

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

12-1-1999

Volume 28, Number 6

Post Amerikan

Follow this and additional works at: https://thekeep.eiu.edu/post_amerikan



Part of the [Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Ethnicity in Communication Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Publishing Commons](#), and the [Social Influence and Political Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Post Amerikan, "Volume 28, Number 6" (1999). *The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)*. 245.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/post_amerikan/245

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Post Amerikan Project at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Post Amerikan (1972-2004) by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

Racism in Farmington • NPRs Andrei Codrescu comes to town • Eureka workers victims of corporate greed



POST AMERICAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 28

FREE

NUMBER SIX

DECEMBER/JANUARY 1999-2000

**It's our last
issue of the
millennium!**

millennium!

of the new

the first issue

Welcome to

Address Correction Requested
Post American
P.O. Box 3452
Bloomington, IL 61702

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit Number 168
Bloomington, IL 61702



PAGE 2



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

VOLUME 28

NUMBER SIX

DECEMBER/JANUARY 1999-2000

In this Issue:

- Page 2 You are here.
- Page 3 Community News
- Page 4 What does pain look like?
Struggling with fibromyalgia syndrome
- Page 5 Fighting the myths of AIDS

- Page 6-8 Paradisiacal dreck; or what happened to Adam and Eve's apple core
- Page 9 Rural racism in Farmington
- Page 10-11 Union News: Eureka workers victims of corporate greed

- Page 12-13 Gay and Lesbian News. Gay network comes to B/N; IWU adds domestic partner benefits.
- Page 14 Poetry Page
- Page 15 WalMart denies women contraceptives
- Page 16 Notes from the Land of Anti-Fat
- Page 17 Interesting facts to back up your future arguments.
- Page 18-19 Seeing Red by Steve Eckardt
- Page 20 NAMI News

About us

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

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

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

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

Subscriptions

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

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

David, Linda, Ralph and 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 Coffeeshouse, 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.)

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 Phoneline...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

Sterile Feral Foundation

Although you may have never heard of feral cats, I am almost sure that you have seen one. They're the cats who you always see by the dumpster at your favorite restaurant. They're the cats you see sleeping in the alley next to your apartment. They're the cats who flee from you when you visit your friend's farm.

For me, they were the cats who were always in the parking lot in front of my apartment. I soon realized that they weren't quite like the "normal" house cats--they ran when I approached them. They ate the food I started to put out for them only when I stood at a safe distance. They eyed me warily and they didn't accept my offers to pet them. They frequently had battle scars from their last meeting with a tom cat. They even more frequently had kittens, little ones they angrily protected from my curious hands.

I slowly realized that these animals were a colony of feral cats. I am sure a few of them were someone's pets at one time. One little cat even sported a collar. Once abandoned, the unspayed females relied on their wild instincts to survive. They taught their offspring to be leery of people. They banded together and stuck to the one reliable food source they could find: the garbage dumpster.

To make a long tale a little shorter, I finally realized that the only way to help these cats would be to get them neutered and spayed. The unneutered males were spending their lives roaming after females and fighting with other males. The unspayed females were spending their time dragging their kittens around. My bowls of Meow Mix weren't solving the problem.

I am happy to report that neutering and spaying the cats has improved their lives dramatically. Nine out of ten of the cats have been humanely trapped, neutered or spayed, and vaccinated. Twilight is the one cat in that colony who thinks he's going to get away with remaining unneutered. Soon he'll know better. He'll know how good it feels not to want to fight and roam anymore.

These cats were the inspiration for the Sterile Feral Foundation. The cats in this community should be very glad I met a kindred spirit named Valerie Parker. She convinced me that if we followed the cats' example and banded together, more good could be accomplished. We are in the process of becoming a not-for-profit organization. Our mission is to help feral cats in this area by trapping them, neutering them, and returning them to their outdoor "home." We daily provide the cats with food, water, and shelter.

Right now we're looking for help. We need volunteers to help us with everything from trapping and feeding to fundraising and building shelters for the upcoming winter. Please call me at 829-8506 or Valerie at 829-7439 for more information. You could also check out the Alley Cat Allies web site at www.alleycat.org for more information on feral cats.

We know that the trap-neuter-return method works. The colony of ten cats by my old apartment building attest to it. If you would like to help us help these all but forgotten animals, please give us a call

--Heidi Guth



love
(post) amerikan
style

WRITE YOUR TEXT

- 1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....
- 6.....7.....8.....9.....10.....
- 11.....12.....13.....14.....
- 15.....16.....17.....18.....
- 19.....20.....21.....22.....
- 23.....24.....25.....

THE DETAILS

- JUST FRIENDS
- WOMEN SEEKING MEN
- MEN SEEKING WOMEN
- WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN
- MEN SEEKING MEN
- OTHER

MAIL TO:

LOVE POST AMERIKAN STYLE
C/O POST AMERIKAN
P.O. BOX 3452
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

HOW IT WORKS:

1. A MAIL MATCHES AD OF 25 WORDS OR LESS COSTS \$5 AND RUNS FOR ONE ISSUE. EACH WORD OVER 25 COSTS 50¢ ADDITIONAL.
2. THE POST ASSIGNS A MAIL MATCHBOX NUMBER TO YOUR AD AND FORWARDS REPLIES TO YOU ONCE A WEEK. (OR DEPENDING ON VOLUME RECEIVED).
3. MAIL MATCHES ARE INTENDED FOR INDIVIDUALS. NO DATING SERVICES, SINGLES CLUBS, OR BUSINESSES MAY BUY THEM.
4. NO LAST NAMES, ADDRESSES, OR PHONE #'S ARE ALLOWED IN YOUR AD COPY. WE WILL NOT PRINT ADS WE FIND TO BE IN POOR TASTE.

ALL RESPONSES WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

ISU Faculty Biennial

The Illinois State University Art Department's Faculty Biennial runs from November 16th through December 19th at University Galleries, 110 Center For the Visual Arts. Gallery hours are Sunday-Monday 12:00-4:00; Tuesday 9:30- 9:00 and Wednesday-Friday 9:30-4:30. For more information phone 309.438.5487 or check out the website at www.orat.ilstu.edu/cfa.ilstu.edu



What does pain look like ?

I feel old, old before my time.
Worn out from pain, fatigue, and worry.

I long to shed my body like a cocoon
and fly away ñ

But I don't.

I keep on trying, keep on going.
Get up each day, no matter what.

I am committed to finding a way to live
that's less painful - more peaceful.

I think I will never get there.

But I try.

Untitled - Laurie Landauer

"Stunning!" "Transcendent!" "Enthralling!"
"The ultimate epiphany!"

I'd like to say these were SisBert cinema blurbs.
But actually, during the past few days, I've
uttered these very words (eek! it's thesaurus
affliction!) to fam and friend alike, striving to
paint the entire palette of pain that may visit my
days and nights. Not for pity or gain - I seek
dialogue.

Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS): a painful
disorder attributed to problems in the central
nervous system neurotransmitters and abnormal
regulation of several hormonal systems in the
body, often manifesting immune dysfunction.

My personal etiology: a most-likely hereditary,
psyche-encompassing jumpstart which
scrambles my senses, by manifesting a limbic
spectrum from nearly absent to excruciating,
seemingly ad hoc.

From sophomore year HS, when I experienced
what I'd guess were my first symptoms
(phantom fevers, dry mouth, sore throat, fatigue
& depression), and my parents ferried me to
Mayo Clinic (diagnosis: deviated septum,
asthmatic bronchitis, teenage-itis), and Mom
was mortified that Small Town Gossip might
brand me pregnant, . . .

Through years of disgusting diagnostics and
diagnoses (chronic colitis, yeast infections,
muscle spasms, laryn/pharyn/glaryn-gitis, TMJ,
RA joint ills as well) and not so veiled comments
on my mental health (which, for my own
personal reasons, I turned away), . . .

Beyond cherished, rewarding jobs, lost and past,
vanished in the mists of flare-ups and fear, . . .

To this now when, on the not-so-good days, I
endure sensations as diffuse as prickly fingers
that wake me up, to an urgent, drive-me-to-my-
knees slashing agony, . . .

I've found a measure of peace in the final
validation it wasn't all in my head. (And, to all
you doomsay-dists, it's also not just my size!
Our thin kin also contract FMS.)

That there is a common thread within the tangle
of these episodes. That there are others who
share the suffering. Including, in retrospect,
three Victorian sisters: the stately grandmother
who doffed her whalebone corset only during
ablutions; one sister who eternally nursed an
"irritable gut"; and the other, a woman plagued
with dry skin and lesions, due partly to
photosensitivity. (In the long run, probably
prudent that I chose not to replicate these genes
- another day, another rant.) They just strapped
themselves in and persevered in pain.

Prior to 1990, when the Amerikan College of
Rheumatology developed diagnostic criteria, the
connection in symptomology was lost for
nameless numbers. (Numbers like 12-15 million
US cases reported in 1996.) And this really is a
stupid disease. Its manifestations are irritating,
and I can see how the afflicted of old were
considered witches, crippled, or mad.

Yet, even after a decade, there are certain
medicos and others who attach the onus of "cult
(yes, verbatim!) on such syndromes as FMS and
CFS (Chronic Fatigue). But since, as a UU, I
already carry the brand of cultist by some, I say
"piffle!" I can't afford to support 2 of 'em!

In the quest for dialogue, I discovered the B/N
FMS/CFS support group. There I've found
strength, savoring the "grace" its members find
in a life of chronic pain.

But it's the lending library's vast selection of
books, literature, videos, tapes and aids that
most pique my newbie scholar's interest. One
book, *We Laughed, We Cried* -- Life with
Fibromyalgia, compiled and edited by Kit
Gardiser & Kathleen Kerry, will find copies
slipping into several loved ones' stockings this
Yule. Though a mere 117 pages, it embodies
intimate words and feelings I never found the
time or energy to write - verse and prose and
graphics with the power to touch a nerve
(literally and figuratively for me, at least).

The poem above is swiped, as are several
pictures. I heartily recommend it.

But I'm not spending hours at my keyboard
today just to bore you with personal health
ravings. Are you possibly as pleased as I am at
the election results -- in Maine of all places?

To the chagrin of D.A.R.E. and drug czars
everywhere, those dour New Englanders have
embraced medical marijuana at the polls.
Maybe it's the meteorology of the place, since
nor'easters must wreak storms of aches and
pain. Or perhaps people are finally realizing
that practical solutions have long lay beyond the
holy test tube.

After 20+ years personal experience, and at the
risk of losing my freedom, I hereby declare that
marijuana has gotten me through times when no
pharmaceutical giant could. Nicely toasted, I
experience fewer and milder symptoms.

No, I've conducted no clinical trials or blind
studies. What I am saying is, when
guilt/fear/economics/droughts have
precipitated long-term stashy sabbaticals,
weedy return has dissipated my worst relapses.
I'm no longer ashamed to admit it (thanks, s.o.),
though I remain discreet.

As an aging hippie, will I live long enough to
celebrate the day our Fed sloughs off its
Reaganite boogeyman-ism toward cannabis,
thus realizing the idiocy of demonizing a
natural, alternative compound which provides
relief for myriad conditions?

Or, as a certain subversive bumper sticker
suggests, will it ultimately turn out to be the big-
money case of "Unless we patent it, anyone can
grow it!"? Stay tuned, all who suffer, and keep
the faith!

Muse



K. Kerry

Bad Day



K. Kerry

Good Day



Fighting myths

After many months have passed, we can now look back at some of our events and scrutinize them more closely. For the sake of time and effort, we'll come directly to the point and state our topic as the Dining With Friends fund raiser. As several members met after the finale to discuss the success of the event, we found ourselves debating several comments that were made before and after. In response to some of these remarks, which I would like to add that we welcome hearing, we wish to add our opinions as well.

