

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

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The Post Amerikan Project

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POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 28

FREE

NUMBER 4

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1999



Amendment I



Congress shall make

Anti-Gay Attitudes Lead to Anti-Gay Violence



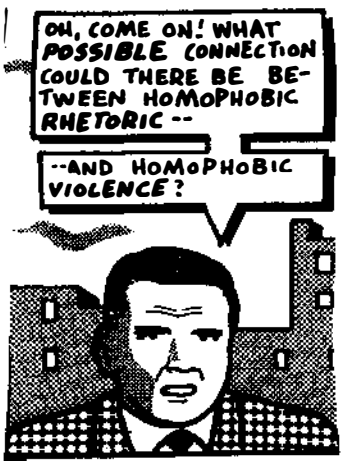
no law respecting

an establishment of religion, or

Matthew Shepard
(1977-1998)



Shepard: 'A very kind and gentle soul... a trusting person,' his parents say.



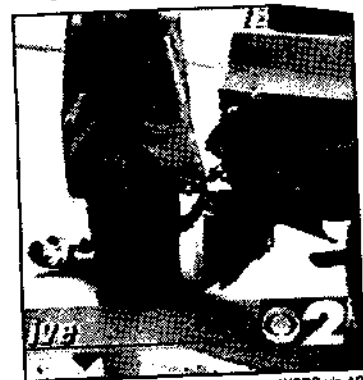
prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of **Float depicting black man's**



the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the

dragging death sparks furor
9.11.99

government for a redress of grievances.



Dragging depicted: Designers say float meant to be humorous.

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PAGE 2



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 28

NUMBER 4

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1999

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About us

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

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

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

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

Subscriptions

Subscriptions to the *Post Amerikan* are available for the low price of \$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,
Ralph & Sherrin**

Pick up a copy

Copies of the *Post Amerikan* are now available for free at the following locations:

Bloomington

AIDS Task Force, 313 N. Main
About Books, 221 E. Front
Barnes & Noble, Veterans & Rt. 9
Bloomington Public Library, 205 E. Olive
Common Ground, 516 N. Main
CoffeeWorks, 608 N. Main
Gaston's Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
Heartland Community College Academic Support Center, 1226 Towanda Ave.
Last Chance Newstand, 404 N. Main
Lizard's Lounge, 612 N. Main St.
Medusa's, 420 N. Madison
the Movie Fan, 401 N. Veterans (Cub Food Plaza)
Mystic Link, 1206 Towanda Ave. Su.4
Shockwaves, 415 N. Main
Twin City Exchange, 411 N. Main

Normal

Acme Comics, 115 W. North
Babbitt's Books, 104 W. North
Co-op Records, 503 S. Main
the Coffeehouse, 114 E. Beaufort
Deadpan Alley Records, 107 W. North
Koffee Kup, 205 W. North
Mother Murphy's, 111 W. North
Normal Public Library, 206 W. College Ave.

What's your new address?

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

Name _____
Street _____
City/State/Zip _____

Due Date:

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

Sept 15th

Good numbers

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
Amnesty International-ISU...Miomi@ilstu.edu
Animal Protection League.....828-5371
Better Business Bureau.....1-800-500-3780
Big Brothers/ Big Sisters828-1870
Boys & Girls Clubs of B/N.....829-3034
Clare House (Catholic workers).....828-4035
Countering Domestic Violence.....827-7070
Dept. of Children/Family Services...828-0022
Gay, Lesbian & Bi teen drop in center.828-3998
Gay & Lesbian Resource Phonenumber...438-2429
Habitat for Humanity.....827-3931
Headstart.....662-4880
Home Sweet Home Mission.....828-7356
IL Dept. of Public Aid.....827-4621
IL Lawyer Referral.....1-217-525-5297
Incest Survivors Support Group.....827-0790
LIFE-CIL.....663-5433
Lighthouse (substance abuse treatment)....827-6026
McLean Co. Center for Human Services...827-5351
McLean Co. Health Dept.....888-5450
McLean Co. Housing Authority.....829-3360
McLean Co. Humane Society.....664-7387
McLean Co. Peace Coalition.....828-7070
Mid Central Community Action.....829-0691
Mobile Meals.....828-8301
Narcotics Anonymous.....827-4005
National Health Care Services/
abortion assistance.....1-800-322-1622
Occupational Development Center...452-7324
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
Prairie State Legal Services.....827-5021
Project Oz.....827-0377
Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005
Runaway Switchboard.....1-800-621-4000
Salvation Army.....829-9476
Safe Harbor Mission.....829-7399
TeleCare (senior citizens).....828-8301
Unemployment comp/job service.....827-6237
Western Ave. Community Center.....829-4807
Youth Build.....827-7507



Community News

Barbie says Good-Bye

In the last few years I have written a great deal of things for the *Post Amerikan*. I have written promos, articles, reviews and a Volkswagon busload of poetry. I have also been on the other end of the pen and even given interviews to our illustrious paper. In all of that time I don't think I made a deadline once. So here I am, to Sherrin Fitzer's utter shock, submitting a letter to you, the readers, to say my good-byes to Bloomington-Normal. I will most assuredly be submitting poetry and articles from my new home in North Carolina, but I can't promise they will be on time. I have only two things to leave you all with before I embark on my little quest. The first, this town has a wonderful amount of talent and good intention. Support that. It is so very rare to find. And two, thank you all for supporting it so much in the last seven years that I have lived here. No one ever does that. No one ever gives a big huge thank you to all of the anonymous

people out there. We thank you for supporting the paper, and the benefits and the bands and poets, etcetera, but no one ever says thank you for the general support. So I'll do it now. Thank you for telling your friends you'll meet them at the bar where Ruth Buzzy is playing. Thank you for saying that the latest installment of "the lavenders" comic strip in the *Post Amerikan* really cracked you up. Thank you for sitting quietly in the back and listening to poets at my open mic. Thank you all for opening up your minds enough to appreciate the artists and the views that are running rampant through this little town in the middle of the cornfields. And thank you to everyone at the *Post Amerikan*. You have made my stay here in Bloomington-Normal a most welcome experience.

peace.

I have been.....barbie dockstader



ACLU play role In Juvenile Detention Center

McLean County has a recently-built juvenile detention facility it can be proud of. Inmates (aged 13-17) are treated with respect and allowed some sense of dignity. Efforts to create competence and self-esteem take place in their on-site schooling and Life-Skills programming. For over a year, at approximately eight week intervals, the Central Illinois Chapter of ACLU has presented programs on civil liberties and the Bill of Rights to the inmates during Life-Skills sessions. Francis Irvin, Bill Frinsko, and Bob Sutherland, individually or in pairs, have made the presentations.

Local ACLU Chapter advises McLean County Jail Review Committee

The Central Illinois Chapter of ACLU has been deeply involved with the McLean County Jail Review Committee since the committee was established by Sheriff Brienen nineteen years ago.

The Committee is a free-standing citizens' oversight group organized to monitor conditions within the McLean County Jail, periodically interview inmates and staff to identify potential problems, study how inmates' re-entry into the larger community can be facilitated and made more productive, and explore ways in which over-crowding can be avoided (through such means as alternatives to incarceration for sentencing, and improved bond-setting practices to reduce the number of pre-trial detainees).

The Committee is comprised of representative of various groups in the larger community: ACLU, NAACP, the League of Women Voters, the Trades and Labor Assembly, the Ministerial Alliance, the McLean County AIDS Task Force, etc., and also citizens-at-large. Bob Sutherland is currently the sole ACLU representative (the By-laws allow for three from any organization), and he was also named to represent the Committee on the "Blue Ribbon" Committee continues under the newly-elected Sheriff Dave Owens.

Sutherland will be happy to send any ACLU member a copy of the "Summary of Activities and Accomplishments of the Jail Review Committee since 1980". Just drop a postcard requesting one to Bob Sutherland, 501 E. Willow Street, Normal, IL 61761; or give him a call at (309) 452-4831. If you would like to serve on the Jail Review Committee as an ACLU representative (two slots are open), volunteer yourself by calling Margot Mendoza at (309) 452-0108.

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WGLT's Recycled Music Sale

Are your old CDs, tapes and records gathering dust and taking up valuable space? Don't throw them away, donate them to WGLT radio's 8th Recycled Music Sale, to be held August 20-22 at College Hills Mall in Normal. We are accepting used CD's, tapes, records, sheet music, instruments and stereo equipment. All types of music are welcome, and profits will go to GLT's equipment fund.

Drop-off points for donations have been set up for your convenience.

Bloomington

Bloomington Public Library
205 E. Olive
(309) 828-6091

McLean County Museum of History
200 N. Main
(309) 827-0428

Schnucks
1701 E. Empire
(309) 662-9300

Horine's Pianos Plus
1336 E. Empire
(309) 663-7587

Normal

Normal Public Library
206 W. College Avenue
(309) 452-1757

Vitesse Cycle
206 S. Linden
(309) 454-1541

College Hills Mall
Customer Service
Veterans Parkway and College Ave.

Peoria

Lakeview Museum
1125 W. Lake
(309) 686-7000

Horine's Pianos Plus
8516 N. Knoxville
(309) 693-7587

Eureka

Eureka Public Library
202 S. Main
(309) 467-2922

Morton

Morton Public Library
315 W. Pershing
(309) 263-2200

Washington

Washington Public Library
301 Walnut Street
(309) 444-2241

Donations will also be accepted at our store in College Hills Mall on the following dates and times: August 12-13, 3-9pm and August 14-15, noon-5pm.

Your support is needed and appreciated! Goods will be resold at reasonable prices to the public August 20-22. If you have any questions, call - Membership Director Pat Peterson at (309) 438-3581.

The Movie Fan offers GLBT rentals

Have no desire to catch the Harrison Ford-less Star Wars prequel? Don't care to be shagged by Austin Powers?

Well, you might find what you're looking for at the Movie Fan, located in the Cub Foods shopping plaza.

The Movie Fan offers the best selection of glbta films in the Bloomington/Normal area.

Rentals include favorites such as *Victor/Victoria* and *Jeffrey* as well as hard to find gems including *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, *The Watermelon Woman* and *Bar Girls*.

The Movie fan is open 7 days a week. For more information call the store at 309-662-5723.

--The Rainbow Connection/Advocacy Council for Human Rights



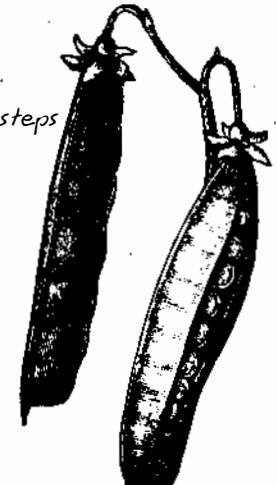
Advocacy Council unveils new web page, e-mail list

The Advocacy Council is poised to jump on the information superhighway with a new home page and weekly e-mail postings.

The new site, at <http://www.angelfire.com/il2/achr/>, consists of ACHR's monthly calendar and addresses and links to other glbta organizations and businesses in Bloomington/Normal, central Illinois, the Chicago area, and across the nation. Eventually back issues of the Rainbow Connection will also be available for downloading via Acrobat Reader.

the second part of the web project is a weekly e-mail posting that will be sent to ACHR mailing list members who have submitted their e-mail address. These postings will include an updated list of calendar activities plus breaking news on the local, state and national levels.

If you would like to be a part of the ACHR e-mail list, contact them at achr@angelfire.com or call the ACHR phone line at 309-830-2521.

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Role Playing: 8th deadly sin?

In our society, we tend to pass judgment and form opinions on things we do not understand. What better way to prove this fact than with the thoughts most people have about Fantasy Role-playing. To the majority of society, role-playing is a corrupting, evil beast that is set on destroying the youth. This idea couldn't be farther from the truth.

Role-playing games are forms of imaginative entertainment that people of all ages take part in. These games are played using dice, paper, pencil, and your imagination. The game books themselves are just tools to help translate the imagination to words and pictures. The game groups consist of two or more people and can last many hours a day for many days, weeks, months, even years. One person runs the game. This person sets the stage for the other people to act on.

For years many people have condemned role-playing. Religious groups label it as a tool of Satan and the media portray it as a cause for teenage crime. Role-players, also known as "gamers," are stereotyped as virgin, low income, deviant, Satan-worshipping social outcasts who perform animal sacrifices, do drugs, commit crimes, and perform other evil, mind-corrupting rituals. There are rumors that band members of the controversial music superstar, Marilyn Manson, regularly role-play, or "game" as it is commonly known among gamers. The people who start these rumors and stereotypes really have no idea what they are talking about. Yet it's ignorance that has given role-playing a bad name.

