

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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8-1980

## Volume 9, Number 4

Post Amerikan

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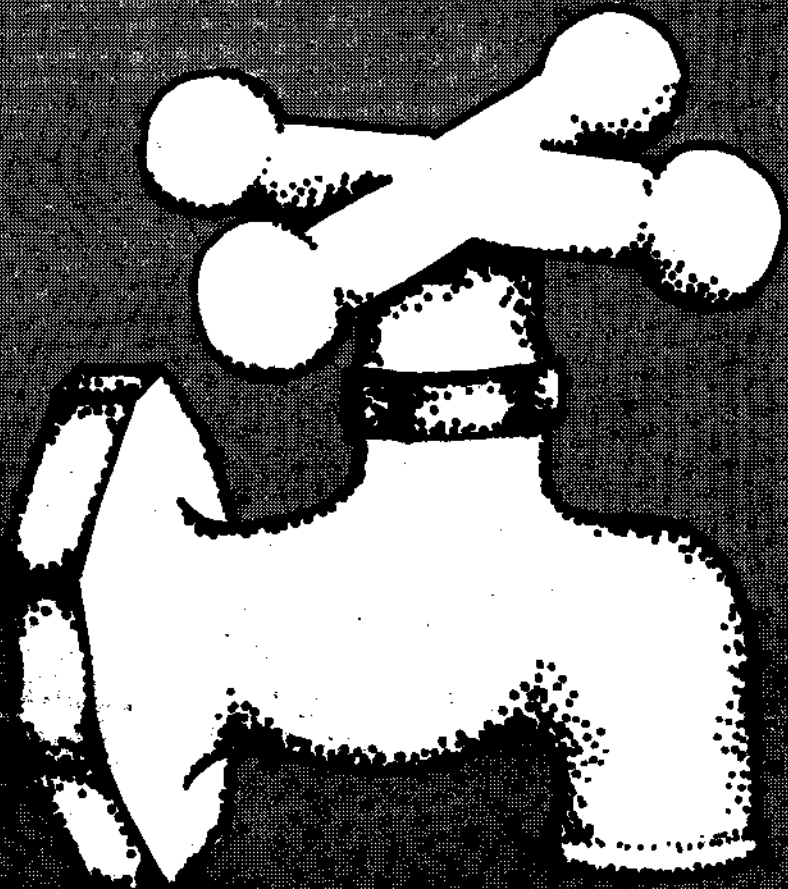
Religion and other toxic wastes

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

25¢

# POST AMERIKAN

August 1980  
Vol. IX No. 4



JOIN  
THE  
TOXIC  
GENERATION



PERSONALLY  
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## ABOUT US

The Post-Amerikan is a worker-controlled collective that puts out this paper. If you'd like to help, give us a call and leave your name with our wonderful answering machine. Then we'll call you back and give you the rap about the Post. You start work at nothing per hour and stay there. Everyone is paid the same. Ego gratification and good karma are the fringe benefits.

Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings. All workers have an equal voice. The Post has no editor or hierarchical structure, so quit calling up and asking who's in charge. Ain't nobody in charge.

Anybody who reads this paper can tell the type of stuff we print. All worthwhile material is welcome. We try to choose articles that are timely, relevant, informative, and not available in other local media. We will

not print anything racist, sexist, or ageist.

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. We encourage you, the reader, to become more than a reader. We welcome all stories and tips for stories, which you can mail to our office. The deadline for next issue is August 28.

If you'd like to work on the Post and/or come to meetings, call us at 828-7232. You can also reach folks at 828-6885.

You can make bread hawking the Post--15¢ a copy, except for the first 50 copies on which you make only 10¢ a copy. Call us at 828-7232.

Mail, which we more than welcome, should be sent to: the Post-Amerikan PO Box 3452, Bloomington IL 61701. Be sure you tell us if you don't want your letter printed! Otherwise, it's likely to end up on our letters page.

# GOOD



# NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous--828-5049  
 American Civil Liberties Union--452-3634  
 Clare House (Catholic Worker)--828-4035  
 Community for Social Action--452-4867  
 Connection House 829-5711  
 Countering Domestic Violence (PATH)--827-4065  
 Dept. of Children and Family Services--829-5326  
 Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (Social Security Admin.)--829-9436  
 Dept. of Mental Health--828-4311  
 Gay Action/Awareness Union--828-6935  
 Gay National Educational Switchboard--800-227-0888  
 Gay People's Alliance (ISU) 452-5852  
 HELP (Transportation for handicapped and sr. citizens)--828-8301  
 Ill. Lawyer Referral Service--800-252-8916  
 Kaleidoscope--828-7346  
 Lighthouse--828-1371  
 McLean County Health Dept. --829-3363  
 McLean County Mental Health Center--827-5351  
 Men's Rap Group--828-6935  
 Mobile Meals (meals for shut-ins)--828-8301

National Health Care Services (abortion assistance in Peoria)--691-9073  
 National Runaway Switchboard--800-621-4000 in Illinois--800-972-6004 (all 800 #'s toll free)  
 Occupational Development Center--828-7324  
 PATH (Personal Assistance Telephone Help)--827-4005  
 Parents Anonymous--827-4005 (PATH)  
 Planned Parenthood--827-8025

Post-Amerikan--828-7232  
 Prairie State Legal Aid--827-5021  
 Project OZ--827-0377  
 Public Aid, McLean Cnty. Dept. of--827-4621  
 Rape Crisis Line--827-4005 (PATH)  
 SAW (Student Association for Women, ISU)--438-7619  
 Small Changes Alternative Bookstore--829-6223  
 Sunnyside Neighborhood Center--827-5428  
 Tele Care--828-8301  
 Unemployment Compensation/Employment Office--827-6237  
 United Farmworkers Support Group--452-5046  
 Women's Switchboard--800-927-5404

## Post Sellers

### BLOOMINGTON

Eastgate IGA, at parking lot exit  
 Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison  
 The Back Porch, 402½ N. Main SW corner, Main & Front  
 Haag Drugstore, 509 W. Washington  
 Blm. Post Office, E. Empire (at exit)  
 Devary's Market, 1402 W. Market  
 Harris Market, 802 N. Morris NE corner, Front & Prairie  
 Biasi's Drug Store, 217 N. Main  
 Discount Den, 207 N. Main  
 U-I Grocery, 918 W. Market  
 Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland  
 Bus Depot, 523 N. East  
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton  
 The Park Store, Wood & Allin  
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main  
 Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main  
 Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire  
 Doug's Motorcycle, 809 S. Morris  
 K-Mart, at parking lot exit  
 Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main  
 Lay-Z-J Saloon, 1401 W. Market  
 Pantagraph Building (in front)  
 NE corner, Main & Washington

### NORMAL

Redbird IGA, 301 S. Main  
 Mother Murphy's, 111½ North St.  
 Dairy Queen, 1110 S. Main  
 Eisner's, E. College (near sign)  
 Divinyl Madness, 115 North St.  
 Bowling and Billiards Center, ISU  
 Cage, ISU University Union  
 Midstate Truck Plaza, Route 51 north  
 Upper Cut, 318 Kingsley  
 Old Main Book Store, 207 S. Main  
 White Hen Pantry (out front)  
 Alamo II (out front)  
 SE corner, North & Broadway  
 The Gallery (out front)

### OUTTA TOWN

Galesburg: Under the Sun, 427 E. Main  
 Urbana: Horizon Bkstore, 517 S. Goodwin

## 828-7232

Yes, that's still our phone number. If you've been calling us lately, you know that our answering machine is broken. Until we get a new one, keep trying to call and you may catch a human here in the office. If you really really need to talk to a Post staffer, you can probably reach one at 828-6885.

## Of volcanos and atoms

Dear Post,

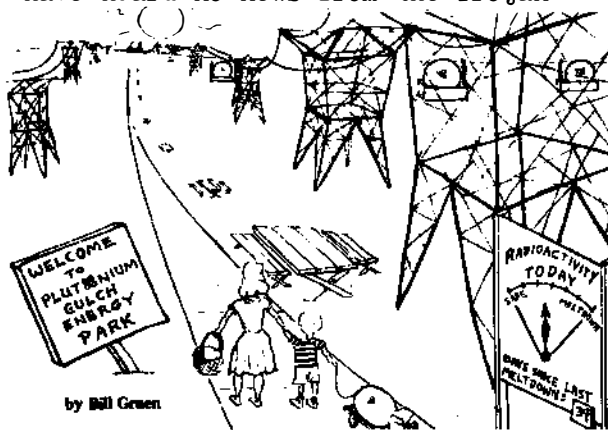
A few weeks ago I remember hearing a WJBC forum in which the commentator expressed gratitude that no one had found a hidden meaning in the Mount Saint Helens volcano eruption. According to news accounts, Mount Saint Helens exploded May 18, removing 1,300 feet from the top of the mountain and depositing it in a large number of states as dust or volcanic fallout. 140,000 acres of forests were destroyed, along with 26 lakes and 154 miles of streams. 27 other lakes were damaged. How can anything have a "deeper meaning" than a newly active volcano?

Metaphysicians may see this as a warning that sacrilege by Union Carbide Corporation against the "Great Spirit" of the Lakota Sioux Nation is to be punished. Certain land is held sacred by those people, and they consider uranium mining a sinful act against the "Great Spirit."

But most of us do not worship the "Great Spirit" of the Lakota Sioux. So we must look for other hidden meanings. Instead we might look at the preliminary safety analysis of the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant operated by Portland General Electric Co. since Dec. 23, 1975. In it we might find that the eruption of nearby Mount Saint Helens is an extremely unlikely

occurrence, beyond the realm of credible threats to the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant.

Hmmm...Let's see. Would the earth tremors associated with volcanic eruption cause any dangerous shaking of the nuclear plant? Would any of the streams or lakes displaced by the eruption cause any huge waves of water to wash down the Columbia River adjacent to the Trojan Nuclear Plant? Would fine particles of volcanic ash affect any of the machinery at the Trojan Nuclear Plant? Would it affect the ability of workers to enter and depart from the plant? Since we have heard no news from the Trojan



Nuclear Power Plant, we can assume either that all is well there, or that someone is covering up a

dangerous condition.

Since before 1979 nobody was predicting that Mount Saint Helens would erupt again, we can ask ourselves about the wisdom of making geological predictions. How can anyone know that high level nuclear waste will remain buried wherever it is buried for a half a million years? How can we know that it will even stay buried for 600 years, which is apparently the government's target for safe nuclear waste containment?

Will the "state of the art" of geological prediction allow Westinghouse engineers to say with certainty that Mount Natib, the extinct volcano on Bataan Island in the Philippines, will not erupt after they build their nuclear plant on it? Can they be sure that a volcanic eruption will not spread radioactive contamination from that plant as Mount St. Helens spread volcanic ash?

So perhaps the meaning of Mount Saint Helens is better found in the unanswered question rather than the certified "fact." Perhaps we have needed a reminder, that despite all the assertions of science and money, there are still forces far mightier than human-controlled forces, and we ignore them at our peril.

--A reader

# K-Mart dumps healthy trees

As the Post revealed last summer (Vol. VIII #2 June-July), there are many good things to be had in local stores' dumpsters. We, however, had investigated only local grocery store dumpsters. Lately we have found out that not only grocers, but also other local stores' dumpsters may provide goodies for the taking. One which has been brought to our attention is the K-Mart on the east side of Bloomington.

According to Greg Burns, he and a friend came across several healthy evergreens in K-Mart's dumpster. While Greg and his friend were loading the evergreens into their trunk, one of the security guards, Juan Hernandez, told Greg that if they didn't unload the evergreens and leave the premises, he would call the police. Greg and his friend finally submitted to Juan's order. They left the premises without the evergreens. But they took with them a disheartening attitude towards the unnecessary waste in K-Mart's dumpster.

The evergreens which were tossed into the dumpster will create unnecessary waste in several ways. They were going to be tossed into a land fill--with the other "trash," even if they were healthy enough for someone to want to plant. This isn't only a waste of the evergreens, but also the ingredients that went into growing them, the cost of tending and cultivating them, and the depletion of the soil.

When Greg contacted an assistant store manager to find out why K-Mart was allowing this waste, he was told it was "a store policy."

Why couldn't K-Mart at least reduce the price of the merchandise before tossing it? They would still get a profit. Ah, because K-Mart's capitalistic compulsion to profit stops at nothing. If they reduced the prices people would buy the cheaper ones, rather than paying inflated

prices. So K-Mart's store policy is to toss good merchandise and not allow anyone to take it. K-Mart isn't concerned about the waste this produces. They'll just increase the cost of the evergreens sold in the store.

By the way, don't become discouraged from dumpster-hunting because these evergreens weren't salvaged. Greg and his friend did the right thing by leaving after they were warned. But if a store does not have a "no trespassing" sign posted and you are not told to leave the premises, you could find dumpster-hunting to be very satisfying. Besides, I bet these weren't the only evergreens (among other things) K-Mart will toss. Happy Hunting!.

--Dolly Dumpster

## Bill of Rights says: Move over Baby Jesus

The local ACLU chapter put up an Independence Day display on a strip of city land during the week of July 4 (see photo).

The display, besides attractively and appropriately expressing the American Civil Liberties Union's ideals, was put up to test whether city officials would support a pro-Bill of Rights exhibit with as much zeal as they did a grotesque Christian spread on the same land at Christmas-time.

Glen Ekey, of the Parks and Recreation Dept., was friendly to the ACLU

proposal from the beginning, said ACLU member Bob Sutherland. Ekey agreed that the display was a good idea and said that the ACLU's name could appear on it.

But city manager Bill Vail refused to allow any indication of ACLU's sponsorship of the display. He said he didn't want viewers thinking the city was "advertising any group."

He didn't explain why it was okay six months ago for the city to blatantly--and expensively--advertise for the Christians. Our sources say, though, that professed Christians carry a great deal more clout in this area than pro-Bill of Rights folks do.

The display went up with no sponsors named, but the ACLU steering committee has decided to continue debating the point with city officials. ACLU believes that, following a Chicago manger-scene precedent, a city disclaimer and/or a notice of sponsorship not only can, but must, appear on such displays.

Besides, as Sutherland says, to the everyday passerby "an unsigned display (on city land) is a city display." Thus, many citizens probably mistakenly believe that the City of Bloomington celebrated the Bill of Rights. They did not.

Neither did the Pantagraph. The paper, which supposedly covers community events (especially photogenic ones), ran a pre-display story about the ACLU's request to use the land (including a photo of the Xmas manger scene) and a snooty/humorous editorial, also pre-display.

But the display went up, and an ACLU member called the Pantagraph. The paper never ran a follow-up story or a photo of the scene, preferring to ignore the event. Now, considering that children under sprinklers rate at least one Pantagraph photo per summer, and ladies in one-piece bathing suits merited a whole spread, the omission of a Bill of Rights photo is significant.

Sutherland said that the ACLU received no negative comments on their scene, and encourages other civic groups to dress up downtown with displays.

Even the July 5 tornadoes, which devastated much of downtown Bloomington, did only minimal damage to the Bill of Rights.

The Christians are likely to do much worse.

--Phoebe Caulfield

## Take back the park

If you've driven by Miller Park during the last two weekends and have seen lots of people and cars still there at 11:00pm, one hour after the park has, by city ordinance, closed, you are not crazy--they have been there.

According to a source at the Bloomington Parks and Rec, the park stays open on nights when there are special events--plays, concerts, etc., until "whenever everybody leaves."

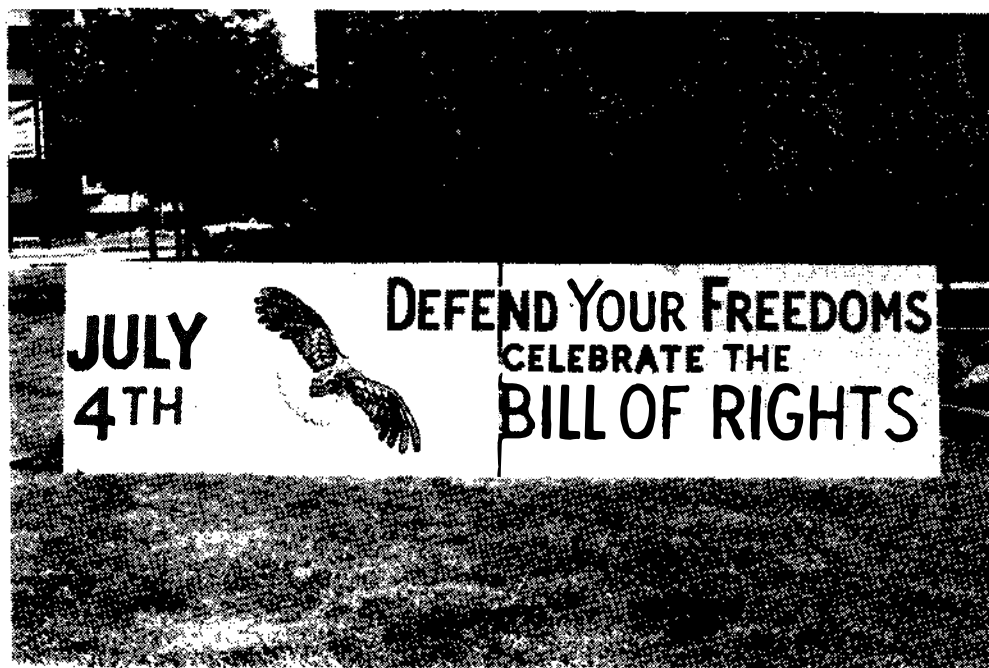
When asked how much time everybody had to get out of the park after an event, ten minutes, half an hour, an hour, she said "Nobody's told me (about) any set ordinance."

