieces printed in a book about Illinois. It was some abstract painting with butterflies. In his seventies he began sculpting, again abstractly, with a saw and finer tools on logs by seeing the pictures in the wood and carving them out...all the eyes and faces and buildings that we all notice in the grains of wood.

He loved weapons (!?!); I discovered last year, but wouldn't hunt. He once gave a brand new rifle to a man just because the man thought it was such a wonderful piece, and this man told my birth father last year that he shot his first moose with the gun, and always thinks of Howard when he uses it. I was there the evening he walked in the front door carry his new bow, and his excitement as he showed it to us. I watched him target shoot in the backyard, and he even let me shoot a bb gun, something my father would have forbidden had he known. He would then go throw basketballs in his hoop mounted to a tree in the back yard. In spite of all the abuse, viciousness and loss he experienced in his life, his was a wild, creative spirit, which remained undaunted throughout his life.

My grandmother lacked confidence in everything, and was overwhelmed by the presence of my grandfather. All of them were, to some extent, being constantly subjected to his rages, his whims and his games, never knowing how he would be one hour to the next. She

began painting in her sixties, but wouldn't seriously commit herself to this or anything due to her fear of failure, and eventually gave it up to continue her half-hearted existence. I remember always watching television with her; soap operas, Disney. I don't ever remember watching t.v. with Grandpa. I loved her dearly, and she is the only member of the family I am in contact with today.

My Aunt Peggy was also creative. She played guitar and sang beautifully. I remember as a little girl seeing her on television singing with some other young college students and thinking she was famous. Two pairs of her "hippy earrings" are my favorites still, and I remember her long hair, her long haired boyfriends with full beards, and her playfulness. She had a style, which she somehow lost as she got older.

And Donna. My birth mother. She was a wild one! She could sing wonderfully, played the piano, painted, drew, cooked, wildly decorated and dressed, and listened to amazing and strange music...rock, classical...all the things I never listened to at home, where the Muzak style was all I heard. Her *nudes*, much to my embarrassment, were displayed everywhere! I saw *Fiddler on the Roof* opening night with her in the theatre, and still remember my shock at seeing a bunch of adults dressed up at a movie, clapping at the end. She was a hairdresser, which for her was an art, and a temperamental one at that. On her good days, she was a genius, and on her bad...well, the results were less than wonderful. Still, she had a strong following, and ended up opening a really hot shop with James who was, gulp, the first gay person I ever knew. Eventually, after she had some type of "breakdown," she sold the shop to James...and her customers followed her to her new location. One of the big reasons she gave me to my father was that she wanted to party and have her freedom.

Later in life she chose money and security over herself. I think, though, it in part started as an adventure to her. She married a man named Dick (who she renamed Richard) who had a good, steady job and was getting transferred to Europe. I think she wanted to travel and see the world, and be "taken care of" so she could do her art, something she always told me to look for in a man—someone to support me so I could do my "art." She took me all around. I ate in restaurants, saw an opera performed in the oldest outdoor theatre still in use in Italy, hung out with some ambassador's daughter in Switzerland, and got tipsy with her for the first time in my life at the age of 12, and went to a few ritzy, glittery parties. She was never very consistent in my life, but finally she had a child by Richard, and pushed me slowly but surely out of her life where everything became more and more normal. Pearls, gold, furs coats, Persian rugs, fine wine, and the good Lord. Lots of fine wine. Eventually she became a "religious" fanatic who now drinks a lot and does prescription drugs, denying her past abortions, past wildness, and even her daughter of the past...me. She pretended I didn't exist for many, many years to her neighbors and closest friends (who were shocked meeting me



# wilderness within

at a party ten years ago). Her denial of her creativity and wild self is so complete that she lives a miserable existence as a stranger to even herself, having never even met her grandchildren. She lives only a half hour away from me.

That is my wild, creative heritage.

