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POST AMERIKAN

Bloomington-Normal

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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 the next issue is Jan. 25.

We like to print your letters. Try to be brief. If you write a short abusive letter, it's likely to get in print. But long abusive letters, especially ones that set forth ideas you can read in Time magazine every week, are not likely to get printed. Long, brilliantly written, non-abusive letters may, if we see fit, be printed as articles.

If you'd like to come 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: 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 454-1787
 CETA 827-4026
 Clare House (Catholic Workers) 828-4035
 Community for Social Action 452-4867
 Connection House 829-5711
 Countering Domestic Violence (PATH) 827-4005
 Dept. of Children and Family Services 828-0022
 Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare (Social Security Admin.) 829-9436
 Dept. of Mental Health 828-4311
 Draft counseling 452-5046, 828-4035
 Gay Action/Awareness Union of McLean County 452-5852
 Gay People's Alliance (ISU) 828-9085
 HELP (transportation for handicapped & senior citizens) 828-8301
 Illinois Lawyer Referral Service 800-252-8916
 Kaleidoscope 828-7346
 McLean County Health Dept 829-3363
 Mobile Meals (for shut-ins) 828-8301

God 1-800-JC5-1000 (1-201-555-1212 in New Jersey)
 National Health Care Services (abortion assistance in Peoria) 691-9073
 National Runaway Switchboard 800-621-4000; in Illinois 800-972-6004
 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 Services 827-5021
 Project Oz 827-0377
 Public Aid, McLean County 827-4621
 Rape Crisis Line 827-4005 (PATH)
 Small Changes Bookstore 829-6223
 Sunnyside Neighborhood Center 827-5428
 TeleCare 828-8301
 Unemployment Compensation/ Job Service 827-6237
 United Farmworkers Support Group 452-5046
 Women's Switchboard 800-927-5404

BLOOMINGTON

That Other Gift Store, 111 W. Front
 Amtrak station, 1200 W. Front
 The Back Porch, 402½ N. Main
 Biasi's Drugstore, 217 N. Main
 Bus Depot, 523 N. East
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main
 Discount Den, 207 N. Main
 Gene's Drive-in, 1019 S. Main
 Haag Drugstore, 509 W. Washington
 K-Mart, at parking lot entrance off of Empire
 Kroger's, 1110 E. Oakland
 Last Page, 416 N. Main
 Law & Justice Center, West Front Main and Front, southwest corner
 Main and Washington, northeast corner
 Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison
 Mel-O-Cream Doughnuts, 901 N. Main
 Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
 Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire
 My Place, 424 N. Main
 Pantagraph (in front of building), 301 W. Washington
 The Park Store, Wood and Allin
 Red Fox, 918 W. Market
 Small Changes Bookstore, 409A N. Main
 Steak n Shake, Locust and Clinton
 U.S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire (at exit)
 U.S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
 Washington & Clinton, southeast corner

NORMAL

Alamo II, 319 North (in front)
 Blue Dahlia, 121 E. Beaufort
 Bowling & Billiards Center, ISU
 Cage, ISU University Union
 Dairy Queen, 1110 S. Main
 Drastic Plastic Records, 115 North
 Eisner's, East College & Towanda (at College entrance)
 Gallery III, 111 E. Beaufort (in front)
 Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north
 Mother Murphy's, 111½ North
 North & Broadway, southeast corner
 Old Main Bookstore, 207 S. Main
 Record Service, Watterson Place
 Redbird IGA, 301 S. Main
 Upper Cut, 318 Kingsley
 White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway (in front)

OUTTA TOWN

Urbana, Horizon Bookstore, 517 S. Goodwin
 Blackburn College Bookstore, Carlinville, Illinois

DOMINO OF DESTRUCTION

The neutron bomb is the latest development in the military's search for a "clean" and usable nuclear weapon.

Unlike other nuclear warheads, the neutron bomb is not seen, even at the Pentagon, as a "deterrent" to nuclear war. They've designed it to fight a nuclear war. In their view, it makes a controlled, safely "limited" nuclear war seem winnable.

In truth, the use of the neutron bomb would without doubt lead to total nuclear holocaust.

What the Pentagon's optimistic scenarios don't tell us is that, deadly as they are, hundreds and

perhaps thousands of neutron bombs would be needed to stop a Russian-led Warsaw Pact tank invasion across the northern plains of West Germany (one of the weapon's alleged "tactical" purposes). Meanwhile, even before the sure Soviet retaliation with larger, multi-megaton H-bombs aimed at the United States, the destruction and death caused by the neutron bombs would be grotesque beyond imagining.

Military planners themselves admit that there is no guarantee whatsoever that, once a nuclear conflict is set in motion by the neutron bomb, it would remain "limited." Instead of being confined to one area--as Pentagon strategists seem determined to make us believe--atomic devastation would rapidly expand, domino-style, leaving our entire planet a contaminated, smoking ruin.

A recent analysis of enhanced-

radiation weapons (neutron bombs) is Scientific American (May 1978) reported:

"...There is no reason to believe that the enhanced-radiation warhead would in any way diminish the likelihood that a European-theater nuclear war would escalate to all-out nuclear war."

The same report concluded:

"...To the extent that the USSR believes that the U.S. will use enhanced-radiation weapons...their deployment invites a preemptive Russian nuclear attack in any extremely tense situation, perhaps as the first move in a European war."

The horrifying logic of the arms race, which President Reagan has astronomically escalated by his decision to produce the neutron bomb, is that merely possessing the neutron weapon will light the match to ignite the atomic powderkeg that will destroy us all.

--National Mobilization for Survival

A reminder to our readers

As is our semi-annual policy, the Post will be taking a collective vacation for a few weeks. We'll be keeping our machines filled with newspapers and checking our "Ansmatic" for phone

messages, but the next issue of the paper won't be out until Jan. 25, 1982 (deadline--Jan. 21). We'll see you next year with renewed vigor.

Pass this Post
to a friend!

ACLU questions proposed restrictions on 'adult' entertainment

The local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has raised objections to a proposed ordinance in Bloomington that would impose new restrictions on where "adult" entertainment businesses could be located in the city.

The proposed ordinance would prevent adult bookstores, cabarets, or theaters from being closer than 1000 feet to each other or within 500 feet of a residential area, a church, a hospital, a school, a park or other place where minors ordinarily congregate.

The ordinance would also place additional restrictions on adult drive-in theaters. Such drive-ins could not be within 1000 feet of residential areas, churches, schools, and so on. An adult drive-in would also have to have a lot of at least 20 acres and be landscaped so that the screen is not visible for 3000 feet.

"Our belief at the moment is that the restrictions here are probably excessive," Scott Eatherly, chairperson of the local ACLU, told the Post-Amerikan. "We have been in contact with the city counsel" in an "attempt to work out more reasonable zoning rules."

Eatherly said the ACLU objects to the proposed ordinance because it would leave only a "very, very limited area" available for the establishment of adult entertainment businesses.

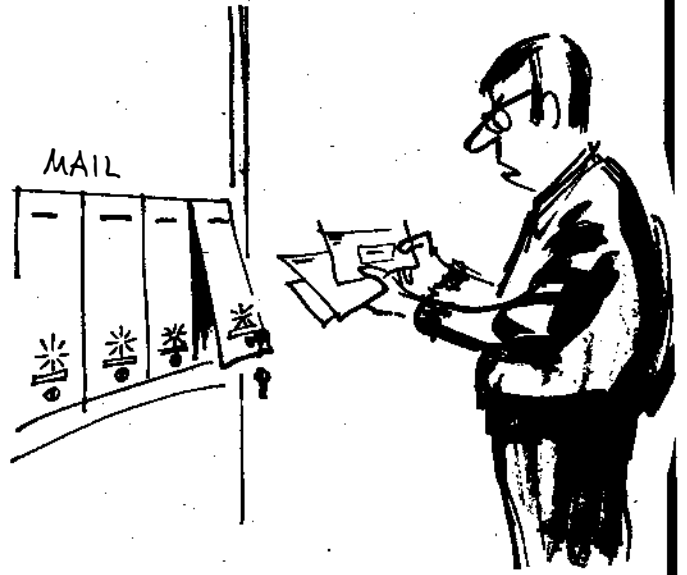
"Even some of those areas legally available would not be available in practice," Eatherly said, because established businesses would not want to give up their existing locations.

According to Kenneth Emmons, principal planner for the McLean County Reg-

ional Planning Commission and author of the proposed ordinance, there are no tracts of properly zoned land in Bloomington that are large enough to accommodate an adult drive-in under his proposal, which will have a hearing before the city planning commission Dec. 9.

Eatherly pointed out that while the city has the legal right to establish distance requirements under a 1976 US Supreme Court ruling, the ACLU questions whether the distance restrictions in the proposed ordinance are "reasonable." Adult entertainment businesses are generally protected by the First (free speech) Amendment to the US Constitution, and an Illinois Appeals Court ruling last June on a case in Cook County found that certain distance restrictions were excessive.