So if there is no set ordinance, and if people watching the play never left, a group could conceivably keep the park open all night long.

Perhaps if a large enough group of people stayed for hours and hours after every play and every concert, city hall would realize that something would have to change. They would probably enact an ordinance about how many minutes the park will be open after a special event, but until that time, as I understand it, the pavillion area of the park is ours as long as we don't leave.

This town hasn't seen a sit-in for quite some time. I think it's about time it happened again.

--Deborah Wiatt



# Toxic chemicals in your water:

Your water is so dangerous that it should not be used even for flushing your toilet.

It hasn't happened here yet, but it could--any day. Just as it did in Gray, Maine, where the health officer told the town council that water in part of the town was releasing such dangerous fumes that it shouldn't be used for anything.

There may be a chemical dump near your home that you don't know about. There may be a dump miles away that's leaking toxic chemicals into your water supply. Or maybe somebody looking for a quick buck will dump a load of toxic chemical wastes on your street, in the stream behind your house, or in the ditch a block away.

All of these things have happened, not once but many times. Then comes the official notice: there are dangerous chemicals in your water. In



## Report waste hazards

Vigilant citizens who are aware of improperly stored hazardous wastes can now report their suspicions to a central location.

Environmentalists and activists working to make private industry more responsible to government safety requirements have set up toll-free numbers that people can call with pertinent information.

In Illinois, the number is (800) 972-3170. For other midwest states (Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin), the number is (800) 621-3191. The calls are free and confidential.

--Prairie Sun

your air. You must not drink the water, you must leave your home.

Or something worse may happen. The local health officials ignore complaints, refuse to test water that smells like dry cleaning fluid. They don't want to offend the major factory in town. So you don't find out you've been breathing, drinking cancer-producing chemicals for 3 years, for 10 years.

There are probably small amounts of known cancer-causing chemicals in our water. DDT, PCB, chloroform. These and others are found in virtually all drinking water. They weren't there always, and you may not get cancer because of them. But someone will.

## PBB

You have probably heard of some of the worst cases of chemical poisoning: PBB in Michigan, kepone in the James River, a lot of everything in the Love Canal at Niagara Falls, NY. Without even leaving their offices in 1978, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials came up with a list of 32,254 sites where hazardous wastes are buried or stored. Of those, the EPA reckoned that 838 had a good chance of posing "significant imminent hazards" to public health. Many of the remaining 31,416 will begin leaking later, since it's no easier to contain ordinary toxic chemicals than it is to safely dispose of nuclear wastes.

And if the past is any indication, the people near these leaking dumps will be breathing, eating, or drinking dangerous levels of toxic chemicals a good long while before industry, or the government, admits it.

In the case of the PBB contaminated dairy feed in Michigan, Edwin Chen in PBB: An American Tragedy relates how the Farm Bureau and the state agriculture and health departments consistently downplayed the problem, to the point of lying on some occasions, until virtually every person in Michigan wound up with cancer-producing PBBs in their bodies.

PBB, a fire retardant, was shipped out in place of magnesium oxide, a feed additive, because of shoddy storage, packaging, and labelling practices at Michigan Chemical Co. Government regulators had already cited the firm for

its dangerous practices but had not enforced changes.

The PBB from Michigan Chemical was mixed with feed by the Farm Bureau and sold to dairy farmers. When milk production dropped and when animals began developing bizarre symptoms before dying, Farm Bureau officials suggested that affected dairy farmers were mistreating their cows.

Fortunately, a handful of farmers and country veterinarians pursued the problem and eventually found researchers able to identify the contaminant as PBB.

In the meantime, contaminated cows were sold for hamburger--since they didn't produce milk anymore--and were even ground up and added to other feed. And the Farm Bureau's PBB-contaminated equipment churned out more contaminated feed.

Despite mounting evidence of an extraordinarily dangerous situation, industry and state officials maintained that nothing was wrong. The Farm Bureau's chief vet, James McKean, lied about the deaths of calves in a test of contaminated feed. The state ag director, B. Dale Ball, proclaimed that the milk was safer

## Cans leak lead

Two Cal Tech scientists say that American consumers should avoid food coming out of lead-soldered cans--cans which happen to be the most common type used in North America.

Researchers Dorothy Settle and Clair Patterson report they have discovered relatively high levels of lead in the contents of canned foods they have tested, particularly canned tuna.

The researchers say they used an ultra-clean laboratory, a lab originally used to test moon rocks, to look for traces of lead in canned foods. They say they found that lead-soldered cans are apparently leaking high levels of lead into the food contents, levels that have previously gone unrecognized by the Food and Drug Administration.

They recommend that lead-soldered cans should be eliminated immediately, "because they constitute a major source of lead in foods."

--Berkeley Barb

# Poison that fell from

"The Poison That Fell From The Sky," by John G. Fuller, Random House, 1977, 113 pp.

This little book tells the story of the worst, most visible case of chemical poisoning we've inflicted on ourselves so far.

One moment the Italian town of Seveso was as healthy as any suburb of an industrial city like Milan can be. People retired there for the fresh air.

The next moment a factory at the edge of Seveso belched a cloud of white crystals that spread over the town. Four days later birds started falling from the sky, and then rabbits began dying, blood oozing from their mouths. After two weeks the first people were evacuated permanently; their homes will be contaminated indefinitely.

The Icmesa chemical factory was owned by the Swiss firm Givaudan which in turn is owned by Hoffman-LaRoche, one of the largest drug companies in the world. Icmesa was manufacturing trichlorophenol (TCP) for Givaudan.

TCP is used to make hexachlorophene, which is used in surgical soaps to kill bacteria. Hexachlorophene used to be used in everything from pHisoex to Dial soap to toothpaste before it was restricted in the U.S. in 1972. TCP is also used to make the defoliant 2,4,5-T which was used in Vietnam and caused birth defects, liver malfunctions and death. The herbicide is also not used in the U.S. anymore.

Dioxin is a by-product of TCP production, and traces of it are always found in hexachlorophene and 2,4,5-T. Dioxin also happens to be one of the most toxic substances known: a rabbit that eats one hundred millionth of a gram

(.00000000353 ounces) has only a 50-50 chance of living.

A cloud containing anywhere from a pound up to 260 pounds of dioxin escaped from the Icmesa factory when a tank overheated and a valve vented into the open air. There was no safety container for this valve to vent into, although it was designed to vent when the tank overheated to 240 degrees C, in spite of the fact that dioxin is always formed when TCP is heated over 200 degrees C.

Although any chemical engineer would have known that dioxin had to be formed in the accident, Icmesa sent dust samples from the factory to Givaudan in Switzerland to find out what chemicals were in the cloud. The tests took 2 days.

In the meantime, factory officials suggested that people not eat any fruit or vegetables that had been touched by the cloud. More and more

# Is it only a matter of time?

page 5



than ever while refusing offers of outside investigators to study the PBB contamination. The governor, William G. Milliken, issued a "report" from an a non-existent task force that said press coverage of PBBs was "filled with rumor, speculation, half-truths and errors of fact."

In the end, thousands of cows and chickens had to be killed and buried in special dumps. Hundreds of people suffered serious damage to their health and millions were exposed to the risk of cancer or other delayed health problems. In the end, mothers in the entire state of Michigan were advised not to breast-feed their babies because PBB accumulated in especially dangerous amounts in human milk.

Where's the rest?

All of this came about because 10 to 20 fifty-pound bags of PBB went to the wrong place. But what about the 12 million pounds that Michigan Chemical Co. shipped to the right place?

PBB was used in the manufacture of lots of products that won't catch fire very easily but will wind up eventually in dumps. From there it will likely leach into ground water and one day come out of your faucet.

When you know that the number of toxic chemicals listed by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health grew from 8000 in 1971 to 16,500 in 1975, the future doesn't look too bright. Because we have done almost nothing to prevent the dispersal of these chemicals into the environment.

Michael Brown's book, Laying Waste: the Poisoning of America by Toxic Chemicals, is depressing reading. He starts with the Love Canal, a

chemical dump donated to Niagara Falls by Hooker Chemical (now part of Arm and Hammer's Occidental Petroleum). Chemicals oozed into nearby basements and followed filled-in streambeds to spread fumes in homes blocks away.

The industry-government mutual admiration society operated here, too: for years homeowners suffered ill effects while the health department claimed all was well and while Hooker refused to comment. Mayor Michael O'Laughlin and City Manager Donald O'Hara ignored complaints, until New York state finally began a health study two years after it first found toxic chemicals in one basement near the Love Canal.

Even after deciding that the situation posed "great and imminent peril to the health of the general public," there was no plan for an evacuation. That took more time, and the area evacuated had to be enlarged later.

Laying Waste only begins with the Love Canal; Brown continues with tale after depressing tale of poisoned land and poisoned people. After about 50 examples, most readers will be ready to drink a can of paint thinner and get it over with. But Brown won't let you off so easily. He goes on.

At the very end of his book, Brown offers a few understandably dispirited solutions: better designed and monitored landfills, recycling, improved technology. He warily suggests

that we may have to stop using so damn many chemicals, so much plastic and paint and bug killer. But Brown knows that isn't going to go over well in Jersey--even after 323 pages of horror stories.

He's right, of course. In the wake of Love Canal, New York decided to check into other dumps and to establish tough new disposal laws. Already officials on Long Island are complaining about the increased costs, despite the discovery of such carcinogens as vinyl chloride and perchloroethylene in some drinking water there.

## Name them

Maybe it is better to ignore a hopeless problem. We are producing 35 million tons of hazardous chemical wastes a year, and we don't have any more idea of what to do with them than we do with nuclear wastes. So eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow ....

But I'd like a little revenge. I'd like to know who at Hooker Chemical filled the Love Canal. Where he lives now, so I can send him some hate mail. I'd like to see a few chemical company execs living next to a pool of benzene or drinking vinyl chloride every morning in their coffee. Even if we can't root them out of our midst, any more than we can a cancer, we should name those who profit from our collective short-sightedness and stupidity and death. ●

--D. LeSeure

## Hot potato

The U.S. Department of Energy is studying the feasibility of getting rid of hot nuclear wastes by loading the wastes into underwater rockets, then shooting the rockets downward into the soft mud under the sea.

According to estimates released by the Energy Department, rockets carrying nuclear wastes would hit the muddy sea-bed at about 120 mph. They would then bury themselves 100 to 300 feet into the mud, which is described as having the consistency of "chocolate pudding."

The government is spending \$5.9 million this year to study the undersea rocket disposal plan, even though full tests on the concept are not expected until the year 2000.

## the sky

samples from farther and farther away from the factory were sent to Switzerland for tests.

After 6 days, factory officials suggested that animals that ate the contaminated grass should not be eaten. Rabbits and chickens were already dying horrible deaths, their internal organs totally destroyed.

After 10 days a TV reporter discovered what the poison was by calling an outside chemist. The chemist who looked up the answers to the reporter's questions said his search was the most horrible 10 minutes of his life.

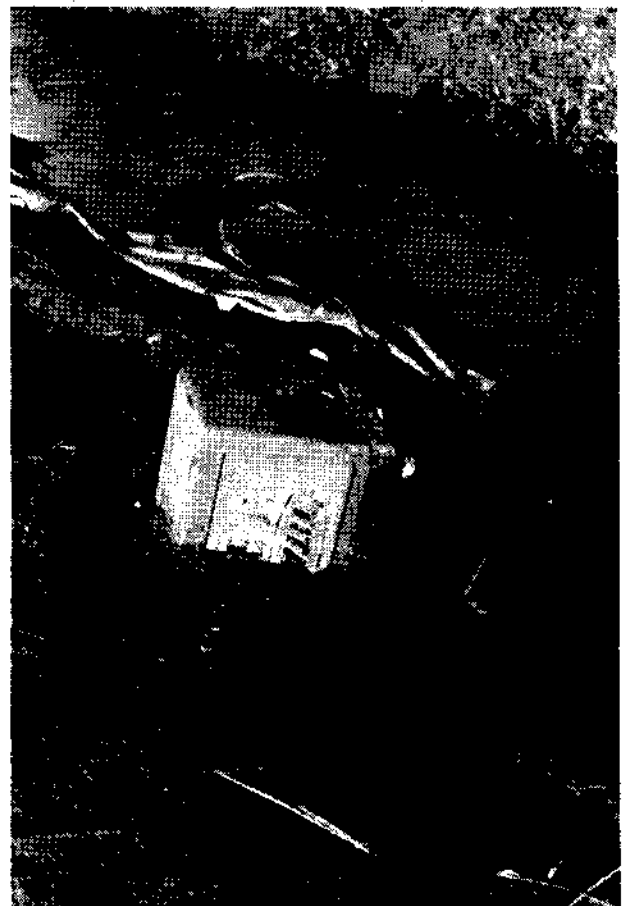
At the time Fuller wrote his book on the Seveso disaster, there were no officially confirmed human deaths due to the poisoning. There were, however, suspicious deaths that health authorities would not release information on, and several hundred people had been afflicted with chloracne,

a horrible disfiguring skin disease.

With dioxin still spreading by water and air from Seveso, with thousands already exposed, human deaths are only a matter of time: dioxin causes cancer.

The Seveso disaster is dramatic because it was sudden and severe. It is not unique. The PBB poisonings in Michigan and Montana, the kepone dumping in Virginia, hexachlorocyclopentadiene in Louisville--all of these are dramatic and terrible, but it's the little day-to-day poisonings that worry me. A little mirex here, some 2,4,5-T there and a few PCB's somewhere else. It's the quiet, ordinary poisonings that will get most of us. ●

--Dan LeSeure



## Batteries in creek

Three or four golf-cart batteries and a few lead-zinc battery plates washed into a small creek behind 1801 Industrial Park Drive, Normal, earlier this summer. John Latting, vice-president of both Lawn Groomer and Professional Turf Specialties, which own the building at 1801, said the batteries have been removed. Latting expects to have a chain link fence erected around his property within six months which will prevent any more batteries from washing into the creek that feeds into Sugar Creek. ●

--D.L.

# Better looking lettuce through chemistry

As a salad lover, I'm pleased by the popularity of salad bars in local restaurants. Before these salad bars sprang up, it seemed like restaurants' idea of a vegetable was always that miniature dish of tepid, mushy, grey green beans.

Now we're offered perky piles of lettuce and bins of firm, colorful peppers and tomatoes--in fact, at some salad bars, those veggies sit there, perky, firm, and colorful, for hours on end.

They keep their fresh appearance through Food Technology, unfortunately.

I was disappointed to find that some salads have chemical additives applied to them. They're sprayed with or dipped into products like Veg-0-Fresh, which is a combination of sodium bisulfate, sodium bicarbonate, citric acid, and ascorbic acid.

Anyone who remembers cyclamates and Red Dye No. 2--food additives once considered perfectly safe and eventually found to cause cancer and mutations--will probably prefer a few brown edges on their lettuce to a dose of Veg-0-Fresh with every trip to the salad bar.

I looked up the ingredients of Veg-0-Fresh in some reference books. The first, sodium bisulfate, was not listed. It's obviously a salt of some kind. The others are all Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) by the FDA. This means that they're on a list of more than 600 additives that were already being used in 1958, when a new amendment required manufacturers to prove to the FDA the safety of new additives before they were allowed to put them in food or drink.

At that time, the FDA just made up a list of the 600 tried-and-true additives whose safety seemed unnecessary to test. Cyclamates, for

example, were on the GRAS list.

So much for that.

I'm not saying that salad bar freaks are going to contract cancer and have deformed babies, which would no doubt greatly satisfy their red-meat-and-potatoes, don't-give-me-that-rabbit-food counterparts. I am saying that when someone squirts your lettuce, you just don't know what's going to come of it.