One comments we heard was that we don't have enough clients to need money for. Ironically, this is perhaps one of the easiest for us to respond to. We have 30 clients currently using or have used our assistance. Though some of them don't require much in the area of financial help from us, there are those times when we are the last resort for them. We may provide transportation for them, means to obtain information on latest drugs or advances in the medical field of HIV and AIDS, food from our Food Bank, functions and events they may find interesting or enjoyable to attend, as well as an exclusive board member designated for each one of them in case they should need anything specific. All of this comes at a valuable time when the local Health Department has transferred their case management responsibilities to the Heart of Illinois AIDS Center in Peoria.

However, we are also only a volunteer organization. This means that all of our members have other jobs and lives that need attention as well. Not only do we ask our community for monetary assistance, we also need those who are willing to give us time too.

What some people fail to realize financially is that some of the donated funds also go to HIV/AIDS prevention work as well. By providing condoms and dental dams, printed materials on how to protect one's self, and making appearances at conferences and seminars; we reach the whole community in our attack to cease the wave of new cases. In fact, we added five new clients in 1999 alone and word has it that we may be seeing more cases in the future as protease inhibitors begin to fail and new drugs are lacking in their timeliness and effectiveness. Now, more than ever, we should be stepping up our efforts to prepare for the future by talking to those who are not infected. While some people may say that we're spending too much on prevention and not enough for those who already have the virus, we, as an organization, see it a bit differently.

For those of you who don't know anyone who is HIV positive, the goal for most is normality. They don't want to be constantly reminded of the virus in them. They get that from the regimen of drugs and doctor's visits they are forced to deal with on a regular basis. So we try to leave our clients alone, allowing them access to us on their own availability. If they need or want something that we can help them with, we're there. If life is treating them well, we are happy for them without butting into it. We're not their parents or their guardians. We're there when we're needed or wanted.

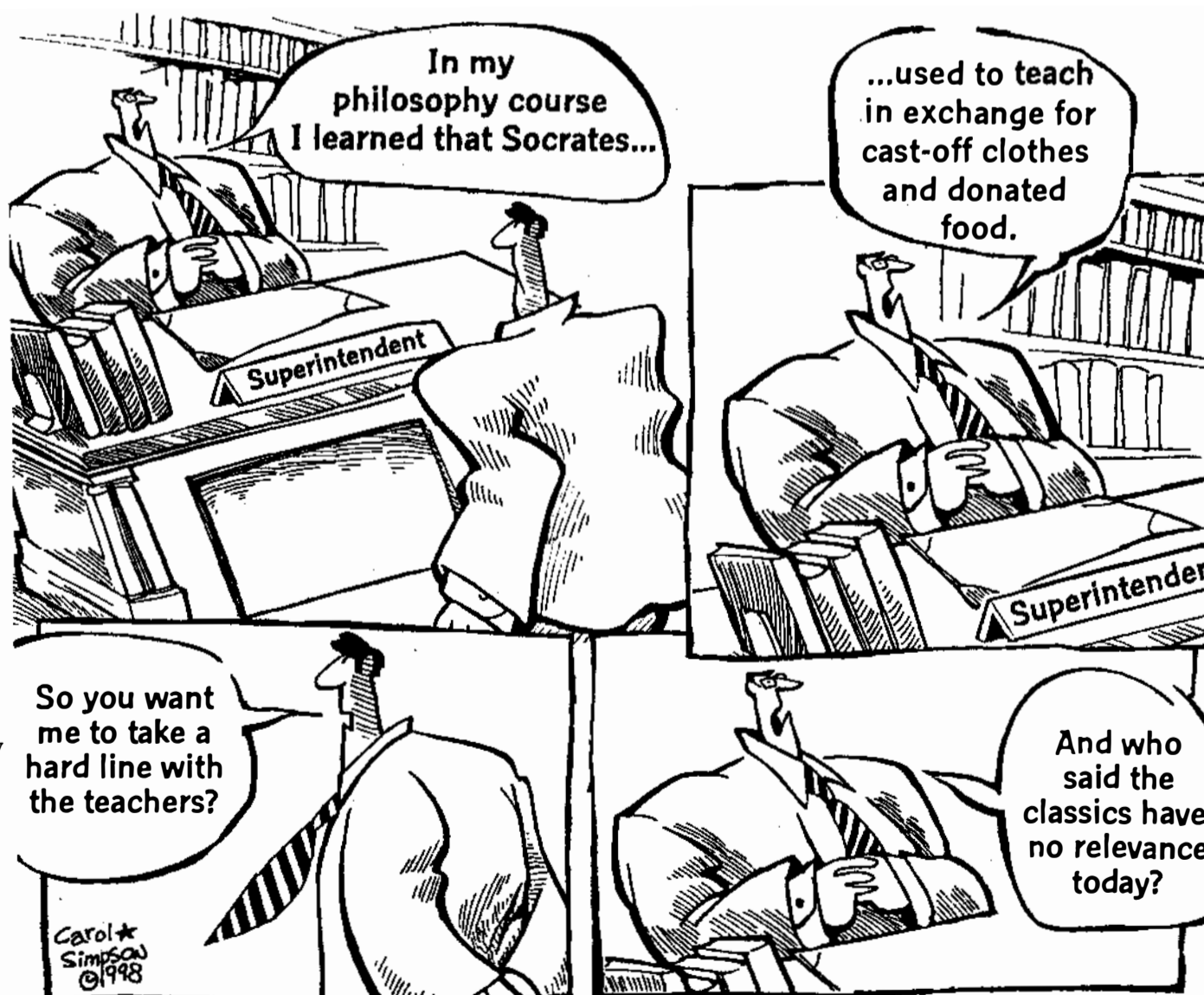
Other comments we've heard, of which I personally find extremely disturbing, is that some members of the organization are not liked that we judge some of our clients harshly, and we are not always confidential with the information we hold. As for the first two, it is a shame that intimate differences should stand in the way of standing up for a noble cause as the assistance with people afflicted with this virus or the deterrence or new cases. Working with people you don't care for takes a great deal of confidence in one's self. It's difficult to turn your head when you'd rather step on someone's. However, looking at the big picture and seeing the benefits involved forces you to accept and tolerate when you realize what you're doing is for the good of more than just yourself. I'd be lying if I stated that I enjoyed every person that has come into my life, but I learn about myself and others by doing this and become a better person for it as well.

As for being harsh with some clients, there is a time and place for discussing certain actions taken by our clients as well as ourselves. Sometimes we do need to be firm with some clients in regards to what they can expect from us. We try to understand the predicament they're in and act accordingly. However, we can't do everything. There is still a certain amount of expectations that they should meet as well. As far as the board knows, we have not received any complaints from clients on this being a problem. The rumor we heard on this point was that a client was seen at a local drinking establishment while receiving support from the Task Force and was accosted by a member of the board.

This leads into my third point quite well. If, at any time, you see an example of confidentiality being breached by anyone you know to be a member or volunteer for the Task Force, your reaction should be to contact one of the other board members immediately. We have a strict contract with everyone that works with this organization that any privileged information heard or seen in the office is kept confidential. If any of our members or volunteers are abusing this, we need to be made aware as soon as possible. We will not tolerate anyone sharing client data to anyone and the situation will be rectified directly. Not even all of our board members are aware of who our clients are, so we value this to quite the extreme. If you don't believe contacting the board will correct this infraction, our bylaws have set actions that you may follow to get this corrected.

I'm sure there are many other rumors and comments that might have been said about the McLean County AIDS Task Force and there will probably be more in the future. Our board meeting and general meetings are open to anyone who wishes to come. They are held on the third Monday of every month and usually begin at 6:30 PM. If you would like to voice your concerns or commentary at any time, you are most certainly free to come to a meeting and say your piece. Our ears are open to anything you think might be helpful to us meeting our mission to serve the community.

--Brian Sylvester
from Red Ribbon Review





Paradisiacal dreck; or what happened

Paradise - most of us are trying to seek it out, and many community designers are trying to create it. Yet, when we think of paradise, waste or our own output does not visually come to mind. A-A-H-H - waste - the thorn in the side of utopian ideologists, the dread of the Green movement and the financial drain of the industrialists. There is no way we can escape the responsibility of our output. We as an ecologically aware society now have the technological means to close the loop of soil to growth, to usage, to output, to reuse and back to soil (or similar life cycles). We are still far from this ideal on the community level, but there is a new generation of social planners and architects that may bring on a new dawn of responsible living.

The intentional communities and new community designers have a moral obligation to create community designs that consume their output and turn it around into a beneficial asset, in short, to monetize dreck and to deep green our hemisphere.

My earliest recollection of Green Think is as a young boy sitting on the floor listening to Scott and Helen Nearing's philosophy and of their lore at the world fellowship in New Hampshire. At that point in my life, waste was not a problem to worry about. My artist parents were the utmost socially responsible citizens, way before it was fashionable. They ingrained ecological accountability into my genetic structure. Of course, back then compost piles were called The Leaf Pile; Reuse was called being handy, and ecological conservation was coined "waste not, want not." The messages have always been with us—Finish your meal, there are starving children in _____; Don't litter; etc.. And many of us still remember being bombarded with the slogans of Ladybird Johnson's Beautiful America campaign.

I grew up in the Litchfield County hills of Connecticut where incidental greening (when people perform green policies for reasons other than ecological morality) was the primary motive for the kids I grew up with to return their pop bottles for the deposit. The trash was a chore, to be taken out for the trash man to be hauled away to some mysterious place.

Even though I was quite the nature boy/flower child and as an adolescent I helped clean up the mountains of trash after the great music festivals, peace and civil rights marches of the '60s and '70s where I served as the teen-medic, and I was in attendance at the first Earth Day Festival, it was not until much later into my life that ecological responsibility hit me in the face like a speeding meteor.

In my private investigation days I was summoned into action by a close friend who was working on the academy-nominated documentary film *In Our Water* that profiled New Jersey toxic waste profiteers and their victims. Through surveillance and interviews with the physically affected and a myriad of actions, I witnessed first-hand the horrors of toxic chemicals and their effect of the human

psyche and metabolism. After I unclenched my teeth and wiped the tears away, I began to amalgamate waste control systems and mechanisms into my community designs that dealt with a hostile environment. I created a Life Cycle as a part of a system that I called H.E.R. (Hostile Environment Ready) and that I now call Metaculture (alternative sustainable agriculture). Throughout the world, people are creating Life Cycles by composting, permaculture, and other life-sustaining methods. Some Life Cycle (or bio-cycle) systems, resemble a single loop. The systems I have designed for my communities are more like the Olympic logo, of many interconnecting rings, in which some elements bounce back or are repeated, like the soil and left-over materials from mycological systems, and aquaculture effluent, etc.

Chief Seattle said, "All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons of the earth." Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. We need to learn to understand the strands of life and mimic nature's way of recycling its output.

There is no doubt about it, I am a bit left of center, a social communalist. I definitely favor the company of eco-warriors over irresponsible industrialists. The time of finger-pointing and wagging is over. It is time for an eco-zoic millennium in which the eco-warrior and the industrialist unite to all become eco-heroes. I'd like to explore here what kinds of things we can do on a community level.

My designs are for multitudinous intentional co-housing communities of 500-10,000 living units. The following concepts can be applied to a single homestead and to communities of a much smaller scale, or expanded to the national scale or even a global level.

I am not claiming to be expounding anything new here, but mayhap I can further the conversation on how we can combine divergent methods of creating Life Cycles to close the ecological-product-output loop.

Let's start with the biggie -- toxic chemicals. I am an architectonic conceptualist, not a scientist. Even I know that we need to deal with more than 50,000 chemical dump sites in North America and the way our energy consumption is killing off our fragile planet.