--D. LeSeure



"How the hell come I never get any of this pornography we keep hearing about?"

Sex and the single city: what's 'adult'?

Bloomington's proposed ordinance limiting adult entertainment to particular areas of the city contains specific definitions of the businesses covered.

An adult bookstore, for example, is "a business establishment having as a substantial or significant portion of its stock in trade, books, magazines, and other periodicals which are distinguished or characterized by their emphasis on matter depicting, describing, or relating to 'specified anatomical areas' and/or 'specified sexual activities'...."

An adult cabaret is "any business establishment which features exotic dancers, strippers, male and/or female impersonators, or which features the depiction or description of 'specified anatomical areas' and/or 'specified sexual activities'...."

The definitions of other businesses covered by the ordinance--adult motion picture theaters, adult motion picture theaters, and adult drive-in theaters--also contain the key phrases, "specified anatomical areas" and "specified sexual activities."

So, what's specified?

"SPECIFIED ANATOMICAL AREAS: means:
1. Less than completely and opaquely covered:
(a) human genitals and pubic regions,
(b) human buttocks, and/or

(c) human female breast below a point immediately above the aureola; and/or
2. Human male genitals in a discernible turgid state, even if completely and opaquely covered."

(Notice how the ordinance effortlessly achieves the same coldly mechanical and impersonal spirit that characterizes your average porno flick. Notice also how the ordinance carefully identifies the male genitalia as a particularly dangerous sight.)

And furthermore:

"SPECIFIED SEXUAL ACTIVITIES: means:
1. Acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse, and/or sodomy and/or
2. Fondling or other erotic touching of human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks and/or female breasts."

These definitions of what's specified will be Subsections 3.20-165.02 and 3.20-165.03 in Chapter 44, Article 3.00, Section 3.20 of the Bloomington City Code if the proposed ordinance is approved.

--D.L.

Typist's query to proofreader:
Does this law cover bestiality in your opinion? Doesn't in mine.

Proofreader's answer: Nope.



Must we choose either porn or censorship?

Choose one: a. pornography, b. censorship.

Sigh. Do I have to?

I don't like porn, with all its violence and dehumanization. I confess to being one of those overly intellectual twerps who think they can distinguish between erotica and pornography. On a good day, I know I can tell the difference between sex education and pornography, no matter what the preachers holler from the pulpit.

I don't like censorship either. While I agree that pornography exploits women, often viciously, I cannot agree with those who would outlaw it.

It's hard to argue against censoring pornography without sounding like the

people who claimed that if we didn't fight the commies in Vietnam we'd have to fight them in California. If we ban Hustler today, will we really lose The World According to Garp (which contains a horrifying rape scene) tomorrow?

If you're absolutely certain that the answer to that question is no, then try to write a law that can clearly distinguish between pornography and erotica, between pornography and social criticism, between pornography and sexual education. Or try to write a law that distinguishes between the political rights of Nazis and socialists.

The American Civil Liberties Union has defended porn barons, Nazis, and other people I'd rather were in Antarctica than in America. Yet I support the ACLU because I can't think of any way

to take away a Nazi's rights without endangering my own.

Remember, the ACLU didn't invent the Nazis, nor did it make pornography disgustingly profitable. Those evils were not caused by an ACLU lawyer standing up in court and arguing for free speech.

If we want to get rid of pornography, we have to aim at its roots--overbearing fathers, a society that systematically underpays women, nonexistent sex education.

Still, I'd feel better about defending the rights of some porn baron to make a buck in Bloomington if I thought there was an ounce of social good in a ton of Hustlers.

--D.L.



Dec.7 Eric Engel

8 Jeannie Buckholtz

10 Fetish

11 Albany Street

12 Urban Development

13 Michael Anthony

14 Howie Bindrin

15 Chris Cox

17 Uptown Rulers

18 Midnite Flyer

19 Mannassas Junction

21 Jeannie Buckholtz

22 Eric Engel

27 Sangamon River Bandits

29 Rich Margherio

HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec.20 noon-10pm

24 & 25 closed

26-31 5pm-1am

**Every Weds.
New Wave Nite
courtesy of**

**DRASTIC PLASTIC
RECORDS**

**Food Drink Fun
111 E. BEAUFORT
NOON-1AM DAILY
454-5588**

At Eureka Co.

Local woman wins

Last year, Eureka Company was forced to compensate a local woman following charges of sexual harassment. After investigating Jane Doe's claim that she'd been sexually harassed on the job and finally fired due to refusing her supervisor's advances, the Human Relations Commission (HRC) negotiated a settlement in which Eureka virtually admitted the truth of her charges. Here's the story Jane Doe told Post-Amerikan reporters:

She worked at Eureka for a month in fall 1978, was laid off for a couple months, and got rehired in January 1979. Delighted to have such a highly paid job (\$5.15 an hour in 1979 was exceptionally good money for a woman-- still is, in fact), and working at 96%, 95%, and 102% productivity in her first weeks there, Jane little suspected that she'd be fired for inefficiency and low productivity within the month.

She did know that one supervisor, Bethel Berkeley, put his hands on her and made lewd remarks much too often. Co-workers once heard her angrily tell him to "keep your fuckin' hands off me!" HRC interviews quoted workers saying that Berkeley was fond of handling the female workers (and, some said, the men too).

Early in February, Jane was transferred to work in an isolated area, surrounded by cartons and machinery, "in the middle of nowhere." She'd

been moved from job to job within the factory a lot. This time, she'd worked alone for a couple of hours when Berkeley came to check on her.

Wanna keep your job?

She says, "He asked me if I appreciated the job. I said sure, it was okay. Then he said, 'How much do you appreciate this job?' and went on asking me if I was really grateful and so on, putting his arm around me. He finally said, 'Meet me at the L&L Motel.'"

When Jane realized he was serious, she heartily refused. He made remarks implying that her refusal might cost her her job. Five minutes later, she was working on the packing line.

The packing line is work that Jane and other workers describe as a punishment job, given to people who come in late, are absentees, come in hung over, or displease their supervisors in other ways. It seemed clear to Jane that she was transferred as punishment for rejecting Berkeley so firmly. Since the work involves much bending and straightening and Jane is very tall, it was more punishment for her than for shorter people.

Her grumbling about this eventually became, in the mouths of Eureka

Just a friendly squeeze?

Five worker witnesses in Jane Doe's case wouldn't say that supervisor Bethel Berkeley really harassed the women workers. They would go on, then, to form a picture of how he "was always very friendly with the women"; put his arms around their rib cages or shoulders; hit them "on their behinds"; felt their backs, thighs, and shoulders; poked them in the ribs; suggestively offered to rub some backs; in short, was "always joking around."

The definition of harassment seems a real problem here. Some witnesses evidently think that 1) because he did these things in a playful way-- he was "always cutting up," he "kids a lot"--and 2) because the women did not immediately protest and firmly reject him, the actions listed above are not sexual harassment.

The Working Women United Institute in New York would disagree. This organization says, "Sexual harassment is any repeated and unwanted sexual advance, look, joke, innuendo, etc., from someone in the workplace which makes you uncomfortable and/or causes you problems on your job. (It) can range anywhere from a look to a rape." This definition purposely leaves out the woman's outward reaction to the incident.

Most of the women harassed at Eureka did not outwardly show their discomfort: that's perfectly understandable given the politics of the workplace. They fear losing their jobs, being transferred to worse conditions, or having their work written up as unsatisfactory.

Many of the women may "laugh and go along with it" (as one witness said): that's perfectly understandable, too. I myself am a practitioner of the "grin



and shuffle" technique when harassed in bars. I hope, as no doubt harassed workers hope, that the clod will be satisfied with a little joking around and will move along. That doesn't mean I feel like smiling at him; I feel like knocking his teeth down his throat.

I also grin and shuffle because I fear: looking ridiculous for "getting all upset over nothing"; I fear the men's verbal abuse if my response is hostile or cool, especially their remarks about my age and ugliness; I fear that I'm not a good sport.

"It was just a friendly squeeze..." "It was just a little pat..." When it comes from someone more powerful than you, it's not "just" anything. It's degrading and distracting, and there's very little you can do about it.●

P.C.

sexual harassment case

management, a complaint about an old back injury, a story the management used when firing her. Jane says her back was never injured. Her Eureka physical examination reports no back injury.

The cover-up

When the ax came down within a couple days, the company also said Jane was inefficient and had failing productivity. Jane is certain that these claims covered the real reasons for her firing-- Berkeley's anger with her due to a lively rejection.

She says that she did all her jobs adequately-- in fact, Eureka documents show excellent productivity until Jan. 26; others show that Jane was never absent a day and only late once-- during the Jan. 19, 1979, snow-storm, when she took a taxi to work.

The Eureka documents do show Jane's productivity at percentages of 84, 75, 68, 75, and 46 in the last days of her work there. What the documents don't show, though, is the poor organization of the plant, which resulted in "no parts to work on, no one to go three buildings down and get the parts" during those days. Jane's percentage was down, she says, because she was sitting there with no work coming down the line to do.