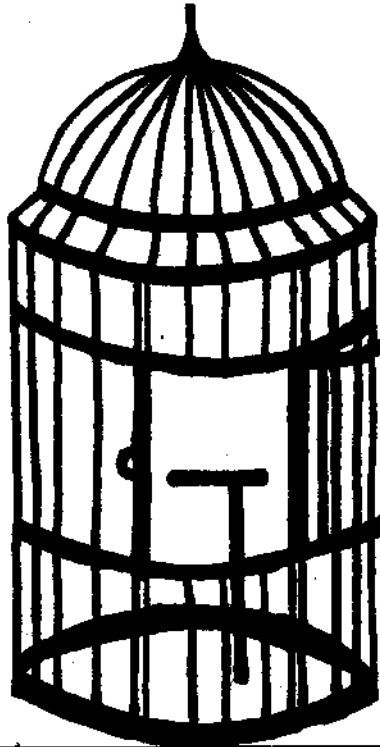
As I said, the GRAS list is unreliable. Furthermore, most tests only consider each additive's effects by itself. The additive could possibly get together with some other chemical to cause a dangerous combination.

The micro-insult theory of additives may also apply. That is, frequent small doses of a chemical, each dose seemingly safe, may build up a residue in a person's tissues over 20 years or so--a residue that may have unpredicted dangers. These dangers may be compounded by the presence of other residues.

Other hidden dangers lurk in Veg-0-Fresh. By law, packaged foods must list all the additives included--but restaurant food, of course, doesn't. And even if it did, you might not know what it all means. For example, sodium bicarbonate "may alter the urinary excretion of other drugs, thus making those drugs either more toxic or less effective" (A Consumer's Dictionary of Food Additives). The dictionary doesn't list what drugs these are, but it would be nice to know, especially if you're taking them. And ascorbic acid--vitamin C--is "known to affect the excretion of medications such as barbiturates and to make them more toxic" (Consumer's Dictionary). So going to a salad bar on downers may be a mistake.

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The sodiums can create other problems. Many people try to eat low-sodium diets, since the average American high-sodium diet increases your chances of high blood pressure, heart attack, water retention, and--some say--baldness. Little do these people suspect that their carefully unsalted salad already carries two sodium additives.

Finally, it just seems sleazy to add chemicals that fool people into thinking food is fresh when it's not.

Speaking of sleazy, while talking to restaurant workers about this article, I heard a terrible rumor (twice) that some of those nice chopped boiled eggs do not come in nature's original perfect packaging. Rumor has it that they come in large cans, in foot-long tubes of white outside and yellow inside, packed in thick green slime.

I can believe it. And I don't even want to think about what's in the dressing. But maybe I should.

--Phoebe Caulfield

**Rape between acquaintances**

# A fine friend you turned out to be



New Times/cpf

In the last issue of the Post there were pages upon pages of ways to avoid and resist attack. Virtually all the techniques are basically useless, however, when your attacker is not a stranger. Think about it. You can't poke his eyes out; he's your boyfriend. You can't stab him with your letter opener; he's your best friend's brother. You can't lock him out of your house; he's your uncle. So what can you do when you know who he is?



Precious little, actually. You can, of course, still use any of the techniques. But you can't. A woman who has no qualms about punching out a stranger will likely not be able to harm her brother-in-law.

Talking to him is your best--sometimes your only--option. It works and it doesn't, depending on a lot of variables.

If you know him well, you can draw on your history with him. If he is a family member, use family pride and as many kinship ties as you can stand. ("You won't only be hurting me, Phil, but think about what you're doing to Mary.")

If you know him only slightly, talk to him as if he were a stranger, which he probably is. We all know the man at the hardware store or the man who fixes our car, but we don't know them.

If he's a neighbor or your spouse's/lover's friend or business associate, play on his relationship with your lover.

If he's your lover, dump the turkey.

The best thing you can do is take action before an attack. Teach your children well, the song goes. You must teach the men in your life well. It is a difficult job at best, but it does work. It is probably not fair to put the burden of educating and enlightening men on the already overburdened shoulders of women, but as long as we live in a society that tolerates and even condones rape, nobody else is going to do it.

Refuse to laugh at rape jokes. That is an easy thing to say, but not an easy thing to do. In the first place, some rape jokes are really funny. And in the second place, people don't take it well when you don't laugh at

their jokes. And not only don't laugh, explain to your men why you don't think it's funny.

Tell them what it's like to be a woman in this society. Let them feel the anger and frustration of knowing that you can't drive a car, ride a bicycle, or walk on the street without getting hassled. Make them know what it's like to open your front door and discover that it was already unlocked. Tell them how your stomach reacts for days every time the phone rings after you have received an obscene phone call.

And read up on statistics, so when they try to tell you that you are just being paranoid, you can come back with: Is it paranoid to know that 1 out of every 4 women will be raped at some point during her life? Is it paranoid to know that 50% of all rapes happen between people who are at least acquainted? That a reported rape happens every seven minutes? That only one rape in 20 is even reported? That every 21 seconds a woman is being raped somewhere in the good old USA?

Once you have sufficiently enlightened your men, you can hope they will go out and enlighten other men. And when enough men are nearly as disgusted by the thought of rape as women are, rape will cease to be the glorified action it is today. And nary a one of us will live to see that happen. But it's still our best shot.

Knowing why men rape women they know might help explain why it happens. If the man is a slight acquaintance, he may just think it easier to rape someone he knows. While you wouldn't let just any strange man into your home, you will allow a man you know

in. He knows that. So access to a victim is made easier. He probably also knows that a conviction is much more difficult to come by if he can say you let him in voluntarily and that you and he had been more than friends for some time, but your lover/husband/roommate/parent got home at the wrong time.

If the man is a neighbor, he could be angry at you in particular or at the world in general. He could have had a fight with his wife, a disagreement with his boss, or an argument with his best friend. He could just be fed up with his life in general. He can't beat his wife, punch out his boss, or kill his best friend. He can do little about his life situation. So he does the next best thing. He hurts someone he knows he can hurt--a woman. He picks you because you are accessible; you are there.

If the man is a friend of your lover's, he could be getting back at your lover. He can't beat up Jim if he's angry, but he sure as hell can hurt Jim's property--namely you.

If he's your boyfriend and you haven't been to bed with him, he might figure you owe him. If he's taken you out and spent time and money on you and you haven't put out yet, he probably thinks he deserves a little action. Everyone knows the price for a good time is a good lay. And he will most likely not consider it rape. And he'll call you next week to see when you want to go out again. He will be very surprised and quite hurt when you refuse. He will be dumbfounded when you tell him you don't date rapists.

If he is your husband or your lover, dump the turkey. A man has the legal right to exact connubial duties from you (that means screwing). And if you refuse, he has the right to take them (you).



and scoops

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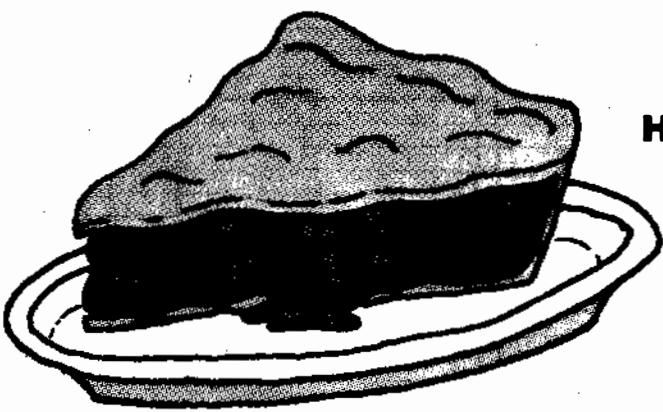
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So that is why they do what they do, and armed with that knowledge and a few stats, go out there and educate. And when your men backslide, when your uncle grabs a quick feel or your boss tells a rape joke or your boyfriend tries to pressure you into having sex when you don't want to or your brother-in-law wonders aloud what the latest rape victim he read about in the Pantagraph did to deserve it, hammer him into the ground. Do it gently or not so gently, but hammer him. Let him know that he is not behaving properly, and if he wants to continue any kind of relationship with you he had better clean up his act.

And maybe, just maybe, we can make a difference.

--Deborah Wiatt



## Bible thumpers for Reagan

# Gimme that old time Republicanism

The fundamentalist mafia has thrown its support--to the tune of several million dollars--behind Ronald Reagan, despite the fact that Reagan's official religion is a far distance from the "fundamental" brand of "evangelicalism" that these supporters swear by.

It's clear that conservative politics, not religion, has made Reagan the darling of the Bible-beaters.

The religious support for Reagan has come primarily through two organizations: Moral Majority (MM) and Christian Voice (CV). These groups have raised more than \$3 million through direct mail to church members around the country to spend in political campaigns to elect Reagan and Congressional candidates sympathetic to conservative causes.

"Reagan is our man, that's for sure," says Robert Billings, executive director of MM. "He's the only Bible-believing evangelical running for the office."



Law & Order (1953)

CV, according to its spokesperson Gary Jarmin, has raised several million dollars to buy air time on all-religious tv and radio stations and full-page newspaper ads to plug the Reagan candidacy. Jarmin says Reagan is "the only viable candidate who has a true faith in Jesus with moral convictions to match."

But according to his official biography, Ronald Reagan is a Presbyterian. The Reagans attend the Bel Air Presbyterian Church near their Pacific Palisades CA home, a member of the church told the Detroit Free Press.

Now, in case you forgot, Presbyterians can hardly be described as "evangelical," at least not in the pulpit-pounding style of Biblical literalists like the Rev. Jerry Falwell, star of "The Old-Time Gospel Hour" and founder of Moral Majority (see accompanying story on Falwell).

Both Jimmy Carter, a born-again Baptist Sunday school teacher, and John Anderson, a life member of First Evangelical Free Church of Rockford IL would seem more suitable to Falwell and the MM-CV crowd. Anderson even sponsored a constitutional amendment in the 1960s that would have declared Jesus Christ the guardian of the nation.

But John Anderson apparently still believes in the separation of church and state and says that he considers religion "an intensely personal matter." President Carter seems similarly disinclined to mix religion with politics. And that won't do for the Christian-Majority-Moral-Voice people.

MM's Billings says: "Carter has not always been up front with us. . . . You'd think a man of his background would have appointed people to positions at least theologically akin to him, which he did not. It would seem he would get somebody of our camp to at least influence him."

Clearly what Falwell and the boys from Moral-Voice-Christian-Majority want is political clout. And they hope to get it through Ronald Reagan.

A group called the Christian Book and Literature Institute has published a revealing interview with Reagan. The answers he gave to interviewer John Bass show why the ex-actor and former Gov. of California is such a hit with the CV-MM set.

Bass: Gov. Reagan, do you feel there is a need for spiritual renewal in America?

Reagan: Yes. The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America. . . .

B.: What are your views on Christian education, prayer in the public schools, abortion, and homosexuality?

R.: I thoroughly support Christian (non-public) schools and voluntary prayer in public schools. As for abortion, I believe that interrupting a pregnancy is taking a human life. That can only be justified on the basis of self-defense. I do not believe society should recognize or accept homosexuality as a so-called alternative life style.

B.: Do you think the Bible is of divine origin?

R.: I've never had any doubt about it.

Reagan's answers match perfectly with the platform of the Vocal-Moral-Christian-Majority.

Yet the relationship between Reagan and his evangelical supporters still seems one-sided. Falwell and Co. have nominated Reagan as the man to "lead this nation back to God," but Reagan hasn't publicly accepted the mission.

Falwell has been holding "I Love America" rallies in various state capitals around the country. In Indianapolis he proudly brought Nancy Reagan to the podium. But Mrs. Reagan later told a reporter that she had never met Falwell until that day and that her appearance at the rally had nothing to do with her husband's campaign.

An Indianapolis United Methodist minister who attended the rally "out of curiosity" observed the contrived connection between Reagan and the Majority-Voices-of-Christian-Morality. The fundamentalists identify with Reagan's political views, he noted, "but have little idea of what his real religious sensibilities might be, so they have to baptize the guy with Christian sanctity in order to sell him to their people."



Other members of the religious community are also uneasy with the way the Falwellites are promoting Reagan as their champion. A prominent bishop of a mainline U.S. Protestant church recently asked, "Where is 'back to God' and who wants to go there? I think these fellows like Falwell are using a Christian facade to veil some scary political means and ends. I think their support of Reagan is beside the point."

Could be. But don't be surprised if Jerry Falwell becomes Secretary of the Treasury, come November. •

--Ferdydurke

Sources: Detroit Free Press, July 6, 1980; Time, Oct. 1, 1979.

## Vote for God

"Christian Americans hoped that Jimmy Carter would back moves to cut government-paid abortions, help push for prayer in public schools and strongly deny the phony claims of equal rights for militant homosexuals.

"Instead of actions, Mr. Carter has given us soft-spoken words about his personal beliefs and backed away from every opportunity to truly stand up for these beliefs in the political arena.

"Mr. Carter is afraid of offending Gloria Stienem [sic], the National Organization for Women and the Equal Rights Amendment crowd but not afraid of turning his back on God!

"This is exactly what has brought America to the crisis point we are in today.

"You and I have absolutely no choice! We must testify our Christian principles at the election booth. We must turn out the faint of heart, weak of faith, and elect true Christian leaders in America. . .

"My letter is your call to action. Your destiny as a Christian and an American calls you to join with me in this great Crusade to Save America, Bring God back to American leadership and elect Ronald Reagan President of the United States. . .

"Pray for success in our efforts to elect Ronald Reagan and others like him who can bring our country out of this godless age of massive abortions, homosexuality, and rampant national crime."

--Rev. Richard Zone, vicechair of Christians for Reagan, in a fundraising letter that is self-described as a "project of Christian Voice Moral Government Fund," in Pasadena, California.

# Jerry Falwell, Inc.

Jerry Falwell may be the most dangerous corporation in Amerika. More powerful than Exxon, more poisonous than Hooker Chemical.

Falwell started preaching 24 years ago in a converted pop-bottling factory in Lynchburg, VA. His congregation had 35 members. Today, Falwell's church, the Thomas Road Baptist Church, seats 4,000 and is filled to capacity four times every Sunday.

But Falwell's audience extends far beyond Lynchburg. He is the director of a religious empire that employs 1,200 people and has an annual budget of over \$60 million. The mainstay of the organization is the "Old-Time Gospel Hour," a program seen on 324 television stations in the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean.

The Falwell conglomerate also includes Liberty Baptist College, Lynchburg Christian Academy, a summer camp, a Bible club, a "youth ministry," a "bus ministry," a "media ministry," and a missionary singing group that has traveled in Australia, Korea, and Japan. His latest enterprise is Moral Majority, Inc., a political pressure group that uses the Falwell religious outlets for its power base.

Falwell mixes religion and politics with a blatant fervor (see accompanying article on Ronald Reagan). Two years ago he told Esquire magazine, "my highest calling is spiritual, and if I'm too political it will dilute my effectiveness." Today he readily acknowledges the merger of church and state: "The moral issues have become political issues."

The Falwell approach to religious politics is attractively simple. It offers a simple-minded solution for the country's difficult economic and social problems: "We are having an economic and military crisis because God is chastising us."

Using the Bible to support far-right political causes, Falwell's prime targets are abortion, pornography, and gay rights. He also interprets the scriptures to stand against feminism, welfare programs, tolerance of Communist expansion, and SALT II.

Falwell's prime-time tv special, "America, You're Too Young To Die," which aired in early June, exhibited the typical mix of easy patriotism and religious scare-tactics that mark the Falwell style. The program's doomsday message ("we have less than 1000 days as a free nation") alternated unblinkingly with the sunshine music of the "I Love America Singers" (33 sparkling clean students from Liberty Baptist College, who sing about this "sweet land of liberty" with unquestioning sincerity).

Appearing on the steps of the Capitol with Falwell and the Ken-and-Barbie choir were three U.S. Senators (Helms, Laxalt, Byrd), one Representative (Dornan), and what looked like 500 Amerikan flags.

All the while, the voice of doom repeated its message: Amerika is in a moral crisis, a family crisis, a leadership crisis, a will crisis. And: "If Amerika is in trouble, it's because we've disregarded God's absolute moral standards." And: "America is in trouble and will not survive the next three to five years without a spiritual re-awakening."

What's so offensive about all this pointing of the finger at Amerika's supposed sins, is that there's never a suggestion that Falwell or his followers have ever had anything to do with the "trouble." All these well-dressed, well-scrubbed, well-fed people, smug and self-righteous in their innocence--and no mention of the poor, no reference to the needy or the oppressed, no identification with the downtrodden, no recognition of injustice or inequity.



Whatever's wrong, blame it all on abortion, pornography, homosexuality. Get rid of baby-murder, porno, and the homos, and God will improve the economy and make the United States No. 1 nation in the world again.

