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POST AMERIKAN



BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL VOLUME 31

FREE

NUMBER ONE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2002

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 Centennial Hall, ISU
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 Mother Murphy's, 111 W. North
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 Normal Public Library, 206 W. College
 North Street Cafe, 205 W. North
 Stevenson Hall, ISU
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Peoria

Bicycle Bus
 Illinois Central College

In this Issue:

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 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

Good numbers

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 National.....1-800-AID-AIDS
 Illinois.....1-800-243-2437
 Local.....827-AIDS
 Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-7092
 Amnesty International-ISU...Miami@ilstu.edu
 Animal Protection League.....828-5371
 Better Business Bureau.....1-800-500-3780
 Big Brothers/ Big Sisters828-1870
 Boys & Girls Clubs of B/N.....829-3034
 Clare House (Catholic workers).....828-4035
 Countering Domestic Violence.....827-7070
 Dept. of Children/Family Services....828-0022
 Gay, Lesbian & Bi teen drop in center.828-3998
 Gay & Lesbian Resource Phonenumber..438-2429
 Habitat for Humanity.....827-3931
 Headstart.....662-4880
 Home Sweet Home Mission.....828-7356
 IL Dept. of Public Aid.....827-4621
 IL Lawyer Referral.....1-217-525-5297
 Incest Survivors Support Group.....827-0790
 LIFE-CIL.....663-5433
 Lighthouse (substance abuse treatment)....827-6026
 McLean Co. Center for Human Services...827-5351
 McLean Co. Health Dept.....888-5450
 McLean Co. Housing Authority.....829-3360
 McLean Co. Humane Society.....664-7387
 McLean Co. Peace Coalition.....828-7070
 Mid Central Community Action.....829-0691
 Mobile Meals.....828-8301
 Narcotics Anonymous.....827-4005
 National Health Care Services/
 abortion assistance.....1-800-322-1622
 Occupational Development Center....452-7324
 Parents Anonymous.....827-4005
 PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help).827-4005
 Phone Friends.....827-4005
 PFLAG(Parents, Families and Friends
 of Lesbians and Gays).....663-0831
 Planned Parenthood (medical).....827-4014
 (bus/couns/edu).....827-4368
Post Amerikan.....828-4473
 Prairie State Legal Services.....827-5021
 Project Oz.....827-0377
 Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005
 Runaway Switchboard.....1-800-621-4000
 Salvation Army.....829-9476
 Safe Harbor Mission.....829-7399
 TeleCare (senior citizens).....828-8301
 Unemployment comp/job service.....827-6237
 Western Ave. Community Center.....829-4807
 Youth Build.....827-7507

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

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Due Date:

The due date for submitting articles to the *Post Amerikan* is: (please laser print your articles in columns of 3" using Palatino 10pt. type if possible.); or submit via e-mail at: pamerikanusa@netscape.net **March 15th**



Community News



"Mother Murphy" passes away

Betty L. Anderson, co-founder of "Mother Murphy's" died November 13 in Tucson, Arizona. Betty, formerly of Bloomington, and her lifelong companion Charlotte Radka, started Mother Murphy's in the early 1970s. The shop was originally located in the 1100 block of East Oakland in Bloomington, and later relocated to its present location. Charlotte preceded Betty in death. Both Charlotte and Betty made many friends among their customers and provided a positive model for many young women. While neither were what is now called "out," their love and commitment to each other was obvious to anyone who knew them.

--The Rainbow Connection

nubo wave map (space) bubble

This exhibition includes paintings by Scott Anderson, Adelheid Mers and Sang-ah Choi, kinetic sculpture by Jeff Carter, a video installation by Susan Giles, and a collaborative work by Carter and Giles.

The name of the show is an arrangement of single words drawn from titles of each of the artists' work; these sounds and letter-shapes evoke a shifting, curved, linguistically playful space that relates to certain formal and contextual elements apparent in the work.

Anderson's intricately composed and vividly colored canvases, titled in Esperanto (a failed universal language), consist of congealed microcosmic realities reflecting suburban dystopia.

Mimicking both corporate presentation charts and diagrams on theories of knowledge, Mers' banner-sized digital paintings are arch taxonomies based on her readings from Dewey to McLuhan.

Carter's kinetic sculptures track movement and interval in nature--from the ephemeral lighting patterns of fireflies to the slower, cyclical motion of bamboo rustling in the wind.

With a high gloss finish resembling ceramic tile, Choi's paintings ricochet between ancient art and anime, art and decoration, while addressing the curious relationship between Eastern and Western standards of beauty.

By stripping away descriptive content, Giles' videos *Um*, (space), and *Vagueness* call our attention to the facial expressions, breathing patterns, mouth shapes, and non-verbal utterances that shape meaning in everyday speech.

The exhibit runs from January 15 to February 17 at University Galleries Illinois State University 110 Center for the Visual Arts For more info: Phone 309.436.5487 or www.arts.ilstu.edu/galleries email: gallery@oratmail.cfa.ilstu.edu

Some thought about Deborah

In our last issue we printed articles in memory of Deborah Wiatt. Bill's article came in after we sent the paper to the printer, so we are printing in this issue.

When I first heard of Deborah Wiatt's death, the first thing that flashed through my mind was a simple, "Oh shit, now we're *never* gonna get together for a game night!"

Though we've both been part of the *Post-Amerikan* for ages, the fact is I personally hadn't had any real contact with Deborah for years: every once in a while we'd touch base - usually by phone - and promise to do something, but it never happened. I was busy with my life; she was busy. A cautionary on the dangers of procrastination.

I lived with Deborah in the eighties: a straight guy staying in a two-story home that not only housed the *P-A*, but also was the hub of the Rape Crisis Center. It was Deborah's world - I was only renting part of it - but it was a great place to live. Deborah was the most no-bullshit person I've ever known, and she lived that way.

She knew her beliefs (much more strongly than I've ever known mine) and she stuck to 'em. She was willfully eccentric, funny and compassionate: a great pal, even if she *did* have hokey musical tastes.

Plenty of political folk give lip service to the bond between the personal and the political; Deborah was one of the few folk I know that actually *lived* in both planes. At times this could make her seem uncompromising or difficult, but that was mainly because she had an annoying habit of being right too many times. There are plenty of moments from my time at Deborah's that I've remembered in the week since her death - some silly, some profound - they *all* were Deborah Wiatt.

-- Bill Sherman

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Blue Moon Coffeehouse presents Spring

The blue moon is the second full moon occurring in a month—a rare and unusual phenomenon fraught with possibility and excitement. The Blue Moon Coffeehouse brings to the Illinois Wesleyan community entertainment presented in a coffeehouse setting.

All Blue Moon Coffeehouse events are held in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center (unless otherwise noted) and feature flavored coffees, herbal teas and light pastries for nominal costs along with a varied venue of acoustic performances of urban and contemporary folk music by nationally touring singer-songwriters. Entertainment like this is found once in a blue moon and on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse.

Doors open at 7:30 PM and performances usually consisting of two sets begin at 8:00 PM. All shows are free and open to the public. Join us for our tenth year of The Blue Moon!

February 16—Vance Gilbert

Vance Gilbert never fails to amaze the audience—both those familiar with his talent and those discovering it for the first time. Vance Gilbert is a daring new voice in contemporary acoustic music. A black singer-songwriter in a notably white genre, Gilbert has burst upon the scene with a power, force and assurance rarely found in the acoustic music world. His smooth, full-bodied voice and thoughtful, heartfelt lyrics wring out emotions from despair to euphoria, gliding from extreme to extreme.

It has been noted that watching Vance is like witnessing a one-man Robin Williams, George Benson, Garrison Keillor, and Al Jarreau. As Vance laughingly puts it, "Welcome to Prairie Homeboy Companion." Vance Gilbert's graceful picking, lush voicing, and bright syncopation support engaging inner dialogues and witty verbal jabs sung in a smooth, energetic tenor. He continues to garner rave reviews for his latest release, *Somerville Live*.

Known as an energetic performer, his skills as a songwriter continue to develop. Come to The Blue Moon Coffeehouse and catch a truly rising star in the acoustic world. Great information about Vance can be found at www.vancegilbert.com/

March 9—Kris Delmhorst with Deb Talan and Mark Erelli

Kris Delmhorst leads Deb Talan and Mark Erelli to The Blue Moon Coffeehouse as all three make their debut on our stage in March. Touring in support of her second CD, *Five Stories*, Kris leaves the category of up-and-comer behind and hits the highroad, asserting herself as a mature national artist.

By turns rootsy and haunting, velvety and rough-cut, *Five Stories'* common threads are the intimate sound, Kris' spellbinding vocals and lyrics consistently extend beyond the ordinary. Not bad for a Brooklyn girl who didn't pick up a guitar until after college. Trained on cello, Kris gave up thoughts of a musical future when she realized the constraints of the classical

world weren't suited to her exploratory style. Years later, she picked up a fiddle and guitar gathering dust in the attic, tuned them up, and she hasn't looked back.