We must be adamant about supporting politicians like Al Gore who take a firm stance on the environment. We need to legislatively and financially back groups like The Institute for New Energy and The Electric Power Research Institute to find a way to safely incinerate the output (waste) that cannot be recycled, renewed or converted into something valuable. When we reach that level, our nation's landfills can be mined and then afforested.

It must be mandated by The People that future waste be handled correctly from the manufacturers to the food producers to the end of the smoke stack and on the local level to the global level.

Future community designs must incorporate recycling methods into their infrastructure, not by inefficient methods like curb-side pick-up, but in ways that are economically conducive, like installing more recycling centers at the point of purchase which dispense higher refund fees. We must end the madness of throwing away everything we Americans can get our hands on. In addition we can create a global network of reuse, recycling and life-cycles by manufacturing new green products such as hemp products, plastic lumber and other products that contain the highest percentage of post-consumer recycled materials in addition to products like recycled plastic geotextiles that can curb soil erosion.

I am all for free enterprise and I hope everybody in the universe makes piles of moolah, but not at the expense of our future generations or at a cost that even the Gaia hypothesis can't deal with.

Food production is a prime example of how the Life Cycle System can be enacted and it is a life cycle that many of us can understand. At the risk of grossing out my Vegan, Muslim, and Jewish friends, I make a shiitake and chestnut stuffed porkchop to die for. However, one look at the news footage of the Chesapeake Bay's algae blooms caused by swine waste that is turning fish and crustaceans into B-movie mutants and I suddenly feel guilty for craving a hunk of Porky Pig. It is not the free range, organically farmed hogs that cause me a moral dilemma; it is the supermarket pork family pack bargains that we should all look at.

The average corporate hog farm raises 15,000 to 30,000 pigs and produces more waste than a city of 100,000. On the national level, the pork industry harvests somewhere around 90 million pigs annually. For each ton of pork it is estimated that 32 tons of waste are generated. Have you ever traveled by a large hog farm on a summer's day? Yum -- that made ya crave grandma's pork roast, right??

Swine waste (or any other animal waste or byproduct) does not have to be a potential putrescible foe. Pig dung could in fact become a national asset. Of course, the hydrogen sulfide and carbon monoxide must be handled safely. However, the ammonia and methane could be monetized. It was reported in *Conscious Choice's* November/December 1998 issue that a University of Illinois engineer named Yuan Hui Zttang is working on a process called T.C.C. (Thermochemical Conversion) that combines heat and pressure to break down manure into methane, oil and stabilized fertilizer, and he hopes that the process will be used with biomass someday as well such as leaves and grass clippings.

Manure can be sanitized and refined via ozone and ultraviolet treatment or by extreme heat treatment from active solar energy systems or by waste heat and/or as a part of a co-generation system.



to Adam and Eve's apple core

Five percent pig slurry mixed with 90% biomass and 5% H2O can be vermicomposted (worm farmed) after a period of pre-composting to help eliminate bacteria and weed growth, thereby turning it into a black humus that is a treasure.

According to *Worm Digest* (issue #18), animal waste can be effectively combined with biomass in the ratios of 15% horse or cow manure, 10% chicken manure, or 5% pig manure. This conversion concept can be applied up and down the entire food (and bio-cycle) chain. There are many variables (i.e., giving food products and biomass to snails and livestock before introducing them to vermiculture systems, etc.). However, the principle is basically the same. If you hold to the ameliorating concept that manure should be mixed with biomass, then in theory, hog farming operations should include the farming of biomass crops that provide the 90% additive needed to complete this life cycle and should also be connected to vermicomposting facilities. Likewise emu, duck, chicken, goat and cattle operations, etc., must be included in this equation, all of which can also contribute feathers, fur, and post-slaughter byproducts. In addition, hair cutters, kennels, cider mills and basically everybody can add to the compost heap.

We are finding byproducts to be quite valuable; for example, whey from dairy farming, which was at one time a major pollutant, is now sold in tablet form as well as in fruit-flavored powders. Whey is a proven high protein source that is saving lives in developing countries and raking in fortunes for food supplement suppliers. We need to look at all output as an asset.

On a national level, yard waste, a great source of composting, makes up to 17% of our landfills and food waste accounts for another 8%. Potentially 30% of American waste can be composted.

The word compost comes from the Latin "being together." Compost is one of the strongest links in the ecological chain and has created a whole Green industry or biocycle industry (see *Biocycle Magazine*) that incorporates incredible machinery such as trammel sludge dewatering systems, massive compost turners and tub grinders among many others. These can handle literally thousands of tons of waste and convert it into a material perfect for composting, especially vermicomposting which spawns not only worms that break down waste into humus, but their casting create a biohumus that can be used to amend soil or used for hydro seeding.

There are over 4,000 species of terrestrial earthworms worldwide. Some are better than others at vermicomposting. Research is being done by vermiculturalists to break down heavy metals in waste. One can tailor the worm stock to different bio-regions and for assorted purposes.

Vermicomposting can be an income producing source. Furthermore, it can also improve the fecundity of the community's biome. On a much wider scale, these soil additives rebuild raped land such as clear cut forests and strip mined land, and help to reverse ecological blight by conducting massive afforestation projects.

Research is being done throughout the world to convert food byproducts and even tree leaves and assorted biomass into bio-fuels whether by indirect incineration or via biochemical conversion into methane or ethanol, etc. Post consumer waste such as paper and/or food processing byproduct like fruit pits, walnut shells, corn cobs and wood byproducts like branches, bark, wood dust and shavings can be burned in new furnaces that produce clean, renewable energy.

Living machines (or Solar Aquatics TM, see



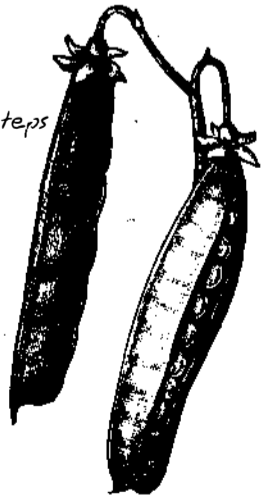
E.B.N. - Environmental Building News, volume 5, number 4) can also create bio-fuels by converting human waste via anaerobic digestion and by creating algae and assorted aquatic plant life which can be used for bio-fuel production as well. Living machines essentially pay for themselves in energy savings in a relatively short time.

China has as many as one half million bio-fuel systems in operation. The Chinese use the post digested effluent for fertilizer and the residue cakes for cooking and heating fuel, and as a soil amendment, although I personally suggest that any sewage sludge should be left out of the food chain.

Although the effluent from Living Machines is generally safe enough to release into the waterways, many systems now include ultraviolet and ozone cleansing methods. I personally believe the effluent should be used to irrigate biomass production in specially constructed veldts where the effluent is dispersed through a drip irrigation system that is six to twelve inches below the soil's surface where the majority of the rhizosphere of most plant life is located and the generators that could power the irrigation pumps, etc. should be run by soft energy (solar, wind, etc.).

Effluent is also being effectively treated in construction wetland systems (see EPRI Journal volume 22, number 4) that create whole and balance ecosystems, and can be connected to biomass production. These new wetland systems can nourish riparian plant life and can increase wildlife populations as much as 500%.

The water discharges from living machines and other treatment systems can add to the eutrophication of the wetlands. They then can support life up the food chain. Livestock fodder can be grown in the form of worms, mollusks, crustaceans, vertebrates and a whole myriad of insects.

GRAND PRAIRIE FAMILIES AND FARMS
a group of certified organic local family farms delivering farm fresh food to about 100 Bloomington/Normal families' doorsteps since July of 1995

NOW ACCEPTING NEW FAMILIES TO OUR GROUP

CERTIFIED ORGANIC VEGETABLES-FRUITS-MEATS-EGGS-DAIRY-ETC.
 WORKSHOPS, FARM TOURS, NEWSLETTER EVERY WEEK

Know the farmers that actually grow your food without synthetics and support small family organic farming in Illinois!

We celebrate Earth Day at every meal!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL **1-800-4FOOD99**



cont.

The pernicious filth that has been destroying our waterways and aquifers can indeed be a valuable asset. Certainly, getting the waste from existing sources to conversion and treatment facilities is a problem. Perhaps in the future, an dreck pipeline, equal to the Alaskan pipeline, that connects the output sources to conversion locations can be constructed (maybe not!). Most likely, solving the global output problem has to be done on a local level through strict zoning that reverses the myopic palliative waste handling policies of the past.

Some homesteads and communities have the option to install grey-water systems that utilize sink, shower and washing machine discharge. Grey-water systems are currently trendy although, like waste treatment effluent, it is very risky to use for food production. It is far safer and very effective for biomass and ornamental plants. These are the major systems for handling biological waste, but there are many new ways to handle output. One of the coolest ways utilizes restaurant fryer grease which Josh and Kara Tickell of New Sarasota, Florida have proven can be converted into esters that bio-diesel their Veggie Van across America.

The building construction sector produces huge amounts of output, but they also can consume huge amounts of once wasted materials by instituting Metatecture methods.

The United States scraps over 240 million tires yearly and it is estimates that there are 3 billion tires lying about. If all those could be used, we could build 2 million - 2,700 square foot structures and 160,000 more annually (see *Earthship Magazine*).

Straw-bale construction methods could provide another 5 million - 2,000 square foot homes from the 200 million tons of straw that is underutilized or wasted each year (see *The Last Straw*).

Combining these Metatecture building methods along with cob construction (which the Cob Cottage Company has perfected), cordwood construction and rammed earth construction could solve the homeless problem in a few years and could, in theory, create a whole new industry of renewable resource construction.

In Thailand, they have created water filtration systems, using coconut and rice husks which is a soft usage of output, but not all waste can be so easily handled. Some of the more hard waste need to be encapsulated within plastic and/or concrete. One brilliant example reported by E.B.N. was that the Duracell Corporation used 400,000 bricks to build their headquarter that contained their own battery waste. Duracell currently ships out more than 460,000 pounds of waste yearly to become construction materials. History has shown that we must be careful of harmful materials in the building process, but there is a whole new philosophy of building junk that hold great promise for the future.

Reuse philosophy is generating all kinds of products - milk bottles can become plastic lumber for children's playgrounds, cardboard boxes become ceiling tiles, on and on.... The list of reuse products is endless and future research and development will continue to create thousands more. Deconstruction methods that disassemble structures and salvage all that is possible to save is becoming a viable green business. We need to create more salvage yards

and stop filling our landfills with demolished structures, appliances and other usable goods.

We must store non usable waste in lined and capped landfills or storage facilities safely until it can be incinerated in a safe way with future technology.

I have presented a few concepts that I plan to amalgamate into my Metaculture community designs that will welcome output as a resource, and will consume the majority percentage of their output. There are many, many new innovative systems out there that create solutions to these age-old problems.

Albert Einstein said, "You can never solve a problem with the same kind of thinking that created the problem in the first place." So the question is what are you going to conceptualize that will cure the global output problem. Your answer combined with a million other imaginative ideas can reverse the cycle of madness and heal our planet.

We must stop thinking about terms like reuse, recycle, conserve energy, etc. as hackneyed words, and start making them part of the eco-zoic millenium's new mantra.

Perhaps heaven on earth, or the new paradise and utopian communities may not be all built with dreck. However, the new social planners can certainly use a major percentage of renewable and reuse materials in a new wave of sane and environmentally moral structures that leave intact earth's dwindling natural resources.

We have the technology to consume our output and return it as input closing the loop. The saving to the environment to energy production and to our bank accounts will be on a brobdingnagan scale. I hope this article was not too somnolent; hopefully it sparked your mind to create some ideas to help deal with your output and maybe now, you can solve a mystery for me. What did happen to Adam and Eve's apple core?