## The balance and loss

On the other side were my father and step-mother, who took the place of my birth mother. She did nothing creative at all. My father, who is odd and quirky in his own way, and used to have a wildness, was terrified I'd turn into my mother. My father locked up his wildness when he got custody of me and followed a path other than his dream in order to provide for us. With how he saw my mother practically abandon me, he decided to make up for it all. Unfortunately, he saw all my creative aspects as a reflection of her in me and, I believe, did everything he could crush that so I wouldn't end up like her. At the end of my first year of guitar, we moved. There was much turmoil going on in their personal lives, and my grades dropped. I didn't give the letters from my teacher to my parents, because I was too scared. My punishment? I was not allowed to continue in guitar. Music was not considered a valid and equal part of my education. Neither was art or acting. I wasn't encouraged in art classes. Never once did my parents go to a speech team event. My folks did attend one play I was in, with a bit part, but the one play that was special...it was selected mostly for me....they not only did not attend, they almost pulled me out and demanded changes. Why? My character portrayed an alcoholic. My father was afraid it would encourage me to emulate my mother's behavior.

Once, at my my step-mother's request, I drew a beautiful picture for her and paid to have it professionally framed with money I had earned baby-sitting. It cost me a lot twenty years ago...\$45. After all of that, she hung it in her bedroom. It probably meant nothing symbolic to her; she probably thought it looked the best there, or put it there because it was special to her. To me it was a rejection of my work. I put my heart and soul into this drawing, and in the midst of all the little crayon drawings and clay pots of my 7 year old brother that she had out downstairs, my art was, I thought, hidden in the bedroom where no one would see it because it wasn't good enough. It was the last art class I ever took and the last drawing I ever did. Today, each time I go into my parents' home I stand in front of that drawing of the sad-eyed little girl, and I want to cry. I mourn for myself and how I lost that ability, walling it away slowly but deliberately. When entering college I made one more attempt, by announcing (without much conviction) that I wanted to be an art major, and being told that there was absolutely nothing I could do with that, and it would be a waste of my time and money. I truly believe that, subconsciously, my father attempted to squelch any creative urge he saw in me because of his associations of creativity with

irresponsibility, immaturity, and instability; the three "I's" of my birth mother's egocentric personality.

## Journey inward

So, I continued to try to do everything right, to please all, and was miserable. After wanting to be dead my whole life, and disappearing more, and planning my suicide, I saved myself. Thrive not survive! I taught myself that following the path of joy, happiness and creativity was more important than trying to be normal, as my family wanted me to do. It has been a struggle for many years, this slow journey into the wilderness of my soul, but gradually it has been paying off.

I chose to do those things in life for ME, not for others, including "living in sin" (gasp) for many years, and having a child out of "wedlock." I pierced my nose not because it was cool ten years ago, but because as a child I always thought it very beautiful in pictures of women from India and dreamt of having it done. Lo and behold, one day after "communing with the elements" for a week up at Alpine Valley with the Dead over the solstice, I was walking down the main drag and saw a woman piercing noses. I did it. This was when I had a "real" job with one of the most powerful private social service agencies in the state at that time, and a good position at that. I decided that piercing my nose was more important to my soul than my job. Simple as that. They could fire me if they wanted, but I deserved this fulfillment of my childhood fantasy.

I taught myself beading after seeing it done once, and made many beautiful and wonderful things. Exploring the wilderness continued and I quit my job, opening a day care in my home, and I didn't even have kids at the time. I studied Wicca, and had a tattoo of a naked faerie put on my back after receiving my second degree initiation as a High Priestess. I began studying herbs, midwifery, and jewelry design, learned about natural foods and many other wonderful things. I still couldn't draw.

Giving birth and being a mother took up all of my creative juices for more than five years, though I managed to complete my midwifery studies after dragging my children to Russia for three months. Then, two years ago when I quit nursing my second child, I got a huge creative burst of energy again. I learned how to spin wool, taught myself to knit, have been learning to weave (having acquired three looms), taken up felting, learned to sew on a foot treadle machine, and am starting an embroidery class. Last summer I double pierced my nose. I always wanted to do it, and felt in a rut. I needed to break loose again. A kick in the butt. It worked.

An exploration into my wilderness began again. I decided if I used to be able to draw, I could again. I have just begun a drawing class. These years the exploration of my soul and my self-confidence have traveled together. The further I push myself into overcoming all obstacles and

blocks, the more creative I become, the greater my sense of self, and the more boundaries I then cross, becoming a spiral of growth. I am not advocating to try "wild" behaviors for the experience, but the exploring of areas of your soul that scare you because they are unconventional or not honored by those around you. Things that appeal to you for any reason at all! It isn't necessary to even become proficient at what you try, or to make a life of it. The joy and wildness is in the attempt! Behavior and creativity go hand in hand. It is wearing that wild, out-of-style dress to the bar, not to draw attention to yourself or to try and look cool, but wearing it because it brings you joy to wear such fun colors, or to feel such soft fabrics on your skin.