Jawohl, mein Fuhrer. Heil Falwell!

--Ferdydurke

Sources: Esquire, Oct. 10, 1978; Time, Oct. 1, 1979; Life, June 1980; and 60 excruciating minutes watching "America, You're Too Young To Die."

--Moral Majority will spend \$5 million this year to fight ERA and other legislation it considers "amoral."

--Falwell's tv expense last year was \$10 million, or \$5,000 per minute of air time.

--Names of more than 2 million families who have contributed to Falwell causes are kept in a computer bank.

--The faculty of Lynchburg Christian Academy is all white; only 5 out of its 1,147 pupils are black.

--Moral Majority claims a membership of 300,000, including 70,000 pastors.

--Twelve of Alaska's 19 delegates to the Republican National Convention belong to Moral Majority.

Post Aug 1980 9

## Quotations from Chairman Jerry

On Communists: "We should return to the McCarthy era, where we register all Communists....We should stamp it on their foreheads and send them back to Russia."



On welfare: "In California, there is a moral revolution going on. They reduced property taxes, and I suggest they start by immediately cutting the welfare rolls."

On Christians who don't vote: "If there is one person in this room not registered, repent of it. It's a sin. Get [your congregation] saved, baptized, and registered."

On the Prince of Peace: "Jesus was not a pacifist. He was not a sissy."

On his security guards: "I've always felt God watches over me, but I worry about the kids."

On talking to God: "Do you talk to God? 'Daily.' Does he talk to you? 'Daily.' Can you hear him? 'Daily.' His voice? 'No. But I know that right now He is here with me.'"

On Rev. Moon: "Reverend Sun Myung Moon is like the plague; he exploits boys and girls, and he should be exported. People like Moon and the healer types, the Elmer Gantry types, are religious phonies who are raping America."

On religious education: "We take our students from kindergarten through college, so we can shape them. We find that when they grow up that way, they don't revolt. We treat them a lot like privates in boot camp. We



teach them discipline and submission to authority."

On welfare recipients: "That crowd ought to be left to starve until they decide a job is a good deal."

On feminists: "The washed-up losers of the world...."

## More disturbing facts about Falwell

--The "I Love America Singers" (of Liberty Baptist College) performed at the Republican Convention.

--In 1971 the Securities and Exchange Commission charged the Thomas Road Baptist Church with "fraud and deceit" in its selling of \$6.6 million in bonds. A federal judge gave the church 5 years to pay off the bonds in full, which it did--congregation members mortgaged their homes to pay the debts, including Falwell's.

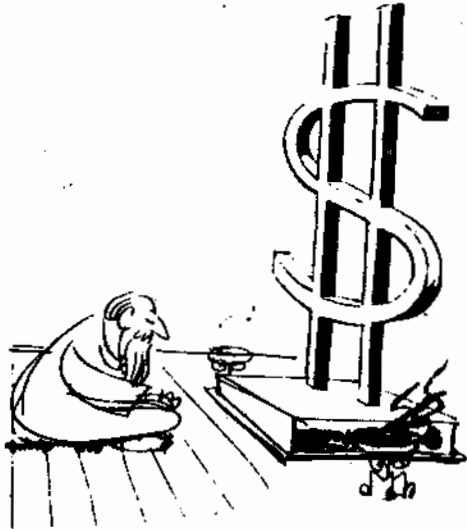
--Falwell now draws a salary of \$42,500 a year, plus expenses. His colonial mansion, supposedly a gift from a fan, includes a squad of security guards and an electrified wall.

# God without a money-back guarantee

"No other friend around like Jesus, satisfaction guaranteed," goes the refrain from a pop gospel song. It's the musical counterpoint to Pat Robertson's "Kingdom Principles."

Pat Robertson, of course, is host of The 700 Club, a leader of the recent binge of right-wing praying in Washington D.C., and a not-too-coy would-be politician.

The Kingdom Principles are a method of fund-raising that promise the



Christian give a greater return from God. "You can't out-give God," Robertson enthuses. "God's principles cannot fail." The more you need the money you give to the 700 Club--for rent, for medicine, for food--the more certain is God's return gift.

Robertson is fond of telling stories like the one about the woman who sent in the money she needed for cancer medicine. Three days later, goes the tale, she received a check for three grand. The message is that the reward is certain.

One of those most certainly rewarded by the Kingdom Principles is Pat Robertson's own Christian Broadcasting Network, which just built a \$20 million HQ (not counting furnishings) in Virginia Beach. The antique

wood floors and the fanciest TV equipment available were paid for out of the \$1 million-plus a week that the Kingdom Principles bring in to CBN.

The HQ must be a pleasant place to wait for Jesus' return, what with the pine trees and the landscaping, even if He is slightly delayed. In fact, the permanence of the lavish marble-and-brick HQ seems to run counter to the official CBN line that the End Times are quite near. But that's only one of the contradictions in Pat Robertson's world.

## Just a slave

Robertson says that when he was born again he gave all his worldly possessions to the poor, and that since then he's given his whole income to CBN. Yet despite occasional fasts and wrestlings with God, Robertson has been eating, he has sent 4 children to college, he has bought a house nearly as lavish as his offices, and he has bought an expensive Trakhner stallion, which also eats regularly and probably never wrestles with God.

"Actually," Robertson says, "I'm just a servant of Jesus Christ. A slave, actually."

Jesus' slave heads a network that puts its shows out over 150 TV stations and 3000 cable systems. He's just now spinning off the commercial Continental Broadcasting Network, consisting of 4 TV stations which will sell Charmin along with Christian soap operas.

In return for their regular contributions, 700 Club members receive what CBN execs privately call the "pretty-pretties": a 700 club pin, a bumper sticker, the monthly magazine *Flame*, Robertson's own special report "Perspective," a plastic membership card, and the solace of watching the TV show. Anything God kicks in doesn't go on the CBN books.



Robertson, like many another Billy Graham, doesn't like to talk about the books. Money is something you ask for, not something you account for.

## Politics for Jesus

But Robertson does have a favorite subject. Politics. He likes to talk about what's wrong with America and how to fix it. For the past couple of years the pitches for money have been followed less and less by singers who found God in a can of VO-5 and more and more by serious discussions of moral decay.

According to Robertson, America is under attack by gays, abortionists, liberal politicians, Supreme Court justices, and uppity women, as well as by Communists the world over. The cause of these attacks is a philosophical disease called secular humanism--the notion that God doesn't exist and that people must muddle through for themselves. The prime spreader of this disease is, of course, the liberal media, the TV networks and the big newspapers and magazines.



Robertson's cure is simple: "turn over one's life to Jesus," "have no mind of your own." God will heal the crack in the Liberty Bell if only conservative Christians take over the government of the United States.

"Would you use CBN to run for political office?" an interviewer asked Robertson.

"Let's put it this way," the ex-Marine captain said. "In the event of a major breakdown, the country might turn to us."

"But you regard such a breakdown as certain."

"Well," Robertson said, "everything is going to be shaken."

--D. LeSeure, with thanx to Dick Dabney and Harper's

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# Registration and the draft— stop and think

July 21 marked the first day for Draft Registration for 19 and 20-year-old males.

Legally, all young men who will be 19 during 1980 are required to register during the week of July 21, and all who are or will be 20 are to register during the week of July 28.

What does this mean, and what are the options within this system?

The Carter Administration has carefully tried to separate registration from the draft, claiming that registration does not necessarily mean there will be a draft.

If that is true, it will be a first in American history. For there has never been registration without the draft, and never a draft without a war.

The Administration could be considering other military options.

In terms of war, the most likely option is not a conflict with the Russians, but one in the Persian Gulf or more probably in troubled Central America.

The Nicaraguan people's liberation this past year has frightened many large U.S. corporations. Just as the U.S. long supported the Nicaraguan dictatorship of General Somoza, so now they are supporting dictators in Guatemala and El Salvador, two trouble spots.

In both countries the people are struggling to overthrow the dictator. And in both nations, large U.S. energy and agribusiness companies have large holdings, their interest compounded by the recent discovery of oil in Guatemala.

In 1954, the U.S. Government sent Marines into Guatemala to overthrow a democratic government. Today, U.S. advisors have been reported in the mountains, where numerous Indians have been massacred. In the cities, labor, church and opposition leaders live in extreme danger. Weekly right-wing death squads (tied to the government) publish lists of who will be assassinated that week.

Although anti-Soviet propaganda is running high in this country, the probability of a war with Russia is small. Thus the draft is attractive, for it can be used to hook young men into fighting an unpopular, Vietnam-like war in a small country.

There are other possibilities. Although the Republicans have politically disavowed the draft, Reagan's foreign policy advisors are seriously planning on a ring of U.S. bases around Israel, a certain invitation to a Middle Eastern conflict.

Carter and company could be considering "compulsory national service," a 2-year, not necessarily military, conscription. Another option would be giving registrants six weeks of military training, or basic boot camp. The benefit would be psychological, as this would try to implant a militaristic attitude in the nation and a sense of "devotion to duty."

## Current registration

You basically have two options with current registration. Either you register or you don't.

If you register, you'll fill out a little card with your name, address and social security number. Later you will receive confirmation of this in the mail. The postmaster will

check your ID for the accuracy of the information, and there is a check-off box if you are interested in military recruitment (avoid that one). If there is a draft, your name will be immediately available.

Another option is to register, and to write on the card "I am a conscientious objector to all war" or "I protest the draft" or whatever you like.

Writing that you are a conscientious objector does not make you one. If there is a draft, you would still have to document that belief, but writing it on the registration card now is an added proof, which could be helpful later.

Non-registration runs a legal risk, but again, it is not necessarily as bad as it sounds.



Legally, the maximum fine for non-registration is a \$10,000 fine and 5 years in jail. Very few people have ever been hit with the full fine.

During Vietnam, out of the 26.8 million eligible, nearly 570,000 were draft offenders. Of these, 360,000 were never found, but 209,000 were.

Of those 209,000, only 8750 were convicted, with about 4000 actually serving time. So less than 1% actually saw prison for their non-registration.

The government can use social security and income tax forms to track people down. This is time-consuming and expensive.

In the past, if you did not register and it was known, you were visited by two FBI agents, who would tell you it's a "naughty no-no" for not registering and telling you to do it immediately.

Whether the government will take the time and expense to track non-registrants down is a good question. The answer will probably depend upon how many young men actually voluntarily register during these two weeks. If they have enough, they might not bother.

A final, most risky option, is public resistance. This might involve writing a letter to the draft board or the local media and saying that you refuse to register.

This is most risky, because if the

government does decide to crack down and make examples of some individuals, the most vocal draft resisters will suffer first.

## When there is a draft

In an actual draft, you will have a few more options. These may vary, but some are probably certain.

There will not be a student deferment; there is a possibility of a deferment if you are the sole means of support for someone, but that will be difficult.

Being a conscientious objector, or someone who is opposed to all war, is another possibility, but it isn't easy. You have to document your beliefs, not just by written word, but also by actions, plus letters of referral. This does not relieve you of serving some time, though it may be in alternative or non-combatant service. Being a C.O. takes time so if you are considering it, you better start preparing your papers now. When a draft starts, you may have only 10 to 15 days to present your evidence.

Another option is being "morally unfit to kill." If you've been convicted of a felony or major crime, you are morally unfit to kill (that doesn't mean you should do such). If you are a known homosexual, or a member of a subversive organization like the Communist Party or the Industrial Workers of the World, you are unfit. Again, they won't take your word for it, you'll need proof. Some injuries can bring deferments, but again, medical proof is necessary.

If you want more information, please contact the Movement Against the Draft (MAD) at 452-5046 or 828-4035. There are folks there who can help you better know your options.

But it's your choice. So whatever you do, stop and think, and remember the risks of linking yourself with the military. It could mean your life.

--MgM



## Legally avoid the draft

\*\*\*\*\*  
LEGALLY AVOID THE DRAFT. Conscientious objectors, homosexuality, hardship case, drugs, medical, etc. Act now--know your rights. Send 35¢ to National Association of Conscientious Objectors, Dept. 62, 2346 Trenton Rd., Levittown PA 19056. Volunteers needed nationwide.  
\*\*\*\*\*



Where have all the flowers gone? Why right into this man's box!! Rainbow Family members pleased local merchants (many of whom needed some pleasing) with a purchase of several thousand carnations. The flowers were passed out and added to the color and festivity of the July 4th celebration.

## This is the Rainbow Nation: Welcome Home!

If you are one of millions of Americans who fell for the rumor that the counter-culture is dead, you obviously haven't attended one of the annual Rainbow Family Gatherings. The Gatherings actually began ten years ago in Colorado, back when the counter-culture was more out front and hadn't melted so much into mainstream society.

Now, every year, during the first week of July, thousands of good old-fashioned hippie types converge on a semi-wilderness area for a week of getting free from the madness of the conventional world.

And free it is!

Frenzied dancing into all hours of the night, nudity, healing arts, massage, herbology, astrology, yoga, tai-chi, chanting, meditating, mudbaths, sweat-lodges, flutes, guitars, drums, bells,

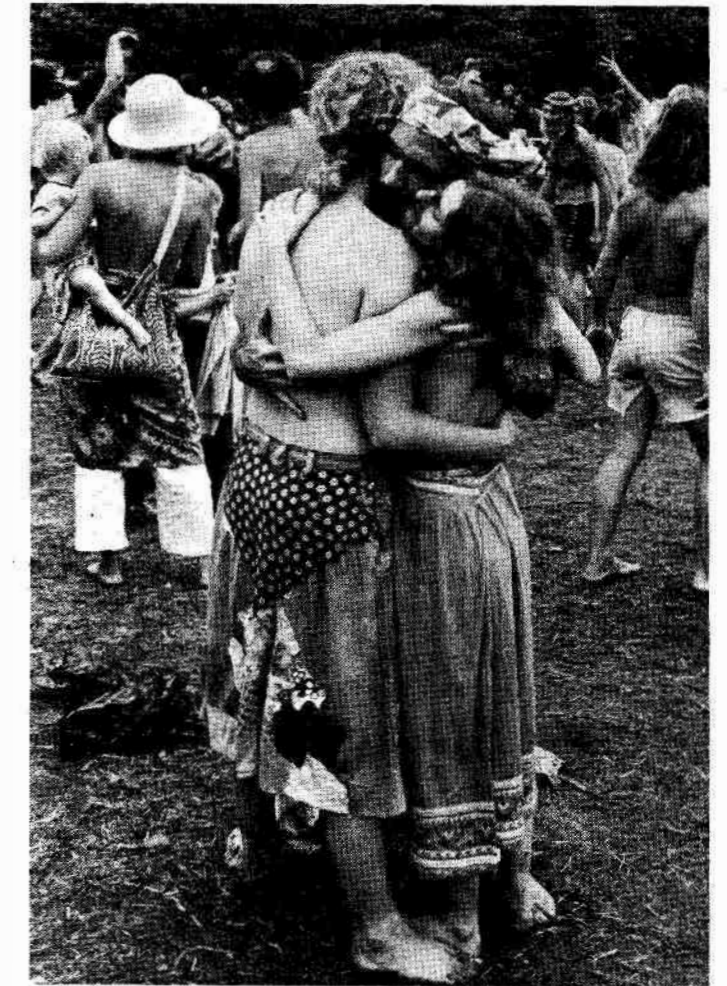


beads, braids, pot, peyote, tents, tarps, tipis, rice, sprouts, beans, Krishna, karma. . . and just about anything else you don't normally see in Bloomington/Normal.

This year the gathering was held in the Monongahela Forest of West Virginia. This was the first time we gathered east of the Mississippi, and strong suggestions have been made that we do it again next year.

Four of us from B/N drove down for the festivities, spent a few days trippin' out, and took a few pictures for everyone in this world. I'd like to add that the Gatherings are free, leaderless/cooperative, and look to a world without wars and with lots of love.