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick

Radio Free Maine

The Impacts of Television on the Growing Mind

- *Data suggests that TV negatively influences normal brain growth and development.
- *A majority of researchers believe TV has a negative impact on children's attention span.
- *Research has linked TV to asthma, obesity and high cholesterol in children.
- *Research demonstrates significant depression of left-brain functions while viewing TV.
- *The average child in America views 6,000 hours of TV before they ever go to school.
- *Other countries importing American TV are reporting rapid increases in crime and violence.

This seminar, held in Portland Maine on April 4, 1998, was sponsored by Wyllaned, the Association of Waldorf Schools, and T-V Free America. There are four 90 minute audiotapes and one video.

off our backs

29 years of the finest feminist journalism

News International
Health Conferences
Lesbian Issues Interviews
Sexuality Radical

Subscribe Today!

ONE YEAR FOR JUST \$25

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Or write for a free 2-issue trial subscription

off our backs
2337B 18th St. NW
Washington, DC 20009



Rural Racism

Farmington, Illinois is a sleepy midwestern town with a population that hovers around 3,000. Farmington is small and quiet. It has a minuscule business district. In fact, it looks much like a Norman Rockwell or Terry Redlin painting that has come to life. Everyone in town knows each other. From the most affluent to the poorest person in town, everybody speaks, if only to say "Hi", in passing. We have one high school and usually produce pretty good sports teams. Farmington has a very low crime rate. In fact, we have only two police cars and very few full time police officers. Farmington is somewhat of a midwestern utopia.

Given Farmington's size and the friendliness of the citizens, rumors flow freely, but are easily dismissed as "beauty salon" or "barber shop" gossip. On the other hand, if I have learned anything in my rural upbringing, it has been that there is always a little truth in jokes, and in rumors.

When the rumor began circulating that there was to be a Ku Klux Klan rally west of town, it did not take long to reach every man, woman, and child in town and in the surrounding communities. A local man was supposedly organizing this rally. But this rumor was dismissed like many others. Not knowing the rumored individual personally, but meeting him on chance occasions, I found him to be a pleasant, hard working fellow and I likewise dismissed the rumor.

However, when the July 31, 1999 edition of the Peoria Journal Star was laid on my doorstep, I had second thoughts. As I opened the paper to page B2, I spotted an article with dateline Farmington. I began to read about the Klan rally and that it was being dispelled as a cookout with friends and co-workers. My suspicions began to rise immediately. The alleged Klan member is a local contractor. Having worked construction before, and taking into account the size of Farmington, I personally know some of his subordinates who were not invited to this fictional cookout. I read later in the article that the Farmington Police Chief (whom I know personally) was notified that there was going to be a hate group rally. It also stated in the article that this so called "cookout" had been cancelled because of threats to the organizer's two small children, and he feared for their safety.

The townspeople began to realize the true threat of a hate group moving in next door. Many people's attitude was, "As long as they stay out of town and on the private property where the group was to meet, they could do as they please." Others had more of an appeasement attitude of, "Let the Klan have their rally, then they will go away, or, as long as they don't get any publicity, they will go elsewhere looking for controversy." People generally regarded these attitudes as the proper mind set and Norman Rockwell life went on as usual.

A little over a month later that silence was shattered again. Farmington hosts an annual festival called "Italian Fest." There is live music, authentic Italian food, softball, basketball, horseshoes, bocce ball, a talent show and games for the kids. Most of the

events are over by dark, but the beer tent and live music does not quit until 11:00 p.m. The Italian Fest is a family event. Nearly everyone in town gets together to have a good time and the atmosphere is that of a carnival, relaxed and jovial. There had been more rumors that there was to be a Klan rally that day, but like the boy who called wolf, all were dismissed.

I left the Italian Fest in the early afternoon to see my fiancée off to work. On our way home, we stopped by the local ice cream parlor where the proprietor, whom I know very well, told me that the rally was indeed taking place, as we spoke. He expressed his worries that the hate group might try to disrupt the festival. After leaving the parlor I talked to several other people, including law enforcement officials and found that there was anywhere from 125 to 150 hate group members participating in the rally. There were armed Klan patrols around the rally sight, and there were 104 law enforcement and government personnel in the area. On my way home I noticed an eerie, impersonal feeling. People who were always friendly and talkative, now hurriedly conducted their daily errands. I assumed they were returning to the safety of their homes. I sat at home for the next few hours waiting for my fiancée to return home from work. We had made plans to meet several other couples at one of the local bars.

My fiancée arrived home earlier than expected. We left for the bar shortly thereafter. As I entered the bar I felt a tenseness that was all consuming. Normally a boisterous place, conversation seemed subdued. Upon talking to the owner, who was tending bar, I found out that there had been a bar brawl earlier at the establishment across the street. Shortly after 11:00 p.m., the couples we had plans with arrived along with scores of people leaving the Italian Fest, bringing with them that carnival atmosphere.

Shortly after 11:30 I got my first glimpse of the Klan. Two gentlemen, and I use the word loosely, walked in. One was the bar owner's son, a local who never quite fit in around town. He was always somewhat of an outsider, who would do anything to have a feeling of belonging. The other was a man of large girth, with a shaved head decorated with swastikas. The two men walked in with a strut of confidence, or maybe defiance. The owner told her son and the stranger to leave immediately. She was refusing their business and informed them she was calling the police. The Klan member's response was, "We have our own police and we'll be back." On the way out the door the two "gentlemen" shoved someone coming in and tried to pick a fight. I went to the window to watch them retreat across the street and realized why they were so confident. Eight to ten Klan members met them across the street. Luckily the police arrived and the Klan members retreated into the neighboring establishment.

I began thinking and trying to reason what kind of individual would let an organization jeopardize his own family as well as his reputation. The only conclusion I could reach about the local man involved was that he was a weak minded person that did not have the strength to stand alone or believe in what was right. Maybe this was the only place he could "fit in". I have noticed that since the Klan has left, this individual is rarely seen in public and when he is, he is very subdued. This reaffirms my belief that this weak individual is brave in a group but does not have the convictions to stand alone with his beliefs. Since that weekend there has been little mention of the Klan, but the town was left wondering what will happen next time. The town, as a whole, has condemned the actions of these individuals, but no one quite knows what action, if any, to take to rid this unwanted element from our quiet little town.

There has been pressure on our local government and church officials to do something. No one knows what. With a lack of solutions, most of the townspeople were content to let the matter fade away into memory. That is until the morning of September 25, 1999. That Saturday morning people awoke and retrieved their morning newspapers and found a booklet wrapped in orange plastic. This booklet was given to the people of Farmington by the self proclaimed Rev. Matt Hale. Under the cover of darkness, Matt Hale's followers distributed this literature to every household in Farmington. Apparently Mr. Hale read the earlier accounts in the newspaper and thought it would be safe to try and force his beliefs on a small midwestern town with an almost non-existent minority population.

Again, the population of Farmington had reason to worry about the possibility of hate groups invading our town. The townspeople have decided that it would be a good idea to do something, but with no experience with these matters we are still at a loss. One question about our local hate groups cries out. Why do they proliferate in towns such as Pekin and Farmington where the minority population is practically zero.

Hate crimes and racism are wrong no matter how they rear their ugly heads. Whether it is the KKK or any one of the other hate groups, too numerous to mention, the message is the same.

People should not hate others for what they are and cannot help being. People should not be so proud of what they are that they cannot judge others on their individual merits. After all, if Eli Whitney, a black man, had not invented the cotton gin, the KKK would not be able to wear their white sheets.



Eureka workers victims of corporate greed

The following was submitted to the Bloomington Pantagraph as a Labor Day guest editorial. It was rejected by the newspaper as "too one-sided." You decide.

On Labor Day, local unions will march to Miller Park, the high school bands will shine and summer will end with a relaxing day.

But there's a shadow that hangs over Labor Day 1999— the end of a local institution— the Eureka Company.

There's enough old-timers around who still call the firm Eureka-Williams, going back to the 1945 merger of Detroit's Eureka Company with Bloomington's Williams Oil-O-Matic.

Beginning with Williams' phenomenal growth after World War I, local residents have made everything from furnaces to refrigerators, vacuum cleaners to chain saws. During wartime the company's skilled workforce crafted intricate components that helped fly planes and guide guns.

Just ten years ago, 1,800 workers were employed. Their union negotiated paychecks bought cars, paid off mortgages, and put kids through school.

In 1990, international economic trends caught up to McLean County. It was no longer good enough to make a profit, the quest became maximum profit. In 1990, Eureka's workers were given an ultimatum— cut your pay, re-write your health insurance and no more cost of living adjustments— or else Eureka goes to Mexico.

Workers asked many questions. Is the company losing money here? No, came the reply, Eureka is making a profit, it wants bigger profit. If workers take the concessions, are jobs guaranteed? No guarantees.

So in 1990, the workers voted down the concessions and upright vacuum cleaner production ended here. That spring, a Eureka worker, Bob Burden, and I went to Juarez. We visited the "competition"— workers living in cardboard shacks with no running water or sewage systems. No one could blame these hungry, desperate people, whose daughters found jobs in the "maquiladora" plants at about \$6 per day.

Eureka foreshadowed a national trend. In 1993, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) legalized this system. And despite promises to American workers of more jobs, there are one million fewer manufacturing jobs today than in 1979.

Although Eureka's workforce plummeted from 1,800 to a little more than 300, the situation seemed to stabilize. The company invested in the Normal plant. Workers cooperated in cost-saving and other management programs. The axe still fell this summer. The remaining Eureka workers will join their counterparts from nine years ago.

Many presume there are jobs waiting for these folks. And there are jobs available in McLean County. Few workers will find comparable jobs to Eureka. The predominately female workforce at Eureka is 50 or older. many have

worked in that plant since high school, following a family tradition, dedicated to their job.

The jobs available to these workers won't have comparable health insurance or wages to their current positions. Their age will limit what's available to them. And most cruelly, many of these workers are just a year or two short of a full pension.

We as a community need to respond. Number one, we need to understand the heartbreak and tension these workers are experiencing. Unexpectedly losing a job after 20-plus years is emotionally traumatic. We need to insure that training and job retraining options are available. And potential employers need to look beyond their age and realize these workers retain that old-fashioned work ethic, giving them a chance at a new career.

Not all of us can work in an office or go to college. Skilled, dedicated workers build our products, buildings and roads. Paying those workers decently means consumer dollars returning to the market. Do we offer the proper training and retraining systems educationally to support these workers? Do we recognize and reward their contributions and hard work? Do we realize that hard-working people are the sustenance of our economy? No one in a dirt floored shack is buying vacuum cleaners. Let's not let the greedy quest for endless profit destroy the very economy that sustains that profit.

—Mike Matejka
Union News

Karen Schmidt
Alderman ~ Ward 6

409 E. Grove St., Bloomington
home: 829-6318
work: 217-244-2070
e-mail: karens@uiuc.edu

Representing citizens' ideas, interests, issues & concerns to Bloomington city government.

Ward 6 is roughly downtown Bloomington and all parts of its surrounding neighborhoods. You can help me in my effort to represent



"Can't we just buy out the union and downsize it like we do everything else?"



Democrats failing to support workers

Actor Warren Beatty received the "Eleanor Roosevelt Award from Americans for Democratic Action in Los Angeles on September 29. His acceptance speech challenged our nation's current political mentality.

The big advances -- Social Security, the welfare safety net, the minimum wage, the Marshall Plan, Civil Rights, voting rights, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, federal aid to education, the war on poverty, Head Start, job training -- have all been made by Democrats who wouldn't give up the fight.

....But how can we not have heard from either Democratic candidate a serious objection to the hypocrisy of the Democratic party proudly advertising our economic expansion as a "boom of unparalleled prosperity for the nation" when 60 percent of our people are doing no better in 1999 that they were doing in 1989?

How can we gloat about prosperity when the poverty level hasn't changed at all? Or when child poverty is four times that of Western Europe? And extreme child poverty has gone up 26 percent in the past year?...