I have recently just modeled for the first time at the age of 35 for a life-drawing class. I am doing it because finally, at my age, I am quite pleased with my womanly shape; my round thighs and sagging breasts, my full hips. I am secretly delighted in the stretch marks and "pouff" belly which grew in my pregnancies. My breasts with the larger areolas and nipples than in my youth, with their stretch marks, are breasts which suckled two babies through hundreds of hours of nursing, providing my children with strength and comfort. When I was young, I was so self-conscious, so entrapped my own desires to be normal, that I could never have gotten naked in front of a group of art students, and those mostly men. I have finally become more acquainted with my wilderness, and more comfortable with whom I am. I want art students to have the experience of drawing the body of a 35 year old woman who has given birth twice. I want them to draw a 70 year old body too, with its beautiful curves, lines and folds, and hope to continue to do this off and on throughout my life until I die.

And I have finally decided to learn to draw again. I am taking a drawing class after all these years. My creative side is finally being acknowledged, because my father and step-mother paid for it as a Christmas present, with gladness that I was doing this. My step-mother has even said I probably should have been an art major, and is encouraging me to continue taking classes. Hopefully, many more will follow. This summer I am taking a fiber arts class at a school in Wisconsin. My art education has begun at last! I don't know where it will all lead, but I am studying this for me. It is something I have always wanted and loved, and I have determined that I deserve this experience in my life, and I don't need to try and justify it somehow because it isn't something to do to make money, but is being done for pleasure. I will follow my dreams wherever they lead, for as long as I enjoy this path. I have dedicated my life to the pursuit of joy and happiness, to the exploration of the wilderness in my soul, and to embracing all that I find there. And I have promised to nurture the creative spark I see in my children and in others always, knowing that it is through this spark that beauty, happiness and love are found in the world, and where healing can begin. It is never too late to begin on this path of exploring the wilderness and unlocking the creativity in a soul.

--Marcee Murray



# Notes from the Land of Anti-fat

## Is it a crime to have a fat kid?

On January 9, Marlene Corrigan, the mother of a 13-year-old daughter who died in bed, was found guilty of misdemeanor child abuse.

Daughter Christina Corrigan, who weighed 680 pounds, was the object of much sensationalized media coverage. The specifics of her death - lying in bed, covered with bed sores and plainly lacking in medical and hygienic attention - were graphic enough to command lots of press coverage.

Christina was a medically and behaviorally complex child whose startling weight gain reportedly began after she was taken off phenobarbital for seizures when she was four years old. Marlene Corrigan told police that she hadn't called a doctor in several years and that Christina hadn't left the house in the last year of her life. She refused to go to school, citing peer insults and unsympathetic teachers as the prime factors in her resistance.

Though Christina's death was attributed to her size, this judgment was quickly and publicly made without benefit of an autopsy. Given that the child had other known medical problems, this rush to judgment may seem precipitous - but not unusual when the very fat are examined in death.

The Corrigan case has fostered much discussion within the size acceptance community. On the face of it, we have a clear-cut instance of parental neglect, but testimony at the trial indicated that Ms. Corrigan had been regularly thwarted in her attempts at getting support for her daughter. The local school system, for instance, did little to accommodate Christina's physical handicaps; for that matter, it did little about the thirteen year-old's year-long absence from school. Neither the social service nor the medical community gets many points either, and to many size acceptance advocates, Christina's isolation is emblematic of the way that our culture shuts out the super-sized.

Though prosecutors and police gave lip service to the fact that their case had nothing to do with the

young girl's weight, both press coverage and the trial itself kept returning to the matter of fat. Hidden within the charge was an apparent need to punish Marlene for "letting her daughter get obese," even though that weight gain appears linked to her daughter's complex medical condition. From the media perspective, Christina's extraordinary weight was the story hook. The number of child deaths from abuse or neglect is distressingly high in this country: few have received the press coverage that the Corrigan case has.

Looking at the case from afar, one gets the impression of a family stressed beyond its capacity to function. In addition to her daughter, the single working mother was also supporting a pair of infirm elderly parents. At some crucial point, those social supports meant to aid families in need failed both mother and daughter disastrously.

It's not easy to get a good grip on the Corrigan case: the stark fact of a child's death interferes with this. But one point comes through, however: no matter where you put the blame, Christina Corrigan's life was less than it could have been because she was fat. Even in death, her size became her sole defining feature.