In truth, role-playing is probably one of the best tools for the development of a person's imagination. Let's start with the question that most people fail to ask before passing judgment. What is role-playing? The referee, or storyteller, is the person who "runs" the game. This person comes up with an idea for a story. They set up the setting for the story, the supporting characters, events, etc. The players of the game come up with the main characters. They create these characters from their imagination, and then use game books to develop them onto paper. The storyteller gives the players different situations set in the story world, and the players, under the guise of their characters, react to the different scenarios the storyteller sets up for them. Dice are used to determine success or failure in a given event. A target number is set, and the player must roll over or under that number depending on the game or situation. The game can go on for long periods of time. There is no set ending, nobody really wins or loses in the end. In the end, a plot is formed, characters are developed, and a story is created.

All role-playing was ever meant for was to allow a creative way for people to express their imagination. Unfortunately, there are a few people who take it further than it was ever meant to go. There are those who have lost touch with reality and begin acting out the game in unhealthy ways. These are the people who help to reinforce the negative stereotypes and rumors about role-playing. It also doesn't help when the media does stories on violence in teens. The media tends to make it a point to say that young criminals were also involved with role-playing. Drug users, sex offenders, murderers, robbers, etc., are all cited as being possibly influenced by the role-playing games that they play.

There are games on the market that could be considered controversial. One such game, *Rifts World Book One: WormWood*, is a game that contains reference to demons, evil religions, and very violent situations. One such character described in the game is known as "The Unholy One," who the game writers describe as, "a demonic force who rules over a dimension of pure chaos and sickening evil." Though this book contains such content, it is still just a book, a game book. To take it as more than it is would be a sign of mental instability. Another book that could cause controversy is *IN NOMINE*. This game book deals with religion. The players take the roll of angels and demons taking part in the human world that is referred to as the "Symphony." The writer's interpretations of the world are that of a symphony. They describe it as, "The world is like a symphony. All living creatures contribute to the beauty of the symphony. Angels make sure that the symphony sounds beautiful, while the demons attempt to disrupt it." Just like the bible, this game book contains people's interpretations of God and the world. It allows a person to take the role of an angel or demon, and imagine what it would be like to be such creatures. This is not evil or blasphemous; it is just creative and imaginative. Yet another game, "Werewolf: The Wild West," allows players to play characters that can transform into werewolves. It is set in the "Old West." It takes history and adds a fantasy element to it. This game has more of an educational element to it. The more familiar a person is with the historical American west, the better the game can be.

A common misconception about all role-playing games is that they are all related to the game *Dungeons and Dragons*. This idea is completely not true. "D and D" as it is commonly referred to among gamers, is owned by TSR, a company known for its fantasy books and games. It is the largest gaming company in the world and is the first one to form. "D and D" is popular among certain religious groups who actively oppose it just as it is among those who play it. "D and D" takes place in a fantasy world of knights, dragons, and magic. This is not common among all games. There are countless numbers of games on the market today that deal with almost any sort of genre or time period imaginable. There are games set in historical time periods, games that allow players to reenact historical battles. There are even games that allow a player to take the role of futuristic characters, fly around in space ships, and even explore new worlds. Imagination is the only limit to what can be accomplished with these games.

When asked about role-playing games, what do people say? Many people will say negative things, and more often than not, they have no idea what the games are about. They listen to the media, and other people who have formed opinions about the games, and then take on the same attitudes. When people do ask what the games are, they usually ask others who do not know. Then there are people who never ask, they just assume. Why not ask the player's about the games? If anybody knows most about the games, it's the players. One person, Jason Huls, is an experienced storyteller. He has run many games and when asked about them he says, "I have ran games for many years. The players enjoy them quite a bit. It gives us all an opportunity to have fun and socialize." Chris Hutson, an experienced player says, "I play the games because I enjoy

them. I love to write and the games give me ideas for my stories. I don't feel corrupted by them in any way." Of course if you ask people who have gamed for a long time, they are going to say that they are fun and good-natured. Another person, Justin Dodson, has only played one game and does not consider himself a gamer. He says, "The game was fun. I consider myself somewhat of an actor and the game gave me an interesting opportunity to exercise my acting ability. I have heard bad things about gaming, but I think it is a fun and interesting experience."

The problem with the games is that they have gotten a bad reputation over the years and that reputation is enforced by the media, people who don't know anything yet judge, and religious groups who fear that the games will take their followers, and donations away.

Role-playing has grown astronomically in the several years that it has been around. Today role-playing has expanded into both the computer industry and the film industry. Computer role-playing games or CRPGs, are huge money makers in the field of computer games. Wherever computer programs are sold, CRPGs can be found. The computer plays the role of the storyteller, and the player remains the same. There are sites on the Internet devoted to CRPGs. One such site, CNET's Gamecenter, is an online resource for CRPGs. It gives reviews of games, release dates, system requirements, game demos, etc. Internet role-playing is popular as well. Gamers get involved in games where players from all over the world can participate needing only a computer and a modem. Film companies have taken a large role as well. Lucas Film, owned by George Lucas, creator of *Star Wars*, runs Lucas Arts, a CRPG company. Several CRPGs have been created that take place in the *Star Wars* world. Lucas Arts has its own website devoted to the games. It contains reviews, release dates, system requirements, game hints, cheats, etc. It allows for multiplayer internet gaming as well. George Lucas is not the only person to get involved in the role-playing industry. Paramount pictures, in association with Last Unicorn Games, has created *Star Trek The Next Generation: The Role-playing Game*.

This game allows players to take the parts of their favorite *Star Trek* personalities, or create their own. They then can get a feel for what it would be like to explore strange new worlds. "To seek out new life and new civilizations. To boldly go where no one has gone before."

Role-playing games are just another form of entertainment, which allows for the further development of the imagination. They, like many forms of entertainment, are scrutinized by society out of ignorance. People fear what they do not understand. As a wise, old movie icon once said, "Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering." People fear the games. This fear leads to anger in both the gamers and society. This anger leads to hate. Religious groups hate the games because they believe the games corrupt the youth. The gamers hate the religious groups for the ignorance that is portrayed. Finally it is the gamers that suffer from the scrutiny of the fearful. Hopefully someday it will not be necessary to have to fight to prove that gaming is not evil or corrupt, and that it is just another form of entertainment and a valuable tool for the development of the imagination.

--Matt Taylor



The Poetry Page

Life Lessons

As a fire fighter, I learned it's better not to be on fire
 As a civil defense director, I learned we're doomed unless we love
 As a teacher, I learned
 As a tournament fighter, I learned it's better to block
 As a brat, I learned a brat, is a brat, is a brat
 As a lover, I found it's better to give
 As a radical, I learned it's better to build up, than rip down
 As a business partner, I learned to get it in writing
 As a dreamer, I learned to be pragmatic
 As a pragmatist, I learned to dream
 When you're poor, share
 When you're hungry, you become quite a cook
 As a prisoner, free your mind and atone
 As an architect, delearn architecture
 As a poet, don't rhyme
 As a writer, be a poet
 As a healer, I learned suffering
 You can't remember what you never learned

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarik

And the Lights Went Out

There's a place in the attic where the wild things roam.
 And dreams are grown on the trees.
 And deep in the walls there's a haunting tone.
 That's pleading for me to believe.
 And Jimmy Jet is alone in the corner
 And Peggy Ann just stays in her bed.
 And we're down at the end of the sidewalk
 telling stories that grew in his head.
 Everyone's waiting to seek out the truth
 Which he writes in his casual way
 And his memories last for a lifetime
 Though we heard that he just moved away.
 And the light in the attic has shown us the way
 and told us what life is about
 And the dreams are alive
 And the love is still there
 Even after the lights have gone out.

--Bob Angell

Undercover Radio

Hello, this is Flypaper,
 your DJ for tonight, I
 will be spinning poems of black
 vinyl, a glass of sockee, I
 drink the moon from a thimble
 tonight, the light is my lover,
 I travel undercover, my
 messages travel out into the
 air, drunk on hope, I do
 battle with the static of the
 world, S.O.S.,
 please pull me in,
 Om on uh two-way
 radio, all but drowning
 in technological overload,
 do not abandon this signal,
 soda pop,
 detergent,
 pork bellies,
 please hang on,
 follow me through the static
 buzzing of misery, and hear
 the music, the I could have
 been humming bleak maggot
 opera.

--John Firefly

Teratism

Into the ancient lunar tide
 The monsters of the darkness ride
 From regions of the hidden realms
 The land of shades and eternal Hell
 Where through the night the distant drums
 Signal that Pandemoniums come
 On nox and hoof and cloven kind
 From below the beasts do climb
 Garm and Cerberus howl and low
 As luciferous beasts plan their goals
 To steal the throne and sell their lies
 Wrapped up in truth to mesmerize
 And rhyme and reason commit treason
 Becoming one unchanging season
 They crush the dream
 They kill the hope
 They suspend all life
 They destroy the soul
 With fear they evilly rain down blows
 Until the masses cry; no more!!
 Now spank me daddy, hard and fast
 for I'm naughty you've shown me that
 I must submit and kiss your ass
 And then into the ancient lunar tide
 The children of the monsters ride

--Donny Johnson

A fairytale
 divine you and I
 by the light of summertime

Venice air
 about on a wimb
 washed faces at fountain
 Speak of Love in the afternoon
 Sound of song upon the wind
 my voice speaks of the day
 while my eyes
 speak of your way

twirling about
 playing like children
 but children we are not
 a touch to prove
 a smile to reply
 the bell tolls
 telling all the hour

a trip we take
 to where the rainbow fell
 picnic among the tall grass
 along the bank
 of sweetest sea
 spill our secrets
 as you lay with me

the sun descends
 melting orange, red & violet
 hazy dusk
 covers our return

Moonlight shimmer
 upon the water
 brings bliss to feel
 cobblestone walk
 barefoot you are
 yellow dress
 a wisk in the breeze

night sky
 ablaze with stars
 veranda kiss
 I give to you
 miracle of life
 we then share

dawn of blue
 is the hue
 a day begins
 and yes

Love

it wins

--Matt Erickson

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.



It's Our Fault

I am like you
I am the future, I am the past.
In this quirk of time, this present won't
last.

We are the best, while being the worst,
an anomaly shared by all.

We as mortals are part Allah, Jesus, Buddha and Ra
every faithful God, large or small.

It is the way we are.
Through the ages, for all time.
So why do we hate, when we are the same kind?

Sharing must be the impasse.
We can give or take regardless, no more.
Instead, 'to share,' we must go to war.

T'was Lennon who said, "Give peace a chance."
Not the Russian, the one from the Fab Four.
Again, we encounter a conflict, hostility, a combat,
called anything but a war.

We won't care as long as we win.
Same as before, more blood will spill.
We won't care, who placed us in this spin.
We won't change due to greed, power, or will.

--Doxtader

Benjamin Nathanael Smith

What a waste
What a failure
Each time you hate mongers scream hate
We find love
Each time you praise racism
We find unity
Each time you sing of anti semitism
We sing of diversity
You destroy something
We'll be a thousand more
Shame on you Nazi boyz
God loves you anyway, the Korean god, the Black god,
The Jewish god, Love you.

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarik

Lay with me
breast to breast stomach to stomach
legs entwined like vine
souls mixing as sand & sea
and everytime I will say "she"
when telling someone on why I love the day
and everytime you will say "he"
when telling someone on why your smile is so
Lay with me
in the celebration of the blending us as whole
in the celebration of anything
root to root spirit to spirit
tongues tangled twisting
arms surrounding dear life
joining the rhythmic harmony that is unity
we want more & more
we fill each other up and even overpour
spilling all around
surpassing skin to skin
to become nonbeing
entering the flow of what is beingless & endless

--Matt Erickson

Lonely Children

And a light I crawl to and sigh when touch is free of me
Windows into shine
I rinse my mind to fry on cold beaches which insist my curves in dry sand spells to hell
And a vision in a sparkly haze, waving and saying "come, come this way"
In trenches I drove to follow this try
Demanding myself to kill every being
As my

Is my
And yours

--Little K.C.

Fleshhold

Staying traits distilled for fate
Clawing dream grows in seams
Dainty stripe cross my back
Forty seconds hear my trap
Supper mamma cross head to roe
Cookin' up jungle for to go
Fuck this holy motion woe
Since last I see a hello hi hey, gonna be gone aye aye aye

--Little K.C.