And the poorest fifth of families headed by a single woman lost \$577 in income and benefits between '95 and '97? And there were 56 percent more layoffs in '98 than the year before?

A study of four Northwestern states shows half of the available jobs don't pay a livable wage, while the pay of the average corporate chief executive officer has gone from 42 times to 419 times as much as the worker?

The disparity of wealth between the rich and the poor is higher than ever before, and the poorest fifth of Americans have less than they had in 1977 and the richest have 43 percent more?

....Is this still the party that your founder Hubert Humphrey said has as its mission "to take care of those in the dawn of life and in the shadows of life and in the twilight of life?" What would Hubert Humphrey say today? Is there no protest anymore?

...The primary cancer in this sick system, the big money in politics, has so metastized into every area of government that we can't afford any longer to ignore that the life of the patient -- American Democracy -- is in mortal danger of dying on the table.

Getting the money to win makes decent politicians do indecent things. But in fact, billion dollar subsidies and tax breaks, the pork barrel and corporate welfare, are only the smaller tumors. There are bigger ones.

Our taxpayers are bailing out thieves in Mexico, Russia, Indonesia and other countries and at the same time bailing out major American financial houses who refuse to face the consequences of their bad investments overseas. Our government is reacting to this crisis by crisis when we should be helping to

construct a new set of international ground rules to curb speculation and financial abuse. But our major financial houses want the freedom to move their money anywhere they please and to be as free of rules and risk as they can be.

The genius of America is the successful harnessing of the dynamic creativity of the private sector for the public good. No sensible person wants to dampen that.

But our government is susceptible to a corporate economic globalization that is not free trade but corporate managed trade. And the global economy is not working for most people.

....The problem in this new economy is the undue influence these institutions and corporations have over government actions. They set the rules. Others aren't invited to the table.

What we are in danger of experiencing is a slow motion coup d'etat of big money's interest over the public interest. So the global rules, written into trade agreements like NAFTA and enforced by institutions like the World Trade Organization, protect things like patents and intellectual property rights but not people,

investments but not the environment. We know the results -- growth, increasing trade, some development, some people making lots of money.

But 475 billionaires have as much wealth as half the people on the earth. We have the sweatshop again. Child labor. Slave labor. Destruction of forests, fish, water and air. And so far we haven't heard a word of requirements on labor and environment and product safety in the agreement being negotiated over Chinese admission to the World Trade Organization.

Of course our stocks have gone up. But we're making the world safe for globalization rather than making globalization safe for the world.

--from Livingston & McLean Counties Union News

ICE.net

Your local Internet Service Provider

On line with the World & Environmentally friendly!

FULL T-1
28.8 Modem Bank
Global E-mail
IRC
Newsgroups
Telnet
FTP
World Wide Web



<http://www.ice.net>
email: info@ice.net
Phone: 454-INET (4638)



Rainbow

In keeping with Heartland's commitment to diversity, Rainbow is open to all students interested in sexual identity/orientation issues. Rainbow addresses the social and intellectual concerns of bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgendered, and questioning students and friends in a non-threatening environment.

Meetings are held every Thursday at 7 p.m. during the Fall/Spring semesters. For more information about meeting locations, please contact:

Earl Hawley, Ph.D.
earlh@hcc.cc.il.us
827-0500 ext. 434

IWU adds domestic partner benefits

Illinois Wesleyan University recently adopted a domestic partner benefit policy for its faculty and staff, joining a growing trend among liberal arts universities around the nation.

Research on benefits offered by other similar-sized liberal arts universities was reviewed by the university's administrative staff and a recommendation was taken to the university's

Executive Committee to amend eligibility for medical benefits and extend them to domestic partners. The Executive Committee approved the recommendation, according to Bob Aaron, IWU's Director of University Communications.

The benefit adjustment extends to family medical leave and sick leave in addition to medical benefits. Only one person has signed up for the benefits since the policy was enacted.

The benefit alteration applies not only to same sex partners; it applies to opposite sex domestic partners, too.

-The Rainbow Connection

Gay News Network comes to B/N

Beginning on Oct. 6, the Advocacy Council will begin sponsorship of the Gay News Network, airing each Wednesday at 10:30 p.m. on Bloomington/Normal Public Access Cable Channel 10.

The Gay News Network is a quarterly cable television show that aims to provide the CNN of the Gay community. They provide their viewers with the news that the networks are afraid to cover fairly and accurately—gay news from the nation's capital.

The 30-minute show features national and international news followed by a McLaughlin Group style political roundtable, the Gay Agenda. The roundtable highlights the diversity of opinion within the Gay community, showing that there really is no overall "gay agenda."

The Gay News Network also airs feature pieces on activists, artists, authors and entertainment. Past guests on the show include Party of Five's Mitchell Anderson; Greg Louganis; Cyndi Lauper; Golden Girl, Rue McClanahan; Candace Gingrich, E. Lynn Harris, and Clive Barker.

-The Rainbow Connection

Famous Gay People Monty Python's Graham Chapman (1941-1989)

Graham Chapman was born on January 8, 1941 in Leicester, Midlands, England to parents Walter and Edith. His father was a policeman for the City of Leicester. Opinions on Chapman's creative talent, along with that of his colleagues in the comedy team known as Monty Python's Flying Circus, ranged from disdain at his irreverence, to the platitudes afforded a comic genius.

The devout international following that Monty Python drew paralleled the fanaticism usually reserved for rock stars. No rule in society was above being challenged by the group. And so it is only natural that Chapman should break the

rule of silence that was, and still is, imposed upon gay people in the entertainment industry.

Graham Chapman intended to follow in the footsteps of his older brother and become a doctor. He entered the Emmanuel College at Cambridge University in 1961. Although his studies were periodically interrupted by his performances in the Cambridge Circus (a college comedy troupe), he qualified as a doctor at St. Bartholomew's hospital in London.

His decision to put his medical career on hold was, by some accounts, a royal command. The Queen Mother had tea one day with a group of Cambridge students, including Chapman. When he mentioned that the Cambridge Circus was planning a tour of New Zealand, the Matriarch responded "beautiful place, you must go."

Chapman toured the world as a part of the Cambridge Circus, with appearances from New Zealand, to New York City. In 1964, while the show was running on Broadway, Chapman appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. His talents as a writer and a performer eventually led to a dramatic career change.

In 1969, an executive at the British Broadcasting Company brought together a group of comedy writers that included Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Jones, Michael Palin, Terry Gilliam and Eric Idle. And "Monty Python's Flying Circus" was born.

From the outset, Chapman was honest about his sexual orientation. This would sometimes result in hostile responses from the public. One occasion that Chapman wrote about in his autobiography recalls a letter received from a woman complaining about Chapman's openness during a radio interview.

"Her handwriting became visibly angrier as she went on to say that persons like that should not be allowed to live. Eric Idle wrote back to the lady saying that we (the Pythons) had found out which one it was and killed him."

Chapman's gay flavored humor was as much a part of Monty Python as was the John Philip Sousa "Liberty Bell March" that started each show. "The Mouse Problem," for instance, was a skit about adults who dress in mouse outfits and met friends for secret cheese eating parties - a clear metaphor for closeted homosexuals. The camp and drag skits were also Python staples, although Chapman most frequently played authority figures such as generals, kings, and religious leaders.

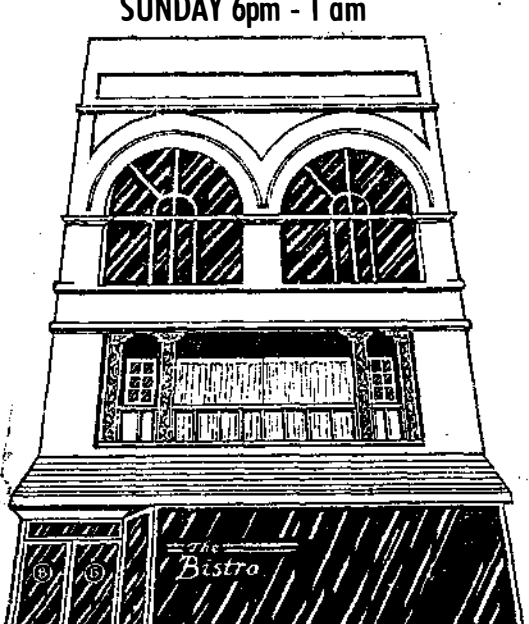
Graham Chapman met his lover, David Sherlock, in 1966. Their enduring relationship is remembered fondly by some of the same people who were initially uncomfortable with the idea. In 1971, Chapman nursed John Tomiczek, a runaway teenager from Liverpool, back to health. Sherlock and Chapman agreed to adopt Tomiczek on the condition that he finish school.

Their family endured the ups and downs of celebrity life, Chapman's battle with alcoholism, and painful cancer treatments. In

the
Bistro

TUESDAY - \$1 Domestic Beer
WEDNESDAY - \$1 Call drinks
DJ - Tues., Wed., Thur., Fri., & Sat.

HOURS:
MONDAY - THURSDAY 4pm - 1am
FRIDAY 4pm - 2 am | SATURDAY 8pm - 2 am
SUNDAY 6pm - 1 am



316 N. MAIN ST. BLOOMINGTON
(309) 829-2278



the final days of his life, Chapman was confined to a wheelchair. Radiation treatments required lengthy commutes to London. Sherlock and Tomiczek were faithfully by his side through it all.

Graham Chapman died of spinal cancer on October 4, 1989, the eve of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Monty Python.

--Tom Sullivan
from *Rainbow Connection*

Illinois' first lesbian judge

Tom Chiola and Sebastian Patti are no longer the only two openly gay judges in Illinois.

Long-time lesbian political activist and attorney Nancy Katz, 43, was appointed associate judge of Cook County last week, making her the first openly lesbian judge in the state.

Katz was among 30 men and women selected by the Cook County Circuit Court Associate Judge Nominating Committee to be considered for the non-publicly elected associate judge slots in Cook County.

Katz leaves her post as Assistant General Counsel in the Cook County Juvenile Court for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services October 22. Prior to that job, she worked with the Legal Assistance Foundation as project director for the SSI Advocacy Project, helping speed up the process for many individuals, including people with HIV/AIDS, in receiving social security benefits.

Katz, who has been out since she was 18 years old, has a long history in Chicago's gay and lesbian community. She helped with the lesbian-feminist center on Halsted, and was involved in Women in Crisis Can Act (WICCA).

Despite the fact that judges can not openly advocate on political issues, Katz said judges "can influence in equally important ways. One of the most political things is to just be out to co-workers and people you know. To talk about your family and partner. It really educates and sensitizes. Tom and Sebastian have had a very strong influence on those judges around them."

--Chicago Outlines/Rainbow Connection

United States Senate passes Hate Crimes Prevention Act

The Senate has taken a strong stand against the rising tide of hate violence in America by adding the Hate Crimes Prevention Act to the Commerce, Justice and State appropriations bill.

"The Senate took a dramatic step forward in making this nation a safer place for all Americans," Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch said a day after the Senate added hate crimes language to the appropriations measure. "We applaud this responsible effort to stem the growing trend of hate crimes in our country."

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act is a top legislative priority of the Human Rights Campaign and passage of the amendment culminates months of work. The measure would extend current federal hate crimes protection to cover gender, sexual orientation and disability.

A bipartisan group of senators led the successful move to pass the hate crimes measure in that chamber. They include Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., Gordon Smith, R-Ore.; Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.; Ron Wyden, D-Ore.; James Jeffords, R-Vt.; Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.; Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.; and Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

"This is the first concrete action taken by either chamber since America buried Mathew Shepard, James Byrd, Jr., Billy Jack Gaither, and many trans gendered people whose names

and faces do not make the newspapers," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "It is a good first step. But we have a long way to go and we must now turn to the House and tell our representatives how critically important this legislation is. In short, we must keep up the heat."