Equipped with enormous creative reach, transcendent lyrics, and a great ability to connect with an audience, Kris has everything she needs for a long and illustrious musical journey. To learn more about Kris Delmhorst, check out her web site at: www.krisdelmhorst.com

Deb Talan is one singer-songwriter who refuses to blend into the background. With the searing intensity of a Patty Griffin combined with the vocal agility of a Jonatha Brooke, Talan's distinctive sound may be the first thing to capture your attention, but her well-crafted pop songs (with a hint of jazz) will leave you humming her choruses and craving a repeat performance. She is currently touring in support of her latest CD, *Something Burning*, and plans to record in 2002. Her website is located at: www.debtalan.com

From coffeehouses to festivals, Mark Erelli's intense and vibrant performances converted the uninitiated and believers, and propelled him to the top of his class as a winner of the prestigious Kerrville New Folk contest in 1999. With songs that sound "fresh yet oddly familiar, like something rediscovered on old 78s found in your grandparents' cellar (Billboard)," Erelli is hailed as "one of the most versatile, tuneful new singer/songwriters (Boston Herald)." His website is found at: www.markerelli.com

April 19—Patty Larkin

The Blue Moon Coffeehouse proudly welcomes Patty Larkin back to the stage. It is unthinkable that our tenth year would not include a night of music with Patty Larkin. Known by music critics and fans alike as a "musician's musician," often working with some of America's most famous contemporary artists, including Bruce Cockburn and Shawn Colvin. Larkin is the recipient of 11 Boston Music Awards.

Patty Larkin is one of the most gifted performers in music today. Alone with her guitar, Larkin rocks as hard as many bands... keeping a relentless beat, accented with taut, Celtic-influenced ornamentations. A remarkable guitarist, an imaginative and versatile vocalist, Larkin turns in a riveting performance. From her emergence as a sensitive singer/songwriter in the late eighties, through her evolution as a top-charting alterna-folk/pop artist of the nineties, to her mature work as a sonic innovator and lyric master today, Patty Larkin shows us that it is possible to continue to evolve to re-groove our dreams as we grow. Learn more about Patty Larkin at her web site: www.pattylarkin.com

May 18—Sonny Ochs Presents the Songs of Phil Ochs Greg Greenway, SONiA, Kim and Reggie Harris, Pat Humphries, Tom Prasada-Rao, and MagPie

Our closing show of our tenth season brings six national touring artists to The Blue Moon Coffeehouse to sing songs of musician and political activist Phil Ochs as well as their own original music. Phil Ochs left this world too soon, but left it a better place having written and performed some of the defining music of his generation.

Ochs was part of the second wave of NY topical folk singers, getting started in the early 1960's, and once thrown bodily from a cab by no less than Bob Dylan for the crime of sounding like a "singing journalist." But after Dylan dropped protest music and folk faded, Ochs embraced progressive struggles more strongly than ever, and at times (like the '68 Chicago convention) seemed to consider his musical career secondary to his political activism.

Ochs' greatest strengths were his wry, heartfelt lyrics and uncluttered melodies. Not only did his music speak for his generation, but also it continues to inspire musicians today as reflected by the six artists presented at The Blue Moon Coffeehouse by Phil's sister, Sonny Ochs. We invite you to join us for this special season-closing show which will be held in Westbrook Auditorium in Presser Hall.

Ten years of bringing the finest acoustic music to the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University and to the Bloomington/Normal community we are proud to serve our community and for the support of audiences and artists throughout the year. For information on shows, call: 556-3815 or e-mail: bluemoon@titan.iwu.edu Join us as The Blue Moon continues to shine!

For those who just can't get enough music, we proudly offer these outstanding ticketed events

Voices on the Verge

For two nights in late March, four uniquely talented artists decided to try something a little different, something a little challenging even. Without much in the way of a script to guide them, Beth Amsel, Jess Klein, Erin McEweon and Rose Polenzani, invited an audience to witness and participate in the proceedings, and began sharing their songs and their voices. Friday, February 15 at 8:00 PM in Westbrook Auditorium, *Voices on the Verge* appear in concert. Don't miss your opportunity to hear and see these rising stars in contemporary acoustic music. Tickets are only \$10 and are available now! Call 309/556-3815 for details and ticket information. To learn more about *Voices on the Verge*, check out: www.voicesontheverge.com

2002

Human Relations Commission Taking Public Comments on Chapter 22.2

Ani DiFranco at Shirk Center

Bloomington, IL -- Four-time Grammy-nominated singer Ani DiFranco returns to Central Illinois on February 21 when she plays at the Shirk Center in Bloomington, IL. This is an all-ages show in a smoke-free, chem-free space.

Tickets for the 8:00 p.m. general admission show are \$25, and are available from concert producer Darcy L. Greder through mail order: 402 East Phoenix Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. Orders must be prepaid by checks/money orders made to: Ani at Shirk. Tickets obtained through the producer's box office available without additional fees or charges. Tickets will be sent immediately upon payment.

Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster ticket centers including Carson Pirie Scott, Dominick's, and Tower Record Stores and online at www.ticketmaster.com. To charge tickets by phone, call (309) 454-5500. Local Ticketmaster ticket centers include Bergner's in Eastland Mall, Bloomington, and Illinois State University's Braden Auditorium Box Office. Dean Pan Alley Records in Normal, IL also has tickets available.

DiFranco is returning to Central Illinois as part of her US tour this winter. This performance marks her tenth visit to the area in as many years. She continues to play locally because of the loyalty of fans that heard her first at Illinois Wesleyan's Blue Moon Coffeehouse coupled with a growing base of new devotees. From a first-time audience of 165 to over 5100 fans at Redbird Arena, local audiences have long known what is being discovered nationally--Ani is the little folksinger who can rock the house...any size house.

She has been Grammy-nominated in the Best Female Rock Vocalist category three times and once in the Best Contemporary Folk category. Rolling Stone calls Ani, "a force of nature on-stage." And Spin calls her, "One of the 40 most vital artists in music today."

For further information about Ms. DiFranco's appearance, contact Darcy L. Greder at: (309)556-3541.

On Tuesday, February 5, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., the Bloomington Human Relations Commission will be taking public comments on proposed revisions to Bloomington's Human Relations Ordinance, Chapter 22.2 of the Bloomington City Code. The public comments will be heard at Bloomington City Hall in the Council Chambers, 109 East Olive Street.

This meeting is free and open to the public. No signs or placards of any type or size will be permitted.

The Bloomington Human Relations Commission has established that each person will have a maximum of five minutes to speak. All individuals wishing to speak during the public comment period must personally sign up prior to the start of the meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m. Sign up us on a first come, first serve basis.

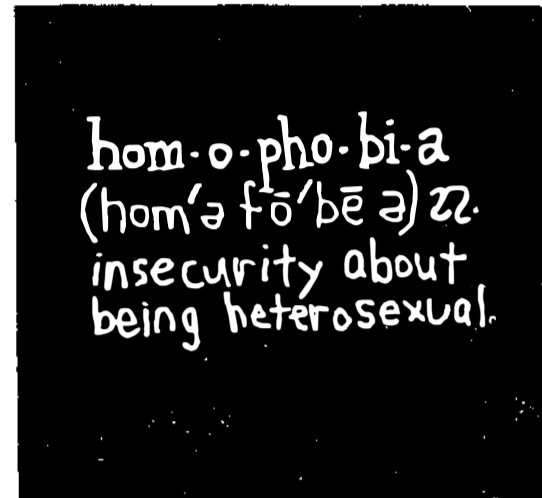
A copy of the proposed revisions to the Ordinance will be available in the Community Relations Office located in the Human Resources Department from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. A copy of the proposed revisions will also be available during the public comment period.

Following are the proposed revisions to the Human Relations Ordinance:

Prohibition of Sexual Orientation Discrimination

Definition of "Sexual Orientation: "The term "sexual orientation" means homosexuality, bisexuality, or heterosexuality, whether the orientation is real or perceived. (Source: Senate Bill 1284, 107th Congress, A Bill to Prohibit Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation)

Definition of "Discriminate: "means to make a difference in treatment, or favor any person because of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual



orientation, or physical or mental disability unrelated to ability.

"Sexual orientation" would be added as needed to the prohibitions in Chapter 22.2 against discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, financing, and public accommodations.

Section 4 (B) (2) Exemptions (Employment)

Sexual orientation. The prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation shall not apply to a person or organization if such application would be a substantial burden on the exercise of the sincerely held religious beliefs of such person or organization or if such application would significantly burden the ability of an organization engaged in expressive association to advocate public or private viewpoints relating to sexual orientation.

Similar exemptions would be added to the chapter in the areas of housing, financing, and public accommodation.

Open Door Youth Center

A safe meeting place for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning youth. Meets most Friday evenings at 7:30 at Connections Community Center, 313 N. Main Street, Bloomington. For recorded Open Door Youth Center information call 309-823-0555. Sponsoring organizations are Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Bloomington-Normal Chapter, and the McLean County AIDS Task Force.

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The third way: Hierarchy,

Government & Politics

The word "politics" comes to us from the Greek "politikos," meaning "of a citizen." As such, politics is simply the affairs of the common man/woman, the ways in which we determine the affairs of our kind. But at its root we discover "polis," the city. With this we're reminded how politics is first and foremost the province of the ruling cities, and with few exceptions does great harm to the disenfranchised: the conquered and exploited, the women and youth, the yeomans and farmers of the countryside... and the entire natural world existing just outside the towns limits and castle's walls.

So the question of our time becomes: how do we manage our collective selves in ways that are personally empowering and Earth honoring? How do we enjoin the politics of interrelationship, without certifying historic systems known for destruction and lies? Certainly the option to participate is

voluntary, and should be conditional as well. We should decide when to involve ourselves and when not to, weighing each situation, the possible effect we might have on a situation, and effect that this involvement will have on us.