Thoughts Running Free

Running through my ink
are the thoughts that no one thinks
are the dreams that no one's had
before my time
And coursing through my veins
the words liquid as the rain
I give in to the vastness of my mind
If they were given their own will
would my thoughts someday be still?
Would they freeze against themselves
like bits of ice?
Would they run into the world?
Rest on lips of boys and girls?
consume every conversation
with little bites?
Do my words ring true to you
like those morning drops of dew?
Are they placed as if they always
should be there?
And if they someday cease to be
would you search the ground to see
if they left a good bye note
upon the stair?
Would you miss them when they left
like you'd miss a welcome guest
who'd slipped away while you
were at the store?
Would you ask them to return
with the news you long to learn?
that everyday I seem to miss you more.
And so my thoughts string on
like the end of old bar songs
seldom hearing any shouts
of the last call
they arrive in little notes
my thoughts that only you will know
and the essence of the truth
within them all.....

Written for Bob Angell
--Barbie Dockstader



Reviews, reviews, reviews

Disc probes labor's forgotten soul

Somewhere deep in the soul of the labor movement, beneath legalistic collective bargaining language, political campaign contributions and fancy fund-raising dinners, lurks the forgotten anarchist, communist, socialist agitators whose spirited resistance birthed the union movement.

That rarely-seen ghost emerges again in a new musical-poetry disc, *Fellow Workers*, by Ani DiFranco and "Utah" Phillips.

First, a word about the odd duet that spun this album. DiFranco is a youthful and very independent music business phenomenon, refusing ties to any major record label and attracting a dedicated, loyal audience that packs Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan universities when she makes local appearances.

Phillips is a legend on the folk music scene, an elder statesman who mines the forgotten lore of the fighting working class, repeating stories from lumber camps and roundhouses that he gathered from old-time unionists, tramps and hoboes in skid-row hotels and flophouses.

Phillips is the best living representation of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), the

energetic, anarchist union that emerged in Chicago in 1905. Although never massive in numbers, the "Wobblies" appealed to workers with on-the-job direct action and a working class internationalist spirit, spiced with easily repeated songs and poems that spread their message. Crushed by the U.S. government during World War I, their spirit of industrial unionism emerged in the 1930's when the CIO organized.

What DiFranco has done is set a musical mood for Phillips' labor lore. Instead of traditional folk music with a strumming guitar, the main attraction here in Phillips' ragged, dirty dishrag voice, paced with DiFranco's moody interpretations.

This is no easy-listening, background music collection. Instead, it's a descent into a strange coffeehouse, inhabited not by beatniks, but the ghosts of long-forgotten working class heroes. With a little concentration and careful listening, a well crafted story of rebellion and solidarity emerges. This is no arty rebellion, but a too-long-forgotten uprising of nameless workers who stood up to improve everyone's conditions.

Phillips remembers Mt. Olive, Illinois and its Union Miners' Cemetery, where Mary "Mother"

Jones is buried, as he recounts the tale of the "Most Dangerous Woman in America." He talks about the 1912 Lawrence, Massachusetts textile story, where numerous immigrant groups united to break the sweatshop. And remembering that fight, he notes that as a child, "I never had to go underground to work in a coal mine in Pennsylvania; my sister never had to work in a loom room....Because people bled, fought and died to give us those rights."

He recounts the IWW's "Free Speech Fights," where workers desiring a hiring hall stood up to speak on soap boxes and packed the jails when their organizing rights were denied. In one Washington State county jail the workers jumped in unison, literally causing the jail walls to crack. He remembers the Wobbly's most famous troubadour and martyr, Swedish immigrant Joe Hill, who was executed in Utah in 1915.

Some may find Phillips' rants "coarse and anarchistic," his voice rough even purposefully dissonant on some pieces; his musical delivery is gutsy, his story-telling captivating tales of forgotten old-timers who lived outside the mainstream, committed to their principles.

DiFranco weaves appropriate musical interlude, alternating jazz, rock and melodic new age styles to frame the setting and set a mood for Phillips' engaging stories to emerge.

Don't buy this disc if you want mindless background music; Do buy it if you want an immersion in labor's forgotten past and will take the time on a long drive or a quiet evening to let a master storyteller and his talented musical accompanist take you on a long forgotten American experience.

--Michael G. Matejka
Livingston & McLean Counties
Union News

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Review of Christopher Hitchens' tape from Radio Free Maine

The views of social critic and author Christopher Hitchens offer a refreshing change of pace from a steady diet of liberal political correctness.

Some of his observations clearly do not fit the mold of a typical commentator on the political left.

There is a reason for this. Hitchens, a leading journalist and speaker, isn't a "b.s. liberal," but is a bona fide left-winger.

As such, he apparently doesn't feel the need to parrot the rhetoric of the pc people.

Hitchens, who has been a contributing editor of *The Nation* and *Vanity Fair*, articulates his opinions in a speech and question and answer session, distributed on audio and video tape by Roger Leisner and Radio Free Maine.

The title is: "Goodbye to All That: Why We Americans Are Not Taught History." But he touches on many topics -- from gun control, to Kosovo, to Bill Clinton's dalliance in the Oval Office. He calls the widespread ignorance of history in the U.S. "extremely alarming." For example, large percentages of college students don't even know in which century the Civil War was fought. And the ignorance reaches beyond history to any number of other fields.

Unfortunately, when such concerns are voiced they typically come from conservatives. Liberals should articulate the same anxieties, but usually don't. Why? Perhaps it's because they don't want to further discredit the nations already tattered public school system. That's not a "good" reason to remain quiet about something this important.

The nation's ignorance of history has been a common theme of right-wingers such as Rush Limbaugh. But of course these people clearly prefer a sanitized or "patriotic" version of the nation's past.

Hitchens contends that this morass of unawareness is partially the fault of the schools, but also of other societal institutions, such as the media.

What we have, he proclaims, "is a sort of techno-barbarism where ignorance is mass produced."

Things have sunk so low that authors and speakers dare not make historical, literary, or Biblical references and expect them to be recognized by the public, he says.

The situation has gotten thinner and thinner, says Hitchens, "so you're down to the Simpsons and Melrose Place."

As he points out, the history curriculum has been watered down by a plethora of special interest groups -- from the PTA, to churches and chambers of commerce. All this, he adds, has led to a race to find the lowest common denominator. History teaching leads to disagreements and trouble, so we dilute or just forget it altogether.

Here is more political incorrectness: Hitchens is certainly NOT "religious," but he believes schools should teach about the Bible as another means of fighting cultural illiteracy.

And he ignores pc when it comes to gun control. Many liberals have become irrational to the point of wanting to give a monopoly on legal gun possession to the police and to the military. Thank goodness, not Hitchens! He says he has become "a libertarian on the gun question."

And on Bill Clinton, he is certainly politically incorrect. Hitchens has been a well-known and outspoken critic of Clinton. He has portrayed him as a sleazy pol who has done precious little for the poor and the working classes of the nation.

The speech and question and answer session by Hitchens are available on audio cassettes for \$11.00 and VHS videotape for \$20.00. Checks should be made payable to Roger Leisner and mailed to Radio Free Maine, Box 2705, Augusta, Maine 04338. The telephone/fax is 207-622-6629.

--Allan H. Keith

Mind candy

We would like to alter the order of the universe just a little. By changing the name of our monthly zine article "zine of the month" to "mind candy" we can be more inclusive and offer a wider selection of good reads and our fave magazines. We still would love to hear about your fave periodicals, newsletters, zines, trade journals, magazines, etc. and pass the word to your friends that we are still looking for material to review as well.

On this new stream of consciousness, I'd be tickled pink to turn you on to three fab magazines, and one radio station now broadcasting on the internet.

WPKN (@ www.WPKN.org) is a listener supported college station that has wonderful volunteer DJ's. You may receive a free schedule by writing them at: WPKN 89.5 FM, 244 University Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, 06604, or by popping up on the screen. They also offer "play list" of most of the stuff they air. How cool is that! If you have a computer with an audio set up, have this one tuned in, it's the cat's pajamas.

Yes, a journal of positive futures (P.O. Box 10818, Bainbridge Island, WA, 98110) (\$19 year, quarterly) is a beautiful, yet relatively unknown magazine that basically tackles a tough subject each issue. Past issues have included: Rx for the Earth, millennium survival guide, sustainable sex, education, sustaining water sheds, etc. You are able to find all kinds of great stuff and great contacts as well. The writing is very high quality and they're wonderful people as well. Check it out...

Talking Leaves (The Lost Valley Educational Center, 81868 Lost Valley Lane, Dexter, OR, 97431) (\$18 quarterly) Poetry, women's issues, great illustrations, alternative and sustainable information, Native American issues, environmental thoughts, book and magazine reviews, good-balanced music reviews. Even good ads. *Talking Leaves* has a little (or a lot) of just about anything in the alternative thinking universe. It's really pleasant. Run, don't walk to your mailbox to get this one.

The Temperate Bamboo Quarterly Yes it's a magazine on bamboo, but one look at the cover of volume III, # 3 & 4, with its bamboo bicycle, and I said the readers of the *Post American* have got to hear about this way cool periodical. Bamboo is like big grass, in case you never really thought about it before. You can do zillions of things with it; eat it, drive it, warm yourself with it, build a house with it. The list is endless. Most people think it can only be grown in jungle-like biomes. That's where *The Temperate Bamboo Quarterly* comes in. There is a type of bamboo for just about anywhere. It can spread to make a wonderful grove, and after harvesting it, it just pops back up like grass. But the T.B.Q. also has contacts for beautiful clothes, toys, furniture, art, household goods, musical instruments, etc. all made from bamboo. Before you dismiss this as not your thing, take a chance on it and contact them at "Earth Advocates Research Farm" 30 Myers Road, Summertown, TN, 38483-7323. Subscriptions run \$28 (\$40 airmail).

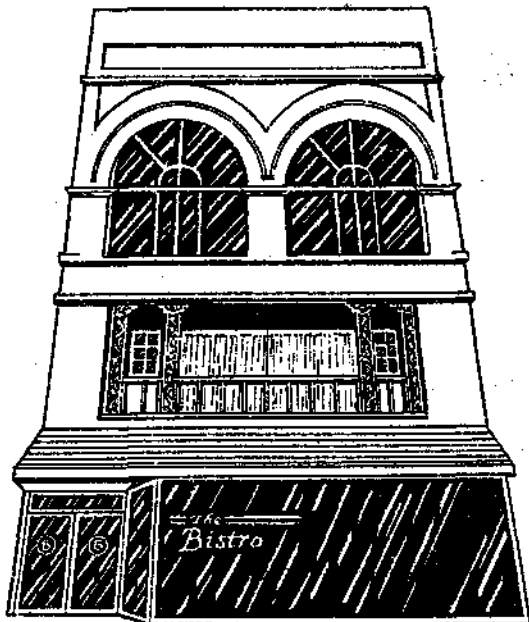
So that's the Mind candy report for today kids. I hope you enjoy these reads. But, if I'm wrong shoot me.

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarik

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A closer look at violence and mental illness

Remember Capitol Hill gunman Russel E. Weston?

Earlier this year, several highly publicized news stories called attention to the threat of violence posed by persons with mental illness. If your only source of information was the sensationalized press, you may assume that all people with mental illness are violent. A look at the bigger picture, however, reveals a lot more.

As reported by ABC News.com, a Thresholds member was attacked in the stairwell of his apartment building; the police who responded thought he was the attacker, rather than the victim, because he was the one with the apparent mental illness.

The member's caseworker explains that "the member couldn't articulate himself very well. He couldn't present his case, so he was mugged, stabbed and then arrested."

This mistreatment is entirely inappropriate, but not surprising, considering that 57% of Americans think mentally ill people are more likely to commit acts of violence than other people according to a 1993 *Parade* magazine survey.

People with mental illness are generally no more violent than anyone else, however, and are much more likely to be victims of violence rather than perpetrators. According to the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the vast majority of people who are violent do not suffer from mental illnesses. As with any segment of the population, however, there is a small subgroup of people who are at risk of becoming violent. As with the general population, a background of alcohol and substance use, ongoing conflicts with family, stressful life conditions, deprivation, and a history of violent behavior are predictors of future violence.

--NAMI of Livingston/McLean County Newsletter (from *Thresholds Magazine*, Chicago)

Tipper Gore talks about her major depression

Tipper Gore's recent disclosure of her personal struggle with major depression gives hope to all who struggle with severe mental illness. It strikes a significant blow against stigma and will encourage many people to seek treatment who otherwise might be afraid. Depression is a biological brain disorder that can affect anyone. Furthermore, Gore's testimony underscores the fact that treatment works and is vital to recovery.