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act has strong support from President Clinton and the administration has made passage a priority.

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., has scheduled a hearing on the measure in the House Judiciary Committee on Aug. 4. HCPA currently has more than 180 House cosponsors from both parties.

--The Rainbow Connection

"In response to high rates of HIV infection among injection drug users, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago has launched a grassroots, statewide campaign to garner legislative support for a bill pending in the Illinois House of Representatives to expand access to sterile syringes. Scientific studies have shown that making sterile syringes available will help lower rates of HIV infection without increasing drug use. Please join us in supporting this important legislation by signing the petition below."

I Support HIV Prevention for Injection Drug Users

Limiting access to syringes by requiring a prescription for their purchase has not slowed injection drug use in Illinois, but instead, has forced individuals addicted to injectable drugs to share and reuse syringes. As a result, thousands of individuals have become HIV-infected, and many more remain at risk of infection. In order to address this problem, Illinois should follow the example of Connecticut and Minnesota and deregulate the sale of syringes. Consider that:

- 1 of every 2 new infections results from injection drug use, which is a leading cause of HIV transmission.
- Given the opportunity, injection drug users will use sterile syringes to prevent HIV infection.
- Lack of access to sterile syringes means that children, spouses, and sexual partners of injection drug users are all at risk for HIV.
- Illinois is one of only eight states that require a prescription for syringe purchase.
- Scientific studies have shown that increasing access to sterile syringes helps slow the spread of HIV without increasing drug use.
- The HIV epidemic continues unabated; 40,000 Americans become newly infected each year.

I Support allowing adults to purchase syringes at pharmacies without a prescription.

Deregulation of syringe sales is good public health policy and effective HIV prevention.

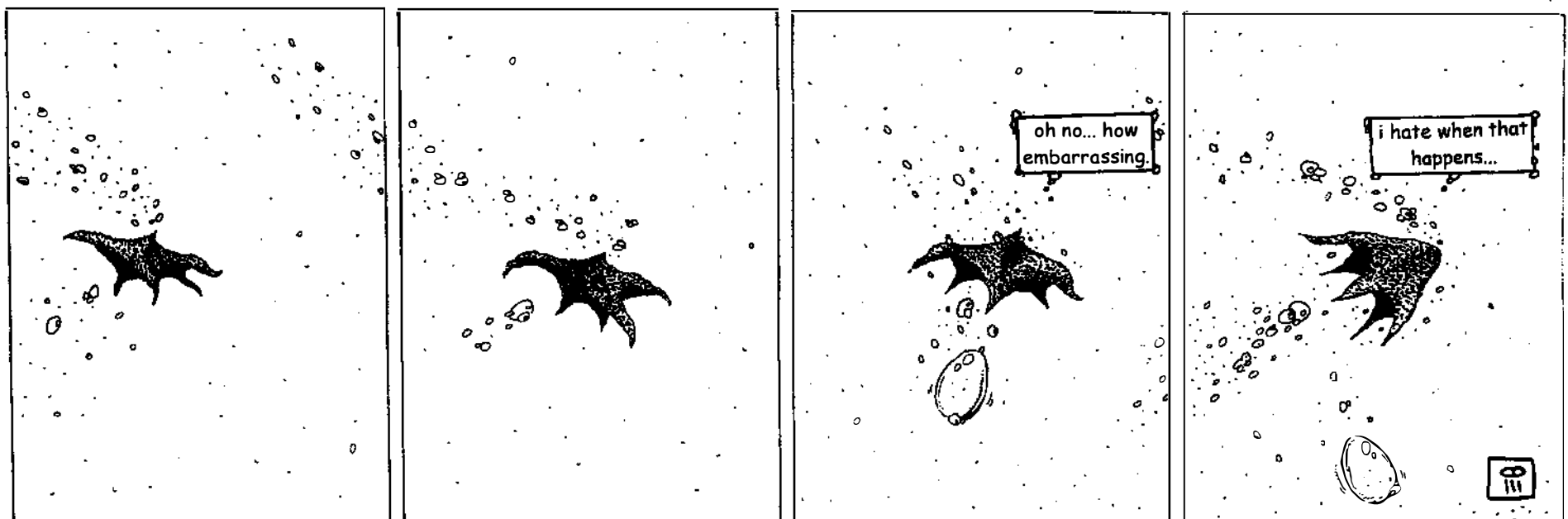
Name: _____
Home Address: _____
City & Zip Code: _____
Phone & Fax Numbers (Optional): _____
 Check here if the organization lends its name in support of this campaign.
Agency (if any): _____

Please fax completed petitions to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago at 312-922-2916, or mail to AFC, 411 S. Wells St., #300, Chicago, IL 60607. Direct questions to Karen Reitan at 312-922-2322.

Red Ribbon Review, September 1999, McLean County AIDS Task Force

squid ink™

™&©1999necrollusions™



david. 88



The Poetry Page

A I

There is a warm rush when home ground is remembered, a gush of emotion when it is returned to. That no distance can quell. A soft glow for a true love never forgotten, no absence can smother. The dull aching of their loss, can dim the gleam in the brightest eye. When love becomes revived, castles are built from clay and straw, subtle battles won. Limes made sweet, vinegar returns to wine. All too quickly are the smallest gifts of life discounted. Homage must be paid to the seemingly trivial. The microcosm adored as much as the macrocosm. Declared friendship can know no season. If it is true. It nourishes the acorn into the oak, that gives sustenance. Love pure, builds nests, where we may lay our head soundly. So true are these things, that tears well up in thyne eyes. So rare, that they seem as utopic chimeras so essential that water and air become secondary. When the clouds part let our embrace give birth to a new dawn of existence.

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick

Crystal

Cast upon concrete
Tumbled to a sudden death
The dripping tears shed for thee sung a painful cadence
Words, fall short of expressing the numbness
Veils of confusion smother hope
The girl the name that smiled, is gone

-- Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick

Shattered Flower

The experience of a flower, so clean, so pure
Its magical blooming, nubile, hope, a promise to live
The softness of its petals, that kiss our tactile senses.
The lasting fragrance that becomes embedded in our olfactory memory

Suddenly it's gone
The petals lay withered and brown upon the dew covered Earth
The stem becomes flaccid, and turns to duff.

Yet when we remember you, it is your amaranthine qualities we relive.

We shall reunite in your next incarnation

-- Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick

For Jade, Sapphire, Sonali, and Sparrow

holding my breath 'till i'm blue in the face

this is a poem of slamming doors
of endless questions and pacing floors
this is a rant of wonder whys
of temper tantrums and scattered cries
and this is the place i wanted to see
and i am the girl i needed to be
and this is the way i say it all
'cause now is the time i have to fall

the song that is playing is on repeat
and the guy that i love is always sweet
but everything else is a fucking mess
and my mind needs a place to sit and rest
so the words that i'm spewing are overdone
and all i am doing is just for fun
if that's the case why the hell do you care?
see you ride in a box while i take the stairs

so what if i lose or what if i win
'cause i am the one who lives in my sins
i'd never tell you to be happy or sad,
i dropped my smile? well too fucking bad.
i guess what i'm saying is i am just me
and i said it before, that's who i need to be
and i shouldn't explain my life all the time
why i never smoke pot and i write in a rhyme

so don't ask me why i love him so much,
why we're always kissing and just have to touch
and i will not explain why i'm not in your bed
or why guys like you can't get into my head
'cause this is a poem for me to write
and this is the way i spend my nites
the coffee i drink is brewed in my veins
and the song in my head has been ingrained
the girl in my pen is alive in this book
but she isn't me is you bother to look
and the girl in my past really had it quite hard,
but she couldn't care less so don't send a card
and the girl that you see may look pretty to you
in a short little dress and some high heeled shoes,
but i'm not into looks cause they never last
so wait till i'm sixty to check out my ass

the body i'm in was a gift from my mom
and it's really not weak, though i wouldn't say strong
but she gave it to me to use as i please,
it's lasted okay, but i've worn out the knees
see i've groveled too much for the life that i want
and i've put up with violence and childish taunts

so now is the time to use what i have
'cause the backbone i own was a gift from my dad
and you can't tell me why and you can't dictate how
it seems that my spine is too straight to bow

yes i am in love with the way that i give
and i am alive for how i choose to live
if cancer can't stop me, why do you think you can?
i'm not just a groupie for your little band
i'm a leader you see and i follow myself
i guess it's the best for my mental health
that is all i am saying, i do this for me
my opinion is all that should matter you see
"you can't take it with you" so i have been told
so i'll keep being real 'till i'm frail and old
and i'll look back at life when i finally die
and all that i'll have is the fact that i've tried
and i'll know that my trip has been worth the risk
if just for the fact of the boy that i kiss
he's riding shotgun on this journey i take
and we're doing okay although we make mistakes

we're together in this beat to shit van
but we're having a blast every chance that we can
we've been driving along without air in the tires
and the fluids are leaking all over the wires
still my mission is true and my timing is good
and the tank's filled with gas and i rest when i should

i know that i'm bound to get there some day
to the place in my life where i will be safe
though i don't have a map, my direction is clear
in fact i'm so close i can see it from here
and i'm not gonna guess at "half empty or full"
i'm no optimist, but at least nothing's dull
it's a whirlwind of chaos that carries me off
it's a baffling buoyancy which keeps me aloft
and the cost that i'm paying is not cheap at all
but it's worth all i'm saying 'cause it's my time to fall

all the doors i have slammed are closed up for now
and so it's your turn to get really loud
step up to the mike and scream a few lines
you don't have to make sense or yell in a rhyme
just speak how you feel and make it all fun
'cause i have been barbie and my tantrum is done

--barbie dockstader
inspired by bob angell

babbitt's bookstore

Books Bought and Sold
Book Exchange
Permanent Want List
Book Search Service

OPEN SUNDAYS
FROM 12-5

104 North St. • Normal
Mon. - Sat. 10-6 • 454-7393



Wal-Mart denies women contraceptives

Think you can go to your local Wal-Mart pharmacy counter and get *all* your prescriptions filled? Nope! In a stunning example of corporate cowardice, the Board of Directors of the Wal-Mart Corporation caved in to "Pharmacists for Life."

Wal-Mart, which operates the second-largest pharmacy system in the United States, is prohibiting its 2,435 stores from stocking, ordering or dispensing Preven, an FDA-approved emergency contraception. Preven is a packaged combination of hormonal pills that is used to prevent pregnancy within 72 hours after unprotected sex.

Preven is widely used as a morning-after pill and frequently prescribed in instances of rape or incest. In addition, contraception researchers estimate that Preven, if widely used, could prevent half of all unintended pregnancies. The Wal-Mart ban makes no exceptions, not even for rape victims.

Statewide response needed
Through this action, Wal-Mart is denying its

women customers access to one of the more effective contraceptive drugs available. Illinois NOW is calling for coordinated, statewide community actions protesting this decision. Contact the Illinois NOW office for an action kit.

You can distribute information fliers, collect signatures on letters to Wal-Mart's CEO, or write an op-ed piece or letter to the editor in your local paper. You can also ask friends and neighbors to send messages to Wal-Mart, encouraging a change in policy. Send e-mail letters to letters@wal-mart.com. Send snail mail to David G. Glass, President & CEO, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, AR, 72716, or call Mr. Glass at (501) 273-4000.

Pro-Choice Voice Editor's Note:

Women in rural areas are especially affected by this policy because their choice of pharmacies is limited by geography. And Wal-Mart, coincidentally, locates most of its stores in areas serving rural communities. Often it is the only, and usually the most affordable, pharmacy available.

Voice for Choice asks you to boycott your local Wal-Mart, and when you do, mail the store's management copies of receipts from the other places you shopped instead, accompanied by a letter explaining that this is the dollar amount of business they've lost due to this practice. The best and perhaps only way to get the message across to this HUGE chain is to get 'em in their pocketbooks.