Government is the institution of politics. To govern means not only to exercise political authority, but also "to direct and restrain; to control the actions or behavior of." We look to our political and judicial leaders to keep polluters from poisoning American estuaries or to punish the multinational logging companies driving hundreds of plant and animal species to extinction. Some of the most impressive environmental gains over the past few decades have been political, our victories mostly legislative or litigious.

But by appealing to the central authorities we validate the power of the same institutions that support profit-making logging companies driving one species after another into irretrievable extinction, that colonize the labor force of undeveloped 3rd world countries, and codify the "right" to concrete over nearly

every inch of living soil in the name of "progress." And every environmental judgment or legislation can be just as easily reversed or repealed according to the whims of an ever expanding population.

Increasingly, one of the fundamental choices for all political participants will be between setting aside space for the evolving natural world, and its appropriation for human habitation and use. Kudos to every activist and group who have been able to turn the system against itself, Aikido fashion, and won for even a single generation or single decade a reprieve for the threatened forests and retreating wildlife. But any long term remedy- any lasting return to balance- will require more than the always temporary support of the judicial and political process.

The Problem With Systems, & The Appeal of Anarchy

There was an expression in the 1960s, that rather than opposing the dominant paradigm we had only to build healthy alternative infrastructures (communities, schools, food co-ops, spiritual traditions) and then watch

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anarchy & clan

Babylon crumble all around us. Only problem is, Babylon is flourishing, and may continue to do so long after the killing off of a large percentage of "higher" life forms, the draining of the last oil reserves, the soiling of the air and sea. Humanity will likely have the technological ingenuity and political will to out-survive almost everything except for microbes and cockroaches... at the expense of every other living thing. No amount of destruction—like the collapse of the world trade center building—will do anything but strengthen the systems of manipulation and control.

Fortunately, the alternative structures we built have survived as well, if only as the rekindled dreams and manifest expressions of an Earth loving, peace loving minority. And at the same

time there continues to exist a counter current of thoughtful outcasts, serving as a kind of antidote to the system's suffocating order... calling themselves anarchists, calling themselves free.

In its extreme, anarchy makes for an indulgent personal credo, and a dysfunctional and uncooperative society. But it's no wonder that kids find the anarchic emphasis on individual expression, motivation and responsibility preferable to the systemologies that have so long governed our kind.

When one is in touch with their personal needs, or connected to the needs and will of the living Earth, they can no longer condone the monotony of colorless communism, the hierarchical absolutism of even the most noble kingdoms, or even that consumerist dictatorship of the masses we call "democracy."

Every better organized system known to "man" commodifies, trivializes or totally eliminates individual liberty. They demonstrate the kind of artless rigidity that turns outlaws into mythical heroes, civil disobedience into a rite of passage, and nonconformity into a meaningful life quest. They insult our true human nature, at the same time as they manage and implement the destruction of the natural world.

It seems that no governing system has ever been immune. Even tribalism has a history of formalizing some less than spirit-honoring practices, from the sanctioned wife beating of certain Native American societies, to the institutionalized human sacrifices of my own tribalized Celtic ancestors.

Tribal unity and survival are dependent on change-resistant traditions. These traditions are unwritten laws, alternately supported and believed in, resented and subverted, or blindly obeyed. And like all practice and law throughout our history, some have contributed to the health and diversity of natural ecosystems, while others have led to their destruction. In every tribe, as in every political system, it is the outcasts that seem fated to recognize the harm in tradition and law, the Bards who must then communicate it, and the outlaws who must resist it.

A Third Way

It's crucial that we continue to imagine and work towards a more organic system of human interaction: one that exceeds the most positive examples of our primal forebears, while reviving those spiritual sensibilities once common to us all.

There is what I call the 3rd Way, a model neither anarchic nor hierarchic: the lowly clan. It's likely untenable for the majority of our burgeoning kind, especially in the face of technologically advanced world governments. And yet for some of us, the clan is also the best chance we have got to survive the pressures of those very same societies. And the best opportunity to recover the most meaningful aspects of human purpose and human relationship.

A clan is first of all smaller than other societies, with people naturally breaking off and going their own way when the group starts to get much over thirty members. Rather than having a formal system for selecting leaders and decision makers, decisions fall naturally on those most obviously informed or gifted in each different circumstance. Often this will be an elder or crone, but on occasion it may be a child, instead, whose shown the understanding necessary in the particular area of consideration. But in every case, it falls on the shoulders of the one most able and willing to give and to serve, motivated by love, empowered by their connection to the All.

Nobody is disadvantaged or suppressed, when the group is so small that everyone can agree! In a healthy world (a world of vast wilderness) to disagree or diverge one has only to leave, crossing over the mountains to join another clan, or to start one's own. Thus a clan was always held together not only by need and necessity, but by true affection and demonstrable loyalty. To this day the voluntary members of any clan share not only common beliefs, but an overriding allegiance to their mutual good. They haven't had to learn to be a "more tolerant" society, because they care about each other.

For twenty-one years I've been assigned the job of tending to the needs of a particular piece of inspired land. Ownership of the property

has proved to be a useful tool, but its ultimate engagement and guardianship has been more the result of the devotion of clan.

From the time I got here I sensed the clanhood of the Mogollon pit-house dwellers that took care of this river canyon thousands of years before us, and how we can best further this legacy of protection and sacrament with our own focused grouping. Folks that came and left each contributed in some way to the preservation of place.

And those that have stayed contribute to the strength of our efforts, and the promise of a lineage: Wonder-filled Loba, singing prayers to the sacred cliffs, stroking the grass, kissing every rock and skull. The man Scot, faithful

apprentice open to all there is to learn, gladly shouldering the Kokopellic burdens, giving his all in the most heroic and artful ways. And our nonresident extensions, like Nick Morgan, aiding this place and project while remaking his life in the image of her dreams. John Drake, the essential guardian angel. Glenn, doing all he can to help us get the word out to a humanity in need. We are united by the commitment to give everything we can, and to pay any price, for that which matters most.

In such a clan, common priorities and aims substitute for governance, and the mechanics of control are replaced by the politics of devotion and love.

Jesse Wolf Hardin is an acclaimed teacher of Earth-centered spirituality, and author of *Kindred Spirits: Sacred Earth Wisdom* (order from: 800-366-0264). Wolf offers intuitive counsel, wilderness quests, retreats, and resident internships at their riverside sanctuary. To book Wolf for university or conference presentations, or for information on their various programs and opportunities contact: The Earthen Spirituality Project, Box 516, Reserve, NM 87830, or check out <www.concentric.net/~earthway>.

Kindred Spirits is the haunting cry of a wild-voiced wilderness seer and the ecstatic song of an Earth lover, a person intoxicated with the beauty and diversity of life. —From the Foreword

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Wolf powerfully brings us into the presence of our animal elders, reawakening us to the lessons they have to teach us in the recovery of our own instincts and aliveness. This is a fiery, passionate and important book. —Paul Winer, Paul Winer Consort

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The Poetry Page

NO WORDS . . .

And September Eleventh
still weighs heavy on our minds
Recall a friend
of wisdom
Said after a couple of months
she finds
Fires still burn
grief not done

But as she walked
ground zero
Didn't find
a trace of dust
So clean . . .
all around the glow
Of human's care
she did trust

And thoughts to describe
the feeling she knew
Would never rise
to words
A wonder
in my mind grew
Of what her
heart heard

Now Winter lays her
dark hues
Across the land
before our eyes
Slowly to the Spring
Earth moves
Where the strength
of new life sighs

Gently . . .
they say time heals
Recall again
her loss for words
For on senseless actions
a casket seals
Where not a sound is heard.

--Lin Frog Simmons

you, sanctuary (for Nick and Cynthia Africano)

there were yellow thoughts
in the earliness of your living room

there were tangible memories
covering my body,
the smell of fire

there was the soul soundtrack
of your kitchen table.

i was born in this house somehow
where friendship seemed to:

stand on its feet

say its first words

recognize itself in the mirror

because
there was longing
spread through the house
like wall-to-wall carpeting,
before anything was even missed

and
the possibilities carried us away,
certainly

--Filipe Vampos de Pinho de Bessa

The Pain of Missing You

Alone in a room,
standing still,
staring in gloom,
inside I'm ill...
my heart beats slowly,
almost not at all,
my body feels holey,
and quicker I fall..
closing my eyes,
dreaming of you,
fighting the cries,
by a whisper or two.
soft but far, I hear you at night,
In the dark you are there,
so faint, no light.
I wish to wake up only in your arms,
I do in a dream,
but still you are far.
With your distance in mind,
and our love in heart,
we are one of a kind,
never accepting to be apart.

When my eyes are closed it is you that I hold
and you that I hear,
you that stops the cold,
and you that stalls the tear.
I look forward to that day,
when it is you I see,
next to you that I lay,
and with you I can be.

Kathryn Anton

Prison Holiday

It could be any holiday.
Basically they're all the same in prison.
A day of uneasy silence.

The first few holidays spent in prison
are the worst; they never get better
until build up a callous on your heart.

A young man tearfully mumbles he can't remember
his father's face. He's lucky.
Most guys in prison never knew their father's face.

Another guy angrily works a crossword puzzle,
shutting out the pain felt
for a life he'll never have.