At the same time, it is important to keep in mind that approximately 50 percent of individuals who suffer from an episode of major depression will experience second episodes. Individuals who experience second episodes in turn have a 70-percent chance of a third, and those who suffer from three episodes have a 90-percent chance of experiencing an fourth.

One reason for relapses is that millions of Americans go without adequate treatment, in part because healthcare insurance policies and laws prevent them from getting the treatment they may desperately need.

Warning signs of depression

* Consult a physician if you have experienced five or more of the following symptoms for more than two weeks:

- * Persistent sad or "empty" moods
- * Feelings of hopelessness, pessimism
- * Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, helplessness
- * Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies and activities once enjoyed, including sex, insomnia, early morning awakening, or oversleeping
- * Appetite and/or weight loss or overeating and weight gain
- * Decreased energy, fatigue, being "slowed down"
- * Thoughts of death or suicide, suicide attempts
- * Restlessness, irritability
- * Difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions
- * Persistent physical symptoms that do not respond to treatment, such as headaches, digestive disorders and chronic pain.

In any given year, more than 17 million American adults have some form of an affective disorder, and roughly 5 percent of Americans suffer from major depression.

Women are twice as likely as men to experience major depression; one in four women, as opposed to one in eight men, are likely to experience a mood disorder at some point in their lives.

- * It takes an average of eight years to get a proper diagnosis of major depression.
- * Depression is more widespread than coronary heart disease (7 million), cancer (6 million), and AIDS (200,000).

--NAMI of Livingston/McLean County Newsletter

NAMI recommends tobacco funds be used for severe mental illness

As state legislatures consider how to spend funds from the huge tobacco settlements, NAMI suggests that the funds should be funneled to severe mental illnesses.

Arizona has committed \$76 million of its initial payment of \$177 (part of \$2.8 billion to be received over 25 years) to replace its 113 year old psychiatric hospital which houses 300 SMI patients.

Rhode Island's Lt. Gov. has gone on record of as supporting tobacco funds for treating mental illness.

NAMI says public debate should be held to determine how tobacco money should be used and would provide an opportunity for NAMI advocates to deliver the important message that serious mental illnesses are treatable brain disorders.

NAMI's review of medical literature produces considerable reasons why tobacco funds should go to help the mentally ill.

* Adults with severe mental illnesses smoke at a higher rate than the general population. One study found a smoking rate of 60% among those with a history of major depression versus a lifetime smoking rate of 18% among the general public. Another found those with schizophrenia smoke over 10 billion packs of cigarettes yearly at a cost of more than \$20 billion.

* There is mounting evidence smoking is a form of self-medication for those with schizophrenia in that nicotine appears to reduce anxiety and sedation and improve concentration in some people.

* Nicotine is known to affect receptors for many brain disorders

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NAMI survey shows that consumers strongly support scientific research

Individuals with severe mental illnesses (SMI) show strong support for research, but want information and protection.

In its quarterly scientific publication, The Decade of the Brain, NAMI has published the results of the first survey ever taken of consumers with SMI about their views of scientific research.

In a telephone survey of a random sample of 226 individuals from 43 states, NAMI found:

* An overwhelming majority (99%) believes SMI research is extremely important. "We have just grazed the surface in understanding severe mental illnesses," said one NAMI consumer. "We need more research. We need cures."

* A majority (82%) also expressed willingness to participate in research, with 76 percent saying that they would participate even if the research offered them no direct benefit. "Mental illness has been such a burden for me," observed one NAMI consumer. "I would be willing to do anything to help myself and others."

* Approximately a 27% of those surveyed already had participated in psychiatric research projects ranging from surveys to clinical-trial tests of new medications.

However, 59% indicated that support for research does not indicate an indifference to consumer protection and informed consent.

In summarizing the results, NAMI Director of Research Laura Lee Hall, Ph.D., writes: "Consumers want dignity. They want information. They want proper care. They can make judgment about what they are willing to participate in and what is not reasonable given their own conditions and responsibilities. Research and ethics must go hand in hand."

Jeffrey Lieberman, M.D., director of the Mental Health & Neuroscience Clinical Research at the University of North Carolina also offers several fundamental principles to guide research involving consumers:

* Knowledge to be gained by a study must outweigh risks. Efforts must be made to minimize risks.

* Participation must be voluntary, and participants must be free to drop out.

* Informed consent must be obtained. Consumers should participate in a study only after risks and benefits have been effectively communicated.

* Research is not treatment. Consumers should not believe that there is a guarantee that they will receive a direct benefit, other than payments. The purpose of research is to produce information that can be generalized to benefit future science, society and patients.

* Researchers and personal physicians may have different opinions about a study and an individual's participation. Consumers should ask both whether it is in their best personal interest to participate.

* Information from the study, whether positive or negative, general or specific to a consumer should be made available to a consumer and the medical community in a timely manner, so long as doing so does not compromise the study.

--NAMI of Livingston/McLean County Newsletter

Questionnaire probes restaurant industry abuses

Over two thirds of American citizens and untold numbers of aliens have worked in the restaurant industry. Most of these individuals know of the sweatshop conditions and outright abuses the industry encourages. Obviously, this is kept from the eating public and the government, whose regulations are routinely ignored. It is time for these individuals to be heard! Have you worked in the foodservice industry? Have you been the subject of harassment, physical abuse? Have your wages been withheld for suspect reasons and or just never paid? Do you have a story to tell? You won't be the only one.

An independent investigative project is looking for respondents to a basic questionnaire and possibly follow-up questions and interviews. The information gathered will be used in a research study of the industry and those who work in it. Your name will be withheld upon request.

Following is an introductory questionnaire which will help determine where you fit in the study. After filling out and mailing this questionnaire (postage to be refunded), you will receive more information about the project. You may be contacted for clarification or an interview.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Lisa Jenkins
156 Cedar Lake Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Initial questionnaire

*Name (to be withheld upon request)

*Address:

*Foodservice position(s) worked:

*Type of operation:

*Name/address most recent position held:

*Period of employment:

*Past positions and operations:

*Total length of time in foodservice:

*Tell me about yourself; your background, etc

*Why do you work in a foodservice operation?

*What was your best job and why?

*What was your worst job and why?

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11.....12.....13.....14.....
15.....16.....17.....18.....
19.....20.....21.....22.....
23.....24.....25.....

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Should hate speech be protected under the First Amendment ?

When we printed the interview with Matt Hale two issues ago, it was not a decision that we made lightly. We debated whether printing his views gave him publicity that we would rather he didn't have. We asked if we should reveal his racist beliefs so that they could be exposed and challenged. We decided that it was important for our readers to know exactly what people like Matt Hale are saying and doing.

Since the Benjamin Nathaniel Smith murders we have revisited these questions as our society wrestles with the issues of free speech vs. hate speech and crime. Many people are asking what culpability someone like Hale has when

one of his church members murders in hate. Hale believes he is no more responsible for these murders than the Pope is responsible for abortion clinic bombings.

Some people I have spoken to believe that we have tolerated too much under the First Amendment; others believe that we absolutely must insist on freedom of speech, no matter how vile.

We have asked various community members to write about these issues. Bob Sutherland from the ACLU gives a compelling argument for why we must stand by the First Amendment and urges us to work against bigotry. Alan Markwood

notes the cumulative effect that hate speech can have on inciting violence. Joel Erickson warns us not to "fall victim to the polluting effects of hate." And we reprinted an article from QCAD Newsletter which describes the effect of hate on an individual.

We know there are many of you doing wonderful work to combat hatred, racism and violence. Write to us. Tell us what you are doing. Write to support or challenge the articles we have printed. Write.

Coping with hate speech and hate crimes

Bigotry: 'speech' and 'conduct'

Bigotry makes negative judgments about people on the basis of their actual or perceived membership in certain groups or categories: the most common types of bigoted discriminations focus on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic status, and disability. Bigotry frequently causes bigots to hate the targets of their discrimination.

If this hate results in utterances intended to insult, injure, defame, disparage, intimidate, harass, or ridicule the targeted people, such utterance is 'hate speech'. If the bigots' hate results in concrete action on the basis of the discrimination (such as a public accommodation's refusal solely on the basis of race, to provide services allowed to other people, or a bank's denying a loan solely on the basis of a person's religion or the perpetrating of overt intimidation, physical assault, or murder), this action has moved the bigot beyond "speech" into the realm of "conduct."

Conduct motivated by hate which is legally liable to criminal prosecution constitutes criminal conduct before the law. Refusal of public accommodations to provide service solely on the basis of a person's race, physical assault, and murder are punishable as crimes under existing statutes. (To be sure, speech is also a type of conduct; but unless it results in concrete action against a target of discrimination, it remains abstract, or hypothetical, or merely a statement of belief, idea, or opinion. ACLU makes a distinction between speech and conduct. Sometimes hate-motivated conduct is not accompanied by speech; sometimes it is. Sometimes the speech can itself be criminal conduct, as when a death threat is made over the telephone. ACLU feels can itself be criminal conduct, as when a death threat is made over the telephone. ACLU feels the distinction between speech and conduct is needed.) In 1996, the FBI reported 8,759 incidents of bias-related crimes. Of those, 5,396

were related to race, 1,401 to religion, 1,106 to sexual orientation, and 940 to ethnicity or national origin.

Crimes that are the result of discriminatory selection—such as the recent Benjamin Smith interstate shooting spree, where specific "minorities" were targeted, or the dragging death in Texas of James Byrd, Jr., a black man, because he was black, or Matthew Shepard's murder in Wyoming because he was perceived to be gay—would seem clearly to be motivated by hate and thus able to be tagged as "hate crimes" by reasonable people; in Federal law, however, 'hate crime' is a matter of technical definition: currently, bias-based criminal conduct is seen as a civil rights violation directed at a specific target who has been selected because of his or her membership in a class belonging to a legally-protected category (race, color, religion, national origin) with the intention of interfering with the exercise of the victim's civil rights.

Hate crime legislation.

U.S. Senate Bill S. 622

The proposed Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999 (S. 622) is being debated in the climate of national dismay generated by the atrocities and the statistics mentioned above. There is a new awareness of hate-motivated crime and a sense of urgency. In testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Christopher E. Anders, Legislative Consultant to the ACLU, said, "Existing federal law does not provide any separate offense for violent acts based on race, color, national origin, or religion unless the defendant intended to interfere with the victim's participation in certain enumerated activities" (such as voting or going to school). The new legislation would criminalize "the conduct of intentionally selecting another person for violence because of that person's race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability", and under it, the prosecution would have to "prove the conduct of

intentional selection of the victim." The new legislation may expand the protected categories to include gender, sexual orientation, and disability; and it would backstop local law enforcement officers who are sometimes unable or unwilling to prosecute these civil rights violations because of either inadequate resources or their own bias against the victim.

The national office of ACLU is prepared to support the proposed Hate Crimes Prevention Act (S. 622), but will do so only if it is amended to prohibit the Federal government from citing in its prosecutions evidence of speech that "had no role in the chain of events that led to any alleged violent act proscribed by the statute." Otherwise, the legislation would have a potentially chilling effect on constitutionally protected speech. In the words of Mr. Anders: "the bill must be amended to prevent prosecution based on 'mere abstract beliefs' or 'mere membership in an organization.'" "We seek a law that will punish the act of discrimination, but not bigoted beliefs....We are deeply concerned that the bill's sponsors and proponents have focused on 'combating hate' and fighting 'hate groups.' The focus properly should be on punishing violent acts themselves when victims were selected only because of who they are."

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Affiliate disagrees with the position of the National ACLU and does not endorse S. 622 even if it were to be amended as the National ACLU recommends. If the government can impose special penalties for crimes against African-Americans, says Mark Been, Board member of both the National and the Illinois ACLU, why not "for crimes against Republicans or capitalists"? Illinois ACLU thinks that it won't be possible for the government to prosecute hate crimes without inquiring into the perpetrator's beliefs, motivations, and



associations (areas which are protected from governmental intrusion by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution). In the words of Mark Been: "It is fundamental to the values of the ACLU that the government cannot ask questions about what organizations you belong to, what books you read, what movies you see. In practice the distinction envisioned in the national [ACLU] policy cannot be maintained....By definition, hate crimes statutes cannot meet the standard of not inquiring into beliefs."