The Pharmacist's Oath

At this time, I vow to devote my professional life to the service of all humankind through the profession of pharmacy. I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of human suffering my primary concerns. I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal drug therapy outcomes for the patients I serve. I will keep abreast of developments and maintain professional competency in my profession of pharmacy. I will maintain the highest principles of moral, ethical, and legal conduct. I will embrace and advocate change in the profession of pharmacy that improves patient care. I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.

—from Pro-Choice Voice Newsletter



BEST

ORIGINAL LIVE MUSIC in the TWIN CITIES

Figure 31

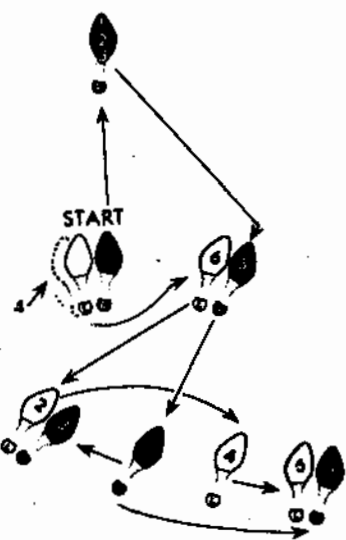
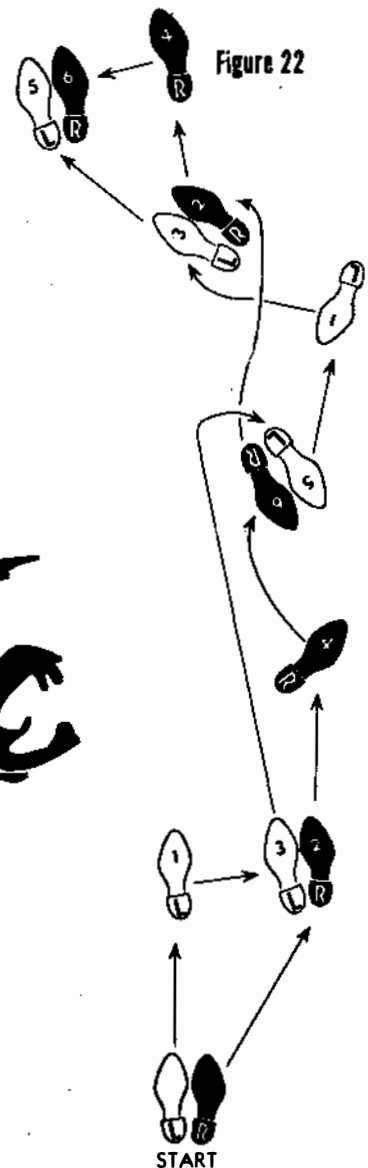


Figure 22



The Lizard's Lounge 612 N. Main Street. Bloomington, IL 309.827.9580



Notes from the land of anti-fat

Purge Pressure

From the Bureau of the Blindingly Obvious comes this recent bulletin: girls who consider themselves overweight may be influenced by their peers and by the media to begin purging -- vomiting or using laxatives to control weight.

Young girls practice said unhealthy behaviors to mirror images they see in movies and magazines or to achieve a weight they believe their friends think is ideal, according to Dr. Alison Field. Field and her associates looked at information from the Growing Up Today Study, a trial of 6,982 girls between 9 and 14 years old.

In the November 14 issue of Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, the investigators write that 74 of the girls vomited or used laxatives at least once a month to control their weight. Among the 74 girls, 30% vomited or used laxatives two or more times per week. Less than one-third reported dieting during the previous year, the authors add.

Seventy-four may not seem like a hefty number until you realize that we're only discussing middle school girls. Shift beyond the scope of this study into high school age, and the number rises even more significantly.

"The media seems to have a very strong effect on young girls, independent of other factors," Field notes, in what sounds like a replay of the recent Fiji study. "It's important for the media to refrain from using the severely underweight models who are unhealthy and unrealistic role models for these young girls to have."

Field and her fellow researchers also found that the more emphasis a girl's peers placed on thinness, the more likely a girl was to begin purging to control weight. Girls who were more physically developed, those who dieted frequently, and those who reported great concern with their weight in the 1996 survey were all most at risk to begin purging, the investigators note.



"We were looking at the early steps of an eating disorder," said Field, an instructor in medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. "Because eating disorders are so difficult to treat and have severe mental and physical health consequences, preventing such disorders is key."

Journal editor Dr. Catherine D. DeAngelis describes her solution to the problem in the current issue: "(P)urge television and magazines of models who don't look like anyone from the world we live in, Let's get real!"

Now that's some purging we can get behind.

Journalistic Neglect

From the Columbus Dispatch, comes this revealing instance of fat phobia: a November 17 Dispatch story claims that an Ohio teen-ager was recently removed from her mother's home because of medical neglect. The paper's sole instance of health problems? The fact that her mother allegedly "let her" get grossly overweight.

In a Franklin County adjudicatory hearing, Franklin County Children Services claimed that the 5-foot-tall girl was neglected and suffered health problems. According to hearing testimony, the girl's weight had nearly doubled to 300 pounds in the past year while she was in the custody of her mother. It's an extraordinary sounding gain, but it is not necessarily a sign of neglect.

On the basis of the original story, the reader doesn't know if the girl was neglected or not. But you've got to wonder when the only supporting information reported is the fact that the girl gained weight. The presumption is pretty obvious. Just the fact of weight gain is reason enough to call the authorities.

Could be there's more to the story, but you wouldn't know it from the way the Dispatch reported it. Size acceptance advocates have been worrying for some time about the trend toward looking at childhood obesity as something that is wholly the parents' responsibility. "In that light, the Dispatch story looks like one more volley in the prevailing assault on fat youths and adults.

Survey Sez. . .

Let's end this edition on a potentially positive note: the U.S. Air Force is bringing a survey called the Civilian American and European Surface Anthropometry Resource - otherwise known as CAESAR - to eight U.S. cities. Researchers are billing it as the most comprehensive database ever compiled on the shape and size of the average human body. The survey aims to measure 4,000 bodies in the U.S. and Canada, and 5,000 more in Europe.

"If you've ever had a problem finding clothes that fit, or love your car but wish it were more comfortable, here's your chance," says Kathleen Robinette, whose laboratory is spearheading the study. The lab has called for volunteers with average folk body shapes in order to get a more realistic sampling of today's silhouettes.

The federal government wants detailed measurements of people so technicians can design better hardware - from airplanes to guns. (Okay, so the gun part may not be all that cool - but whadya expect from the military?) The last comprehensive measurement taken by the military was in 1947, said Dennis Allen, a CAESAR engineer. Which explains, for example, why so much "standardized" seating is unfriendly to larger adults. And why "L" sized shirts aren't . . .

More than 20 companies in the automotive and clothing industries are co-sponsoring the \$6 million project, hoping the information will lead to more consumer-friendly products. As someone who has suffered through plastic booth seating, this writer can only hope that it does.

-Bill Sherman

McLEAN COUNTY AIDS TASK FORCE

Serving McLean and Livingston Counties

Services Provided

Buddy System • Independant Living Support • Hospital Visitation • Transportation • Pastoral Care • Peer Support • Non-Therapeutic Support Groups • Emergency Financial Assistance

PHONELINE: MON-FRI 7-10pm

(309) 827-AIDS



The Review List: How to tell if you're still a liberal

You are probably not a liberal anymore if:

- You think the elimination or reduction of social services is a "reform."
- Accept the idea that Social Security and Medicare must live within the limits of an arbitrary "trust fund" but that the Pentagon need be under no such restrictions.
- Liked the Clintons' health plan and wonder whether single payer health care wouldn't be too socialistic.
- Consider a 5% wage increase in an industry to be inflationary but a 5% return on your stocks in that industry to be inadequate.
- Think it's all right to bomb the smithereens out of a small Balkan country for humanitarian reasons.
- Regard the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *New Yorker*, *PBS*, and *NPR* as liberal media.
- Know what NARAL stands for but not SEIU.
- Agree with Toni Morrison that Clinton is our first black president.
- Have doubts about gays in the US military but approve of having the US military in over 130 countries.
- Spend more time thinking about Hillary's chances and executive glass ceilings than you do about sweatshops, the minimum wage, or workplace safety.
- Are afraid your children can't handle drugs and booze as well as you did.
- Believe that because you were robbed once, you can support mandatory sentencing with a clear conscience.
- Have an piercing alarm system on your Lexus but think gun owners are paranoid.
- Haven't noticed that democracy and the Constitution aren't doing so well these days.
- The front seat of your SUV is higher than that of your plumbers' pickup truck.
- *The Progressive Review*/Oct 1999


Counting priorities

- Number of children without health insurance in U.S.: 11 million
- Number of children without health insurance in all other industrialized nations: 0
- Rank of U.S. defense spending among all nations: 1
- Amount of President Clinton's proposed increase to the Pentagon budget next year: \$12 billion
- Amount needed to provide health insurance for 11 million American kids who don't have it: \$11 billion
- Amount of federal tax money allocated to the Pentagon this year: \$ 276 billion
- Amount allocated to Head Start: \$5 billion
- Amount allocated to Environmental Protection Agency: \$7 billion
- Amount allocated to education: \$31 billion
- Rank of U.S. education spending per student among all nations: 10
- Rank of math and science test scores by U.S. high school students among industrialized nations: 18
- Ratio of U.S. defense spending versus Iraqi defense spending: 276 to 1
- Ratio of Pentagon spending to combined defense spending of Russia, China, and all "rogue" nations: 2 to 1
- Ratio of defense spending by U.S. and allies to combined defense to combined defense spending by those nations: 4 to 1
- Amount of pork in the Pentagon budget--not requested by the Pentagon but inserted by Congress: \$5 billion
- Amount needed to reduce kindergarten through third grade class size to 18 students: \$4 billion
- Amount required to build 48 of 341 new F-22 fighters, designed to fight the collapsed Soviet Union: \$9 billion
- Amount needed to provide proven anti-crime programs for all eligible kids in U.S.: \$9 billion
- Percentage of U.S. discretionary budget--the part of the budget that Congress votes on--given to Pentagon: 48
- Percentage allocated to education: 8
- Amount paid by the Pentagon for one screw in 1998: \$75
- Amount such screw would cost in a hardware

store: 50 cents

- Estimated amount of Pentagon spending on Viagra in 1999: \$50 million
- Rank of U.S. nuclear arsenal among all nations: 1
- Rank of U.S. infant mortality rate among all nations: 13
- Percentage decrease in Russian defense budget since 1988: 74
- Percentage decrease in Pentagon budget since 1988: 21
- Amount of political contributions and lobbying in 1997 cycle by tobacco industry: \$44 million
- By the weapons industry: \$58 million
- Percentage of Senators who have a facility in their district owned by defense contractor Lockheed Martin: 100
- Amount Lockheed Martin received in Pentagon contracts in 1996: \$18 billion
- Amount spent by Pentagon while you read this fact sheet (average reading time 2 minutes): \$1 million

Sources: 1, 2 Children's Defense Fund (Washington, D.C.), 3 Center for Defense Information (Washington, D.C.), 4 Budget of the United States (FY 2000), 5 Children's Defense Fund (Washington, D.C.), 6, 7, 8, 9 Budget of the United States (FY 2000), 10 *World Military and Social Expenditures* by Ruth Leger Sivard, 11 National Center for Education Statistics (Washington, D.C.), 12, 13, 14 Center for Disease Information (Washington, D.C.), 15 Council for a Livable World Education Fund (Washington, D.C.), 16 U.S. Conference of Mayors (Washington, D.C.), 17 Center for Disease Information (Washington, D.C.), 18 Justice Policy Institute (Washington, D.C.), 19, 20 Budget of the United States (FY 2000), 21, 22 "A \$75 set screw? Bad old days of Pentagon purchasing are back," Copley News Service, by Julia Malone, March 8, 1998, 23 "Harper's Index," *Harper's Magazine*, January, 1999, 24 Center for Disease Information (Washington, D.C.), 25 *World Military and Social Expenditures* by Ruth Leger Sivard, 26, 27 SIPRI (Stockholm), 28, 29 Center for Responsive Politics (Washington, D.C.), 30, 31 "Military-Industrial Complex Revisited," by William Hartung, World policy Institute, November, 1998, 32 \$276 billion annual Pentagon budget divided by 365 days per year divided by 24 hours per day divided by 60 minutes per hour x



DIESEL DICK'S

we specialize in
GM diesel repair

complete automotive
and truck service

foreign and domestic

508 N. Madison
9 am - 5:30 pm

828-1714



Seeing Red

Plague by Steve Eckardt

(CHICAGO) - Really, it took great humility for the United States Secretary of State to call her country "the world's indispensable nation." After all, the book Dow 36,000 is competing with Dow 100,000 for bestseller status. (The U.S. stock market index--having soared 800% in a decade--is now around 11,000.)