A group of men gather at a TV to watch a parade,
some wishing for rain on that alien world
those floats glide through.

Tears are hidden as a few phone calls get through,
and sad faces stare into the abyss
longing for someone, anyone, to call.

The holiday meal was better than what?
Better than the standard. The cranberry sauce
brought back memories of families faded away long ago.

On this festive day dark clouds loom over beds
filled with catatonic, ashen gray, bodies.
Boys with blankets pulled over their heads,
Praying that this day just go away.

"Go away, Go away, Go away!"
No day in prison is a Hoilday.

--Nikolai Zarick, a prisoner in Virginia

Are You Lonely or Alone?

in the presence of absence
fingerprints caress only memory

in the presence of absence
lips kiss only the evaporating away

in the presence of absence
feet dance only in twitch sleep dream

in the presence of absence
poetry is the pause between heartbeats

--Chris Zimmerly



WHAT A POEM SHOULD DO TO THIS ROOM

what a poem should do to this room
 is disturb the foundation
 like a flock of turkeys rising
 to cluck on slick branches,
 the floorboards gape
 magma moves in the basement
 out into the street, dissolving every strip mall
 resurrecting every park
 all the way to the north pole,
 all the way to the south pole
 via the Pan-American highway
 all the way viva the soul shine
 the whole place rips in half
 if the poem did the write thing
 in the right way to this room
 the glass would melt like stalactites
 everyone would understand simple
 matter shifts apart into empty spaces
 where there is no explanation
 & there never will be from a machine
 tended by a scientist in a lab
 coat plugged into the wall socket
 if you see a poem do the wright brothers thing
 to this room,
 everyone is shining lights
 out of their hearts. minds in such
 a strong manner as they continuously
 are poems. forever each heartbeat a poem
 every breath a poem,
 every exchange of molecules is poetry
 the friendship gesture a poem
 love a poem

--Chris Zimmerly

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goosebumpchill stream throughout ice blew
 coastline shine at me for you i dream
 always i strolled blacknight bright day light
 dawn fading dusk into full sprint to outrun
 it all in and merge into arms of the unwritable
 warm feet are so to be alright safe
 get up true story help now thos filth
 that abounds past the farthest reaches of cell towers
 turn it off now see what comes thru
 crawl within slosh around the brain for awhile
 so follow the lead to where you go
 two more opposites really the same
 alarm don't loose focus at any stage it
 just shifts pick a pin point there might be
 some mote aaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh
 her oh in my arms is a need to
 it takes so long it seems to fill oh
 hurry home where you belong so we can stand time still
 it goes anyway we'll pay it no it must be free
 as we're on sail mode with lifetime warranties

--Matt Erikson

they persist unwritten

i listen to the pores of your shadow
for any explanation of you

kisses are endless in desire

i die with each piece of you

time is cursive in your milky crib
traces of me on your tongue

woman,
i wander the simple curves of you
lost in the waves of your name

you are unspoken
you are the unerasable of a dark night

you are all combinations
all open windows with painful breezes

you are all too long in your briefness

in lines i will climb your eternal fall

you are my hunger in the trees

woman,
i want to taste you again

--Filipe Campos de Pinho de Bessa

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We have the right to reject any poem.

A Prisoner's Friend

The gray existence behind these walls was
transformed
into an amazing world when you reached out.

The letter you sent was like a ray of sunshine
that
warmed my lonely heart.

The alms you bestowed reconnected me to the
tangible universe that seems so very far away.

Hearing your voice erased all the harshness
that
crushes my sensibility each day.

The love you freely gave without conditions
healed
long suffered wounds of a tattered spirit.

The smile that came upon your lips let me know
that
goodness is still alive.

The knowledge shared with me filled the
intellectual void that robs millions immured of
free thought.

The light in your eyes washed away the dark
side
and proved you are truly blessed.

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick
Dedicated to all the wonderful people who
made this chapter of my life livable.

Continued on Page 15



Everybody look what's goin' down

Last November, Illinois Governor George Ryan announced that, in an effort to offset a looming state budget crisis, he was (a) ending college and vocational programs in the Illinois State Department of Corrections; and (b) slashing Medicare/Medicaid hospital benefits for the elderly indigent. . . Well, the I.D.O.C. administrators' new fleet of Crown Victorias has to be paid for *somehow*.

There's somethin' happening here

As rash, ill-considered, inhumane, and just-plain-dumb public policy decisions go, this one should be a contender for the 10 best lists (Or 10 worst, depending on how you want to put it). I don't know what I found more breath taking—the assumption that the people of Illinois would all roll over and say, "Well, the elderly will obviously die sooner rather than later. No sense spending good public funds on hospital beds, when they can die just as readily in the streets. As for prisoners, that scum can just rot in their cells till they get out. Of course, they'll just be as unskilled and probably meaner when they walk out the gate, so we'll lock 'em up again." At an average of \$35,000 a year, the cost of incarcerating one person in a medium security facility. Now, *there's* a budget-trimmer.

What it is ain't exactly clear

I admit math's never been my strong suit. However, wouldn't it be cheaper in the long run to educate inmates while they're incarcerated, so that once credentialed and marketable, they can become taxpayers like the rest of us?

There's a man with a gun over there

The Greeks, God love them, had a word for it. Governor Ryan, in his *hubris*, also thought he could get the Illinois State Legislature to grant him emergency budgetary powers, similar to the ones granted former Governor Jim Edgar about ten years ago during the state's last fiscal crisis. Apparently, our lame duck governor neglected to consider that then-Governor Edgar was not only not a lame-duck, but was and is that endangered, exotic animal—a politician of unquestioned integrity, whose time in public office remained free of scandal. Moreover, he was newly in office and poised to run again, when he asked for those emergency powers. One can lob any number of complaints against our state legislature, second only to Texas' in respect to its arrogance, corruption, and sheer amusement value. However, it isn't spineless, particularly in an election year when every seat in the legislature will be contestable.

Tellin' me I gotta beware

Once the hearty laughter from the State Legislature died down below club decibel levels, those of us who were shouting in outrage over the proposed budget cuts were completely flummoxed by the Governor's decision to back down, not completely mind you, but to a significant degree.

Hey what's that sound?

After restoring 80% of the state funds to Medicare/Medicaid (one shudders to think of what severe economies an already beleaguered public hospital system would have been forced to adopt—reusing needles and laundering surgical gauze as health care workers often must in Third World countries?), Governor Ryan agreed to restore at least the vocational education programs in the I.D.O.C.

No doubt, the Governor and Donald Snyder, the Director of the I.D.O.C. were completely unprepared for the hounds-of-hell that descended on them—from community college presidents whose institutions contract with the state to provide educational programs at specific prisons, to professional organizations, such as the Illinois Correctional Education Contractors' Organization, prisoners' rights groups, and any number of concerned citizens. Rumor even had it that former Governor Edgar began lobbying Governor Ryan to reconsider, almost immediately after he announced his budget cuts. And those of us who helped generate letter writing campaigns, petitions, wrote letters to the editor of our local papers were clearly doing our best to be obnoxious on the point as well.

Singing songs and carrying signs

Before I start citing the figures that show the state of Illinois would actually lose more than it would save by eliminating educational programs in the I.D.O.C., let me point out to those who want to raise that tired prisoners-have-it-too-good, three-hots-and-a-cot, with-TVs-in-their-cells, so why-should-they-go-to-college-for-free-when-middle-class-people-can't-afford-to-go argument. Well, the satellite dish and the new SUV payments really do cut into the family budget.

First of all, since 1996, any inmate who receives a certificate or degree is required to reimburse the state for the cost of her or his education. Upon release, with their new suits and their \$10, they also get a bill. Moreover, they are not eligible for Pell grants and other forms of financial aid readily available to all those middle-class folks on the outside. So, in effect, the state of Illinois is having it both ways, just like the federal government wants to with the "illegal combatants" imprisoned at Camp X-Ray. But that, as they say, is another story.

Mostly say, hooray for our side

To paraphrase Mark Twain, there are liars, damned liars, and statisticians, but I'm confident in the legitimacy of this number crunching. Inmates in college programs recidivate at a rate of 13.1% versus inmates not registered in such programs, who recidivate at the rate of 37.5%. As a result, college and vocational programs save the state an estimated \$9.5 million annually.

Let me put it another way:
Expenditure for I.D.O.C. programs: \$14.5 million
Money saved by college programs: \$16.2 million
Illinois' net gain \$ 1.7 million

Now, will someone please explain how it would have been cost effective to toss out a \$1.7 million net gain? Not to mention throwing the 246 full-time workers, employed through these educational programs, out of work? Clearly, Dubya's not the only Republican who favors fuzzy math.

For what it's worth

While the degree programs have yet to be restored, at least vocational programs in cosmetology, food services, computer services, horticulture, and so on should be up and running again. That means inmates actually have something of a chance at rehabilitation, and at least 246 people won't have to go on the job market again in an already depressed economy. For the moment, anyway.

--Dr. Attitude

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What the Bible really says

The following reviews Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 and passages that are part of the Jewish Holiness Code. The Code was an ancient list of bidden behavior. Leviticus 18:22 states: "Thou shall not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is an abomination." The term abomination (to'ebah) is a religious term, usually reserved for use against idolatry; it does not mean a moral evil. The verse seems to refer to temple prostitutes, which was a common practice in the rest of the Middle East of that time. Qudesh referred to male religious prostitutes.