Hate speech

Hate speech, as defined above, is utterance motivated by bigotry which is intended to insult, injure, defame, disparage, intimidate, harass, or ridicule people who have been selectively targeted on the basis of their actual or perceived membership in certain despised categories. Undoubtedly, hate speech can help to create a climate in which acts of hostile discrimination against the targeted people can occur, or feasibly can incite other bigots to action, thus contributing to the perpetration of hate crimes. But as long as speech remains speech and does not eventuate in criminal conduct, it is protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

In hate-speech, there are degrees of virulence. Utterances such as "The Whozits are mudpeople" or "The Whozits are the cause of all our woes" are different in kind from "Kill the Whozits", which might be prosecutable if proved to be part of a chain of events that led to violence. But even so, "Kill the Whozits" is of a different order than "Okay, Whozit, I'm going to kill you." This last, if intended as an intimidating threat or a promise of violence to come, is criminal conduct and punishable. The first two, if not determined to be part of a chain of events leading to criminal conduct, are statements of belief and opinion, and as such are protected by the First Amendment.

Most speech-expressing thoughts, beliefs, opinions, values-is protected by the First Amendment. That includes not only oral utterance, writing, the press, and association, but also symbolic speech: picketing, demonstrating, political signs, T-shirt slogans, armbands, political buttons, music lyrics, art works, theatrical performances, and burning the American flag. There are limitations on freedom of expression; when speech becomes action, it enters the realm of conduct, and some conduct is not lawful. To quote the ACLU Briefing Paper "Freedom of Expression": "Political protesters have the right to picket, to distribute literature, to chant, and to engage passersby in debate. But they do not have the right to block building entrances or to physically harass people." In *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969) the Supreme Court established the principle that "speech can be suppressed only if it is intended, and likely to produce, 'imminent lawless action.' Otherwise, even speech that advocates violence is protected."

The courts have determined only a few categories of speech that are not protected. 1) "Fighting words"- in a one-to-one encounter, the use of words which by their very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace; 2) Libelous speech-uttering defamatory falsehoods about public officials, but only if the offended official can prove that the falsehoods were published with 'actual malice'-i.e., 'knowledge that the statement was false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not'; 3) Utterances that could cause imminent danger to others, such as

shouting 'Fire!' in a crowded theatre; 4) Obscenity-a complex category, incorporating a three-fold test, very hard to define (and certainly not to be defined in this article); 5) Commercial speech that is designed to be misleading or to take advantage of its audience. In addition, Government may impose 'time, place, and manner restrictions' on the exercise of free speech as long as the restrictions are "reasonable"-as, for example, requiring people to obtain a permit to hold a meeting in a public building, or a permit to hold a demonstration which may interfere with traffic on a public street. Restrictions that are overly burdensome (such as the Town of Skokie's selectively requiring members of the American Nazi Party to post \$350,000 in insurance in order to hold a march and rally), or denials of permits on the basis of the speech's content are unconstitutional infringements on First Amendment rights.

Even if it doesn't lead to criminal conduct, hate speech offends, harasses, humiliates, disgusts and angers people. It helps to perpetuate hateful stereotypes, and spreads falsehood. Should it be allowed? why should it be protected under the First Amendment? ACLU says yes, it must be allowed; if the First Amendment is to have any meaning, all expression of idea and opinion must be protected from governmental intrusion, no matter how offensive or repugnant the ideas and opinions are, or how hateful or disgusting their mode of utterance. To quote from the ACLU Briefing Paper "Hate Speech on Campus": "The value we place on the right of free speech is put to its severest test when the speaker is someone we disagree with most. Speech that deeply offends our morality or is hostile to our way of life warrants the same constitutional protection as other speech because the right of free speech is indivisible: When one of us is denied this right, all of us are denied." And, "Restricting the speech of one group or individual jeopardizes everyone's rights because the same laws or regulations used to silence bigots can be used to silence you.. Conversely, laws that defend free speech for bigots can be used to defend the rights of civil rights workers, anti-war protesters, lesbian and gay activists and others fighting for justice."

And from the Briefing Paper "Freedom of Expression": "If only popular ideas were protected, we wouldn't need a First Amendment...If we do not come to the defense of the free speech rights of the most unpopular among us, even if their views are antithetical to the very freedom the First Amendment stands for, then no one's liberty will be secure [from government repression]." Further, "Censoring hate speech runs counter to the long-term interests of the most frequent victims of hate: racial, ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities. We should not give the government the power to decide which opinions are hateful, for history has taught us that government is more apt to use this power to prosecute minorities than to protect them. As one federal judge has put it, tolerating hateful speech is 'the best protection we have against any Nazi-type regime in this country.'"

Eric Zorn, writing in *The Chicago Tribune* (Friday, July 9, 1999) said: "We don't also extend the 1st Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech to those with marginal points of view widely considered heretical, benighted, seditious or disgusting. We specifically extend it to them.

They're the ones who need it....That such repellent people should enjoy a full range of constitutional guarantees is at times an almost unbearable aspect of our system. But it's the price we pay for not living under the alternative-a system in which expression is governed by, say, a national speech code in which whoever is in power draws all the lines between acceptable and unacceptable."

Bigots are made, not born. To hate people simply because of their class-membership is something one is taught, and many individuals are complicit in teaching attitudes of class-based discrimination to the young. Counter-education, emphasizing people's human similarities rather than their superficial differences, might an effective antidote to bigotry.

Bigoted speech is a symptom of bigotry, which is the real problem. Banning or punishing bigoted speech will not end bigotry; it will simply drive it underground and out of sight, and discriminatory conduct will continue to target people on the basis of their actual or perceived class-memberships. ACLU believes that hate speech must share the protections of the First Amendment; it cannot selectively be suppressed without jeopardizing the freedom of expression enjoyed by all citizens. The best way to counter bigotry is to let it be publicly seen for what it is. The best way to neutralize racist, sexist and homophobic hate speech is to challenge it at every turn by countering and overwhelming it with good speech-lots of it-to educate the public.

-Bob Sutherland, with the help of various ACLU documents and several members of the Central Illinois Chapter of ACLU

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Responding to hate groups and hate crimes*

Ten points to remember:

1. Document the problem and stay informed. Develop a chronology of incidents from newspaper accounts, victim reports, etc. Subscribe to relevant publications and network with other concerned individuals and agencies.

2. Speak out and create a moral barrier to hate activity. Communities that ignore the problem of hate group activity and bigoted violence might create the impression that they don't care. Through press conferences, rallies, community meetings, and public hearings, you can create a climate of public opinion that condemns racism and bigotry right from the start.

3. Match the solution to the problem. Your strategy should be tailored to the specific situation you are dealing with; don't rely on rigid, formula-type solutions.

4. Build coalitions. Hate violence and bigotry against one targeted group helps to legitimize activities against other groups. Work with law enforcement agencies for effective training policies and enforcement.

5. Assist victims. Providing support and aid to that violence victims in central to any response strategy.

6. Work with constituencies targeted for recruitment. People who join hate groups usually do so out of frustration, fear, and anger; they might even be your neighbors next door. Offering meaningful social, economic, spiritual, and political alternatives can discourage those most vulnerable to recruitment.

7. Target your own community as well as the hate group. Organizations like the Ku Klux Klan don't create social conflict out of thin air; they have to feed off existing community tensions in order to exist. The enemy of community harmony is not always the hate group itself, but the existing bigotry and division the group can exploit.

8. Encourage peer-based youth programs. Young people respond best to leadership that comes from within their peer group.

9. Remember that hate groups are not a fringe phenomenon and their followers don't always wear white sheets. Although the number of

active white supremacist and neo-Nazi's probably totals no more than 25,000 in the United States, as many as 500,000 Americans read their literature. Hate groups impact the mainstream of society in a variety of ways, including: running candidates for public office; publishing sophisticated propaganda; buying radio time and media outlets; distributing cable television programs; manipulating the media; and building alliances with more respectable conservative groups, including some fundamentalist and evangelical Christian organizations.

10. Broaden your agenda. The problem is more than criminal. Hate activity is a political and social problem requiring a range of responses beyond those initiated by police. Citizen advocacy groups, religious agencies, and others should develop a public policy agenda that addresses a wide range of issues, including appropriate legislation, mandatory school curricula, expanded victim services, etc.

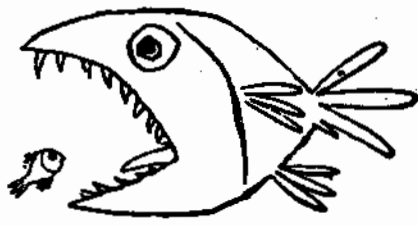
* This list was adapted from When Hate Groups Come to Town, a 1995 guide that was developed by the Center for Democratic Renewal.

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The effect of 14,000 screaming "faggot"

On May 25th, I attended a World Wrestling Federation bout. I walked in trying to be open-minded to the whole situation. I was going to spend quality time with my brother and two of my friends from Morrison. I looked around me in my seat and I saw parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and yes children. I will not sit here and say that to some people WWF is not entertaining, but to me it isn't. After a little while, I was starting to get into it, making the best of the moment. However, all those feelings changed in a flash. Suddenly, a few in the crowd started yelling "faggot." Men, women, and even young children were chanting in unison: "Faggot. Faggot. Faggot." Even the woman and her young son next to me, people that I had just had a nice conversation with before the match began, were chanting.

My brother and my friends were respectful enough not to join in. That is about all I have to say positive about that. My feelings were that if people were yelling "nigger," "kike," or anything else that is bigoted, those words wouldn't be tolerated. However, these people don't feel it is wrong to yell a prejudicial term to the wrestlers. They feel to be called gay is an insult. What's most upsetting is that adults who should know better are letting their young children know 2 things: that being gay is bad and that being prejudiced against gay people is OK. But it's not: I was gay and I was in the audience. How many other gay people were in the audience and made to feel that almost the whole world was against them? Those 14,000 people may not have been directing their chants directly at me, but it sure felt like it. The power of hearing 14,000 people yelling "faggot" is indescribable. I was on the verge of tears from the chanting. The only thing that kept me from crying at the very moment was the fear that I would be beaten up if they saw me cry.

It made me wonder if all that we are working for is actually making a difference, but now that I think about it, there were three people that I know for a fact were not expressing themselves in the same way that these other people had. I know that we are making a difference and maybe sometimes it takes seeing things like that to revive us and keep us going so that we aren't lacking in our efforts. I do believe that with time and patience that we will no longer be second class citizens, but until that point we all must work together for the same cause: equality.

-Jeremy Mulnix
QCAD Newsletter

Free speech vs. hate messages

There are limits to free speech, but defining those limits is a tricky proposition. On one hand, public expression shouldn't be prohibited just because it's unpopular. Indeed, society might most need to hear ideas not currently in vogue. But, using the criterion of the good of society, are there some messages that are always hurtful: never helpful?

I think it's important to distinguish criticism from hate, and hate of actions or beliefs from hate of persons. In the United States, the First Amendment right to free speech has always included protection of unpopular, critical speech. Expressions of hate have also been protected, unless the content or circumstances of that message presents a "clear and present danger" of violence. Now we are revisiting this.

I see three important changes to consider as part of a current-day reevaluation of how to apply the eighteenth century First Amendment:


1. We are faced with evidence that even hate-mongering that doesn't constitute an immediate call to violence can have a cumulative effect, over time, of inciting violence. Whether it's a matter of creating violent thoughts or merely encouraging latent violence is irrelevant: either way, the effect is acts of violence that may not have happened if the environment weren't so laced with the support for hate.
2. We are still learning about the power of electronic media, especially television, to shape attitudes. We too often continue to think of these media as simply another communications tool, when in fact they are also

a profound cultural phenomenon and probably affect us more through subtle images (intended and unintended) than through the overt content of each broadcast. We have to stop pretending that we're too savvy to be manipulated by advertisers, or by others using the same techniques. These media can magnify the power of hate messages many times over.

3. In the twentieth century we have seen the end result of hatred run amok. The classic case is Nazi Germany, with other examples stretching from long-standing ill of Native Americans to the hostilities in the Balkans as the century draws to a close. There should be no doubt that hatred unchecked produces the worst that we are capable of.

So, things are different now than they were two hundred years ago. The First Amendment hasn't become irrelevant, but we are learning more about its limits, or perhaps about what constitutes "clear and present danger." Just as obscenity can be characterized by a lack of redeeming social value, speech may similarly be considered "over the line" when it moves into attack on groups of people based on who they are, rather than what they do. This is not to suggest that such a distinction would be easy to apply, but neither is any analogous legal distinction. Whether we view hate talk as protected or not, we will continue to struggle with line that is necessarily drawn between the many types of speech that should be free and the few (e.g., obscenity, perjury, libel, commercial deception, or incitements to violence) that should not be allowed.