And dictators quail before the awesome U.S. military, now free at last to carpet-bomb anywhere human rights need defending.

"Indispensable" is putting it mildly. And if querulous Red warnings about a speculative bubble near-to-bursting and a trajectory toward world Depression and war are off the mark --as they of course must be-- what could possibly go wrong here?

Nothing, of course . . . well, maybe one thing. Suppose one of several new diseases killed tens of millions just in the U.S. -- deaths from liquifying pathogens of extraordinary virulence, unstoppable pathogens without cure or treatment.

Actually, the well-informed --especially readers of *The Hot Zone* by Richard Preston (who, as we'll see below, is now issuing a new warning) - know this is genuinely a serious concern of leading epidemiologists. It is not a tabloid fantasy.

The well-informed know that we're talking about Level 4 biohazard "hot viruses" like Ebola, Lassa and Marburg -- viruses with up to 90% lethality rates, some strains of which are capable of airborne transmission (a sneeze in a classroom, for instance).

Preston's readers know that for 18 days in 1989 the U.S. military seized control of a monkey warehouse near Washington D.C. where such a strain of Ebola emerged ... and that it had to "nuke" the place.

They know that these viruses (including HIV, which causes AIDS) originate from the tropical rain forest, and that their appearance today stems largely from human destruction of that environment.

They may also know --especially if they read Laurie Garrett's superior and encyclopedic book *The Coming Plague*-- that global inequality drives that destruction ... and fuels the spread of disease in innumerable ways, from untreated drinking water to the complete absence of medical care.

They may even know that the voracious draining of the Third World by banks in the imperialist world ("the Third World debt" in the popular press parlance) is the central mechanism of that global inequality -- and hence of Ebola, HIV and the like.

They might even know --especially if they read the article "Extermination: Neither Fire nor Water Next Time" by one S. Eckardt-- that nuclear weapons' testing and manufacturing may play a key role in the mutations that enable these viruses to suddenly prey on our species (see the article at <www.seeingred.com>).

Those who don't know? They should make it their business to find out. The normal operation of the system run by the world's indispensable nation just might--tragically, at its moment of triumph--have the side-effect of a world virtually without human life.

Now Richard Preston --who deserves credit as the first journalist to bring this possibility to wide public attention-- warns of another disease that could potentially exterminate vast numbers of humanity. And it's a disease whose elimination was celebrated just twenty years ago.

That not a single case of smallpox has occurred since 1977 is certainly one of humanity's greatest accomplishments. After all, smallpox killed "at least three hundred million people in the twentieth century" alone, according to Preston's article in the 12 July issue of *The New Yorker* magazine.

But the vaccine responsible for the virus's elimination (there are no reservoirs besides humans for it to survive in) "begins to wear off in many people after ten years." And -- guess what -- there's no stock of smallpox vaccine available any more . . . and it would take years to produce even if they started immediately.

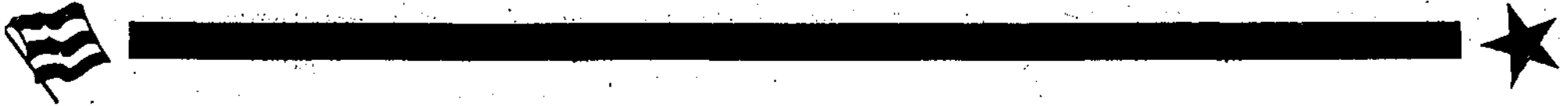
NPR's Andrei Codrescu coming to B/N

Poet/essayist/NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu will be making a three day author visit to Bloomington-Normal from February 1st-3rd.

Codrescu is perhaps best known for his cranky social commentaries on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, heard locally on WGLT. Codrescu's latest work, *Messiah*, is a lyrical, fantastic tale of the millenium, set in New Orleans. He is also a poet, award-winning filmmaker, and editor of the literary cyber-journal, *Exquisite Corpse* (www.corpse.org).

Sponsoring organizations are Friends of the Bloomington Public Library, Friends of the Normal Public Library, IWUs Sheean Library, ISUs Milner Library, the American Library Association, McLean County Arts Center, and the Post Amerikan. For specific dates and times of events call Bloomington Public Library and ask for Rochelle Hartman: 828-6091. Or e-mail rhartmanbpl@yahoo.com

This event is free and open to the public.



No problem, of course, if smallpox no longer exists. But . . .

But, says Preston, the former Soviet Union produced some twenty tons of smallpox for use in biological weapons -- and he hints (without solid evidence, mind you) that not all of it has been destroyed.

Furthermore, he says, "the United States government keeps a list of nations and groups it suspects either have clandestine stocks of smallpox or seem to be trying to buy or steal the virus."

He goes on: "The list is classified, but it is said to include Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Cuba, and Serbia. The list may also include the terrorist organization of Osama bin Laden and, possibly, the Aum Shinrikyo sect of Japan [which released nerve gas in a Tokyo subway in 1995]."

What a list! Amazing that it includes nearly every bogeymen of the last two decades of U.S. propaganda -- just amazing.

Well thank god Washington's been so busy bombing or starving or sabotaging all those places (except for their Israeli client state of course). In fact, shouldn't they be bombing all those places NOW?

Yes, Preston has unfortunately followed to their logical conclusion the flawed politics already visible in The Hot Zone (wherein white man faces peril from darkest Africa): only the U.S. government stands between us and forces that would wipe out the human race. Now, terrorist madmen threaten us all!

Better load up the B-52's with another hundred thousand cluster bombs. And thank god Washington kept all those ICBM's. Right?

Is there a chance of a staggeringly-lethal global pandemic?

Even beyond the fact of HIV, the answer is "yes." But, Preston's scary tale aside, the agent almost certainly won't be smallpox. After all, even if there's an organized force evil and insane enough to use smallpox as a weapon --and if they can actually obtain it-- without a stockpile of smallpox vaccine, no country or organization can use the virus without wiping themselves out too.

No stockpile of vaccine -- no usable weapon.

Yes, the world looks pretty safe from smallpox. Until somebody has a vaccine stockpile, nobody can use the virus to threaten humanity with extermination.

And just in case --just to keep Americans safe-- Preston reports that "the chief terrorism expert on the [U.S.] National Security Council, Richard Clarke, has sent word through the federal government that getting national stockpiles of smallpox vaccine is a top priority." Thank god again, eh?

But wait -- what was that again?

A top priority of the United States government is ... building stockpiles of smallpox vaccine.

Which would mean . . .

Which would mean "indispensable" would be putting it very mildly indeed.

Steve Eckardt, a Chicago railway mechanic, publishes the web-magazine Seeing Red. To read more -- and to leave comments -- visit <www.SeeingRed.com>.

Who loves ya like your mother do?

established 1968

MIDTMEER NEW/ USED GUITARS
MURPHY AMPS STRINGS
 & THINGS

111 1/2 NORTH ST
 452-6712

SHOGNAVES

415 N MAIN 828-4521
 Bloomington

SKATEBOARDS
 SKATE CLOTHES
 BODY JEWELRY
 DOC MARTENS
 HAIR DYES- SHOES

EITHER STORE:
 IMPORT CDS
 POSTERS T-SHIRTS
 JEWELRY TAPESTRIES
 CANDLES INCENSE
 TOBACCO ACCESORIES
 WE BUY SELL TRADE
 CDS TAPES RECORDS

SHOP BOTH STORES!!



NAMI protests syndicated columnist's discriminatory statements

NAMI has called for a public apology for a "viciously prejudiced" column by syndicated columnist Don Feder in the Boston Herald concerning efforts by the mental health community to register people with mental illness to vote in the 2000 elections, and has asked for a syndicated national opportunity to respond.

Coinciding with NAMI's opening voter registration and education campaign in New Hampshire, Feder's column asked: "Give me your schizophrenics, your paranoids, your manic depressives-for what?" He then complained about the principle that "everyone's vote counts"-including that of "the person, who not only believes the CIA covered up the so-called Roswell landing, but that he was on hand to meet the aliens."

"I cannot emphasize enough the cruel and offensive character of Mr. Feder's column, which crossed a line between partisan commentary and bigotry," NAMI executive director Laurie Flynn declared in a letter to Richard Newcombe, president of the Creators Syndicate in Los Angeles and Patrick Purcell, publisher of the Boston Herald.

"We doubt very much that a similar attack on racial or ethnic minorities or people with physical disabilities would have been published. Indeed, radio talk show hosts and sports commentators who have made such grossly insensitive remarks often have been suspended or fired," Flynn noted.

Ironically, Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation released a study the same week as Feder's column, showing that out of some 500 professionals and managers who have struggled with mental illnesses, 73 percent are able to work full-time, with 20 percent earning \$50,000 or more each year.

"They are among the people with mental illnesses whom Mr. Feder considers it absurd to have vote. Others perhaps include the close family members of three presidential candidates: i.e, Tipper Gore, Barbara Bush, and Hank Buchanan."

"Mental illness is not a partisan condition," Flynn observed.

-from NAMI of Livingston/McLean Counties Newsletter

Women and mental health TV program will feature Tipper Gore

Women and Mental Health, is the third show of a Women at Risk series and will be shown on some Illinois television stations in December. The show will cover a variety of mental health issues facing American women, ranging from diagnosis to treatment to the stigma of mental illness.

In a one-on-one interview, Tipper Gore, the wife of the Vice President and Advisor to the President on Mental Health, will discuss her efforts to destigmatize mental illness and provide better care to those suffering from mental illness.

Their website description indicates that they will take an in-depth look at the most common mental illnesses afflicting women today and how new medical breakthroughs in science, research, and medicine have brought us new understanding of the brain and the connections between mental and physical health.

WLS Chicago (ABC) has scheduled the showing on Dec. 12 at 1:30 pm. Peoria TV WAOE (UPN) also plans to show the segment, but has not announced the day and time.

-from NAMI of Livingston/McLean Counties Newsletter

Make your list & check it twice.
Don't forget the folks that matter the most this holiday season.



**PATH
PFLAG
Project Oz
Head Start
Clare House
Neville House
Voice for Choice
Rape Crisis Center
Safe Harbor Mission
Habitat for Humanity
Home Sweet Home Mission
Prairie State Legal Services
Mid Central Community Action
McLean County AIDS Task Force
Advocacy Council for Human Rights**

**Many of these groups
did not make the Famous Barr
"Favorite Local Charity" list.
They deserve our support
and respect.**

OTHER PORTS • 120 North St. Normal • 309.454.5071
Holiday hours: Monday-Friday 10-8 p.m. • Saturday 10 5:30 p.m. • Sunday 10-5:30 p.m.