After her firing, she approached the Human Relations Commission, which directed collection of data from worker witnesses, Eureka's records, and Eureka officials. HRC found "substantial evidence to support the allegation of sex discrimination" and settled with Eureka for \$500 paid to Jane and alterations in her records there to indicate she'd resigned rather than been fired.

At the time, \$500 was the maximum settlement; now it's been raised to \$1000. The change is due to Jane's

case, since her loss was obviously so much higher than her compensation.



World Magazine/cpf

When the Post contacted Bethel Berkeley, he admitted that he was the supervisor in the case and that Eureka settled. But he says of Doe's case, "It was a falsified statement and that's all I've got to say."

Putting up with harassment

Getting the maximum settlement sounds good, especially since this was the HRC's first sexual harassment case, but the \$500 doesn't look like much to Jane, who went from Eureka into a minimum-wage clerical job and has stayed barely above minimum wage since. The Eureka job is such highly paid work, she says, that many of the women put up with sexual harassment to protect their jobs.

"Lots of those workers are single women with children. They're not going to do anything to jeopardize their jobs."

Tim Walker, HRC director, agrees. Jane's is the only sexual harassment case that has gone this far. He knows of several others that have come to his office but backed down because of fear of firings. Although he can tell the women that it's illegal for a company to fire them for complaints to the HRC, he says, he can't promise that the company won't make up other reasons for firing.

In spite of her winning, Jane Doe feels that her dismissal and subsequent financial setback are likely to show women workers the dangers of protesting sexual harassment.

"I was an example of how their jobs are at stake."

--Phoebe Caulfield

HRC rules keep sexual harassment quiet

Although Jane Doe's settlement happened over a year ago, this issue of the Post gives the first public account of it. Jane herself had to bring us the story and name the names.

The Human Relations Commission is pledged to keep the names of the complainant, the company, and the witnesses confidential. Only if

Eureka had refused to negotiate a settlement would the matter go to a public hearing and be available to news media.

This confidentiality has its good points. Unfortunately, news of sexual discrimination charges and settlements might inspire supervisors in general to keep their paws off their underlings. And it might

inspire harassed women to file charges with the HRC. And it might convince the innocent public that such things do go on, right here in our nice, healthy, good-to-raise-children-in town.●

--P.C.

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You've heard of people who kiss and tell. Well, the Post-Amerikan has a better suggestion: be a person who gets screwed and tells!

Ever wake up and find out your landlord has stolen your doors? Or get stopped by the cops for reckless smirking? Or find a dead mouse in your Pepsi? Or have your boss pinch your butt?

Write it up for us! Get it off your chest and let everyone know about it. We've got people who'll smooth out your writing. So next time you're furious due to the everyday aches and pains of life's unkindnesses, write Post-Amerikan, PO Box 3452, Bloomington!

Have you ever worked in a...?

When factory owners gripe about OSHA's ridiculous requirements to protect workers' health, they pooh-pooh occupational hazards like brown lung, asbestiosis, chemical inhalation, and black lung.

But when they're hiring, they seem to agree with environmental health experts that certain workplaces produce sickly people-- ones they wouldn't want to employ and insure.

Eureka Company's medical history questionnaire, part of the job application, asks the applicant: Have you ever worked in a . . . asbestos plant, coal mine, cotton mill, foundry, stone quarry, or occupation with dust, smoke or fumes?

You know they're not asking those questions for their health.●

--Phoebe Caulfield

MARY WORTH MORE THAN MINIMUM WAGE

4:30 P.M. FRIDAY:
MARY DECLINES HER BOSS'S USUAL INVITATION FOR A DRINK, BUT TODAY...

I'M SORRY, MR. STONE. FOR THE LAST TIME, NO.

NOW MARY, A HARMLESS CONVERSATION OVER A DRINK BETWEEN SUPERVISOR AND STAFF NEVER HURT ANY ONE... IN FACT, IT'S BEEN KNOWN TO HELP SOME PEOPLE!

OK, MARY, SUIT YOURSELF.. BUT I THINK IT'S ONLY FAIR TO TELL YOU I'VE FOUND A LOT OF COSTLY MISTAKES IN YOUR WORK LATELY... I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO DISCUSS THIS ALONE WITH YOU THAN IN MR. BAKER'S OFFICE... MONDAY MORNING!!

NO... WAIT!!

ALRIGHT, MR. STONE, NOW WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT THESE "COSTLY MISTAKES" I'VE BEEN MAKING ???!!

GLAD TO SEE YOU COME AROUND. I ALWAYS KNEW SOMEWHERE INSIDE THAT PRETTY HEAD OF YOURS WAS SOME SENSE!!

HEY, WILL YOU FORGET ABOUT WORK FOR FIVE MINUTES?? IT'S FRIDAY!!!

MR. STONE, PLEASE!! I DIDN'T COME ALONG FOR A JOY RIDE!! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE WRONG!!

RELAX... I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR MISTAKES... AND WHAT A SMART GIRL DOES TO CORRECT THEM... !?!

LOOK, MR. STONE, WHY DON'T YOU COME TO THE POINT? I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME... IN FACT, YOUR TIME IS UP... WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SUGGESTING ?? THAT I SCREW YOU AND YOU'LL STOP SCREWING ME OVER?

NOW, MARY I THINK YOU'RE GETTING A BIT EMOTIONAL OVER THIS...

AND I DON'T LIKE YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS... I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS, I SCRATCH YOUR BACK, YOU SCRATCH MINE, SO TO SPEAK...

YOU'RE MAKING A BIG DEAL OVER NOTHING. THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME... WE'RE IN A POSITION TO DO EACH OTHER A LOT OF GOOD... THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT... TAKE ME BACK TO MY CAR!!

GEE, MARY, I'M SORRY YOU COULDN'T SEE THINGS MY WAY... SORRIER THAN YOU'VE EVER KNOWN... I REALLY DID WANT TO HELP YOU STRAIGHTEN OUT THAT BOOKWORK...

MR. STONE, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR "HELP" AND SHOVE IT!!!

YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU SAID THAT, MARY... I CAN BE A REAL NICE GUY... TOO BAD YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO APPRECIATE IT!!!

AND I'LL BE SEEING YOU... MONDAY - IN MR. BAKER'S OFFICE!! MAYBE YOU BETTER MAKE SURE YOU WEAR SOMETHING NICE!!

Medical racism--experimenting with human beings

Post Amerikan page 7

Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, by James H. Jones (New York: The Free Press), 272 pp.

From 1932 to 1972, the US Public Health Service conducted a study of untreated syphilis in black males. For 40 years treatment was withheld from some 400 black sharecroppers in Macon County, Alabama, as part of a "study" to observe the effects of syphilis in its final phase.

Bad Blood, by James H. Jones, is a detailed examination of that study, "the longest non-therapeutic experiment on human beings in medical history." It is also the anatomy of a long episode in the treatment of black people--and of the poor and powerless in general--in Amerika.

The attitudes that inspired this atrocity (called the Tuskegee Study because the prestigious all-black Tuskegee Institute and Hospital was the center of its medical operation) have an awful, familiar ring to them. The book's implications are as up-to-date as Reagan's latest cutbacks in Medicaid or food stamps.

The sharecroppers were never told they had syphilis; they were never told that effective treatment was being withheld. In fact, they were led to believe that they were getting "special free treatment" and appropriate medicines. In reality, they got aspirin and "spring tonics."

"They told me I had bad blood," Jones quotes one subject, Charles Pollard, as saying. "And that's what they've been telling me ever since."

Cruel deception

One particularly cruel instance of deception involved a painful and dangerous spinal puncture that had absolutely no therapeutic effect: the uneducated subjects were sent a letter that announced "Last Chance For a Special Free Treatment."

As Jones writes, the black men's "deeply ingrained deference to authority figures, coupled with their eagerness to receive medical attention, made them willing subjects."

After the basic examination, chest X-rays, blood tests, and spinal punctures, the doctors were actually advised against "lavishing" any further attention on the men. "As I see it," wrote a senior physician in the study, "we have no further interest in these patients until they die."

The "experiment" never had a formal design; "scientific" observations were often uncontrolled. The progress of the disease was monitored through follow-up physicals, called "annual roundups" (the inducement was a free hot meal). Since many of the men had at one time or another received some medication (usually inadequate doses of arsenic, bismuth and mercury), they could not be considered "untreated," making the whole study invalid from the start.

Later, when penicillin and other strong antibiotics became available, the study directors tried to prevent any doctors in the area from treating the subjects.

'Moral obligation'

In a series of internal reviews, the last done as recently as 1969, the directors spoke of a "moral obligation" to continue the study, even though "no one knew the exact number of subjects, the study records were incomplete, attendance had fallen off at the annual examinations, numerous

subjects could no longer be accounted for, and the issue of contamination remained unsettled." No one ever mentioned an obligation, moral or otherwise, to treat the sick.