--Alan Markwood



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Don't fall victim to polluting effects of hate



It would be so easy to address the problem of "hate crimes" if I had never committed an "act" of hate myself. Every person who reads this publication has committed an "act" of hate, including me. I believe this realization unveils the self-righteous presumptions that we effortlessly display. Our mindset easily lives in the rut of "it's somebody else." Hate surfaces in our hearts, and, if not now, at least sometime in the past, it has, or it will do so in the future. It is a shadow that follows us everywhere. A fine line exists between an "act" of hate and a "crime" of hate. As a society we are wrestling with this very issue. Do we label all "acts" of hate as "crimes"?

Unfortunately, hate serves well in energizing us. I remember playing high school football with hate, if not strong dislike of the opposing team. Love of enemy was not taught on the football field. I grew up in a culture that hated the Japanese, the Russians and communism. I didn't know that we were supposed to hate blacks until later in life. I was standing in the cafeteria line at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, on the day Martin Luther King, Jr., was shot. I overheard a student in front of me say, "Well, we finally got rid of him." I was stunned to hear those words. They stun me even now. This student never met Martin Luther King, Jr., yet he was glad he was dead. In that cafeteria line any remaining personal naivete blew away like dry leaves in a wind storm. I could just as well have been choking on food stuck in my wind pipe.

Personally encountering hate produces a cold chill running down my back. The words of Jesus of Nazareth give a succinct description of the fruit hatred bears (Mat 5:21-22 NRSV): "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' (22) But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire." Anger or hate is therefore murder. There is no difference between mental and physical violence. Hate as mental violence simmers in the human soul, comes to a boil with little effort, and spills into human community, scalding and burning the souls of others in its path. As much as I try to resist it, hate has its effect on me.

We face then a serious threat against society when hate is promulgated with enthusiasm and conviction. Hate is murder; it is mental violence that ends in death, death of the soul. And we can't ignore the fact that all of us hate at one time or another. Is there one kind of hate worse than another? Who decides which kind of hate is worse?

Unfortunately or fortunately, depending on how you view it, there is little we can do through the courts or through legislation to put a cap on

free speech granted to an individual bent on destroying the very roots of the society out of which free speech was born. Ironically, the "Great China Wall" of society, that is, the creation of more and more laws threatens the freedoms we seek to protect. The "Great China Wall," the creation of more and more laws, can't block out the condition of the human soul. It is like trying to pass laws against cancer. Can we really hope to accomplish anything by passing laws against diseases presuming that they will make a difference? Rather than trying to curtail free speech, I would argue for citizens of this country who are offended by people who give legs and hands to their hate to challenge them through non-violent methods. Too many people in the public arena defer to the voices of hate. We ought not to shy away from public places to make our opinions and feelings known. And why are we silent about violence on TV or in the movies? Why do we deplore violence (hate crimes et al) in our streets and then on a Friday night as a form of entertainment spend \$5.50 to watch a movie that glorifies violence? Is glorified violence okay as long as hate is not the motivator? We don't want the violence of hate, yet we cherish the privilege to let glorified violence entertain us. Saving Private Ryan was very violent but did it glorify violence? I don't think so. It showed us the pain of a violent world. Dead Man Walking was very violent but did it glorify violence? I don't think so. This movie too showed us the pain that comes with violence.

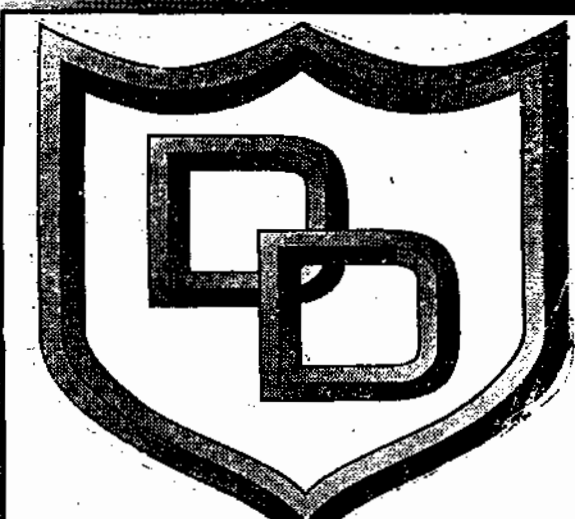
With the recent accounts in our newspapers of tragic expressions of hate, the murdering of innocent victims, the "crime" of hate is clearly evident. It is not longer just an "act" of hate; it is a "crime." There are already laws in the books forbidding this kind of crime.

With unabridged honesty, each individual in this American society must look within his or her heart. Each of us must be willing to acknowledge the "acts" of hate we have committed in our lives. The "acts" can easily become seeds for "crimes" of hate. We need to challenge each other regarding our attitudes and feelings toward one another. At the same time, we need to hear non-violent voices, yours and mine, voices of peace, voices of hope, and voices of compassion in the public arena that challenge voices of hate promoting hate's growth.

Martin Luther King Jr., left us this legacy. Even though a crime of hate took his life, his dream lives on. I am still stunned by those words I heard in the cafeteria line in 1968, "We finally got rid of him." I am stunned, I am saddened, and I am ashamed by the human propensity to hate. This is all the more reason for each of us not to remain silent, not to ignore the marketing of glorified violence and not to ignore the sickness of hate in our souls.

In her book, *Amazing Grace*, Kathleen Norris quotes a wise insight from Abbot Macarius: "If, wishing to correct another, you are moved to anger, you gratify your own passions. Do not lose yourself in order to save another." As we confront the polluting effects of hate, let us not fall victim to it ourselves.

-Joel Erickson



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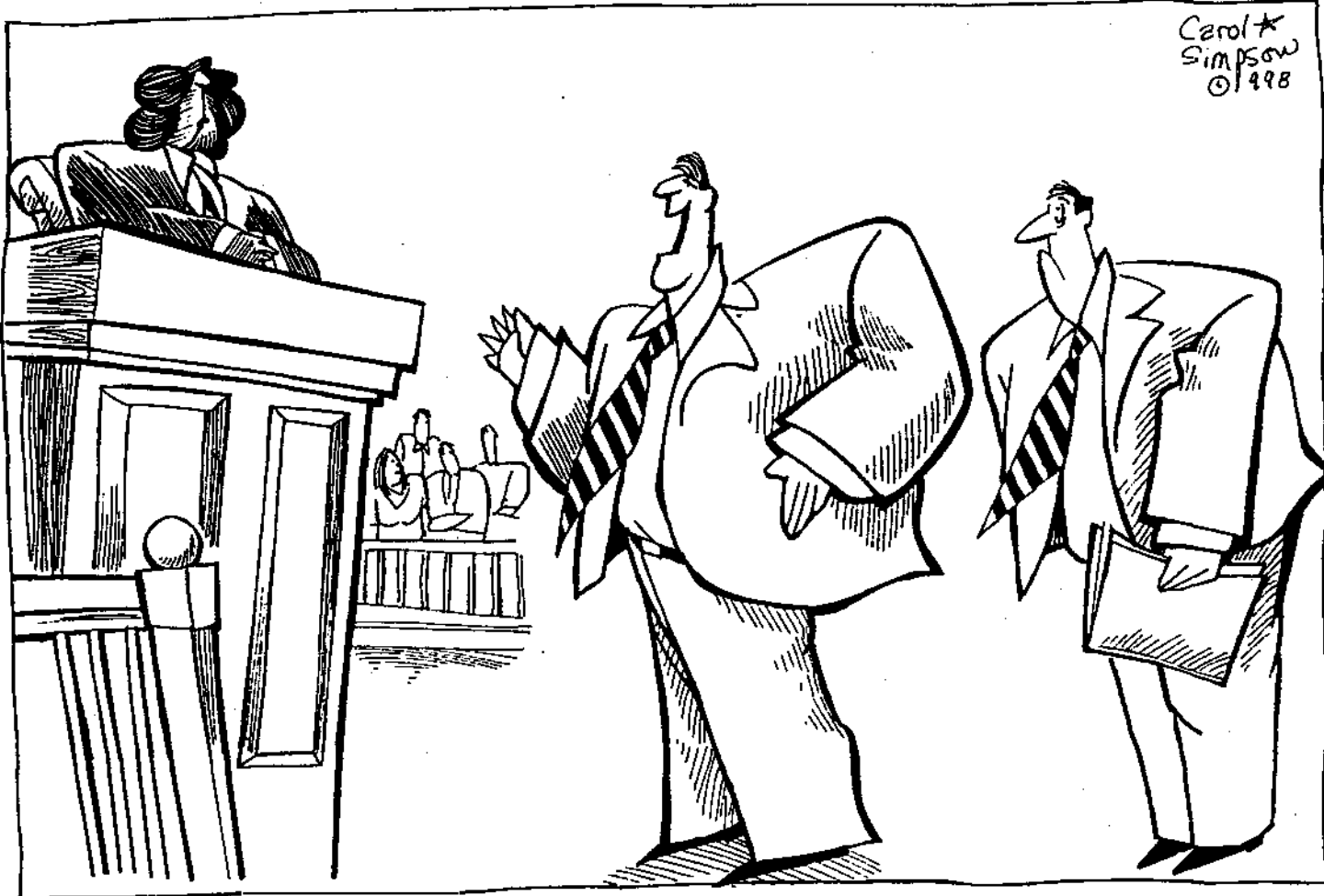
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*"How could we discriminate against minority employees...
we don't even have any."*



*"This place will drive you crazy...
so our mental health benefits are above average."*



Starved whales

It was reported on July 19 that starved whales were washing up on the beaches along the West Coast.

Starved whales.

Starved whales!

Starved whales!!!

Whales are starving in the oceans!?

That strikes me as a very bad sign.

As background I wanted to refer to an article off the news wires dated last January 18. It reported on a scientific study and was headlined "Oceans health impacts humans." The following are brief quotes from the article: "...the oceans are changing at least in part the result of human activity." Marine disease outbreaks are found to be increasing in "frequency, severity, and geographic spread" suggesting that "multiple stresses are creating widespread conditions conducive to disease emergence and spread." "The concern runs up and down the oceans ecosystem." If the oceans are in trouble, so are we." "Fish health and human health is much more strongly linked than ever thought."

I think that those statements deserve our profound attention.

"...the oceans are changing at least in part the result of human activity."

Thank you for recognizing and speaking the obvious.

Marine disease outbreaks are found to be increasing in "frequency, severity and geographic spread."

This is serious business, people.

"The concern runs up and down the oceans ecosystem."

And then the clincher.

"If the oceans are in trouble, so are we."

I don't believe it can be said any more elegantly than that.

All under the heading "Oceans health impacts humans."

And now: starving whales.

I think it is about time to begin acting reasonably about this. We need to be hearing from some real ecologists who can tell us what is happening and may be able to give us some guidelines about what we can do to reverse this process.

I personally believe that we should at least be willing, at this point, to consider what the native people of this continent have been trying to tell us since we got here. Their way of life is based upon a deep understanding of how strongly linked and interconnected and interdependent the web of life is.

They have at least part of the answer to what we are facing.

And we need to hear it.

As one shining example, about a year ago I heard two Hopi elders being interviewed on Art Bell's show. When asked what people could do at this stage of the situation, they answered that we should pray, and that we should simplify our lives.

I see that as real wisdom and as our only hope. If we do not lower the impact of the human presence on our planet, we simply won't be here much longer.

Even the most corporately oriented mind in the world is still sustained by a body that needs air to breathe and water to drink and food to eat in order to live.

So we are all in this together, as one single moment of clear thought would make perfectly evident.

And if we as a people absolutely refuse to come to our senses about this then I say: bring on the Earth changes. There will be purification one way or another.

Walk in beauty

--Gregg Brown

Davenport quizzes candidates on UFO stance

On July 23 Art Bell conducted an interview with Peter Davenport, the director of the National UFO Reporting Center. Mr. Davenport announced his intention to send a letter to each of the presidential candidates regarding the UFO issue and asking for a statement of position on it. He will then later report on Art's show about their responses or lack thereof.

This is important.

By telling Art's audience, of something near 20 million people, what he is going to do, he is offering a direct public challenge to those candidates to take a stand on this issue. And, by promising to report back to us on how they respond, he is giving the candidates a real stake in this.

After all, 20 million people is too many people to ignore completely without cost.