Leviticus 20:13 states "If a man also lie with mankind as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they should surely be put to death." The passage is surrounded by prohibitions against incest, bestiality, adultery and intercourse during a woman's period. But this verse is the only one in the series, which uses the religious term abomination; it seems also to be directed against temple prostitution. These passages are part of the Holiness Code which also:

- Permits polygamy
- Prohibits sexual intercourse when a woman has her period
- Bans tattoos
- Prohibits eating rare meats
- Bans wearing clothes that are made from a blend of textiles
- Prohibits cross-breeding livestock
- Bans sowing a field with mixed seeds
- Prohibits eating pigs, rabbits, or some forms of seafood
- Requires Saturday to be reserved as the Sabbath.

Churches have abandoned the Holiness Code; it is no longer binding on modern-day Christians. They can wear tattoos, eat shrimp, wear polyester-cotton blends and engage in temple prostitution without violating this particular section of the Bible. Although this code is obsolete for Christians, many clergy still focus on those passages, which deal with homosexuality.

It is likely that the prohibition thou shall not lie with a male as with a woman came about for one of the following reasons:
Only sexual acts, which could lead to procreation, were valued, as the tribes needed to grow in numbers to survive.

Male homosexual sex may have been connected in the Hebrew mind with idolatry. Notice that Leviticus 18:2 deals with idolatry. In fact many of the prohibitions in the Holiness Code were probably connected with idolatrous practices, see 19:26-29.

Women were second class citizens in the Hebrew culture and were generally treated as property. If a man was penetrated in sexual intercourse he was being treated as a woman and so was degraded in the Hebrew mind. The offense was not that this was a homosexual act; the offense was that a MAN was treated like a WOMAN. If this line of thinking were correct, it would serve to explain why there is no prohibition against female homosexual acts in the Old Testament. Women could not be degraded by such an act, as they were already not held in high esteem.

There is a theory that the Hebrew people believed in a perfect order of creation and anything that violated that order was considered unclean and an abomination. A probable example would be that fish were considered the perfect sea animal, hence anything in the sea that did not have scales and fins was unclean (Leviticus 11:9-10.) Cattle were the perfect cud chewing animal, hence anything that chewed cud, but did not have hooves was unclean (Leviticus 11:6). If this theory is correct, then the prohibition against male sex acts would be violating the role of the perfect ideal human: man. It would seem to mix the sex role of the imperfect woman with the ideal role of the man.

Even if the reader disagrees with the theories stated above they should take note that these verses are a part of the Hebrew scriptures often called the "Holiness Code." The Christian Church no longer follows this "code."

In Leviticus 18:19 having sexual relations with a woman on her period is forbidden, yet this is not proclaimed a binding rule today.

Also 18:8 and 18:18 show that this code allows for polygamy, yet this is now considered immoral. 19:28 prohibits tattoos, yet the Christian Church does not proclaim them as sinful. 19:19 forbids crossbreeding of livestock, yet the church allows farmers who do this very thing to worship in church. 19:19 forbids sowing

a field with mixed seeds, yet farmers who plant hay and alfalfa are not condemned. 11:17 forbids the eating of pigs, yet people unashamedly have a side of bacon with their eggs. 11:16 forbids the eating of rabbit because they do not have cloven hooves but they chew cud, yet some Christians love to eat rabbit. 11:9-10 forbids the eating of any seafood that doesn't have fins and scales, yet shrimp and lobster lovers are not told to repent by Christians, nor is Red Lobster picketed. 23:3 instructs that the seventh day of the week is to be the Sabbath, not Sunday, yet the Christian Church disregards this. Deut 22 states that a woman is not telling the truth if she says she was raped, but no one heard her scream.

Since the Christian Church does not follow the Holiness Code nor does its followers, neither have any right to arbitrarily pick Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13-14 as still binding just because it seems to support a particular prejudice.

This article has been shortened. For a complete version see *The Rainbow Connection: A Publication of the Advocacy Council for Human Rights* or go to the following web sites:
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News from Voice for Choice

Since the tragic events of September 11, the media has covered the President, his administration, and our legislators across the nation as they handle this crisis, shepherd our nation's recovery, and work to bring the terrorism to justice. We should also remain aware that this administration has been accomplishing other things—things that are rapidly chipping away at women's rights to reproductive choice, and other women's rights/health issues. Lest we let the mainstream media coverage and never higher opinion polls lead us to forget, last year a number of significant choices related initiatives remained unfinished or were concluded, to the detriment of women.

At the beginning of the year, the Bush Administration took action on a number of anti-choice policies, including:

- Reinstating the global "gag" rule on international family planning programs;
- Suspending the Clinton Administration's plan to move ahead with stem cell research;
- Proposing the elimination of contraceptive coverage for federal employees;
- Nominating anti-choice former Senator John Ashcroft to head the Department of Justice; and
- Nominating justices to the federal judiciary who support rolling back the freedom to choose.



Emboldened by their control of Congress and the White House, anti-choice congressional leaders advanced an aggressive legislative agenda. In April, the House passed the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," anti-choice legislation disguised as a crime bill that would recognize, for the first time, an "unborn child" as a victim of a crime with rights separate from and equal to those of the woman.

The party-switch of pro-choice Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords in May shifted control of the Senate to pro-choice hands, allowing pro-choice Senators to have a greater say in blocking freestanding anti-choice bills, moderating President Bush's conservative judicial nominees, and allowing a pro-choice agenda to begin moving forward.

In the wake of September 11, however, several other initiatives that were at the top of the anti-choice agenda were forced to wait until 2002. These include the so-called "Child Custody Protection Act," which would make it a crime for anyone other than a parent to accompany a young woman across state lines to obtain an abortion if the home state's mandated parental-consent law has not been met, and a series of new sweeping attacks on family planning programs.

Preview of 2002

Looking ahead to the new Congressional session there will be both significant challenges and important opportunities for pro-choice advocates. Key anti-choice agenda items to watch for include:

- The so-called "Child Custody Protection Act;"
- A sweeping attack on the Title X domestic family planning program which would make any private entity that provides any abortion with its own funds ineligible for a family planning grant;
- Attempts to ban young women's access to emergency contraception (high doses of birth control pills that if taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex, greatly reduce the risk of pregnancy); and
- A renewed effort to fill the federal judiciary with opponents of a woman's right to choose.

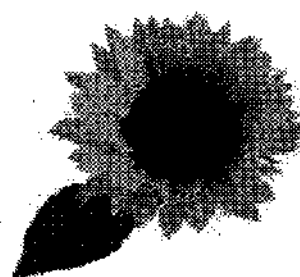
Even as NARAL works to fight this continued anti-choice assault, it will also resume working with pro-choice lawmakers in efforts begun last year to:

- Repeal the global "gag" rule on international family planning programs;
- Provide contraceptive equity to the private insurance market;
- Allow promising scientific research to move forward, free from constraints of anti-choice politics; and
- Advance legislation that would promote access to reproductive healthcare for women of color.

You can help to ensure women's reproductive rights by sending e-mails, letters and telephone calls to your congressional representatives. Or join NARAL and help more directly in the battle for reproductive freedom. For additional information about

NARAL or our Illinois affiliate, visit the Web at <http://www.naral.org>. To see results of previous action alerts, visit <http://www.naralaction.org/webActionResults.asp>.

--Pro-Choice Voice courtesy of NARAL



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- We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
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Yes folks, "The Paper That Wouldn't Die" is coming upon its 30th anniversary with our April/May issue.

We are asking readers and old—excuse me—former Posties to please write to us and tell us about your experiences with the paper, and what the paper has meant to you. You could also tell us what some of your favorite articles, covers etc were. We would like to print some of these in the next issue.

Some other activities that we are contemplating are a celebration, of course, and possibly a daylong alternative media conference.

If you have any ideas feel free to write or e-mail us and let us know.

As usual—our longevity notwithstanding—we are broke. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Or perhaps you have a business you would like to see advertised in the Post.

We will be selling merchandise from the Syracuse Cultural Workers catalog as a fundraising effort. SCW is an educational and cultural organization/business founded in 1982.

Their mission is to "help sustain a culture that honors diversity and celebrates community; that inspires and nurtures justice, equality and freedom; that respects our fragile Earth and all its beings; that encourages and supports all forms of creative expression."

All products in their catalog that end in "CW" are union-printed on REAL recycled paper containing postconsumer content. They sell books, posters, buttons, note cards etc. that express opinions in sync with Post readers. It is an excellent resource for cool teachers, as well. If you are interested in seeing a catalog or perhaps selling some merchandise contact us.

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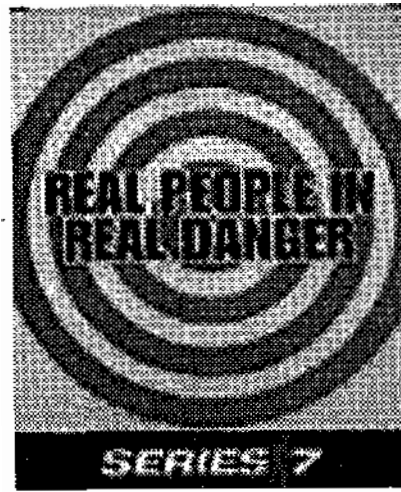
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Off the Beaten Path



Hello again all movie fans! My name is David and I'd like to offer some movie suggestions for when you decide to catch some videos. Catching a movie theatrically in town can be somewhat challenging. . . soooo. . . picking up a video/DVD is a great way to see some knock-out films.