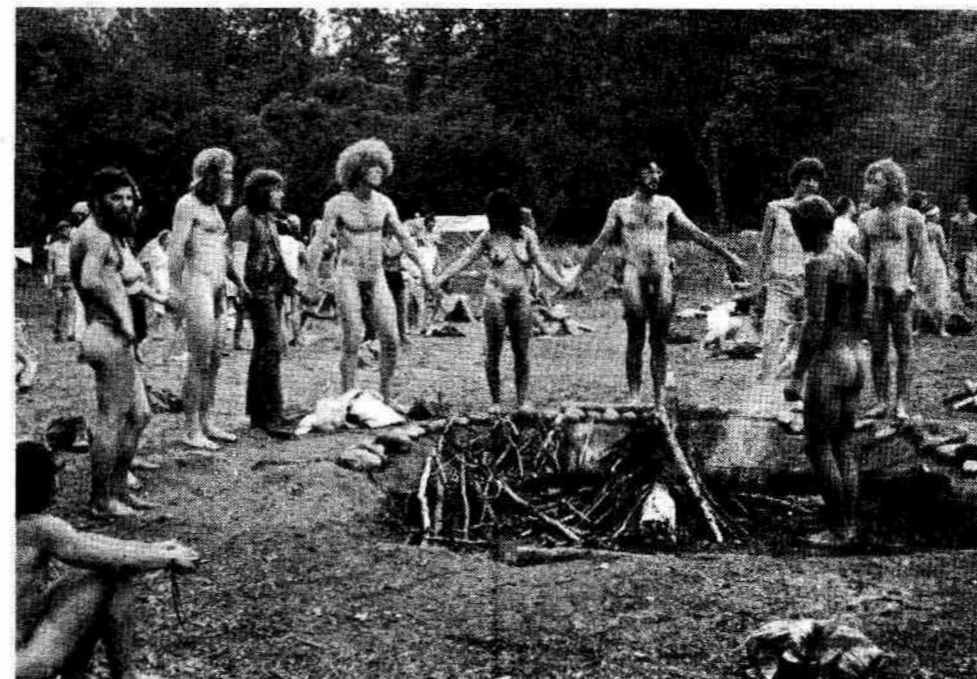
--Rich



A common sight at Gatherings is touching and hugging.



People form circles during meals and at councils; a time for decision making, information sharing, and general expression.



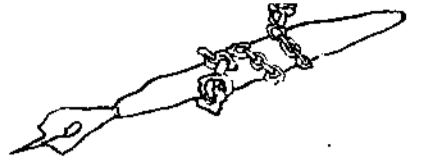
People gather around a fire (notice the size of the fire) to listen to the man with the curly hair (actually its a wild red wig; he's totally bald underneath). He's explaining the virtues of fire-walking to a somewhat wary audience. But after a lengthy pep talk and an in-depth theory about how your feet don't really touch the coals because of some vapor cloud that forms under your feet, etc., folks did walk coolly and calmly across red hot coals! (I watched them.) Try that one at your next barbeque!



Tipis are a commonly used dwelling at Gatherings. Here are two of the more than twenty-five set up in a large tipi circle. Some of the folks live in their tipis year round; others only on special occasions.



# Ten most censored stories



Post Aug 1980 14

All the news that's fit to print? Hardly. Last year, while metropolitan dailies across the country were announcing the birth of quintuplets, the deaths of movie stars, and the best seafood houses in town, stories of greater social significance received a more limited circulation.

These stories were never picked up by the mass media. People who subscribe to Time or Newsweek, instead of Mother Jones or New West, or people who think "that's the way it is" after watching 25 minutes of Walter Cronkite, are not aware that they're being journalistically shortchanged.

Enter Project Censored. For the last four years, sociology professor Carl Jensen of Sonoma State University has been giving his mass communications class a research project: read hundreds of articles in dozens of publications in search of the obscure but significant story; choose the most important 25 stories, and send them to a panel of judges who will select their 10 favorites; compile results, and then announce the "10 Best Censored Stories of 1979."

This year's judges included MIT professor Noam Chomsky, political columnist Mary McCrory, CBS correspondent Mike Wallace, and Nicholas Johnson, chairman of the National Citizens Communication Lobby.

They and seven other judges voted the "Corporate Crime of the Century" as the best censored story of 1979. This Mother Jones article documented the sale of illegal and dangerous products, such as banned pesticides and faulty birth control devices, to Third World markets.

Other winning stories included:

2) The Real Iranian Story: The inhumanity of the Shah's regime and the official U.S. support of that regime via the Shah's ties to Kissinger and Rockefeller.

3). U.S. Guilty of Human Rights Violations; Civil liberties violations in U.S. courts and prisons.

4). Third World Sweatshops: U.S. corporations setting up Third World subsidiaries in order to find cheap labor and escape U.S. health and safety regulations.

5). Occupational Disease: Workplace illnesses attributed to new, untested chemicals.

6). Worst Nuclear Spill: A July 16, 1979 spill of 100 million gallons of radioactive water from a pond near Church Rock, New Mexico.

7). Tragedy in East Timor: Island invaded by U.S.-armed Indonesian

troops, and the resulting slaughter of 50-100,000 Timorese, about ten per cent of the population.

8). PBS, The Oil Network: The Public Broadcasting Service, once touted as a truly educational, non-commercial TV resource, as the hand-maiden of major oil companies that serve as both its key underwriters and its censors.

9) The Most Powerful Secret Lobby: The influence of the Business Roundtable, made up of the chief executives of nearly 200 of the country's richest corporations, on tax reform, anti-trust legislation, etc.

10). The 65 Billion Dollar Ghost Bank: The Federal Financing Bank's loans to government agencies for projects Congress thought too costly.

Potential stories for the 1980 list, along with their sources, should be sent to Carl Jensen, Project Censored, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park CA 94928. •

--Michael Kepp, from the Berkeley Barb

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Court rules for women

In the first court decision of its kind, the Minnesota Supreme Court last week ruled that an employer must actively protect women on the job from sexual harassment by male employees.

The ruling is based on a sex discrimination charge filed in 1975 by Willie Ruth Hawkins against the Continental Can Company.

Hawkins had charged that sexual abuse, both physical and verbal, from male employees in the manufacturing plant made her job intolerable and that her complaints to plant managers were ignored.

The judges in the case ruled unanimously that, not only are employers liable for ensuring that women workers are safe from harassment from supervisors; they also are responsible for protecting women from harassment by co-workers. •

--ZNS



Granite State/cpf

### Wastes threaten 600,000

More than 100 waste disposal sites around the country may pose serious health and safety hazards to some 600,000 people who live in their vicinity.

That's according to Environmental Protection Agency data released last week by Senator Edward Kennedy, in a statement prepared for a Senate hearing on toxic waste disposal.

The EPA, according to the data, monitored 645 out of 30,000 waste disposal sites it previously identified as presenting potential public health problems. Of the monitored sites, 108 were classified as posing a "high" potential for serious health and safety problems, possibly affecting an estimated population of 629,000.

Kennedy's aides say that the sites of "high" potential hazard present health and safety threats as serious as those at Love Canal, the site at Niagara, New York, where various health problems are suspected of having been caused by exposure to a variety of toxic chemicals dumped by the Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corporation. •

--ZNS

### No nukes prison support

The National No-Nukes Prison Support Collective is organizing and needs your help.

The collective wants to build a nation-wide network of correspondents so they can quickly generate support for jailed anti-nuke activists. They also want to compile information on the number of activists jailed and the time they served (to use in publicity).

NNNPS also wants to build a link between the anti-nuclear movement and the prison movement with the goal of spreading information about the deadly waste of the prison system.

Send or get more news to/from Allyson Hunter, Box 1221, Eugene, Oregon, 97440, or Jack Joppa, 65 Lincoln Place, Garfield, New Jersey, 07026. •

Welcome in Summer

# GUITAR WORLD

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309-452-6412

# Dead President contest



Here's my chance to get a message out and raise some money for an alternative newspaper. I'm going to put up the bucks for the Post's DEAD PRESIDENT CONTEST.

That's right, folks. The person elected in 1980 will die in office. If you guess when the next President dies, you win!

Ever since 1840, the man elected every 20 years has died in office. Some say Tecumseh's brother, a Medicine Man, put some sort of hex on the office. (Tecumseh was militarily defeated by William Henry Harrison's vice-president, John Tyler.) I believe it. From what I know, Medicine Men and those Indian people in general were in tune with things.

Columbus saw that when he first encountered them. Indio, his name for them, translates in Italian as "in with God." That stuff about how he thought he was in India was a story that got mixed up later when Columbus was trying to explain to the Queen, his sponsor, how he got to be half a world off-course. (Jeez, you can't get more off-course than that!) And the people from India were known as Hindus--their land was Hindustan.

Anyway, check out what's happened every 20 years to Amerika's presidents:

1840 Harrison--died of gluttony. He attended the grand-opening of the Washington Monument; it was real hot, he drank three gallons of lemonade to cool off, ate a bunch of sweet cakes, pigged out, died early that same evening.

1860 Lincoln--assassinated.

1880 Garfield--assassinated

1900 McKinley--assassinated

1920 Harding--pneumonia; disappointed with the job; couldn't take the pressure.

1940 F.D.R.--massive coronary

1960 J.F.K.--assassinated

1980 ??? --tell all your friends not to run.

The rules for the Dead President Contest are as follows:

1. All entries must be postmarked 3 days in advance of the date guessed.

2. The closest date wins.

3. In case of tie, the closest description of cause of death breaks the tie. Come on, now, use your imagination: Will Jimmy die water skiing, or will Billy run over him in a drunken stupor? Will a redwood fall on Reagan? Will Anderson die of shock when he gets elected?

4. CIA or FBI spooks are ineligible.

5. Entries will cost 50¢ @ entry, 3 for \$1.00. Special: \$200.00 gets you a guess for every day of the term. All proceeds go to the Post Amerikan.

Prizes:

1st--One-year subscription to either Mother Jones or the Post-Amerikan.

2nd--One-year subscription to the Post.

One entry per postcard, please. You may enter as often as you want.

If the Post folds, all prizes are off, unless the winner wants my old copies of Mother Jones.

--G. I. Gerry,  
with some help  
from Russell  
Means

## ELECTION '80

Post-Amerikan, Aug. '80, page 15

# Found chimp says he was chump

BLOOMINGTON ILLINOIS JULY 17, 1980... The film world was shocked today to learn that Bonzo the Chimp, long co-star with Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan, has been living out his final years in semi-alcoholic seclusion at the Miller Park Zoo in this quiet Central Illinois community.

The chimp star was popular in the 1940s and 50s when he appeared with Reagan in films like "Bonzo Goes to College" and other B-comedies typical of the candidate's film career.

Bonzo was secretly transported to the zoo in the mid-60s when his alcoholism was proving an embarrassment to the studio and to Reagan's budding political career.

Bloomington, long a Republican stronghold, kept Bonzo's secret. It was leaked, however, when a retiring custodian at the tiny zoo died, leaving an estate in the hundreds of thousands.

The money was accumulated over the years, as the custodian smuggled gin bottles to the aging chimp in return for his monthly studio pension check.

Local zoo officials tried to secret the monk away, not wanting to embarrass the candidate during the election.

Bonzo, however, refused to leave his private cage, and although talking to few, did answer some questions.

As the Republican Convention played on the TV in the background, Bonzo talked about his hard days at the studio.



"Drugs," he said, "it was always drugs. You've heard the stories about the child stars of the period, like Mickey Rooney or Judy Garland. Well, they never had to eat the horse pills they shoved down our throats."

Much of his bitterness was directed at the candidate. "Ronnie never could handle my co-star status," lamented the chimp. "He was second man in most films, and playing side-by-side with an ape was too much for his ego."

"Other animals had it good. Trigger, Rin-Tin-Tin, Lassie, they never had to put up with the things I did. Reagan did all he could to keep me down, upstaged me constantly."

The aging chimp choked and coughed softly as he spoke, the result of a 40-year, 3-pack-a-day cigarette habit. His fingers and toes were neatly manicured.

He had no complaints about the zoo. "It's quiet here, a few little brats occasionally screaming at you like little monkeys, but it's OK. I've got my friends here, and they've taken care of me."

Zoo officials admitted that the simian star spent 3 months in a detoxification center after the discovery of the custodian's gin trail.

In a related development, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals condemned Reagan for his bad treatment of his former co-star for "trying to tuck poor Bonzo away."

The SPCA called the candidate a "Speciest--one who thinks he's better than animals," a charge which could plague the candidate's campaign, especially with animal lovers.

Bonzo admitted his film possibilities were limited, complaining that "if they would have let me stick around till all this space stuff hit, I'd be a hot property today. I could play half those little aliens and machines; it's a wonder what a little makeup will do."

"But those days are over," sighed the primate. "I had my chance, but I hooked it to the wrong star. I was one chump chimp."

--MgM

The roaches have won now. But before their total take-over, it wasn't half-bad.

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# Monroe street

In fact, there was a period of almost four years before the roaches even appeared at 616 W. Monroe, a fact which startled many people.

It was the cats. They tracked down the slimy little conquerors, easy prey for their claws.

"Monroe Street House" is a memory now, that clapboard hulk at 616 W. Monroe that housed the Post-Amerikan for the past five years. The slow but constant deterioration and the clunky, half-on, half-off again oil-eating furnace took their toll.

But for a while, it was a fine place. The Post nestled in the basement, in an efficient if tight little office with a ready band of radicals upstairs.

A number of names and titles marked the transition. In the beginning it was the Monroe Street Living Cooperative, which never lived up to its full formality, and the end saw the Krej Family (spell that backwards).

Whatever it was, it was never boring.

## The early days

The "Living Cooperative" began in the early winter of 1974, when a previous Center Street co-op was forced to move, their beautiful home now private property, no longer for rent.

As always with a new house, there were high ambitions--like cleanliness.

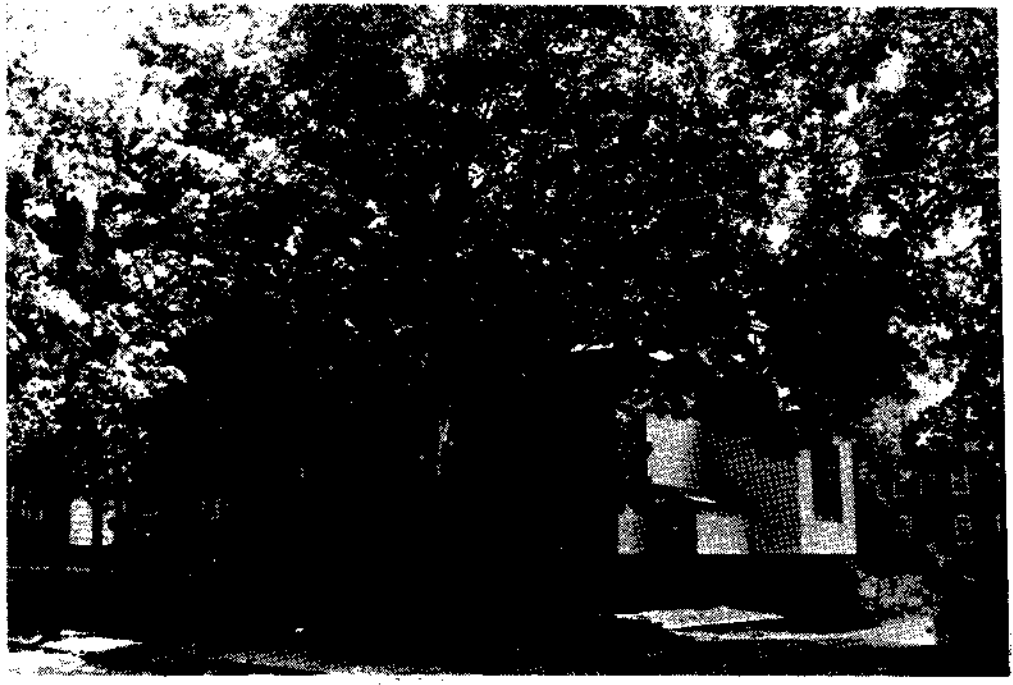
There were regular schedules for house cleaning, divided chores, a joint checking account for food and utility bills, and parties almost every weekend.

The parties were consistent. The cleaning necessarily wasn't.

But it was good. There was a purposeful spirit, a lot of evening meals together, discussions of politics and alternatives.

A printing press, sometimes operating, occupied the living room, and numerous demonstrations, leaflets, events, and rap groups blossomed in the open space.

Perhaps those are the outstanding memories. Things that worked, things that didn't. But they were all exciting, at the time.



Like the Brown Rice Food Buying Club. There are still plenty of blank checks around, though no groceries.

And other more successful endeavors. Like the Utopian Feminists, who kept an active women's presence alive.

Or the March Against MEG, a 1976 event that drew a lot of public attention to the Drug Agency, and actually marked some radical cooperation with the Bloomington Police for a peaceful demo. It was soon followed by the action against ex-CIA director William Colby at the ISU Union, which featured brochures that looked like official ISU programs and inside exposed Colby's CIA crimes of genocide.

Some successes were plotted there, like Small Changes Bookstore. Other also rans, like Student Stores, People's Food, and the Monday Morning Sun, either saw their dying or their beginning and dying days with a heavy Monroe Street hand.

But if there was anything that made the house fun, it was the folks. There were many, but outstanding were the two veterans of the house, Chuck and Ann, who both stayed till the winter of '78.