When the Associated Press broke the story in 1972, the public was shocked. Comparisons with the Nazis' Nuremberg experiments were made. But the physicians and public health officials involved were hardly contrite--they were barely apologetic.



Many even tried to defend the study on both scientific and moral grounds. "There was no racial side to this," said one doctor. "It just happened to be in a black community." You could say the same thing about lynching.

After a storm of editorials, some Congressional hearings, and a class-action suit (surviving victims and descendants of those who did not survive settled out of court for \$10 million), the study, at last, was terminated.

But the government's review of the Tuskegee study failed to address the crucial racial and ethical issues: how could a program based on the deliberate denial of treatment have started in the first place, and how could it continue for so long? The entire "experiment" was treated as a fluke, a well-intentioned but misguided mistake.

This is where **Bad Blood** makes its major contribution. Jones has gone back to the beginnings and demonstrated that the study was not a mistake or a fluke.

His review of medical reports and physicians' official letters--full of references to "ignorant darkies" and

a "syphilis-soaked race"--shows that the Tuskegee program had its roots in racial beliefs that infected American medicine and much of American society in the 19th and early 20th centuries. These beliefs depicted blacks as an inferior race of people with large genitals and small brains, being destroyed by freedom.

Jones also shows that the syphilis study was part of the larger pattern of American racism: the black men who were denied medical care were also routinely denied adequate education, the right to vote, enough food to eat, and any possibility of escaping the servitude of sharecropping. As for the medical field, the book notes that experimentation has always involved the poor, the less educated, and the non-white in far greater numbers than any other groups.

'Understanding' racism

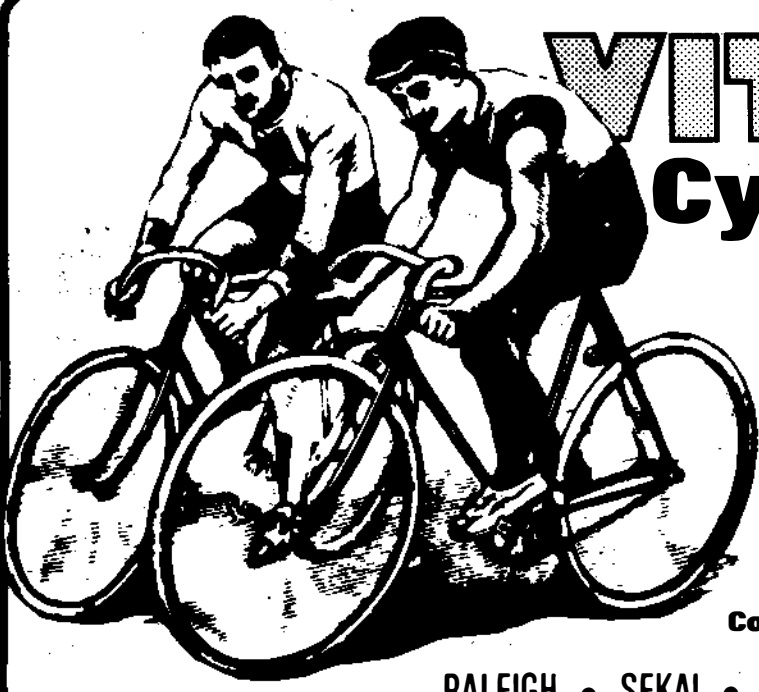
If anything, though, Jones goes too far in trying to be fair to the doctors responsible for this medical mayhem. He attempts to portray them as "liberals" and "reformers" who, in their private practice at least, had overcome racism and wanted to help blacks. Jones criticizes a fellow historian for being "more concerned with proving charges of racism than attempting to understand what happened."

But how else do you explain the Tuskegee Study except through racism? People were held to be less than human; men died of a disease that could have been cured; some went blind and their wives were infected and their children were born with congenital syphilis.

How do you "understand" happenings like that? In the same way, I guess, that you understand the Midwestern physician who recently urged the forced sterilization of all black people on welfare and the forced removal of their children to foster homes before they acquire a "culture of poverty."

As a black Alabama lawyer said when he processed the claims of Tuskegee survivors, "The sad thing is that it could happen all over again." Perhaps **Bad Blood** will make that possibility less likely. The book seethes with hard realities: words of survivors, memories of participants, "progress" reports of racist doctors. You can't read it without getting angry and sad and painfully more skeptical of all people who have a "high moral obligation" to do anything.

--Ferdydurke



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Greenpeace fights wholesale

Lest you assure yourself that nothing so outrageous could occur, take one look at modern whaling procedures.

Factory ships take whales newly killed by hunter boats, winch them aboard, and systematically devour one of the world's oldest and most intelligent creatures. Hooks attached to cables tear giant slabs of the mammal's flesh away; axes and chain saws segment its bones. Shovels slam into the warm body and scoop out chunks of fat and muscle as "factory workers" scurry over the vast body.

When they finish, the remains are dumped overboard to the sharks.

But these floating death factories are just one phase of the whaling business. Aboard the hunting boats, the killing itself can be horrendous. When the earth's largest inhabitant surfaces for air, the harpoon armed with an explosive steel tip is fired. The harpoonist's aim, the swell of the seas, the turn of the whale, and luck all combine to place the harpoon deep within the whale's huge skull, where

the shock of the explosion does its work quickly, tearing through the organs of the creature.

Barring the contingent "luck," the harpoon strikes badly, inaccurately, burying itself inside the whale but not killing. In agony, the whale sounds, diving deep within the ocean in a desperate attempt to escape. But this effort is seldom successful. Time is no ally as shock, fear, bleeding, and exhaustion take effect, and the boat gradually pulls alongside, reeling in the harpoon's line. If the whale is deemed alive at this point, a second "killer" harpoon is fired point-blank.

With the mammal finally dead, cable is looped around and through the flukes, and the whale is winched onto deck and butchered. Earth's largest inhabitant, who has roamed the oceans and seas for 40 million years longer than humanity has existed, has been swiftly categorized to oil, fat, frozen whale meat, and ivory.

Last year, 18,000 whales died at the hands of such hunters.

That's why when the whalers put to sea this year, Greenpeace will be there.

Once we sight their ships, we will do what we have done for the last six

Attempt to 'deprogram' lesbian brings criminal charges

Cincinnati, OH-- A woman who believes her daughter is a lesbian hired cult "deprogrammers" to kidnap the 20-year-old and rape her repeatedly during the week they held her in captivity.

A Hamilton County grand jury has brought charges of kidnapping, assault, and sexual battery against four of the persons allegedly involved in the attempt to "deprogram" Stephanie Riethmiller of Norwood, a suburb of Cincinnati.

Stephanie's mother paid nationally famous cult "deprogrammer" Ted Patrick \$8000 to change her daughter's "lifestyle," according to reports in the Cincinnati Enquirer. The reports said that Marita Riethmiller objects to her daughter's relationship with her roommate.

Four people are named in the indictments. In addition to Patrick, of San Diego, Calif., the charges cite Naomi Faye Kelley Gross of Leesburg, Ala.;

James Roe, of San Diego; and a man known only as "Ray," who is still at large. The indictment alleges that Roe had sexual intercourse with Stephanie Riethmiller on Oct. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

On Oct. 8 Riethmiller had been snatched from the street near the apartment she shares with 20-year-old Patricia Thieman. Police found her with her mother and 3 other captors six days later in Leesburg, Alabama, 65 miles northeast of Birmingham. According to an Enquirer reporter, other "deprogramming" efforts have been carried out recently in Leesburg.

The charges were filed by Hamilton County Prosecutor Simon Leis, who is known for his sympathy with the religious right and for his opposition to the lesbian and gay rights movement. Some gay people in the Cincinnati area are concerned that Riethmiller's alleged assailants will receive only light sentences for the serious crimes of which they are accused.

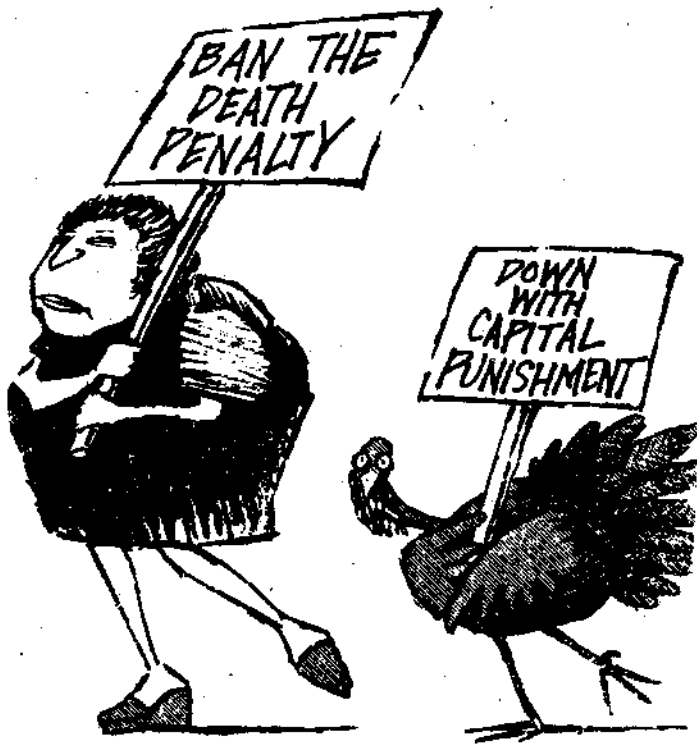
Asked why the four "deprogrammers" are charged with sexual battery-- a third-degree felony--rather than the more serious offense of rape, the assistant prosecutor, Arthur Ney, said he could make no comment.