You have to love discovering a cool flick. Okay, so you walk into a movie store and slowly but oh so surely your mind goes blank—you have no idea what to watch...hmm...take your Post Amerikan along, flip to the Movie Review page, and then you have at least a half dozen choices. Just a slight warning: my movie tastes do run a tad off the path. With that in mind, enjoy the picks and write me if you catch any films that are must see movies. Oscar time is right around the corner so it's lights, remote, popcorn, and action.

Haiku Tunnel

Laugh out-loud funny comedy from talented newcomer writer/director Josh Kornbluth. If you liked the movie *Office Space* from a couple years back (who didn't) *Haiku Tunnel* is a must see. A young temp worker accepts an offer to go perm at a popular law office, but much to his dismay his new job interferes with his unstructured, commitment-phobic lifestyle. He can't seem to complete even the simple task of mailing some high priority letters for his boss. Josh finds himself facing his unusually chipper co-workers, an evil copy machine, his Prince of Darkness boss, the morning alarm clock, and working at a law firm whose initials are S & M. *Haiku Tunnel* will strike true for anyone who feels work's four office walls suffocating them on a daily basis. Kornbluth's mannerisms are very funny. His job situation is hilarious--highly recommended film. ****

Bully

Controversial director Larry Clark (of *Kids* fame) strikes a raw nerve once again with his true life tale of a group of Florida teenagers who are wildly out of control. We follow two young men who have been friends since they were five. One is more domineering (Nick Stahl of *Disturbing Behavior*) while the other (Brad Renfro of *Apt Pupil*) is basically a punching bag. We are not ever quite sure what the nature of their friendship is or why Renfro continues to take the

abuse Stahl inflicts. Renfro begins seeing a girl who decides that Stahl should not keep beating on Renfro. At some conversation point Renfro tells his girlfriend that he wishes Stahl were dead, setting in motion a plan to off Stahl. *Bully* is the story of oversexed, drug-fueled suburban Florida teenagers who have too much time and not enough brains. In-your-face disturbing. *** 1/2

The Smokers

The three main characters of this addictive dark comedy are so unlikable that it's hard not to like them. Busy Phillips (of *Bully*), Dominic Swain (from *Lolita*) and Keri Lynn Pratt (*America's Sweethearts*) play three friends who attend an elite coed prep school. Our would-be heroines are basically the bad girls of the campus-weed smoking girls of easy virtue who are scheming up a plan to get even with all the guys who did them wrong. *The Smokers* doesn't take any easy outs. The girls do not soften up and become sympathetic for us. You can understand where they are coming from with their screwed up revenge plan. But at the same time you are uneasy because the girls are anti-social snobs who are dangerous. *The Smokers* deserves a warning label: A somewhat bitter comedy with a not so pleasant undercurrent that can be oddly addictive. ***

Series 7

Definitely not for those easily offended. This very dark comedy hit the target (so to say) for me. The movie is a play on all the reality based television shows that have invaded our homes over the past few years. It starts with a lottery ball system where if your number is picked, you are issued a gun, put on camera and become a contestant on a TV show called *The Contenders*. To be the champion contender you must dispose of your fellow competitors. Yes this idea sounds pretty over-the-top, but it does illustrate just how these TV shows have made us almost sadistic voyeurs. We watch as contestants including a nurse, a cancer patient, a retiree, a family man, a teenager and a pregnant woman all battle each other for their very lives. Cruel and unusual sure, but effective in showing us how calculating this media trend has become. ***1/2

Ghost World

Here's a movie about as low key and cool as you're likely to enjoy. Writer/director Terry Zwigoff (who did the incredible documentary *Crumb*) works his magic again by giving us an offbeat comedy about a recent high school grad & her friend who are social misfits trying to figure out their future. *American Beauty*'s Thora Birch is fantastic as a girl who's not sure whether she'll ever fit in or even wants to fit in with the everyday world. The always good Steve Buscemi (*Big Lebowski*) turns in one of his best performances as Birch's would-be older love interest. Ileana Douglas (*Stir of Echoes*) and Scarlett Johanson (*The Horse Whisperer*) round out an ensemble cast that can make you laugh and realize how complicated one's coming-of-age can be. *Ghost World* has made many year-end top 10 lists--it's one world we all inhabit at one time or another. ****

Here are 40--count them--40 more prime movie suggestions. Oh yeah, baby!

1. *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*
2. *Donnie Darko*
3. *Princess and the Warrior*
4. *Come Undone*
5. *Center of the World*
6. *Following*
7. *West Beirut*
8. *Criminal Minds*
9. *Va Savoir*
10. *Adventures of Felix*
11. *Liam*
12. *Under the Sand*
13. *Sexy Beast*
14. *Paragraph 175*
15. *The Silence*
16. *Lost & Delirious*
17. *Pandemonium*
18. *Lies*
19. *Wet Hot American Summer*
20. *The Girl*
21. *The Taste of Others*
22. *All Over the Guy*
23. *Pola X*
24. *Bread & Tulips*
25. *Lagaan*
26. *The City*
27. *Lisa Picard is Famous*
28. *Goodbye South Goodbye*
29. *The Anniversary Party*
30. *Brother*
31. *Aimee & Jaguar*
32. *Water Drops on Burning Rocks*



Continued from Page 9

WORDS FOR LOVE

There have been times I've looked for
the words for Love
Saw them standing in front of me
this afternoon
Two Spirits flying
high above
One to pass on
soon

And they carried together
strength
I listened as they
talked
Saw there was
no length
As together
they walked

An uncertain
path of life
Each carried the other
in time of need
Bound together
man and wife
Traveling through fields
planting seeds

And she spoke with
humor and grace
Though her body
sometimes faded
Large inquisitive eyes
on her face
Patiently waited

Gourd

(for Connie Tripp)

She had diamonds
an jools around
her face, lips
of seashell pink,
an dark raspberry
in there, and eyes
if sienna, speaking
with me about her
Creole grandmother,
visions an dreams
an secret things,
she knew I was
travelling on the
underground railroad
of knowledge, she
told me things
she heard so precious,
the birth of the world
in Africa, Dusky Sally,
Harriet Tubman,
Little known things, what
God can do, and uh
reckoning, and how
hope is what an oyster
does feel uh pearl, and
how there was uh black
man before Columbus,
who said the world
is round like uh gourd,
make uh thumb harp
out of this gourd,
put uh net of cowrie
shells around it, and
you will have uh gourd
that is my pearl.

--John Firefly.



For each moment
they took them in
No telling
what the next would bring
A disease it tried
to win
But their hearts so loud
did sing
And I saw him walk
across the room
Sit down
at her side
Her body weak
I heard the tune
They held each other up
with pride
Then I saw the smiles
on their face
As they looked into
each other's eyes
Passing would not
erase
Strong Love
no, it survives.

--Lin "Frog" Simmons

Burn

I am standing
practically naked
There is a rusty ring
in my right nipple
My hair is dry and matted
My skin is slightly covered in ash
from the dead bodies
of tortuous times
You can see trails
of tears through the ash
on my face
I am alone
My ears sense the heat
but my heart senses the fire burn
And it will burn

--David Hall



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Waste deep in Big Muddy

"From where I sit..." column in the Southern Illinoisan (Carbondale IL) on April 13, 1969

By Allan H. Keith Jr.
Of the Southern Illinoisan

The college campus has long been considered by many Americans as the most open place in the nation for free expression.

And yet a left-wing newspaper, the Big Muddy Gazette, is being sold off the campus of Southern Illinois University, but sales have been banned on the campus.

This situation developed after solicitation permits for the paper were revoked Thursday under an order by Chancellor Robert W. MacVicar.

The action has raised serious civil liberties questions and several persons have contacted the American Civil Liberties Union to see if that group is interested in pursuing the matter.

MacVicar said the paper was banned for lack of adequate evidence as to who was the publisher and because of its contents. He declined to elaborate in detail on the contents.

Technically the first point is probably reasonable, since no publisher is listed by the newspaper. However, several staff members of the newspaper are well-known to the SIU administration and their names have been printed in local newspapers.

It is important to point out also that the paper is a cooperative venture. The staff members, many of them members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), feel there is no publisher, that the paper is published through a collective effort.

MacVicar said Friday that the paper included "unfounded accusations" against SIU President Delyte W. Morris.

On the cover is a nude caricature of Morris. The paper called some past acts of Morris and MacVicar "the insane acts of a dying class." The paper cites what it calls an "anti-student tirade" by Morris after a disturbance at his office last year and "the imperialist delirium" of MacVicar in proposing "a Vietnam program to administer the colony after a Pentagon victory."

Whether an individual agrees or disagrees with those sweeping attacks they appear to be within legal limits. They after all were made against the two chief officials of a major college campus -- officials whose salaries come from public funds.

It is a long-standing American principle that public officials of importance are fair game for criticism -- and even very strong attack.

It should be pointed out also that the SIU security police took a copy of the paper to Jackson County State's Atty. Richard Richman, who said he is planning no action concerning the paper, even though he felt it was badly written and in poor taste.

College students hear over and over from their elders and from college administrators that non-violent protest is proper in a "free society."