Chuck kept the printing press in disrepair, drew extravagant schemes of new communities on his drafting

table, and generally startled folks with his outlandish humor and his hard-core commitment to not preaching, but living, anarchy.

Ann was really the spirit of the house, with a strong feminism that helped shape a conscious direction to things. There was a lot of deliberation and discussion about lifestyle and politics, that helped keep us in a spirit of actually going somewhere.

And one can't mention people without mentioning animals. Claudia, a gentle German Shepherd, might have frightened strangers, but everyone knew this was a loving animal. And a train of cats was always present.

Pete, a human, came a little later, a serious business major with one semester to go, but he was questioning the world of greed and high finance. One night, while studying for a big real estate exam, he was cursing the uselessness of it all. Chuck just grinned and said blow it off, which Pete did, forsaking business for a life of anarchy, blues guitar, and a carpenter's hammer and saw.

Anarchy was the theme. Not in the usual connotations of craziness, though it was often that way, but in the truer definition, of a deliberate lifestyle of personal responsibility and decision-making, with the notion of trying to live an alternative.

True, it was often madness, fun, frustration. But there was a lot of love and caring there too, a feeling of not being alone, but actually being a part of others around you, and maybe something larger too.

## The later days

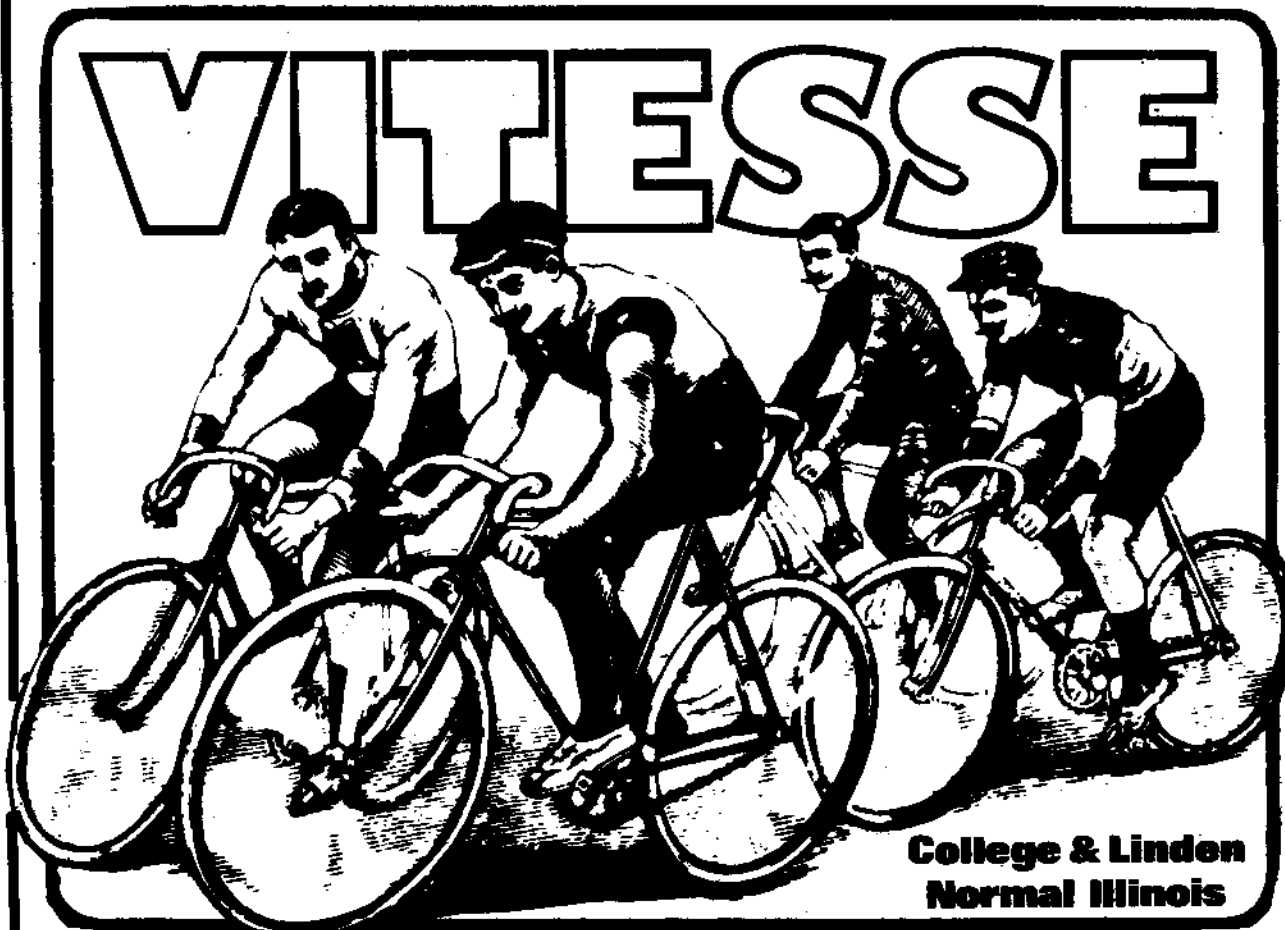
Others came, as Chuck and Ann left. Rich, Susan, Julie, Diana--who somehow became the "Krej Family." About the time Chuck and Ann were leaving, the roaches came too, and once they came, they came to stay, in terrifying numbers.

For a while, the Krejes carried on the traditions of the "111 Club," a Normal student apartment that some of them had once inhabited, which was renowned for all-night, sometimes everynight, keggers.

The parties came and went, as did members of the "family." Rich left town twice "for good," and twice returned, to everyone's delight.

There were new adventures, like Pete's short job at the Clinton nuke, which he finally abandoned with a painted face and a rap to his fellow workers.

Diana's art work added a nice touch. Mexican quick food became the dietary steady, with more spontaneous than prepared meals and a constant tug-of-war with the creepy crawlies.





# farewell

Post Aug 1980 17

## National Black Political convention

The National Black Political Assembly (NBPA), a socio-political and economic organization, will be convening its fourth convention in its 8-year history in New Orleans, August 21-24.

This year's convention theme is "Developing a Progressive Black Agenda for the 1980s from the Grass Roots."

The Louisiana assembly, one of 18 state chapter-affiliates of NBPA, is serving as the host for the 1980 convention.

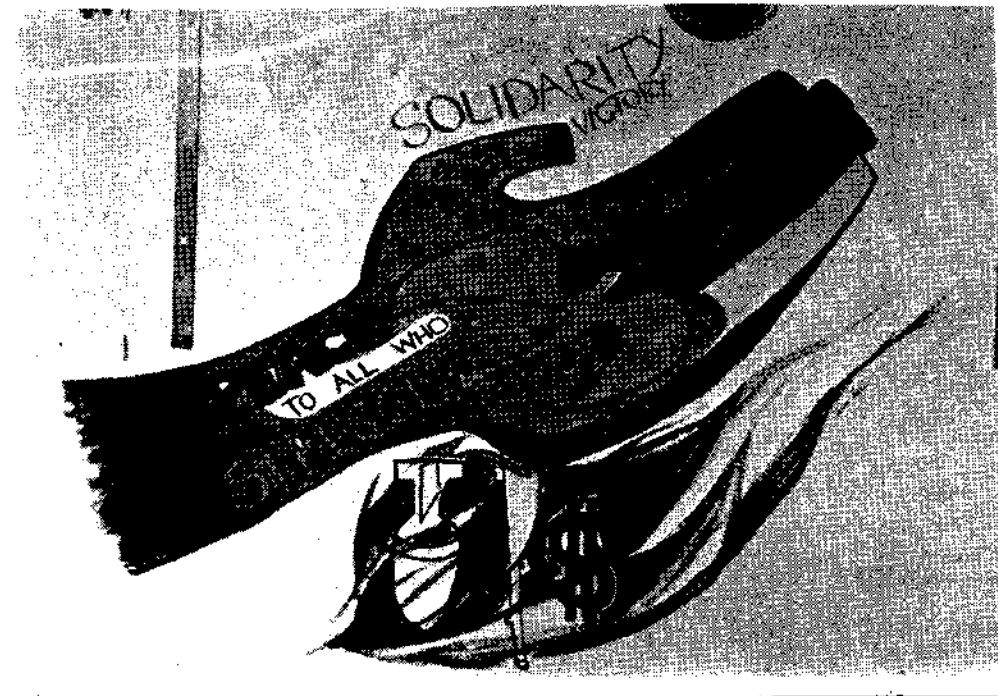
According to Mashariki Kurudisha, co-chairperson of NBPA, 2000 persons, including delegates, alternates, and observers, will be in attendance.

"Highlighting our convention this year," Kurudisha said, "will be a series of interesting and exciting workshops focusing on a wide range of topics and issues."

Workshop topics will include housing, education, unemployment, alternative technology, Black culture, the Black Church, Black youth and students, Black women, the Black elderly, and Black Labor.

"The results of the workshops will be used as our nucleus to achieve additional convention goals," Kurudisha said. "Key among such goals will be our interest to adopt a statement of principles for the development of an Independent Black Political Party."

--NBPA



Meanwhile the Post was there in the basement, marking its ups and downs, triumphs and scoops, and steadily producing that monthly paper, with a leaflet or special job along the way.

And now it's time to move.

Maybe some family, low on cash but needing space, will pick the house up. It'll be a major re-hab job, any way you look at it.

There's a nice hole in the bathroom floor, for talking down to the kitchen. The upstairs' wiring is all by extension cord.

And then there's that furnace, always an oil-eater, shutting off on the coldest winter nights, leaving the house barely above 50°, and consuming everyone's pocketbooks in the process.

It's time to move on.

But it's been good. We tried to live an alternative there, be community, not isolated individuals. A presence was maintained, a political deliberateness and creative spirit in the midst of a daily life that could have been fatal for any of us alone.

As an out-of-town friend, visiting from San Francisco, once remarked: "This town is like story-book America, with white frame houses and picket fences. And then here's all this alive, crazy underground stuff, right in the middle of it. It's beautiful."

And so it was--sometimes. At other times, like in the cold of winter, roach season, or hot summer's flea-laden season, during arguments or unpaid bills, it was trying.

But we struggled through.

I lasted almost five and a half years there, hopefully bringing my little contribution to things. It was a growing experience for me, learning to live in community, learning to have tolerance and respect for others, caring and loving people, being with them because we wanted to be and share together.

There's only one piece of Monroe Street I wish I could save. It's the north basement wall in the Post's old office. It used to be my bedroom.

On it is a mural, painted in the summer of '74, my first days there, by a dear friend, Verna Avila, as a gift and a "return for baby-sitting services." She was killed in a San Francisco auto accident in September 1978, so that painting is doubly-dear and meaningful now.

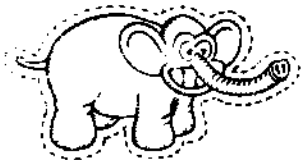
The mural shows a hand, with fingers of four colors, representing the four human races. The hand also holds a dove, and covers the flames of war, greed, and oppression.

The inscription reads, "Peace to all who struggle."

That's my hope and best memory. That even as we struggle for justice and change, we can have a sense of peace, a sense of belonging and friendship.

And sometimes, that's what Monroe Street was.

--MGM



### Superweed: Army's secret weapon

In the late 1960's, the United States Army developed an exceptionally potent form of synthetic marijuana for use as a chemical warfare agent, according to a story by Martin A. Lee in the May High Times. The feat was the culmination of nearly two decades of intensive investigation carried out in secret by the Army Chemical Corps. Despite years of covert testing, there is no evidence as yet suggesting that the army's reefer madness ever got past the experimental stage.

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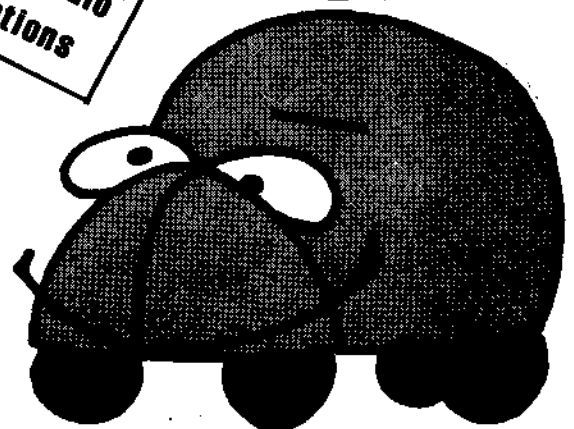
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# LETTERS...LETTERS...LETTERS

Post Aug 1980 18

## Notes from Inside

### Know a lawyer?

Post:

On August 6, 1979, police informer Randall C. May was allegedly beaten, tied up, robbed, threatened, kidnapped, and shot. As a result, Billy Coffelt got 41 indictments, 13 of which are for murder. How can you kill one person 13 times? Besides, Billy Coffelt passed a polygraph test and asked for a change of venue because Randall May was an informer for the city of Pontiac, and no way Billy Coffelt can get a fair trial in Livingston County. His request was denied. His trial is set for August 18, 1980.

Now what we would like to know is anyone who knows a good lawyer who can help a poor hillbilly from Tennessee with no money!

David "Alabama" Gresham and Billy Coffelt  
c/o Livingston County Jail  
Pontiac IL 61764

Post-note: We get lots of letters from prisoners in McLean County Jail, other county jails, and the state penitentiaries--so many letters, in fact, that we don't have room for them all. So instead of just choosing a few to print, we decided to publish part of each one, so our readers can hear at least something from all.

### Pontiac brothers thank Post

Brothers and Sisters:

We, the brothers of the forklift five, would sincerely like to extend our most humble appreciation to the Post Amerikan and all supporters for their concern about our situation and struggle. The appearance in the courtroom all along is so needed and appreciated that we can't even begin to express our feeling when we see our Post-Amerikan brothers and sisters sitting there in the courtroom. We are aware of the things Post-Amerikan people and other supporters did in this county and community in our behalf.  
In struggle,

Bruce Jefferson, Arthur Jones, Allen Mack, Michael Mitchell

### County jail blues

Post-Amerikan:

I'm in this place called the almighty McLean County Jail on my first two criminal offenses, and I'm fixin to get railroaded off for them! The courts are just sentencing us first offenders as if we were fifth and sixth offenders, plus they are handing down long terms too. When what we first offenders should be getting is our break in life, probation and such. The public defenders here are a joke. Whenever a state's attorney breathes hard, they back down. Leaving you helpless and at the mercy of the state's attorney. I'm not the only one; don't get me wrong. I think I'm talking for about half of the jail here! Plus it gets to be a drag eating cold food three times a day around here.

Signed,  
Tony (The Hippy) Lancaster

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WE PAY CASH FOR  
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# more letters... more letters

## Needs help with medical suit

Dear Post-Amerikan:

A woman has a miscarriage because of lack of proper medical treatment. A man loses partial hearing in one ear because of lack of medical treatment. A man with hepatitis is allowed to live among other men because of improper medical screening. Individuals on medication are given the wrong medicine or not given prescribed medication because of lack of qualified medical personnel.

All of the above occurred at McLean County Jail.

I know of what I write because I am a prisoner at the jail and am also the individual who has suffered the hearing loss. Recent federal court decisions have ruled that county jails must have certain minimum medical care. I have recently filed a civil action in attempt to bring McLean County Jail up to required medical standards. Anyone

wishing a copy of this action can obtain one from the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois, Springfield, IL 62705. The case number is 80-3205.

As I am preparing and filing all phases of this action myself as an indigent prisoner, I need some support, both moral and financial. If any individuals would like to see negligence at the jail put to a halt, I would accept your assistance. I am in the need of person/persons to do some legal research, to write letters, and, most of all, to give financial help, no matter how little. Money will be used to purchase paper, envelopes, past cases of Federal decisions, make copies of legal papers, to pay to have legal papers notarized, and to pay postage.

Michael Asbell  
104 W. Front St., Room 200  
Bloomington, IL 61701

## KKK still active

Dear Post-Amerikan,

I am writing to you to expose the recent activities of the KKK here in the Pontiac Correctional Center and the total insanity of this prison administration.

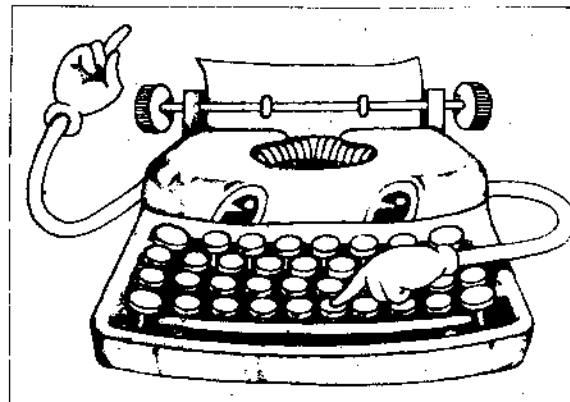
In the last couple of days there have been several prisoners that were brutally, maliciously, and viciously beaten by KKK prison guards with the sanction of the assistant warden, James Thieret, simply because they are black and defending themselves from these attacks. We have no remedies and cannot even defend ourselves. The KKK has all the weapons: Sticks, clubs, black leather gloves, kicking and beating us whenever they want. My own life has been threatened by several prison guards, because I am working as a jailhouse lawyer and am attempting to expose the illegal activities of the KKK here in Pontiac.