Although Marita Riethmiller had been indicted earlier of kidnapping, she was not included in the charges of assault and sexual battery, even though she was in the same house with the other suspects when Roe was put in a room alone with her daughter. Ney refused to comment about this, either.

William Riethmiller, Stephanie's father, turned state's witness in return for immunity. His role in the attempted "deprogramming" included renting of the van used in the abduction and the car used to transport his daughter to Alabama. He originally told police that his wife had left town on a business trip, but later cooperated with investigators and at one point established phone contact with his wife in Alabama.

One grim irony of the case is that Stephanie may not be involved in a lesbian relationship, although her mother continues to think so.

--Gay Community News



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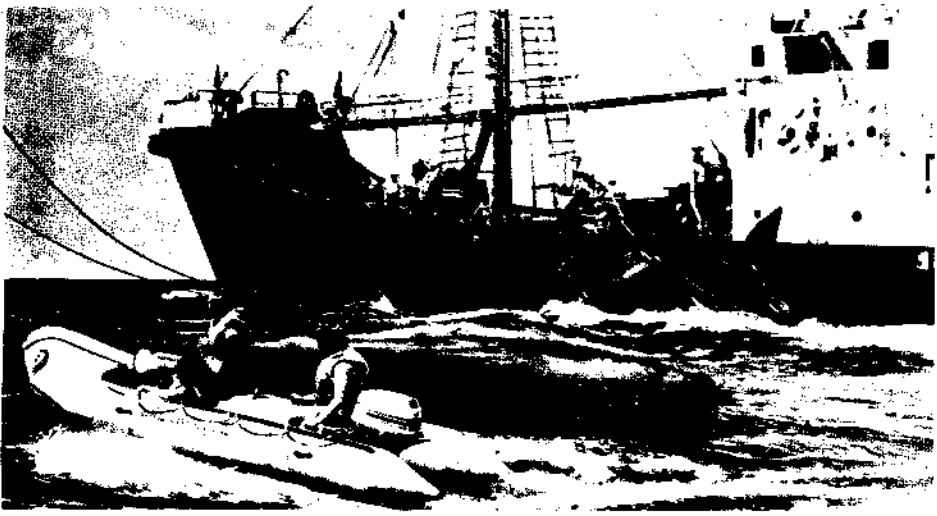
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slaughter of whales

(Right) Greenpeace crew members confronting Russian whalers. In the background are 3 dead sperm whales tied to killer boat.



(Below) Greenpeace members take on seal hunters.



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Post-American

of Western Australia, we have pursued and protested relentlessly.

--This year, for example, a Greenpeace member climbed aboard a Japanese whaling vessel and chained herself to the harpoon. The ship, enroute to hunt Sperm Whales, returned to port and the hunt was canceled.

--Greenpeace investigators exposed illegal Chilean pirate whalers at the International Whaling Commission in England in July. As a result, Chile abandoned all whaling practices.

--In the summer of 1980, our ship Rainbow Warrior saved several rare North Atlantic Fin Whales from Spanish whalers (who had already exceeded their allowed quota) before the Spanish Navy illegally seized our vessel in international waters.

--A year earlier, the Rainbow Warrior clashed with Icelandic and Spanish whalers in the Atlantic. In 1978, we hindered industrial whaling fleets through 2,500 miles of the Pacific. In 1977, using 14-foot zodiacs, we gathered off the coast of Australia, drawing international attention to their whaling.

This year we're going out again. And again. And again.

Does it work?

--Since 1971 the United States has ceased commercial whaling entirely. It now supports a complete commercial moratorium on whaling.

--The International Whaling Commission (IWC) passed a moratorium on the hunting of Sperm Whales this year, excluding the Western Pacific.

--Congress passed the Packwood/Magnuson and Pelly Amendments giving the president the power to cut off trade and reduce fishing quotas for

nations involved in illegal whaling.

--The Australian whaling station which we protested was shut down--the last in the English-speaking nations. Australia also reversed its stance at the IWC and now advocates a total ban on all commercial whaling.

--The IWC, under pressure, has reduced the whaling quota by 47% over the course of seven years and has prohibited factory ships from taking any species except the Minke.

For the whales, those are not small victories. For a growing sense of common purpose between people and their environment, they are victories, too.

But for all the victories the whaling has not ceased.

This year Greenpeace will continue to apply pressure to the IWC members, urging them to vote for a commercial moratorium on all whaling. Such an act would save the lives of more than 15,000 whales a year. (Native and subsistence whaling would not be outlawed.) And it would place a tremendous pressure on the governments of "pirate whalers." Pressures which, if intense enough, would mean whales will be at peace with people following centuries of slaughter.

Greenpeace believes that this complete moratorium on all commercial whaling is the only answer.

Such a moratorium would not only give the whales time to repopulate, but it would also give scientists the chance to assess the effects of large-scale whaling on other species of marine life. We know little about whales, and to allow the disappearance or rank decimation of the species--given our history with the bison, the passenger pigeon, the Blue Whale, the elephant, and countless other species--seems an act of criminal neglect.

More immediately, we believe it is time to establish marine sanctuaries, large coastal areas designated specifically for such research and study. Intelligence capabilities, communication processes, mating patterns, social behavior: all are vital areas of investigation if we are to understand those creatures whose habitat covers three-quarters of the globe.

This year Greenpeace will launch a major public campaign--from radio and newspapers to neighborhood meetings to the doorsteps of governments--for a complete moratorium on commercial whaling.

We can end this atrocious slaughter.●

--Chris Cook,
on behalf of Greenpeace
1700 Connecticut Ave., N.W., #305
Washington, D.C. 20009

years: launch our inflatable rubber boats and race out to place ourselves between the hunters and the prey, between the harpoon and the mark.

Every 29 minutes a great whale dies in agony for the narrow minds of people. All nine species of great whale are on the United States Government Endangered Species List, and some may soon join the pages of history, as the Atlantic Gray Whale already has. Before intensive hunting began, the Great Blue Whale--the largest leviathan that has ever lived--numbered over 200,000. Today, it is commercially extinct, reduced to approximately 3,000.

In no way can the tragedy of this slaughter be justified. In an earlier era, whale oil was used to fuel lamps. It was also popular as a lubricating agent with machinists. Delicate ambergris was used in expensive perfumes, and baleen was used for stays in women's corsets. In an earlier era, there were millions of whales.

Today, every single product made from the whale can be replaced by something else. Clearly, whale oil lamps are obsolete, and its properties as a unique lubricant for machines have been duplicated by synthetics. Studies promoting alternatives for whale oil (such as jojoba oil) are well documented. Baleen corsets have not been used in decades, and ambergris can be substituted by a number of organics.

But that does not stop the whaling.

If governments and politics aren't stopping the whalers, worldwide protest is. In the past six years, Greenpeace has nonviolently confronted whalers in the oceans of the world, from the North Atlantic to the shores

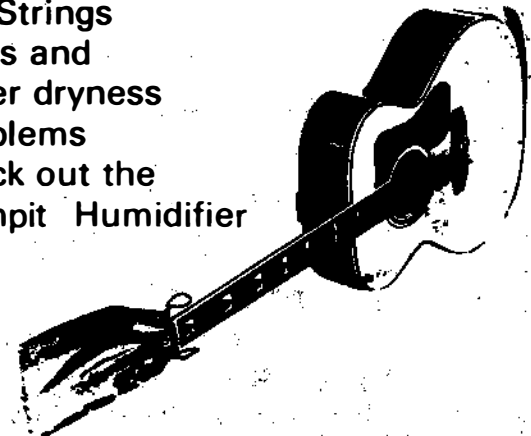
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The draft lottery system

Dear Draft Counselor: I am 19 years old and registered for the draft. What will happen to me if the draft starts next year? How can I avoid getting drafted?

For Peace, Charles Lamont,
Willingboro, New Jersey.

Dear Charles: If the draft begins in 1982, it will probably happen quickly in response to some kind of national emergency. The national emergency may not be a real one. Reagan will have to get Congress to approve of a draft revival, and the easiest way to do that will be for him to create a phoney national emergency. Remember that Reagan is an actor!

If Reagan is able to get a draft revival next year, the first people to be drafted will be men born during 1962. If your twentieth birthday takes place during 1982, you will be targeted for the draft. This targeting will be done by the Selective Service System (SSS) through a lottery, in which each date in 1982 will be matched up with a random number. If your birthday is assigned the number "one" you will be among the first to be drafted. If you are assigned the number "365" you will be among the last to be drafted.