Actions such as the sales ban on the Big Muddy Gazette show that at least some of these persons do not always mean what they say.

Meanwhile, over in the journalism department, students and faculty were enjoying a special week set aside to celebrate freedom of the press.

You really couldn't blame a freshman "J student" if he ran to a counselor for some advice.

The sales ban was lifted by the administration after pressure from students, faculty, the ACLU and others.

The mention of "a Vietnam program to administer the colony after a Pentagon victory" referred to the newly-announced formation of a Center for Vietnamese Studies and Programs at SIU, primarily funded by a big grant from the Agency for International Development (AID), which was known at that time to have close ties to the CIA.

The article in the Big Muddy Gazette was one of the first, if not the first, public criticisms of the Vietnam Center. Establishment of the center later grew into a major controversy which was nationally publicized in the New York Times, Newsweek and elsewhere.



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Alderman ~ Ward 6

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Lurching towards the abyss

You gotta feel sorry for the rulers of the United States ... or at least as sorry as you can for, say, an Israeli torturer dropping his ID in a Palestinian market.

Sure, it might be hard to tell amidst all the flags, propaganda, and apparent military successes, but these aren't bright days for the U.S. powers-that-be and their savagely-unequal world order. The collapse of Enron (largest bankruptcy in history), the gutting of constitutional rights in the U.S., the declaration of world rule by one country ("either you are with us or with the terrorists ... and will be destroyed"), and the wholesale bombing of natives to impose imperial rule are not the signs of an enviably-strong and democratic nation.

In fact, like a gambler sequentially doubling bets to recoup losses, the U.S. capitalists and their government are digging themselves into ever-deeper and ever more holes.

Gone are the days of *Pax Americana* ...now it's all *Bellum Americano*. Take what their president, George Bush, instantly answered a soft-ball 'outlook for the New Year' question, "Next year will be a war year." Toss in their vice-president's statement that this "war may never end. At least not in our lifetime."

Garrison states

Once, Washington could rule with bribes, promises, and threats.

Once, it could replace Europe's brutal colonial rule with local leaders leashed by U.S. loan-sharked economics. Once, it could rule without responsibility, without using its own troops and its own flag (the occasional need to crush uppity natives notwithstanding).

Once, but no more. Now it's invasion and establishment of garrison states, the Roman Empire's heavily-fortified Centurion bases reborn.

Sure, it seems a picture of boundless triumph--lands seized, rulers installed, bases built ... all with inconsequential Imperial casualties. And aside from the latest conquest, "behind a veil of secret agreements," writes William Arkin in the 6 January *Los Angeles Times*, "the United States is creating a ring of new and expanded military bases that encircle Afghanistan and enhance the armed forces' ability to strike targets throughout much of the Muslim world."

"Since September 11th," adds independent journalist Bill Weinberg, "military 'tent cities' have sprung up at 13 locations in 9 countries in Central Asia, the Middle East and the Balkans. Over 60,000 US troops are now at these 'forward bases'," while two aircraft carriers and ships holding thousands of Marine prowl the Arabian Sea.



Lifted curtain

But direct rule comes at a dangerous price. Occupation makes it clear who's ruling. And nothing's more dangerous than clarity. After all, few benefit from capitalism, while billions suffer dearly from it. The world's ten wealthiest men own more than the annual income of over 40% of the world's population ... and each week some 134,000 children die from starvation or preventable disease.

Clarify that those responsible for the world's misery are outnumbered millions-to-one, and the Empire's days grow numbered.

All the more so as the Imperial economy begin to crumble.

Depression

And *that's* what's driving the Empire toward conquest, towards 'war lasting longer than our lifetime.' The long boom has run out of markets. The capitalists are awash in a sea of capital demanding investment with nowhere to go. In 1975, 90% of invested capital was invested in production and 10% in speculation; now the numbers are reversed.

And Third World tribute to the Empire is drying up as economies turn to sand and collapse, desiccated by decades of payments and plunder.

'Excess capacity' and markets bursting with unsold goods increase clashes between rival imperialists. *New territory must fall to bomb*

and boot! ... competitors must be driven back and Russia reconquered. *Payments from the colonies must continue!* ...even if they must sell their children's' organs.

And so the actions of the U.S. rulers aren't those of class confidently ascending to world power, but the senselessly-driven "survival tactics of a wealthy and powerful but declining social class at the helm of a decaying empire," in the words of [U.S.] Socialist Workers Party resolution.

Last empire

As Fidel Castro said recently to a crowd of 300,000 in Santiago de Cuba, "It is you who will live in the most difficult and decisive century of human history. [...] Those of us who [began the Cuban revolution are] envious of every one of you for the struggle that now lies before you, [one] with much more transcendental objectives, that is, to defend and develop what has been achieved and, to the extent of [y]our abilities, do for humanity what we believe we have done for our homeland."

What --in the awful American expression-- is the bottom-line? That these aren't bright days for the rulers of the United States. Sell your stock. Buy a copy of the Communist Manifesto. World Wars One and Two were enough.

Steve Eckardt is a long-time Chicago railroad worker currently living in Philadelphia. He produces the website <SeeingRed.com>.

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Animal Charities: Where Does the Money Go?



Since I began my work in the animal welfare field, I have found the importance of knowing where your money is going.

Less than 1% of all the money given to charity is given to animals. It is crucial that our money is doing the greatest good. My favorite place to check out animal charities is the Animal People Watchdog Report on Animal Protection Charities. *Animal People* is a newspaper written for animal rights activists and every year they review the legal records of the top animal charities.

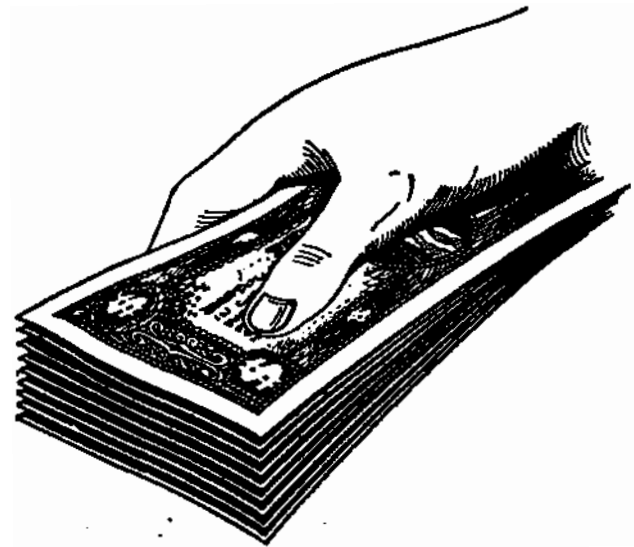
You will not believe what some organizations are doing with their money. For example, The Humane Society of the United States paid their president \$570,325 in salary, expenses, and retirement benefits in 1998. PETA is opposed to no-kill sheltering and the practice of trap-alter-return for feral cats. The president of PETA, Ingrid Newkirk, actually went in to managed feral cat colonies for 3 years in the Fort Norfolk, Virginia area and trapped cats. She took them to a local shelter to be killed.

I cannot explain how upset I was when I learned this. Colony caretakers love their feral cats as much as house cats and to have someone come in and take them to be killed is reprehensible. PETA also spreads the word that feral cats are suffering and they should be humanely put to death. Many people believe in PETA, and their views on feral cats are very damaging to our cause.

Some good organizations reviewed in the report are Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and Alley Cat Allies. I obviously can't go into all of the organizations they review. I just would like to stress the importance of checking these things out. The requests for donations that I receive seem really good a lot of the time. I will then check the report and find that the organization supports something I don't agree with.

If you would like to order an Animal People Watchdog Report on Animal Protection Charities, call *Animal People* at 360.579.2505 or e-mail anmlpepl@whidbey.com. I highly

recommend subscribing to the newspaper as well



In the past year, 89% of the money given to Sterile Feral went to the veterinary costs of spaying and neutering area feral cats. The other 11% went to cat food, fundraising, advertising costs for foster cats, and maintenance fees for items such as our PO Box and phone line.'

--Valerie Parker-Beahm
The Feral Fixation

Starbuck's Week of Action

Organic Consumers Association volunteers around the world are gearing up for the biggest week of action to date in the Frankenbucks Campaign, in which we will leaflet and demonstrate at 600 stores in 300 cities around the world.

In the past year thousands of activists in the US, Canada, New Zealand, Israel and England have protested and leafleted outside of Starbucks cafes in what continues to be the largest grassroots campaign of its kind focusing on genetic engineering and fair trade. Our volunteers have now handed out a quarter of a million leaflets to Starbucks customers and we have educated many millions more through the numerous media stories we have generated.

The upcoming week of action is crucial if we are to succeed in getting Starbucks to meet our demands in this campaign. On February 26, 2002 Starbucks will be holding their annual shareholders meeting in Seattle, WA. During the meeting Starbucks shareholders will present a resolution asking the company to label or remove GE ingredients from their product line. We want Starbucks to live up to their self-proclaimed image of being a socially responsible business. As an industry leader Starbucks has an obligation to provide safe food for their consumers and a living wage to coffee growers.

Help pressure Starbucks to remove genetically engineered ingredients from their food and dairy products on a worldwide basis, improve working conditions for coffee plantation

workers, and brew seriously promote Fair Trade Coffee in all of their cafes.