Death as usual in the Land of Anti-Fat.

-billsheer

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# Poetry Page

## fish poem

when i look  
like i often do,  
and then the next,  
i think of darwin,  
jesus, marilyn manson.  
as i sprout another  
helpful hindering hand,  
darwin, jesus & manson  
sit for coffee, discussed what  
the heck to do with me.

"it starts out slow. simple,"  
darwin warned.  
"one more cell, then  
they want inspiration,  
want to write what they  
please!  
fish has arms,  
next he'll write poetry!  
look out, look out!  
give 900 fishes  
900 word processors,  
and then 900 years...  
they will then produce  
a pamphlet on cappuccino  
brewing and one plaid daisy."

jesus shook his head,  
said, "i'd rather be crucified  
than listen to another  
fish-written poem."

marilyn manson  
pissed in a cup,  
threw it on the waiter.  
"what if you had  
a poem that could see  
what you, or another  
person, could only imagine?"

darwin left in a fit,  
sprouting a fifth leg  
as he went.  
jesus picked up his cross,  
walked off.  
a fish grew an arm  
wrote it all down  
as marilyn manson  
searched for his  
favorite fishing rod.

—Dan Knestaut

## weak coffee poem

like creamer defusing  
into coal black coffee,  
i feel you easing  
into me.  
two diluting each  
other  
until they are  
one.

—Dan Knestaut

## Real Life

Mesmerized for the final time  
by your eyes and by your mind.  
Captivated by a captive crowd.  
No liars welcome. No fakes allowed.

A cup of Joe. A single smoke.  
A quiet talk. A worn-out joke.  
Attempt to set this on the stage.  
The real life within the play.

Lucid thoughts that flow through space.  
A reason fought behind my face.  
A stifled moment mystified.  
Exquisite torment in your eyes.

A cup of joe. A single smoke.  
A quiet talk. A worn-out joke.  
Just try to set this on the stage.  
The real life within the play.

The feared unknown of all of this.  
A moment stolen by a good-nite kiss.  
Mesmerized by your eyes and mind.  
Trying again for the final time.

A cup of joe. A single smoke.  
A quiet talk. A worn-out joke.  
It can't be set upon the stage.  
The real life within the play.

—Barbie Dockstader

## Owed to Bill Corollo

2 packs of Marlboros  
1 dollar  
a good time,  
barefeet/  
bass lines  
and laugh lines.

—Lisa Jenkins

## So...

So anyway, there we were,  
Sitting on my bed, in my room,  
Just talking about religion, poetry,  
Things of the sort.  
And she looks at me and says,  
"Do you want to sleep with me?"  
And I said,  
"That has nothing to do with Robert Frost."  
She went next door.

—Lisa Jenkins

## Easy Money

I have a career, that is not hard,  
A grey collar profession, with a union card.  
My wife and my children, rely upon me,  
To earn extra cash, with this opportunity.

I know a few tricks, I'll learn even more.  
I'm ahead of this game, if you're keeping score.  
The others, near me, in this prison locale,  
All share my greed, getting at those, who will tell.

The stories I've heard, Keep others at bay,  
Some believe the rumors, I make up each day.  
Others watch others, whom have been caught,  
I've learned from these, as a pupil who's taught.

They'll never catch me, I am much too smart,  
I know all the pitfalls, dealing drugs is an art.  
What money comes to me here, is like a reward,  
Easy money's my nickname, This job ain't hard.

I'm hidden in the ranks, of uniformed men,  
I'm obscure to all others, even a warden.  
No one really cares, We're all in the same game,  
When dealing drugs, in a prison, we avoid sudden fame.

—Dockstader

## YOUR POEM HERE.

The Post Amerikan is seeking poetry  
submissions for the Poetry Page.

If interested, please mail your poem  
to: Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452,  
Bloomington, IL 61702 or e-mail to  
pamerikan@aol.com.

We have the right to  
reject any poem.





1998

# POSTAPALOOZA

to benefit the post amerikan newspaper

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**BLUES THERAPY**  
**SWINGIN' HEMPHILLS**  
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**3RD SUNDAY MARKET**  
**STUMPWHOOPT**

poetry  
readings

in between  
bands from

4 - 8 pm

barbie

dockstader

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m. kavaras clark

paul yuggerst

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