It is a known fact that KKK hates blacks, homosexuals, black sympathizers, and jailhouse lawyers in solidarity for human rights. The handcuffs were taken off one prisoner and he was beaten with clubs, fists, and kicked for about 10 minutes. He was denied any medical attention. Later, not much, these same KKK officers almost killed another resident by splitting his head wide open in a vicious attack. They had to carry this resident downstairs and then left him lay downstairs bleeding for a long time before they finally carried him about 3/4 mile on a stretcher, and then they walked very slowly to the hospital hoping that he would die. They are still waiting to attack other prisoners and have a list made up as to who they are going to attack and in what order they are going to attack.

If we do not have our brothers and sisters come to our immediate assistance it is going to give the KKK the official go-ahead to kill us any time and know that nothing is going to be done to them. You can write: James W. Fairman, Warden, or James Thieret, Assistant Warden of Security, P.O. Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764.

These attacks are covered up by charging the victim/prisoner with one or several rule violations in order to justify the use of force, which is totally excessive, and the prisoner is found guilty on the officers' words.

In Solidarity,  
Paul W. Tedder, C-73372  
Pontiac



## No remedies in county jail

Dear Post,

I am writing to you from McLean County Jail. When you ask officers for help because of trouble in the cell block, they do nothing to remedy it, except lock you and the troublemaker in your cell and let it end there. If you try to correct the problem as you would on the streets, the same thing occurs. If the person in charge has something against you, you get the raw end of the deal. Most people would try to go get the other person; however, I am now going to court for aggravated battery. Another charge won't help. So now I am locked up in my cell for trying not to fight. No matter which way I go, I lose.

Sincerely,  
Tom Redfern

## Concentration camps

Post-Amerikan:

I am an avid reader of your paper. I am incarcerated in Stateville Concentration Camp. Several of the brothers down here and Lee Clark and myself wish to become more involved with the struggle. Lee Clark was acquitted of the charges and frame-up of the State's attempt to make him the scapegoat of Pontiac's 1978 riot. We have definite plans and ideas specifically related to informing the public and especially our communities of concentration camps such as these all over the United States.

Sincerely,  
We are one in struggle,  
John E. Murray, Jr.

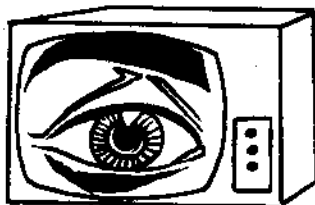
# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Local artists wanted

A special invitation is extended to local artists and fine crafts-people to be among the exhibitors in the Arts and Crafts Adventure, to be presented by American Society of Artists at Peru Mall, U.S. 51& Wenael Road, Peru on Saturday and Sunday, September 6&7.

Only original work will be accepted for exhibition at this juried show. Art in Action will be included in the show with exhibitors encouraged to demonstrate/work in their media during the show.

Additional information and applications may be obtained from American Society of Artists at 1297 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago Ill. 69654--telephone 312/751-2500.



## First words fair

Pikestaff Press will present an afternoon of poetry and fiction readings and book sales in Franklin Park, Bloomington, on August 3, 1980, noon to 4:30. Local writers are scheduled to read their works, and there will be open mike time too. The program is free and supported by the Illinois Arts Council and the McLean County Arts Council.

# Why the rebellion?

The following article was written August 13, 1978 by one of the Pontiac Brothers who was indicted March 5, 1979 for 15 counts of murder, 2 counts of attempted murder, and one count of mob action.

Since the rebellion at Pontiac Prison July 22, 1978, so much has been and will be said and written about it. The reason, cause, and blame has been put on the weather, overcrowding, lack of security, and the gangs. It has been said that the killings of the three guards and the assault of three others was senseless, done by men who need no reason to kill or rebel. We all know that men do not kill or rebel just for the sake of killing or rebelling; something had to be wrong and it had to be wrong for a long time for so many men to just kill or rebel knowing that in doing so, they will also be killed or spend the rest of their lives in prison.

I have been an inmate of Pontiac Prison for five years. Since 1973, I have seen four different administrations, the population change over, and the overcrowding become unbearable. Back in 1975 when the inmate population first began to rise, new officers were hired, the attitudes, knowledge, and understanding of their jobs was not a must. And they brought with them a farmer's attitude, an overseer's understanding, and the knowledge of a moron concerning young black men from an urban area, opposed to their upbringing in a small rural town.

The senior officers recognized that there would soon be trouble and requested to be transferred out of the cell houses, and many sought employment elsewhere. Then came the doubling-up (two men to a cell), that was protested peacefully, verbally, and in the courts, to no avail. Since then there have been problems with the food, medical care, and basic needs that one needs to live every day, such as soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. Winter coats were not issued until February and heat was not put on until late February regardless of the cold weather.

At one time men could work, go to school, or participate in some kind of training program, but this year at least 1400 men are without jobs, schooling, and other assignments. These men must stay in their cells up to 21 hours a day and those three hours that are spent out of the cell each day except for weekends (22 hours in the cells) are spent for feeding, yard period, showers, and any other movement allowed.

The overcrowding brought on cut-backs, and soon the food was not fit to eat at all, the heaters were not being fixed, no clothes were issued for

months, and there was no recreation equipment. The living conditions for the inmates and the working conditions for the guards were deplorable and filthy.

Soon resentment and disrespect were a common sight between guards and inmates. Disciplinary reports were written on inmates for little or no reason, and inmates were placed in segregation and good time was lost because of it. The parole board was not paroling the men and giving them the excuse, "that a parole at this time would promote disrespect for the law." In spite of the fact that some men had gone without any disciplinary reports for years, had jobs, and had done just about all their time, the parole board still refused to allow them a chance at parole. Some men after appearing in front of the parole board felt that they would never have the chance of being free. Others just refused to appear at the parole board hearings because they felt the parole board would not give them a parole anyway.



Over the years a bomb was in the making at Pontiac, and Gov. Thompson supplied the finishing touches and the fuse with his Class X law. Making men do longer sentences, the men knew that there was little hope of ever getting a parole, and then with the Class X law, that little hope was taken away. Class X put the power in the guard's hand on who would earn good time and how much good time he will earn. Disciplinary reports were being written for anything and everything you say or do to the guards' liking or disliking. Every infraction is a loss of good time, not less than 10 days and no more than one year.

In the last five years, numerous laws have been enacted to keep one in prison longer; the electric chair is now dusted off and awaiting its first victim with great anticipation. The lock 'em up, throw away the key concept is here once again, and you ask, "Is there going to be another rebellion?" Indictments are a sure thing regardless of guilt. Participation in the rebellion will not be the issue. Any one of us can and will be used to take the blame because of our attitudes against the way men are treated, our affiliation with certain organizations and groups, and that we were in the building that the officers were killed in, plus the fact that we are Black men and white officers were killed. Inmates will give false information against others for many reasons, but the main reasons will be from fear and intimidation, and many will give false information for promises of parole or time cut from their sentences. In all my years being in prison, I have never seen an inmate give truthful information because he is a law abiding person.



Gov. Thompson thinks that building more prisons, keeping men confined longer, and the electric chair will solve the problems of crime in the state of Illinois. The money that he is using to build more prisons could go into the communities that the men come from for better housing, schools, social and welfare programs. Something must be done before a man gets to the point that he must rob to feed and clothe his family; that problem should be addressed. The State of Illinois has enough prisons; the way they are run and the way men are treated is the problem. Build a new prison and paint it with bright colors, but still if you don't have any meaningful education and vocation programs and still treat the men as dogs, then still you will have created another situation that forces men to rebel. "Men without hope have no fears, not even death."

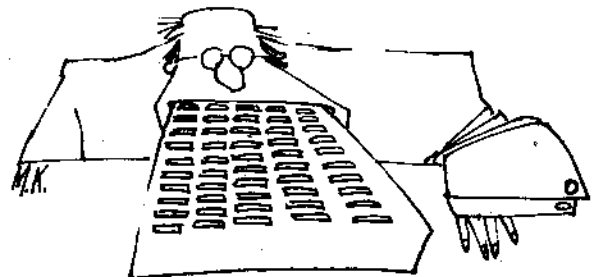
--Pontiac Prisoners Support Coalition

## Facism Invades Computer Biz

A top executive of Univac Corp. predicts that as computers become more commonplace in American offices, it will be necessary for companies to adopt "Nazi-like systems" to control their employees.

This is the word from Dr. Carl Hammer, Univac's Director of Computer Sciences. Hammer says, "We may have to revise our thoughts about who shall and who shall not be allowed to work in that environment."

Hammer told a conference held at the government's National Bureau of Standards headquarters that the number of computers used by business is expected to rise sharply from about 400,000 today to several million within the next 20 years. Computer security, he predicts, will become a number one priority.



Hammer says our society currently considers it a "right" to have a job. But in the future, he says, jobs will be considered not a right, but a privilege." Says the Univac executive, "If you want to work (in computer environments) you will have to agree to work under surveillance." He says that in the future potential employees will have to work under a Nazi-like "assumption of guilt" in order to obtain a job.

--ZNS



# Gays proclaim pride



More than 5,000 proud and enthusiastic lesbians and gay men paraded through the heart of Chicago's New Town on Sunday, June 29, while over 10,000 spectators cheered and applauded.

The march climaxed a week of activities in Chicago's celebration of Gay and Lesbian Pride Week. The parade--the 11th annual--and the music festival following were proclaimed "the biggest and best yet" by members of the Pride Week Committee.

While the number of floats was down from previous years, more organizations and casual marchers joined the parade. A festive mood prevailed, and a large percentage of spectators followed along to the rally in Lincoln Park.

The parade snarled traffic on Broadway and Clark streets for more than three hours. At first marchers were restricted to the west side of the street, but the large number of spectators crowded the streets so much that police were forced to close off all traffic while the parade passed by.

## Diverse participants

The parade drew out-of-town contingents from Rockford and Champaign; from South Bend, Ind.; Madison, Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee, Wis.; Kalamazoo, Mich.; and from as far away as Cincinnati, Ohio.



For members of the Milwaukee group, it was their second parade in two days. On June 28, the first gay pride march in Milwaukee drew 500 persons, who paraded down that city's State Street to police headquarters where a rally was held to call for an end to police harassment.

The Chicago parade was led by the Gay Pride Band, with the Windy City Chorus bringing up the rear.

One of the most entertaining contingents was Stitch 'N' Bitch, a men's sewing group whose float, "The Little Engine That Could," won a special prize in the parade competition.

The Latinas Aquatic Ballet of Chicago was easily the most colorful--and campiest--group in the parade. All the members (male) were spectacularly dressed in bright red costumes that featured ruffles, parasols, and feather boas.

The rally afterwards was a music festival. The planning committee decided not to have speakers at the rally, a decision which didn't do much to generate spirit and interest in the large crowd who had gathered in the park. Although the musical performers, such as Ginni Clemmens, were well received, their attempts to elicit audience participation were only mildly successful. A lot of people seemed to drift away before the program was completed.



## Rally controversy

This "no-speaker" approach was also taken in gay pride rallies in other cities around the country. In at least two instances, sharp controversies arose over this type of program. In New York, there was one march but two rallies--one with speakers, one without. A grassroots effort managed to get speakers back on the program in San Francisco, but a serious split developed over who should be allowed to speak. The division dampened an otherwise spectacular display of lesbian and

gay presence: a crowd in excess of 100,000 persons turned out in San Francisco.

Around the country there were more gay pride marches than ever before, although attendance was not always large. Milwaukee, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland held their first parades. A brave 150 lesbians and gay men turned out for the one in Pittsburgh. The march in Kansas City had encountered opposition from fundamentalist Christians who tried to block the parade permit and then



threatened to stage a counter-demonstration. But gay pride won out in K.C. and several hundred participants showed up.

An estimated 8,000 people turned out for the parade in Boston, with at least twice that many as spectators and rally attenders. New York had upwards of 20,000 marchers in spite of the rally controversy.

The Los Angeles celebration was reported to have involved a crowd of 80,000, with at least 10,000 in the parade. In Sacramento, about 750 marchers formed a 16-block parade, which won the cheers of many on the sidewalks of the California capital.

Gay pride celebrations and parades were also held in San Diego, Santa Cruz, Portland, Seattle, Detroit, Minneapolis, Columbus, Houston, Miami, Atlanta, and Denver.

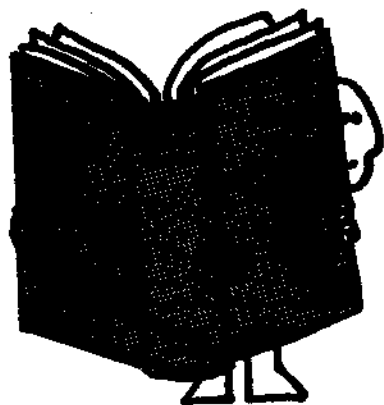
--Ferdydurke

Sources: Gay Chicago, Gay Life, Gay Community News, The Advocate.

## THE LAST PAGE

416 N. Main, Blm.

829-7941



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* EVERYONE'S BITCHING ABOUT INFLATION! BUT \*  
\* WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT? WELL, THE \*  
\* LAST PAGE IS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT \*  
\* IT! IF YOU LIKE TO READ, WE HAVE OVER \*  
\* 10,000 CURRENT TO OUT-OF-PRINT PAPERBACKS \*  
\* FROM ROMANCE TO SCIENCE FICTION AND ALMOST \*  
\* EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN, SELLING FOR 60% OF \*  
\* THEIR ORIGINAL COVER PRICE. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

--THANK YOU

\*\*\*\*\*



# John Gacy: Straight Amerikan

Straight Amerika produced John Wayne Gacy. He lived by its rules and reaped the benefits of living the "straight" life.

Gacy attended mass faithfully. He was a devoted son, a "family man" who led prayer breakfasts for the local Jaycees. He was director of Chicago's Polish Constitution Day Parade and had his picture taken with Rosalynn Carter.

He gave big parties, spent a lot of money, and worked long hours.

Gacy was also a successful capitalist. He knew how to bully his way around in the tough world of Amerikan business. He didn't care that he underpaid the young men he employed in his construction company; he knew that the Chicago suburbs produced a ready supply of cheap labor.

If Gacy was shallow and untruthful, if he bragged and tried to throw his weight around, so what? So did Richard Nixon.

And John Gacy was no faggot. Oh, no. When someone told a fag joke, Gacy laughed as long and as loud as the next guy. If one of his work crew rejected a sexual advance, Gacy laughed--it was just a joke, playing the fag to see what you'd do. He hung out at the Good Luck Lounge, where the young men "drank bottles of Old Style and Bud or shot pool with the sleeves of their T-shirts rolled up to show off the tattoos on their forearms."

The women Gacy brought with him to the bar from time to time were "vivacious and pretty."

Straight Amerika thought John Gacy was one of them. And then they found out that at night he murdered their sons. That he had sex with young men and stuffed bikini underwear in their throats and throttled them. And they were shocked.

When the police started dragging the bodies out from under Gacy's suburban West Summerdale home, straight Americans clucked their tongues and shook their heads--and, later, took a few bricks from Gacy's demolished house as souvenirs for their kids.

"They could not understand how one man who had lived among them as a popular and trusted neighbor and friend could have committed crimes so atrocious as those of which he was accused."

## Of course not

Of course not. Understanding John Gacy would mean facing the hypocrisies and repressions that are required for being "normal" and "acceptable" in this society.

Clifford Linedecker's book about Gacy--The Man Who Killed Boys: A True Story of Mass Murder in a Chicago Suburb--is also a product of straight Amerika. It's a hastily written account of Gacy's life and crimes, put together in time to hit the stores during Gacy's trial. It's a slapdash,

## Book review

# Books that sleep with

Books for and about gay men and lesbians continue to pour off the presses. Apparently gay people don't spend all their time cruising or slashing each other apart, despite the recent media coverage to the contrary. Somebody out there's reading.