We need your support to make this week of action successful. Help leaflet 300 cafes around the world. If you are willing to participate please contact simon@organicconsumers.org or call 510-525-7054

Please tell our staff the date, time and location of the Starbucks outlets you will be leafleting, and we will be happy to send you an organizing packet with all the information and materials you need to organize a protest in your town. You can also read about the latest campaign developments on the special Starbucks section on our website, which is updated daily. <http://www.organicconsumers.org/Starbucks/starbucks.html>



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Notes from behind the wall

The Yellow Brick Road

Close to the death chamber, in the state for lovers, that have legally murdered so many in the name of justice, there sits upon an old paupers' graveyard, a building called the Yellow Brick Road. It is a place where countless immured men were punished for stepping out of line in a sea of cruel irony and madness; where it is said that ghosts roam continually.

The occurrences of coincidences confuse even the most skeptical and disbelieving of the paranormal. Yet, who can explain how the elevator that travels from floor to floor opens its door with no mortal aboard? It certainly left the baffled elevator repairmen scratching their heads.

How can anybody understand the peripheral glimpses the prisoners here see of shadowy figures that vanish when they turn their head? What was I to say when I found a piece of skull in my flower garden? Is all of this real, or just the consciences of troubled men who, by the flick of a pen or by the whim of the court, could have made you meet the fate of the legally murdered men in that execution block house that stares back at all of us no matter where our perch.

When the hearse leaves on those solemn deadly nights, sneaking away under a veil of shame, carrying away yet another lifeless body; does it carry away the soul of the man whose life was snuffed out like a smoldering rag dowsed with blood?

Who knows if the ghosts are real? Whether they eternally meander begging for forgiveness? Or don't know why they were pumped full of a lethal cocktail when the state is guilty of murder as well.

Who knows?

All I know is, that each of us at the Yellow Brick Road that watch the goings and comings of the friends and families who enter that evil place to say their final goodbye, or the witnesses who go there to gawk at the spectacle as if it were a carnival freak show. We all that watch have the eyes of our souls forever scarred.

We all die a little with those ghosts of the Yellow Brick Road.

Justice Watch

Justice Watch, the Ohio based Human Rights Organization, has two poetry books available for \$8.50 each, or free with a \$20.00 or more donation to join the organization. Nikolai A. Zarick's poems fill one, and the other is a collection of poems from prisoners from throughout the United States. Members also receive a quarterly newsletter (which is free to prisoners). Soon they will be offering "A Guide for Friends and Families of Prisoners" containing essential information. Send checks or money orders to:

Justice Watch
ATTN Mrs. Anderson
1120 Garden Street, Dept. P.A.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Hey Mr. Prisoner, How ya doin'?

What remains of my mind can't fathom how anybody can dare ask me how I'm doin'. I'm a prisoner; my life has been thrown on the garbage heap of society. How do you think I'm doing? Does anybody want the answer to that question? But, I bit my tongue and strategically thought about my answer and to contemplate how I'm really doing.

All night, each night, year after year, every thirty minutes, the guard wakes me up with a flashlight in my face.

The rumor is we are all getting an interstate transfer again, 450 miles further from our already stressed out and strained relations.

Every time they allow me to take a shower or to get a bad haircut, it's a gamble against blood borne diseases, and the cure is worse than the illness.

Depression consumes me after seeing the countless families of the soon to be executed humans on death row come say their final good-byes.

The much-cherished letter, I long awaited, was thrown away by a guard who thought that was pretty funny.

The guy in the next cell sold his soul for a pack of cigarettes, and stopped going to religious services.

I desperately needed to hear the voice of my buddy, but she refused to accept my collect call.

The frail boy in the next cell block is still curled up in a fetal position, because he was raped again by an AIDS-infected monster three times his size.

The food is generally not fit for swill; the water is laden with heavy metals; the ceiling is dripping with asbestos and the rats have run of the joint.

Soulless empty eyes lurk in every dark corner, just waiting to take what little I have.

The daily prison rituals and routines are slowly turning me into an institutionalized automaton, which has no name, only a number.

I have not sat down to go the bathroom with any real sense of privacy in a decade. Of course I gave upon any reasonable expectation of privacy long ago.

The guards rip apart my cell with a vengeance I don't understand, and purposely destroy the little things I've gathered out of the ashes of what is left of my gray life.

If I am luck, I can literally work my fingers to the bone, in unsafe, pre-industrial revolution conditions for ten cents an hour.

Merely a shell of my former self, I'm crippled by loneliness and the lack of affection. My soul and heart are flensed by the evil that blankets this harsh place.

If not for God's love, and the kindness of people outside these steel walls, I would falter in my faith and lose all hope.

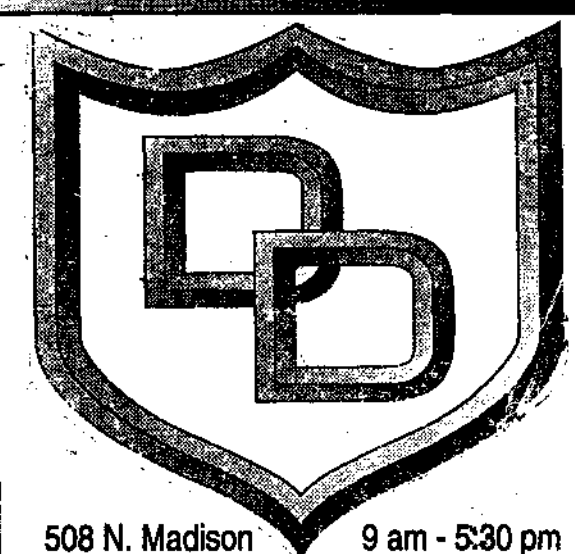
Will the war against terrorism stop this madness that we are doing to our own two million sons and daughters? I think not.

Few people want to really hear the truth behind the bars. Yet another sob story by a convict. Who cares? "They deserve it."

So I summoned up the courage and strength and said once again:

"I'm fine."

--Nikolai Alexanderovich Zarick



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Mental illness awareness

Family-to-Family Education Course

This course is a must for family members who have a family member suffering from severe neurobiological disorders such as clinical or bipolar depression, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive or panic disorder. Trained NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) members teach the program.

The course starts on Saturday, Feb. 16 and meets weekly for 12 weeks from 1:00—3:00 p.m. at The Center for Human Services Building 530 N. Center in Bloomington.

There is no charge for the course, but preregistration is essential. To register call course leaders: Diana Todd at (309) 454-3611 or Gail Bronson at (309) 820-0128.

NAMI Stigma busters alert

NAMI Stigma Busters, now numbering 8330 across the country and around the world, are successfully fighting the pervasive and hurtful

stigma that exists toward persons with mental illness and also commending print media, TV and films that send accurate messages to the public.

Erasing hurtful messages on T-shirts: JC Penney and Goody Department Stores responded to NAMI letters with an apology and withdrew T-shirts that featured offensive messages. JC Penney's shirt read "Multiple Personalities." Goody's were emblazoned with "You say Psycho like it's a bad thing" and another with "Psycho Ward 24-666."

Because of the stigma reinforced by the language on T-shirts, and fear of peer taunts, many adolescents do not seek treatment. Instead, many untreated adolescents with severe depression contribute to the escalating suicide rate.

No offense may have been intended, however the T-shirt carries a highly insensitive message. We want corrective action, not good intentions. Perhaps more letters will produce a response.

Maurice's Clothing Stores, whose T-shirt has the message "Escaped Mental Patient, State Ward" has not responded. Maurice's are now part of the American Retail Group (ARG), which is owned by a "secretive family" in the Netherlands. ARRГ has not responded to the letter faxed to their office in Georgia. Tell them"

--T-shirts emblazoned with "Escaped Mental Patient, State Ward" are hurtful to the one in five persons who are struggling with a mental illness and to their families as well. --US Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher stated that 12% of American children under the age of 18 have a diagnosable mental illness. The T-shirt ads are targeted to these children.

Hans Brenninkmeyer, CEO and Howard Jackson, CFO
American Retail Group
625 Crooked Creek Road
Norcross, GA 30092

--NAMI of Livingston/McLean Counties

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Members of the Sterile Feral Foundation care for numerous feral cat colonies in McLean County. Colony caretakers provide shelter and daily food and water. In addition, they set traps to catch cats that need to be spayed or neutered.

This takes a considerable amount of money.

The Sterile Feral Foundation has a program where you can help.

Just fill out the form at the bottom of this page and pledge a monthly gift to support a colony.

The Cats Need Your Help!

You can help Sterile Feral and the feral cats by making a donation.

YES! I want to support the work of Sterile Feral with a tax deductible donation of of:

- Subscribing \$15 Supporting \$20
- Sustaining \$50 Other \$_____

Any amount is appreciated!

Send \$15 or more and you will receive issues of *The Feral Fixation*. Please make checks payable to the Sterile Feral Foundation and mail to the address listed on the right.

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Please indicate how you are interested in helping the feral cats of the McLean County area. Please include your name, address, and phone number.

Thanks for your support

- I am interested in volunteering to help care for feral cat colonies.
- I am interested in the monthly Support-A-Colony program.
- I am interested in donating wish list items such as dry & canned cat food, litter, humane traps, carriers, & old towels.
- I am interested in helping foster feral kittens and friendly strays.

The Sterile Feral Foundation

P.O. Box 3413
Bloomington, IL
61702-3413

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