I am sure that some of you who read this have strong feelings about the UFO mystery. And I am also sure that there are those of you who haven't really thought about it too much. But either way, I hope you can see that it would be at least interesting to see those who want to lead us have to stand up and speak out about something that they would obviously rather not talk about.

The thing is, how do we press the point?

Peter Davenport's letter to the candidates and Art Bell's reporting of it may present a golden opportunity.

If enough people would contact the media and the political parties about this, who knows what could happen.

Contact with the media would prove to them that you are interested in this story and that you want it reported.

Contact with the political parties would let them know your interest in this issue and that you want their candidates to respond to Peter's letter.

As background, just a little of Mr. Davenport's role in this. He has been the director of the National UFO Reporting Center for several years and during that time has collected incoming reports for the organization. He has listened to many thousands of people give their account of their UFO experience.

He has said that the number of reported cases has been very high last fall and the month of July was extraordinarily active.

There are very few people on the face of the planet who could possibly have a closer or broader view of what is being reported around us day after day.

So he is uniquely qualified to take this question to the potential leaders of this nation.

And he is a brave man to do it. He deserves our backing.

--Gregg Brown

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Notes from the land of anti-fat

Ghost writers in the sky

Here at Anti-Fat Central, a lotta stories pass our desk. Many of them are devoted to scare stories that read more like advertisements for this week's weight loss scam than legitimate scientific research. Turns out there's a reason for this.

Recently, word in the *Daily Morning News* came out that a company that manufactured part of the diet drug combo fen-phen hired ghostwriters to hack out articles promoting obesity treatment and then used prominent researchers to publish the works under their names. This info comes courtesy of a lawsuit being filed against the fen-phen hucksters, but interestingly the industry has not denied its common use but instead defended it.

The legal action claims that Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, which made the "fen" half of the drug combination, hid health risks associated with the drugs. The company allegedly tried to play down or remove descriptions of side effects from the articles. Only two of the 10 articles paid for by Wyeth actually were published in medical journals before the company pulled the drugs from the market in September 1997, when other studies linked the combo to heart valve damage and an often-fatal lung disease. Plans to publish the eight others were canceled. Now, that's quick thinking. . .

Ghostwritten articles are a common practice in the industry, according to Wyeth's spokesman, Doug Petkus. "The companies have some input in the initial development of the piece. But the proposed author has the last say."

Medical ethicists have a slightly different take on the matter, though. "What they're doing here is clearly an advertisement, but it's couched in a scientifically valid paper," said Dr. Robert M. Tenery Jr., a Dallas ophthalmologist and chairman of the American Medical Association's council on ethical and judicial affairs.

Nor surprisingly, some of the weight loss bignames who had their monikers attached to these ghost-written puff pieces have since tried to distance themselves from the practice. Dr. Albert J. Stunkard of the University of Pennsylvania, said he had no idea that Wyeth financed or edited his article. Had he known, he would not have participated, he said. "It's

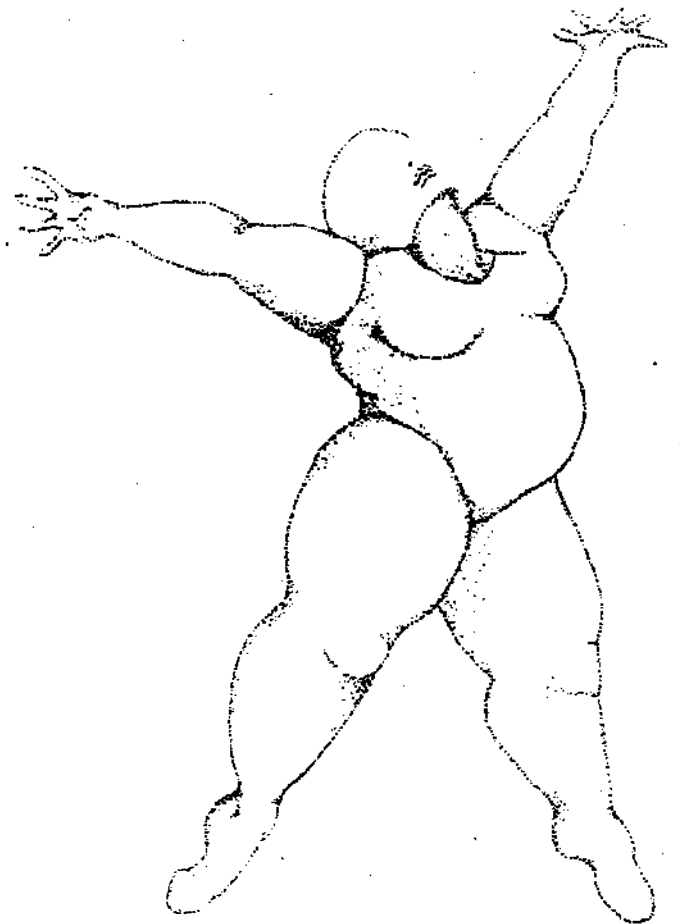
really deceptive," said Stunkard, whose article was published in the *American Journal of Medicine* in February 1996. "It sort of makes you uneasy."

The company hired to write the ten articles, Excerpta Medica, Inc., planned to submit most of the papers to medical journals owned by its parent company, Reed Elsevier Plc. which undermines Wyeth's assertion that the putative writers had final say on these promo pieces. After all, doesn't the journal editor or publisher *really* have the last word?

Many years ago, when I was a struggling graduate student and free-lance writer, I used to make some extra money proofreading graduate papers. The point of this was to help foreign bio students get a grip on the basics of English so that they could eventually produce their own articles. The assumption, of course, was that these would-be future researchers would some day actually be writing these pieces, not having them churned out by some glorified p.r. hack.

If this is standard practice in the world of medical research, it sez much about the sorry state of medical academia today.

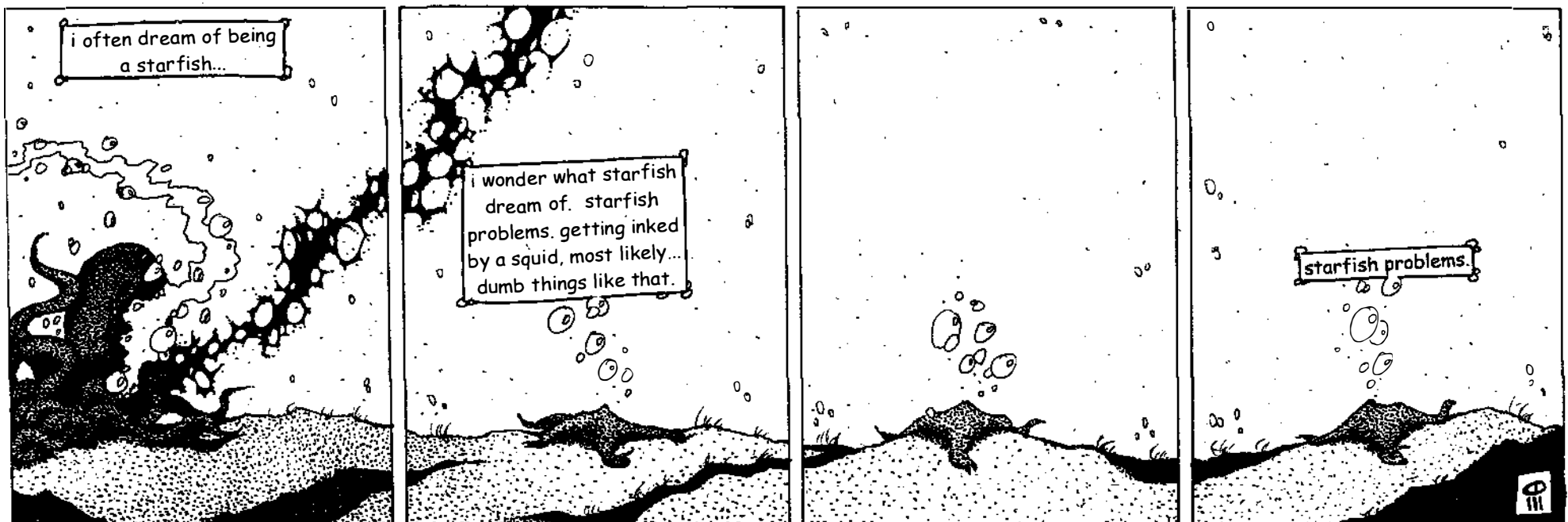
--Bill Sherman



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SEEING*RED

Red China Syndrome

by Steve Eckardt

In the animated movie "Aladdin" the genie says, "I can't bring anybody back from the dead - it's not pretty!" ...while a rising, rotting corpse provides illustration.

Yep, it doesn't get much uglier than the long-dead, even to an all-powerful genie. But it looks like both the Establishment media and right-wing Republicans must have missed that movie (probably boycotting Disney for employing gays). Or maybe they just don't care about ugly.

Either way, recent media coverage of China is nothing but the old Cold War "Red China" scare campaign dragged from the grave. I'm talking about the whole "China-gate" scandal - the alleged pilfering of U.S. nuclear weapons secrets by China, the associated charge of Chinese donations to Clinton's re-election effort - plus numerous portrayals of China as a nuclear threat, a slave-labor totalitarian regime bent on aggressively asserting itself as the world's new dominant nation.

Invasion of the Body Snatchers

It's all there: slippery Chinese worming like alien pod-people into top-secret U.S. laboratories, clandestine attempts to control the very President, and multiplying A-bombs in the Orient where, as everybody knows, they value human life less than we do. Then there's the theme of teeming Chinese hungry to burst their borders - now gobbling Hong Kong,

trampling the delicate flower of Tibet under state-issued boots and eyeing the flourishing, free nation of Taiwan.

All straight from the propaganda campaigns of the 1940's and 50's.

And that says it all, for back then Washington was bent on overthrowing the Chinese Revolution by any means necessary, including military invasion and the use of nuclear weapons - while domestically unleashing a wide-ranging campaign of witch-hunting that cast a pall of fear and hysteria across the land for more than a decade.

But almost nobody realizes that today's charges about the Chinese bogey-man are nothing but re-runs, re-runs of a production once driven into the vault by public hue and cry.

Ugly times

After all, you'd have to be over 40 to remember establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China (at the height of the VietNam war, twenty years after the Chinese Revolution). You'd have to be damn near 50 to remember "Red China" - the name always used for the world's largest country back when the United States government refused to recognize its existence. Then, "China" was the island of Taiwan ("Formosa") where the locals dwelt under the dictatorship of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and his hangers-on, all fugitives from the Chinese Revolution and the *real* government of China in the eyes of Washington.

The actual China --where capitalism had been overthrown (if imperfectly)-- was the incarnation of evil, to be engaged only by a war on every front and by every means (sabotage, assassinations, gangster contras, biological weapons, attempted military invasion and [almost] nuclear bombs). (Of course you can be 14 and recognize this - it's Washington's treatment of revolutionary Cuba, minus the hysterical nationwide witch-hunt and the phony exile government on the one hand, and several decades of length on the other.)

And you'd have to be easily 60 to recall that China and the U.S. fought a bloody land war in the Korean peninsula. But then if you *were* that old you still wouldn't remember it - it's been washed from most peoples' brains. (Maybe because hundreds of thousands of Chinese volunteers rallied to defend Korea against U.S. invasion ... thwarting MacArthur's plans to conquer China itself, and forcing Washington's armies to beat an punishing retreat halfway down Korea.

Red Menace

As for the witch-hunt over "who lost China" to Communism -- well, you'd probably have to be approaching 70 to remember that. But talk about ugly -- how about hundreds of thousands of workers fired for alleged political beliefs, or the parents of two young children fried in the electric chair for serving the Red Menace with an impossible act of treason.

Of course it was all about the International Communist Conspiracy, not just about China. But it was the McCarthy hearings into "who lost China" that started it all. Imagine under-secretaries of State, Congressmen, and judges -- plus teachers, professors and movie celebrities hauled before the Inquisition, humiliated, fired, and blacklisted.

But the domestic terror and the trumpeted menace of the "Red hordes" or the "Yellow Peril" (actual phrases used in the media fifty years ago) were just filthy and hysterical cover for U.S. counter-revolutionary action --and military force-- against the non-capitalist world, from China to Eastern Europe and Russia. Cover for building a military machine capable of destroying life on Earth, cover for deploying over a million invading troops in Korea and (later) VietNam.

In other words: war propaganda.