Each month during the year, the SSS will announce how many numbers are being drafted that month. All men whose birthdays are assigned those numbers will receive a letter telling them to

report for induction into the army in ten days.

Claiming deferments

If there is some reason why you believe you should not be drafted into the army, you will have to go to the Post Office and get a Classification Information Booklet which contains SS Form #9. If the form is not returned prior to your inducting date, you have given up your right to claim a deferment. It is very important to act quickly and to get SS Form #9 in on time if you don't want to get drafted.

SS Form #9 allows you to claim every possible exemption you might be entitled to. You have to make all of your claims at one time. The only claims that will be accepted later are those which involve a recent change over which you have no control (such as the death of a family member).

There are a lot of possible exemptions available. Some of them are conscientious objector, mental or physical problems, hardship to dependents, medical or ministry student, and surviving son or brother of a person who died as the result of a military-connected injury. There are some others which are too technical to get into here. A draft counselor can give you the whole list and provide the details you will need.

When SSS receives your deferment claim, they will send you another let-

ter describing the documentation you must provide to prove your claim. They will also set a deadline for receipt of their material and a date for you to appear before your local draft board.

On the basis of your supporting documentation, the SSS must grant you the required deferment. If they don't you have the right to appeal within the draft system. An unsuccessful appeal can then be taken to court.

Long process

You have to go through this process--beginning with making your claim within the ten-day limit-- or you will be faced with the choice of being drafted into the army or of refusing the draft. If you refuse, you may be arrested immediately.

As you can see, Charles, this whole process will involve a lot of work on your part. The best advice is to get started right now. If you don't want to get drafted during 1982, now is the time to talk with a draft counselor and to begin preparing the documentation for your deferment.

Other questions about the draft should be sent to: Draft Counseling, RECON Publications, P.O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

--Chris Robinson
RECON editor and draft counselor

Post Amerikan page 10 vol. 10, #8

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Reagan silences Consumer Affairs

(PNS/ZNS) One of Washington's most powerful consumer watchdogs has lost its fangs, thanks to the Reagan Administration.

Under President Carter, the Energy Department's Office of Consumer Affairs made headlines by repeatedly knocking D.O.E. officials for handing out worthless information on the energy crisis and underestimating the impact of oil price decontrol on the poor. Those days are over: the head of the office, Tina Hobson, has been fired--by her account, for resisting orders to spy on community activists. Her replacement is Paula Unruh, whose previous paid employment consists of four years as a secretary for an oil firm in Tulsa and a brief stint as aide to an Oklahoma congressman--both in the '50s.

That isn't much of a background for the job, but then, Unruh won't have that much to do. The Consumer Affairs budget has been slashed from \$6 million to \$548,000, and the staff cut from 30 to 8. Unruh says her plans for the pared down office haven't been firmed up, but she has met with her superiors, and in her words, "we have discussed the fact that we have high hopes."

That's capitalism

The U.S. government is selling 110,000 tons of butter to New Zealand at 70¢ a pound, on the promise that it won't be resold to Russia, which had bid \$1.05 a pound. The U.S. had bought up the butter at an average price of \$1.40 a pound to keep the resale price around \$2. Call it Reaganomics or free enterprise.

--industrial worker

'Your Place' offers friends, fun

Post Amerikan

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When I first arrived, there were only four people there. I thought, "Oh, oh, another good idea gone bust."

I've been around for other well-intentioned attempts to organize the gay community in Bloomington-Normal, and I've become rather fatalistic about such efforts. Except for the ISU group, none of them ever seems to get off the ground.

And the "Your Place" coffeehouse was a good idea. Fortunately, it still is.

By the time I had to leave to go to Post-Amerikan layout (about an hour before the scheduled ending time), more than 25 people had shown up. Not only that, they really seemed to be enjoying themselves.

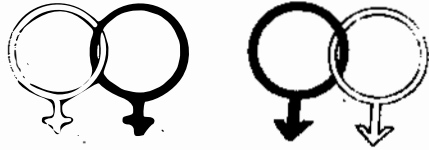
A good time

Some folks were playing pool, a few were playing cards. But most of them (us) were talking--to each other--about books, about a new gay musical group, about mutual friend who've moved to New York or Santa Cruz. One man was circulating a get-well card for everybody to sign for a gay friend who just underwent surgery.

People were laughing, chatting, interacting, having a good time.

The "Your Place" coffeehouse, I was told, began 4 weeks ago. The idea was to give lesbians and gay men of the community a place to meet and get acquainted--but something different from the standard gay-bar scene. "We wanted to show that there was a gay community here," said one man, "and not just out-of-towners who came to the bar."

Actually, "Your Place" meets in "My Place," Bloomington's one-and-only gay bar (see Post-Amerikan, vol. 10, no. 2). But the bar area is closed off, the music is turned down and the lights turned up. Instead of



alcohol, there's coffee, tea, and lots of yummy cookies.

Someone makes you a name tag. You can play a game (cards, chess, pinball, tri-ominos, pool) or just chat. You can also color in one of the several coloring books lying around--make a gay Spiderman--crayons are available in 64 different colors, not only pink and lavender, although those do seem to be popular.

Folks to meet

You might meet somebody from out of town--some people have come from Decatur, Champaign, Springfield just to attend this coffeehouse. You'll meet men and women of all ages, "not just the young 20s bar crowd," as one of the older 30s crowd put it.

So far, attendance has averaged 30-plus, even on the Friday after Thanksgiving. As one of the regulars observed, the coffeehouse provides a space for conversation, a chance to build support and exchange ideas. I heard a lot of talk about other activities being planned for gay people in B-N: a Sunday brunch, a men's rap group, some bowling teams, etc. (see adjoining story).

Although "Your Place" is a deliberate alternative to the bar, the people who regularly attend are quick to point out that Jerry Warren, owner of My Place, has been instrumental in making the coffeehouse a working reality. He has offered the bar premises for free and has encouraged the non-bar experiences in a number of ways.

No tension

As an alternate to a bar, "Your Place" succeeds quite well, in my opinion. The atmosphere's not crowded or dark, not filled with sexual tension or dominated by pulsating music. These things can be exciting and desirable, but they also create competitiveness

and isolation. The coffeehouse concept offers a decidedly different scene.

"Your Place" is remarkably casual and easy-going. The emphasis isn't on drinking or cruising. In fact, the emphasis isn't on anything. It's just gay men and lesbians getting together for whatever...

This new wrinkle in local gay activity happens every Friday evening, from 6 to 9 pm, at 424 N. Main, Bloomington. It might not strike others the way it did me, but there's nothing to lose; there's no cover charge. And it might change; indeed, it probably will if new people keep coming every week, as they have the first 4 weeks. But you guys should give it a try; I think you'll like it. I did.*

--Ferdurdurke

Fundamentalists busted

A group of 10 so-called Christian evangelists, preaching through a bullhorn about the "evils of homosexuality," were arrested on San Francisco's Castro Street, in the heart of the city's gay district. The arrests were made last Labor Day weekend.

The fundies first attracted a group of hecklers, but the crowd soon grew large and rowdy when a nearby movie theatre let out. The confrontation drew the attention of police, but the patrolmen ended up arresting the Christians, not the hecklers.

Seems the evangelists did not have a bullhorn permit, and when informed that they constituted an unlawful assembly they forgot about peace and law-'n-order, as well as turning the other cheek and going the extra mile and all those other alleged beliefs of the Christian cult. The four women and six men refused to disperse and had to be forcibly taken into custody.

The crowd applauded as the fundamentalists were herded into the paddy-wagon.*

--GALA Review

More things for gays to do

Besides the new coffeehouse, other events and activities for lesbians and gay men in Normal-Bloomington have been planned or are in the planning stages. Some of the items in the following list are more definite than others:

--a gay men's rap group begins meeting on Monday, Dec. 7; the specific purpose and focus of the group will be decided by the participants; if interested, call Pat (828-9220) or Tom (452-1457).

--a Christmas-tree decorating party will be held at My Place on Thurs., Dec. 17; no cover charge for anyone who brings an ornament.

--Gay People's Alliance is celebrating its 10th anniversary at a holiday party on Friday, Dec. 11; call 828-9085 for more information.

--a planning group for Affirmation, a religious group for gay/lesbian United Methodists and their friends, has met several times; a regular program of worship, support services, and perhaps even political activities is being planned; for more information write Affirmation/Central Illinois, PO Box 3732, Bloomington, IL 61701.

--six community members are undergoing training with PATH to serve as gay resource persons for PATH calls.

--a number of people are talking seriously about forming some gay and lesbian bowling teams; to express interest and get more info, call Tom at 828-9220. There's also talk of having a softball team in the spring.*

Tuesday

50¢ beer night



424 N. Main

9-1 T-Th, 9-2 F-S



Bisexual teacher wins damages in Ohio

In what may be a landmark decision, a U. S. District Court jury in Dayton OH awarded \$40,437 to Marjorie Rowland, who had been dismissed in 1974 by the Mad River Township School District because she told fellow employees that she was bisexual.