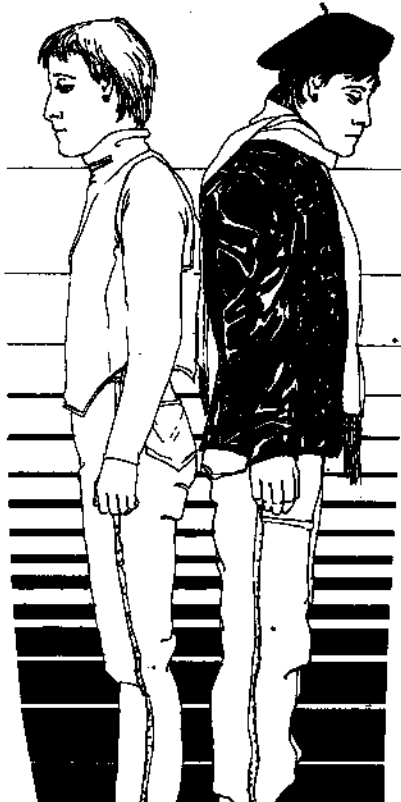
Whoever you are, get out of the bushes, put down your knife, and take a look at these latest offerings for gay readers and their friends.

## General interest

--Now That You Know: What Every Parent Should Know about Homosexuality, by Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward, from Harcourt Brace Jovanovich for \$8.95. This book offers intelligent, sensitive, and very instructive advice to parents of gays. It's been out for about a year now, and should be appearing in a paperback edition soon. The secret of the book's successful formula is that it's not a theoretical discussion; it mixes a small amount of general comment with lots of stories and letters from gay people and their parents.

--The Unmentionable Vice: Homosexuality in the Later Medieval Period, by Michael Goodich, from Ross-Erikson publishers for \$6.95. This is a carefully researched study of homosexuality in Europe from the 11th to the early 14th century. Goodich's approach is heavily academic, but he offers a fascinating look at the

Catholic Church's hysterical campaign to rid the world of heretics and sodomites. One of the most interesting parts of the book is the verbatim report of the trial for heresy and sodomy of Arnold of Verniolle in 1323. By his own confession, Arnold had little difficulty meeting the numerous young



men who were his sexual partners, in spite of the severe legal penalties. Arnold was sentenced to life imprisonment in chains, with a diet of bread and water.

--Gay Theater Alliance Directory of Gay Plays, edited by Terry Helbing, from JH Press for \$5.95. Don't be put off by the title. Although it's primarily an annotated listing of some 400 plays and musicals, both produced and unproduced, the book also contains some delightful and intriguing plot summaries. Here are a couple I'd like to see: Daddy Violet by George Birimisa. Story of three flowers on the side of a mountain overlooking the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War. One of the violets is gay. Freaky Pussy by Harvey Fierstein. A group of drag-prostitutes are chased from their home (a subway men's room) when it is turned into a chic nightclub.

Other titles of general interest include some recent works that I haven't had a chance to look at yet. K. J. Dover's Greek Homosexuality (\$8.95) is supposed to be a "landmark study" of the subject. You'd think that would already have been written but apparently classical scholars are no less homophobic than the rest of society.

The Homosexual Tradition in American Poetry by Robert Martin (Univ. of Texas, \$7.95) traces the line of gay male poets in America from Whitman and Hart Crane down through Ginsberg, Robert Duncan, James Merrill, and several other contemporary writers.

Dennis Altman's latest book is a collection of essays about the politics and sociology of the gay scene during the last decade. It's called Coming Out in the Seventies and promises to be one of the more stimulating offerings for the summer.

I've read only two or three excerpts from Edmund White's States of Desire: Travels in Gay America (E. P. Dutton, \$12.95), but I was impressed by what I read. White visited a good cross-section of major American cities and talked to a variety of gay men. He was very successful at getting these men to talk about themselves and the

## U.S. builds up Soviet buildups

Much of the Soviet Russian military "buildup," which is widely publicized by conservatives, is actually nothing more than a standard replacement of older weapons.

Soviet land-based missiles, first put in the field from 1965 to 1975, are being replaced with a second generation of missiles that carry multiple warheads. The U.S. made the same changes in its third generation of missiles from 1970 to 1977.

The Soviet buildup in tanks, personnel carriers, tactical aircraft, and submarine-based missiles is actually

a similar process of replacement. In each case, the Soviets lagged 5 to 10 years behind similar changes in the U.S.

"New programs are identified as standard-practice 'modernization' when undertaken in the West but described as 'up-grading,' 'buildups,' or 'major advances' when undertaken in the Soviet Union. Soviet programs then appear provocative and novel, when actually they are exactly like comparable programs (that are) treated as normal and unprovocative in the West."

--The Price of Defense

commercial product, turned out to make a fast buck.

The problem with this kind of book is not that it's dense and unenlightening, but that it's dangerous. It offers clichés instead of thoughtful analysis. And it reinforces anti-gay prejudices by filling its space with irrelevant descriptions of gay life in Chicago.

### 'Lone nut'

At first Linedecker offers the "lone nut" cliché to account for Gacy's vicious crimes. That conveniently sets Gacy's actions apart from the violence that's standard operating procedure in Amerika. Gacy's not "one of the boys," as he appeared to be; just some "lone nut" who's not really a part of straight, violent Amerika after all.

The author then attempts to place Gacy in the homosexual subculture. But the connections are so tenuous and insubstantial that he must rely on inaccurate statements and heavy innuendo.

In a garbled chapter, misleadingly entitled "Lavender City," Linedecker deals with the New Town section of Chicago, where a lot of openly gay people live. A few of Gacy's victims were hustlers whom he picked up at one or another of the usual cruising spots in the city.

But Linedecker points out that the motorists who patronize hustlers

"were almost invariably middle-aged or older and lived in suburbia with wives and children or with parents, posing as sexually straight during the day and cruising the city streets at night once a week or so looking for young boys. Avowed homosexuals with nothing to hide had their own friends and frequented their own bars."

All right, then why the detailed descriptions of "Gay Town?" Why the lurid title for a chapter that gives 10 pages to New Town and 20 pages to the Good Luck Lounge, a straight bar in another part of the city? And why include two pictures of the 1979 Gay Rights Parade in the photo section of the book?

### Hodgepodge

This hodgepodge of materials implies some association between gay lib and John Gacy. Several suggestive comments further the erroneous implications: "Annually in June, a phalanx of grim-faced motorcycle policemen are drafted to lead the annual gay rights parade..."

Ignoring the redundancy of an annual parade that takes place annually, let me point out, first of all, that Linedecker consistently gets the name of the parade wrong. It's a Gay Pride Parade--that's its official name. A trivial mistake? Maybe not. Being proud of one's gayness is an issue that the author steadfastly ducks. If Gacy had had a little gay pride, who

knows? Maybe he wouldn't have become a monster who was so ashamed of his sexuality that he murdered the young sex partners who threatened to reveal and/or blackmail him. That's an analysis that never occurs to Mr. Linedecker.

### So what?

And the cops who lead the Gay Pride Parade are in cars, not on motorcycles. You can't see if they're "grim-faced" or not. But I have seen lots of Chicago police chatting amiably with the gay spectators along the parade route. Then why does Linedecker describe them as "grim-faced" and say they have to be "drafted"? Is he implying that the cops disapprove of gay rights? So what?

The answers to these questions become clear later when the author claims that a permissive legal climate, one which tolerates gay liberation, makes it difficult for law enforcers to prosecute sex crimes: "There is so much concern for the civil liberties of sex criminals that it is almost illegal to try to protect women or children from them."

But in coming to this conclusion, Linedecker ignores his own observations about the investigation of the Gacy case. He points out that on more than one occasion police were led to the house on Summerdale and that they failed to follow through on the leads given to them, not even bothering to check the computers to determine if there was an arrest record on John Wayne Gacy.

### Ignored gays

Other evidence indicates that it was anti-gay attitudes on the part of the police, not concern for the civil liberties of anyone, that allowed Gacy to go undetected. One of the victims who escaped with his life, Jeff Rignall, testified at Gacy's trial about the indifference he encountered from police when he reported his abduction and rape by Gacy: "They asked me if I were gay. I was honest with them and said yes. From that point on, I got almost no cooperation....I was just another butt-fuck." Another witness, Robert Donnelly, described a similar abduction and rape and similar police indifference.

If police had been more attentive, as many as five of the murders might have never happened, a fact that Linedecker admits.

Deep down, however, the author senses that he can't really pin Gacy's crimes on gay liberation. He observes in his epilogue that "The boys and young men who died...were the victims of a sadist and pederast who happened to be homosexual."

### Off the hook

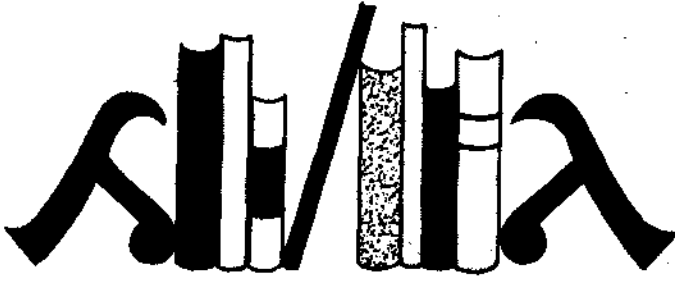
But Linedecker won't go any further. He can't (or won't) even think about what "being homosexual" meant to somebody like John Gacy. He doesn't understand that it was homosexual panic, not homosexual lust, that pushed Gacy to violence.

Furthermore, Linedecker refuses to examine the part Gacy's Catholic upbringing played in shaping his homosexual feelings. He fails to explore how Gacy's early encounters with a repressive legal system may have affected his desire to screw "underage" males.

In short, The Man Who Killed Boys lets straight Amerika off the hook. The guilt and fear that Amerika's churches and laws lay on homosexuals and homosexuality are never indicted. Church-guilt and state-fear created the monster known as John Gacy, but straight Americans don't want to hear that message. They just want to cluck their tongues and grab a few more souvenir bricks. This book will suit them just fine.

--Ferdydurke

## other books



Page 23

gay life in their towns. My only reservation is that White seems bent on finding a "gay sensibility" and comes up with a less diverse gallery of portraits than I think exists.

Avon has just printed the script of Bent (\$2.50), the current Broadway success about the Nazi persecution of gay males. From all reports, Martin Sherman's play is a stunning piece of theater.

### Fiction

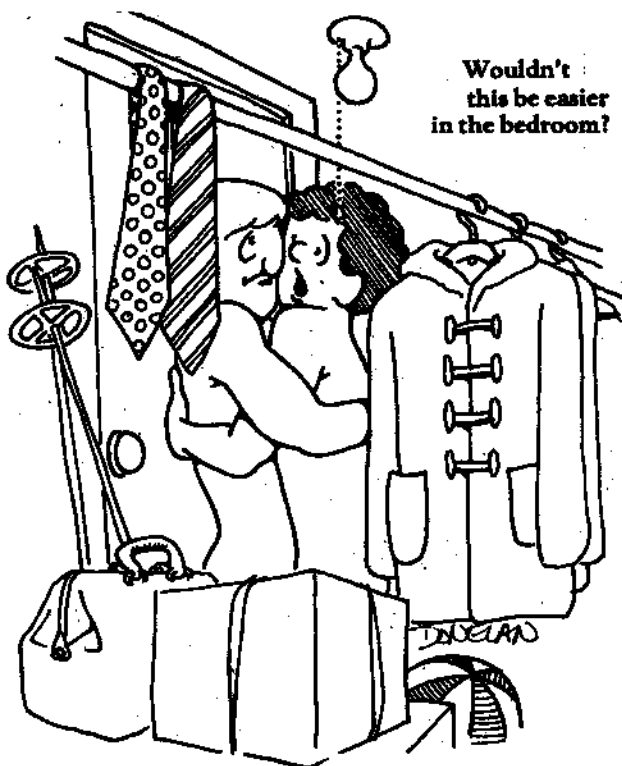
--Rushes, by John Rechy, from Grove Press for \$10. The question of why gay men dress in supermasculine clothes and are drawn into sadomasochistic practices is perhaps the most important political issue confronting gay males today. John Rechy's novel may be the only full-length work to deal with this issue head-on. Rechy has always written about what some would call the seamier side of gay life--hustlers, public sexhunts, S&M--and his observations of the gay leather scene in Rushes is thorough and astute. Rechy is both attracted and repulsed by the world he's depicting. His analysis of gay S&M--that it is a product of internalized hatred--has drawn a lot of flack from the defenders of S&M, but no one has faulted the accuracy of his picture.

--Cold Hands, by Joseph Pintauro, from Simon and Schuster for \$10.95. This is a frustrating book. The characterization is often vivid and the writing is often lively. But the account of two cousins (Cello and Tato) and their love for each other is frequently unbelievable and finally an exercise in futility. It's a story of desire and denial--Tato's desire and Cello's denial. Unfortunately,

we get the story from Cello's point of view. Tato has at least accepted his homosexuality to some extent (if not totally); I would have much rather heard his side of the story. At the novel's end I was angered that the author had wasted my time and his considerable talent on another tale of unhappy gay love.

--Just above My Head, by James Baldwin, from Dial Press for \$12.95. The story of Arthur Montana, gospel singer turned superstar, dead of a cerebral hemorrhage before he's 40, is told by Arthur's brother. Actually the plot is a great deal more complicated than any summary can indicate, but Arthur's struggle with fame and his love affair with Jimmy are the major portions that will interest gay readers. Baldwin can still write the best male-male love scenes in modern literature--they are long, loving, and lovingly described, tender, personal, and passionate. The complete novel (599 pages long) is a bit of a chore, but I thought it worth the time.

--Ferdydurke



## Keep our eight toed friends in flight

They're called Rock doves, descendants of the wild Rock dove of Europe. In America, they're better known as pigeons. Their natural habitat is high cliffs, rocky bluffs, and stone formations.

But pigeons are very adaptable birds. They seem to find city life very comfortable, and they flock to high buildings and around vacated warehouses.

Although the pigeons find the city compatible, the city isn't so happy about the pigeons. Many people find the nesting and roosting habits of pigeons offensive and dirty.

So cities--and city dwellers--are out to get the pigeons.

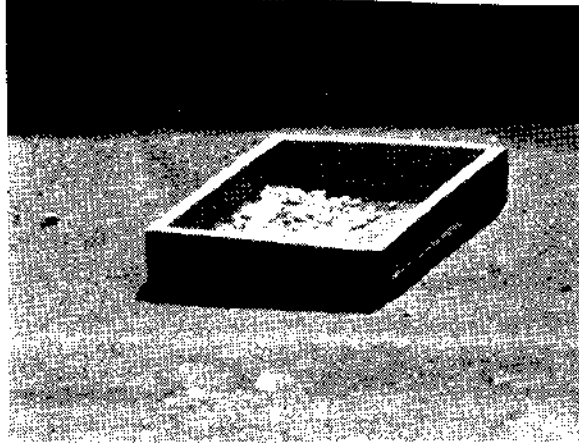
Here in Bloomington, downtown merchants and the McLean County Building and Zoning board have teamed up to discourage the pigeon population.

The McLean County Board, which is responsible for up-keep on county buildings, set out to alleviate the situation. Their goal was to discourage the pigeons without injuring or poisoning them. The solution they came up with was the "Hot Foot" approach: install a caulking on building ledges to burn the feet of the pigeons. Hopefully, that would solve the problem. The pigeons would be driven away from downtown buildings, and Bloomington's human population would no longer be bothered by these "undesirable" birds.

Then why am I seeing all these pigeons staggering down the street? Why are there sick-looking birds around? Why are there dead, decayed pigeons lying in the streets with undigested corn pellets in their craws?

Undigested corn in their craws? Could it be poisoned corn? Isn't that unlawful?

Well, I found out that it depends on who you talk to. The McLean County Board said that it's not really clear. For "humanitarian" reasons, and possible protests from bird-watching groups, the County Board decided to use other, non-harmful methods of dealing with the pigeons.



Above: One of the trays of poison corn located on the rooftop of Rolands.

have no pigeon problem and their trays seem to be replenished often.

Is there an alternative to poison corn that Roland's could use? Yes, there is. Relocation of the pigeons is possible, with the use of relocation traps. But more time and money would be involved with this method. It's easier to use poison corn.

Too bad. Pigeons look so much more graceful in flight that they do staggering around the streets of Bloomington.

--Michael  
with assistance from U.B.

The Bloomington Police Department said poison corn is unlawful. "Do you know someone who's practicing this poisoning?" Well, no, but I had some ideas.

So I attached myself to a skylift (an imaginary skyhook) and combed the rooftops of downtown Bloomington. I spotted some suspicious looking trays on the top of Roland's. So I checked it out.

I went to ask Roland's how they dealt with their pigeon "problem." The maintenance man gave a clear response: "Well, we use poison corn."

Now it's possible that other merchants are also practicing this kind of pigeon control, but Roland's seems to



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