The Manchurian Candidate

All of which makes the current charges of hidden Chinese spies, treason in high places, and the Yellow Threat worthy of serious attention. It was war propaganda 50 years ago - and it's war propaganda today. After all, the charges are ridiculously thin. (Guess how many nuclear warheads China has: 1200? 12,000? Nope -- it's just twelve [though The Nation magazine claims a whopping 24]. And the infamous campaign contributions to Clinton--IF there were any--would hardly rate notice in the ocean of campaign funds, let alone buy "treason.")

But the proof is the whole series of aggressive U.S. moves against China -- the effort to ring it with anti-ballistic missiles (effectively eliminating Chinese nuclear defenses), the attempts to impose trade barriers, the announced plan to invade north Korea (in "self-defense" of course), the blocking of China's membership in the World Trade Organization, and, yes, the bombing of the embassy--Chinese soil--in Belgrade. Plus the recent virtual independence declaration by Taiwan (the Chinese province ruled by counter-revolutionaries) made possible only by U.S. military backing.

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Retro

Mix in a domestic witch-hunt and --presto-- we're back in the 'fifties, back at war with Communism, and on the road to war against Eastern Europe, Russia ... and China.

Impossible?

How about the decade-long campaign to shatter the Yugoslav Federation culminating in a massive bombing campaign and occupation by nearly 100,000 Western troops? How about adding Poland and Hungary to NATO's encirclement of Russia? Or NATO's open transformation into an offensive military organization?

Or take the recent practice military invasions of cities in California and Pennsylvania -- and of Camden (New Jersey) where bombs and live rounds were used in a working class neighborhood. Or the "anti-terrorism" preparations, and the witch-hunt against supporters of Puerto Rican independence.

Ugly stuff, all. Last time shows like this were playing it took decades of domestic protest movements and revolutionary uprisings in Africa, Asia and Latin America to drive them back into the vault.

Now that's one script worth re-making -- especially with a bigger and broader cast.

But this time, let's bring the wooden stake.

Reader responses welcome at <seckardt@aol.com>. For related material -- and news and analysis from around the world-- visit the on-line magazine SeeingRed at <www.SeeingRed.com>.

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May I

O Gaia, May I scratch your skin to give this nut tree seed life.
 May I love this seed, care for its sprout.
 Shelter and protect it, support it as it reaches for the sky.
 May I create bricolage from your fallen branches
 Use your fallen leaves to amend the soil.
 May I feed many generations with your flesh
 May I fuel my furnace with your shells
 Will you shade my home in the summer, so I can burn one less dinosaur.
 May I whisper to your bark when malaise besets me.
 May I make love in your shadow.
 I will bring you many friends of leaf and wing.
 Will you enrich the soil with your nodules
 I will touch you as I pass by.
 I will caress you with my mantra
 I will water and feed you when you crave sustenance.
 Will you let my feathered friends build homes in you noble branches.
 Will you swallow my exhaled breath, and fill my lungs with new air.
 May I lean upon you as I read LaoTsu, Al Gore, and Thoreau.
 May I, may be your loyal friend, dear magnificent, ever essential Tree of Life.

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick

Quandary

I'm held together with coffee grounds.
 I'm coasting along on cigarette smoke.
 My heart is in the lost and found.
 My life is a long, pathetic joke.
 I've given up on love at first sight,
 now I'm opting for like at a year.
 I'm out of ideas and reasons to fight,
 but I'm stocked up on heartache and fears.
 The end of the rainbow offers no joys.
 The end of my day brings no rest.
 I've lost the desire to use men as toys.
 I've failed all life's little tests.
 I'm tired of bitching at walls every day.
 I'm amazed when they don't argue back.
 I don't have the strength to clear my dull haze,
 or conviction enough to attack.
 I barely could write this strange little verse.
 The words struggled to form in my mind.
 I offer to you, tell me which one is worse?
 The lack of a life or abundance of rhyme?

--Barbie Dockstader

A Conversation With The Muse

The Muse
 smacked me upside the head
 and said,
 "Write a poem."

I said, "You must be
 joking.
 I'm no poet."

She said,
 "Did I
 ask if you were
 a poet?
 Write
 a freakin' poem!"

I said,
 "Okay,
 About what?"

She said, "That's
 your problem."

I said,
 "Okay.
 What form?"

She said, "That's
 your problem, too.
 Write!"

So I wrote
 a poem about the Muse
 asking me to write a poem. And
 I showed it to
 her.

She said,
 "Cop out!"
 And vanished.

The Muse
 is
 one
 mean
 bitch!"

--Stephen M. Larson

Untitled

What makes me this way?
 Why don't I suppress these feelings?
 Change my ways?

It is the glow in her eyes
 the twinkle of her nose
 the softness of her lips
 the delicacy of her touch.

It is the sweetness that taste of
 her that taste of me.

It is her that makes me this way.

It is because of her, I can not change.

-ANITA

The 16 Anything Club

My life's a John Hughes movie
 played on triple fast rewind.
 The quotes I'm always using
 are the freeze frames of my time.
 But am I really Ally Sheedy?
 Where's the soundtrack for my pain?
 Will John Cusack ever kiss me
 in the forest in the rain?
 Why don't my parents hear me?
 Can I say anything to you?
 Does wardrobe make my character?
 And why can't I be pretty in blue?
 Will I ever finish senior year?
 I've been to more proms than the band.
 And what do I do when my boyfriend
 isn't content holding hands?
 And who's my best friend this week?
 And who's my date tonite?
 If my life becomes a sitcom,
 do I retain the rights?
 You've got my adolescence.
 It's out on DVD.
 But when I become a grown up,
 what will John Hughes do with me?
 My life is one long sequel,
 that didn't make the grade.
 Playing to an empty house
 to fill my waning days.
 And people play remember when,
 and I become the joke.
 My life's a John Hughes movie
 that people always quote.

Written for Glen Tucker
--Barbie Dockstader

What Choice?

I did not choose to be spat at.
 I did not choose to be shunned.
 I did not choose to be made fun of.
 I did not choose to be called a dyke.
 I did not choose to lose my family.
 I did not choose to be hated.
 I did not choose this life.
 It chose me.

-ANITA



Night As Birth

I have no idea how people who don't write endure their lives.

-Maxine Hong Kingston

This night is like so many unjotted plans
an evening when seconds pierce the stratosphere
of slumber sound.
blankets of books canvas my floor
and I imagine a sculpted airplane,
huge and weightless lifting me out.
unraveling in a slow, red frenzy
unguided and spirited as a first spring kite.
I am the wine glassed lady
not bothering to care about what water spots
do to a stainless steel sink,
or matter with theache that spreads beyond
these legs and lips.
not tonight
logic doesn't interest me,
food cannot satisfy
conversations blur in and out of screen protected windows,
poetry is important but not enough.
a sassy street of light dances with the images of papers
puzzled around my feet,
the shadows skate and push into a rise,
a wealthy hunger
the slow and persistent rise.
the heat in my pulse has no discipline.
I toy with whether this fever
can climb and wrestle
with a night this loud.

--Lorraine Harrell

Russian Roulette

'Have a cup of poison'
says my friend to my friend
I hand them guns and roses
that's when the fun begins.

We're sitting in a circle
playing poker with our lives
5 card draw is the game
Fate deals, tensions rise.

It's my friend's turn to bet
He raises just a bit
His friend has a smile,
but his heart says 'Oh, shit!'

But he, too, raises the pile
Very bold, and very dumb
His friend stays in the game
because he really has no home

When it comes my turn to bet
I figure 'What the heck'
I hope that I look calm
because inside I'm a wreck.

Now it's Jimmy's turn to go
Time to put up or fold
He lays his cards down honestly
'Cause it was his turn to be sold

The game is finally over
We all fold with a thud
Bold and stupid kids
Tryin' to stay alive in the mud.

--David Hall

Home is Where the Coffee Is

I drink my coffee
straight and black.

Damn it.

No sugar or cream
for me.
Once I had
kahlua cream.

Damn it.

It tasted good,
I like kahlua;
but it was too sweet.

Facade.

I also like espresso
when I want a
caffine buzz.

Damn it.

I think I'll stick to
the way I make my
coffee at home.

(comfort)

I drink my coffee
straight and black.

--David Hall



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Why Unions Matter-clear guide to labor

The labor movement's history goes back over a century in this nation. Unions operate in almost every community, often doing their job far from the public eye, representing their members and working to better conditions. When strikes, lock-outs, or major negotiations take place, suddenly they are thrust in the headlines. Invariably the negative comments follow, about unions being greedy, corrupt or impediments to business.

A tight, comprehensive overview on labor's role awaits the reader in Michael Yates new book, "Why Unions Matter." Written in simple, direct language, this volume not only explains what unions do and how they improve condition for workers (and not just union members), it also takes a quick historical side trip, laying out the unique nature of American unions.

Yates teaches economics at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The reader won't find technical economic formulas here or twisted language. Rather, Yates writes in a straight forward fashion, drawing his and his family's own experience into the story, showing in simple, understandable words why unions are a good deal for workers.

For union members who have paid their dues but never quite understood the alphabet soup of organizations and affiliations that unions have, this book will nicely explain the overall structure of U.S. unions, from the "International" union in Washington, D.C., down to the regional and local body.

At election time some members complain why the union is so worried about electing worker-friendly candidates. Again, there's a tight explanation of how political involvement has boosted paychecks and conditions for workers.

However, this book is no smokescreen for the labor movement. Yates is critical of what he perceives as the U.S. labor movement's mistakes: its reliance on political friends to win accomplishments, rather than grassroots mobilization; and, its own lack of internal democracy, where in some union's offices are rarely contested, particularly at national levels.

There's some handy charts that explain the benefits of union membership, showing the higher wages and benefits union members enjoy. These charts are broken down by race and gender, showing that minority groups often enjoy the biggest boost when they organize.

With our current society so concerned about labeling people according to their race, gender or sexual preference, one of Yates' final chapters shows how union membership has aided various groups, while also criticizing the exclusive white man's club that some unions were historically.

Challenges to labor are analyzed in the end. These include not only external challenges, like the increasing mobility of capital, but also internal challenges, like labor's failure to sustain an active, involved membership. Yates doesn't propose to have all the answers, though he does point to a true international union movement as a key to confronting mobile capital.

If you've ever wondered how unions operate, why they exist, or what they do for workers, pick up *Why Unions Matter*. It's an easy, straight-forward read and will demonstrate clearly the ways unions have improved the lot of working Americans-union members or not.

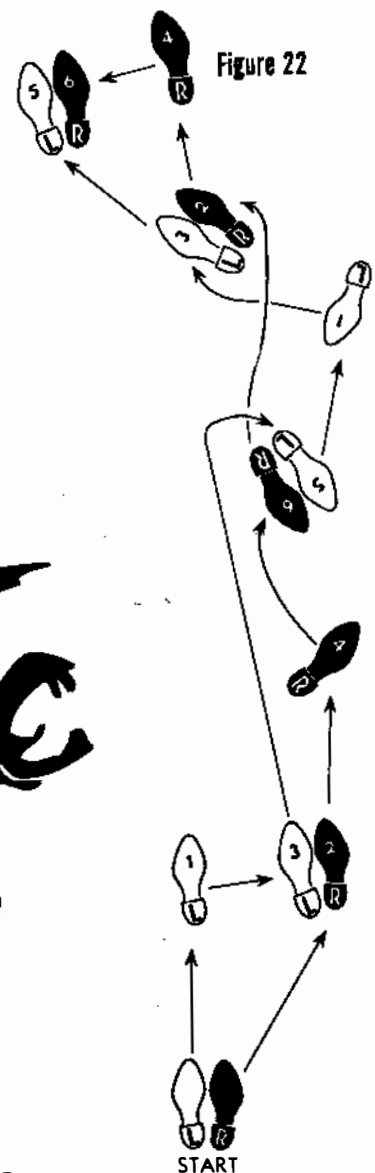
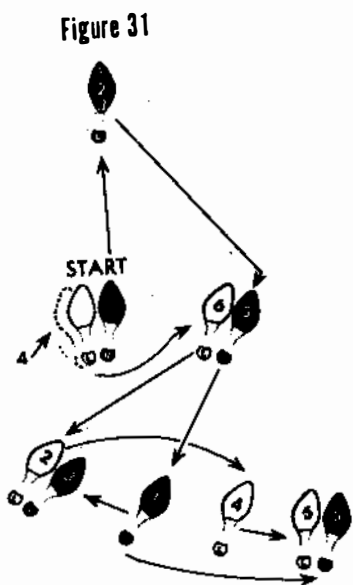
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--review by Michael G. Matejka, Union News, July 1999



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