The jury's decision gives Rowland \$26,937 in lost earnings, and \$13,500 for "personal humiliation, mental anguish and suffering."

Rowland told the Columbus Free Press that she felt "real good about the ruling. I'm optimistic about it being a precedent setting case. I'm disappointed that it's not a greater amount, but feel that the jury made a good decision." She also said she was pleased that the jury had awarded money for the suffering she had undergone.

Rowland's attorney, Sandy Spater, said, "The case has national significance--it's important that the decision was made by a jury in a state as conservative as Ohio." The attorney also pointed out that the case is a precedent-setting one--it applies to anyone in a public job.

Rowland filed suit after she had been suspended from her job as a vocational counselor and then transferred away from students. Rowland had told a school secretary that she (Rowland) was in love with a woman; she also revealed to several teachers that she was bisexual.

Later in 1974, Rowland was counseling a homosexual student when the student's mother was present. The mother became upset with Rowland and accused her of being homosexual. Because Rowland was afraid that the mother would complain to school officials, she went to the assistant principal and told him about her bisexuality. He told her not to be concerned, that he would keep the matter confidential. He did not.

The National Education Association backed Rowland's case by paying attorney fees. Dave Rueben, counsel for the NEA, told the Free Press that he was pleased with the outcome of Rowland's trial. "We think that the private lives of teachers should be their own business," Rueben said. "That an Ohio jury would return this sort of verdict may be a sign that attitudes are changing."

Rowland is now a practicing attorney. She was admitted to the bar in June 1981. "My involvement in this case is one reason why I decided to return to school and become a lawyer," she told the Free Press. "I was also motivated to do this because I couldn't get a job as a counselor following the suspension and non-renewal of my contract."

Rowland is the mother of three children, aged 17, 15, and 11. The 15-year-old lives with her and the other two with their father. They are all pleased with their mother's victory.

Magistrate Robert Steinberg concluded his opinion in the case with these words: "Apparently, the jury felt, as does this court, that in our public educational system, which should have as one of its highest values the free expression of thoughts and ideas, there is room for the 'free spirit, the unconventional person who marches to the beat of a different drummer.'"

--Columbus Free Press

Gay rights: the good

The good news is that one chamber of the Wisconsin state legislature passed a bill which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. On Oct. 23, the Wisconsin State Assembly approved the bill by a vote of 50 to 46 and sent it on to the state senate for consideration.

Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), who sponsored the legislation, is optimistic that the bill will be passed by the senate, which is generally considered the more progressive of the two legislative houses in Wisconsin. Said Clarenbach: "I can count 14 out of 17 votes needed for passage in the senate."

Surprisingly, passage of the bill was attributed, in large part, to strong support from religious organizations. Not only did the Lutherans, Episcopalians, United Methodists, and the United Church of Christ endorse the measure, but so did the American Baptists and the Catholic Archbishop of Milwaukee.

"We defined the issue, not as a religious one or a moral one, but really as a question of human rights," explained Rep. Clarenbach. "We approached it from the perspective that to oppose these anti-discrimination proposals would be to condone bigotry."

The bill, if passed, would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations in both the public and private sectors. It would also ban discrimination by any contractor doing business with the state of Wisconsin.

If passed, this would be the first state-wide law in the country to

prohibit anti-gay discrimination. About 39 cities and towns in the U.S. have gay rights ordinances.

The bad news is that gay rights measures went down to defeat in Palo Alto CA and in New York City. Defeat in both cases was blamed on rabid opposition from religious fundamentalists.

In New York, it was the eighth time that the city council failed to pass a bill to prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gay men. This year the bill didn't even get out of the General Welfare Committee, which voted 6 to 3 to reject the proposed measure.

Religious opposition in New York was some of the most extreme in recent years. Both Jewish and Christian groups denounced the bill, including the Central Rabbinical Congress, the Catholic Archdiocese of New York City, and the Agudath Israel. Fundamentalist Christians and Orthodox Jews actually cheered each other's efforts in portraying gay men as transgressors of divine law.

The most astonishing display of anti-gay bigotry came from two members of a group called the Jewish Moral Committee, who applauded when someone cited the murders of two gay men in Greenwich Village last November. This group openly advocates the death penalty for lesbians and gay men. "Homosexuality is a capital offense," their information bulletin declares, "and the Torah requires capital punishment for a capital offense."

This vicious display of homophobia embarrassed and angered the numerous Jewish supporters of the bill who were



I should know better by now, I really should. I should know that feminists are as ashamed and embarrassed about the gays in their midst as is every other social, religious, ethnic and political group in Amerika.

I have known since that matriarch of the modern movement, Betty Friedan, first referred to lesbianism as the "lavender herring" of the women's movement that we were not wanted in feminist circles.

I have known since a National Organization for Women's convention barely supported a gay rights resolution--and then only after a heated fight--that it was clearly a national organization for straight women.

I have know since Ms. magazine stopped publishing articles about lesbians (it

Lesbians lose

was not open discrimination, you understand, just editorial priorities) that there was no mainstream feminist outlet which had a place for lesbians.

It's not that they are homophobic, they keep telling me, it's just that we must tone down (read: sell out) certain issues (read: lesbians) for the benefit of others (read: anything that is a real problem for real women).

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After order was restored, the chairperson of the meeting, Larry Holmes, threatened to have all those "making a disturbance" removed and reminded the audience that the speaker "had a right to express his opinion."

If someone had taken the mike to express racist or anti-feminist bigotry, would Holmes have tolerated it and threatened to throw out those who didn't?

--Gay Community News



gay news london/cpf

CAZ

in feminist film

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You can't deny the existence of gay women. We have been denied too long. We won't take it from other quarters; we will not tolerate it in the "women's" movement.

She may be nobody's baby, but she's still some man's wife. I can't see how that's much of an improvement.

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lesbian women and;
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"Whereas if I refuse to associate with homosexuals, the Federal Government can bring me into court as a criminal;

"Now and therefore, the undersigned citizen of the United States demands totally and categorically that the

United States Congress reject the 'Gay Bill of Rights' and reaffirm traditional God-given morality."

One wonders if that "traditional, God-given morality" includes the deliberate, malicious use of deception. Or have the Christians dropped those verses about bearing false witness from their holy book?

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Source: Gay Community News, Dec. 5, 1981.



Bisexual teacher wins damages in Ohio

In what may be a landmark decision, a U. S. District Court jury in Dayton OH awarded \$40,437 to Marjorie Rowland, who had been dismissed in 1974 by the Mad River Township School District because she told fellow employees that she was bisexual.

The jury's decision gives Rowland \$26,937 in lost earnings, and \$13,500 for "personal humiliation, mental anguish and suffering."

Rowland told the Columbus Free Press that she felt "real good about the ruling. I'm optimistic about it being a precedent setting case. I'm disappointed that it's not a greater amount, but feel that the jury made a good decision." She also said she was pleased that the jury had awarded money for the suffering she had undergone.

Rowland's attorney, Sandy Spater, said, "The case has national significance--it's important that the decision was made by a jury in a state as conservative as Ohio." The attorney also pointed out that the case is a precedent-setting one--it applies to anyone in a public job.

Rowland filed suit after she had been suspended from her job as a vocational counselor and then transferred away from students. Rowland had told a school secretary that she (Rowland) was in love with a woman; she also revealed to several teachers that she was bisexual.

Later in 1974, Rowland was counseling a homosexual student when the student's mother was present. The mother became upset with Rowland and accused her of being homosexual. Because Rowland was afraid that the mother would complain to school officials, she went to the assistant principal and told him about her bisexuality. He told her not to be concerned, that he would keep the matter confidential. He did not.

The National Education Association backed Rowland's case by paying attorney fees. Dave Rueben, counsel for the NEA, told the Free Press that he was pleased with the outcome of Rowland's trial. "We think that the private lives of teachers should be their own business," Rueben said. "That an Ohio jury would return this sort of verdict may be a sign that attitudes are changing."

Rowland is now a practicing attorney. She was admitted to the bar in June 1981. "My involvement in this case is one reason why I decided to return to school and become a lawyer," she told the Free Press. "I was also motivated to do this because I couldn't get a job as a counselor following the suspension and non-renewal of my contract."

Rowland is the mother of three children, aged 17, 15, and 11. The 15-year-old lives with her and the other two with their father. They are all pleased with their mother's victory.

Magistrate Robert Steinberg concluded his opinion in the case with these words: "Apparently, the jury felt, as does this court, that in our public educational system, which should have as one of its highest values the free expression of thoughts and ideas, there is room for the 'free spirit, the unconventional person who marches to the beat of a different drummer.'"

--Columbus Free Press

Gay rights: the good

The good news is that one chamber of the Wisconsin state legislature passed a bill which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. On Oct. 23, the Wisconsin State Assembly approved the bill by a vote of 50 to 46 and sent it on to the state senate for consideration.

Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), who sponsored the legislation, is optimistic that the bill will be passed by the senate, which is generally considered the more progressive of the two legislative houses in Wisconsin. Said Clarenbach: "I can count 14 out of 17 votes needed for passage in the senate."

Surprisingly, passage of the bill was attributed, in large part, to strong support from religious organizations. Not only did the Lutherans, Episcopalians, United Methodists, and the United Church of Christ endorse the measure, but so did the American Baptists and the Catholic Archbishop of Milwaukee.

"We defined the issue, not as a religious one or a moral one, but really as a question of human rights," explained Rep. Clarenbach. "We approached it from the perspective that to oppose these anti-discrimination proposals would be to condone bigotry."

The bill, if passed, would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations in both the public and private sectors. It would also ban discrimination by any contractor doing business with the state of Wisconsin.

If passed, this would be the first state-wide law in the country to

prohibit anti-gay discrimination. About 39 cities and towns in the U.S. have gay rights ordinances.

The bad news is that gay rights measures went down to defeat in Palo Alto CA and in New York City. Defeat in both cases was blamed on rabid opposition from religious fundamentalists.

In New York, it was the eighth time that the city council failed to pass a bill to prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gay men. This year the bill didn't even get out of the General Welfare Committee, which voted 6 to 3 to reject the proposed measure.

Religious opposition in New York was some of the most extreme in recent years. Both Jewish and Christian groups denounced the bill, including the Central Rabbinical Congress, the Catholic Archdiocese of New York City, and the Agudath Israel. Fundamentalist Christians and Orthodox Jews actually cheered each other's efforts in portraying gay men as transgressors of divine law.

The most astonishing display of anti-gay bigotry came from two members of a group called the Jewish Moral Committee, who applauded when someone cited the murders of two gay men in Greenwich Village last November. This group openly advocates the death penalty for lesbians and gay men. "Homosexuality is a capital offense," their information bulletin declares, "and the Torah requires capital punishment for a capital offense."

This vicious display of homophobia embarrassed and angered the numerous Jewish supporters of the bill who were



I should know better by now, I really should. I should know that feminists are as ashamed and embarrassed about the gays in their midst as is every other social, religious, ethnic and political group in Amerika.

I have known since that matriarch of the modern movement, Betty Friedan, first referred to lesbianism as the "lavender herring" of the women's movement that we were not wanted in feminist circles.

I have known since a National Organization for Women's convention barely supported a gay rights resolution--and then only after a heated fight--that it was clearly a national organization for straight women.

I have know since Ms. magazine stopped publishing articles about lesbians (it

Lesbians lose

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gay news london/cpf CAZ

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LETTERS...LETTERS...LETTERS

Post writer writes right, but too extreme

Dear Post,

I've been reading with interest, amusement, and enlightenment the series of articles and letters concerning what I've found out is the "Rape Culture we live in." I might hazard to say that if there is a culture condoning and supporting rape in our society that it is a sub-culture at best. Unfortunately, this sub-culture has the ability to intrude into innocent people's lives with violence all too regularly.

I would agree with Deborah that there is an attitude pervasive among some men (far too many) that women are objects to taunt, ogle, and dehumanize. This attitude probably feeds and supports the rape culture. I would guess however that the men who have this attitude do not themselves support the subculture consciously. These men are just pathetically ignorant.

When I grew up, the sexual revolution and the women's movement were in the forefront of the media and our thoughts. Consequently, I learned what sexism is and how to avoid it. I mistakenly thought that other men of my age group were learning the same things. I later found out that it was only the educated intelligent men who learned to deal with people on a human level first and a sexual level second. Unfortunately, this message is missing many of the current young people now that the issue of sexism is no longer in the media with such regularity.

Attitudes such as Deborah's are therefore important in that they get the message across. I can't however help but be amused by the extremity of her views. It is pathetic that she feels the need to fear strange men. My amusement is my problem, but I think that other people are equally amused by her extremity. This unfortunately tends to make her articles impotent in their impact. Her thoughts are too easy to discard as being the views of a "radical feminist" and therefore not as part of the mainstream.

I guess what this boils down to is that men in general need to wake up, women need to be tolerant, the media needs to keep the issue in print, and people need to work for change together rather than from the extremes.

A Man

Puzzled

Dear Post-Amerikan,

The name of your newspaper is puzzling. What does it mean?

Gary Stutzman

Dear Gary,

We discussed your question at several meetings and have come up with a very precise answer: We don't know.

We assume it had an original meaning, but through generations of use and misuse nobody remembers what it was.

You see, Gary, the paper was started almost 10 years ago, and none of us were members of the original staff. Hard to believe, I know, but true.

A couple of people thought it had been written down somewhere, either on a stone tablet or on a three by five card, but search though we might, we could find neither.

Our staff was so taken aback by your insightful question that no one could even come up with a nice lie to tell you. We just all sat there stunned. We were amazed that you would ask and further amazed that nobody could answer.

So, in true Post-Amerikan tradition, we have decided to leave it up to you, the readers, to come up with a reasonable answer. It is your paper, after all, and you should decide what it means.

Send your suggestions to the Post-Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701. No reasonable answer (and also no unreasonable answer) will be refused. We will print all of your suggestions. Then we will pick the

God lives in Fresno

Dear Post:

I see that you are listing the phone number of God now. But you're not correct in listing a number in New Jersey. God does not live in New Jersey; he lives in Fresno, California. And here's the news item to prove it:

"God says he is alive and well in Fresno, California. The former Terrill Clark Williams, 42, became God in the eyes of the law on Oct. 6 when a Superior Court judge signed the official decree of name change.

"It's something I've wanted to do for a long, long time," God said. About six years ago, God claims he was visited by three individuals who informed him that a new age would begin by 1982. "I was told that I was going to be part of that new age, that someday I would be called upon to change my name to God."

"God, a bachelor, lives alone. He was raised a Mormon but now practices no organized religion. 'I am a universalist who believes the universe is God,' God said. 'We are all God.'"

So, if your readers have had trouble in getting in touch with God, it's because he's in Fresno, not New Jersey. You really ought to check out your information before misleading people about important things like God.

Sincerely,
The Dalai Lama of Illinois

one we like best and claim it was the right answer. You can also pick the one you like best (if it's different from ours) and claim it's the right answer. You'll be wrong, but who cares.

So put your thinking caps on, readers. Get your ideas in by January 21. In the meantime, we'll try to find that stone tablet. It has to be around here someplace.

The Post staff

COMMUNITY NEWS

Small Changes coffee house

Small Changes, Bloomington's alternative bookstore, will be holding a coffeehouse Friday, Dec. 11. The event will be held at the Newman Center, 501 S. Main, Normal, from 8 to 10:30 pm. There will be home-baked goodies and live entertainment, including some open mike time for anyone who wishes to perform. For more information, call the store at 829-6223.

Service available

YWCA Countering Domestic and Sexual Violence offers confidential supportive services to victims of sexual assault and violent relationships.

Trained paraprofessionals will provide emotional support, information, referral, and advocacy services. These are available 24 hours a day by calling PATH at 827-4005, or toll free: 1-800-322-5015.



Alvarez acoustic guitar and case for sale. A bargain at twice the price... \$85.00. Call 828-1791.

FREE LIST of red hot, radical books about the struggle for peace and justice around the world. Send 20¢ postage to RECON, P.O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

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Keeping Christmas spirit alive

I must admit that I am a sucker for Christmas. I like Christmas carols and wrapping presents and decorating Christmas trees and seeing all the pretty lights on houses. I like Christmas cards and Christmas specials on TV and Santa Claus. I'm a sucker.

And I especially like the Christmas spirit. I like going Christmas shopping and asking perfect strangers if they think my mom would like this or that, and I like perfect strangers asking me if I think their daughters would like this or that.

I like how people take care of others less fortunate than they are as far as worldly goods (like food) are concerned, and how they give money and time and presents and love to people they would not give the time of day to at any other time of the year.

But I think that starting the Christmas season before Halloween is a grave tactical error on the part of the merchandisers. All it is doing is making people mad. There seems to be a trend to create two seasons in Amerika, summer and Christmas. And even folks like me who like Christmas demand a bit more variety in their lives.

I do have a suggestion, however; one that would please both the merchandiser and the consumer and would still allow for a celebration of more than one holiday. We should make every holiday a holiday season.

I'm serious. It's a great idea. The Salvation Army could send out their folks dressed as Lincolns and Easter

Bunnies and Pilgrims and Ghosts and Uncle Sams and bring in lots more money for the poor (who will always be with us, since the government is pretending they don't exist). Hallmark card, Fannie May candy and FTD florist sales would triple or more during the off season (which is any season except Christmas, as it is now).

People could keep up their pretty lights all year round. And everybody could leave their artificial Christmas trees in a prominent spot in the living room from now until eternity. They could change the decorations as the holiday season changes.

I can see it now. Hearts and cupids and groundhogs and little silhouettes of Lincoln, Washington, and Susan B. Anthony in February; little eggs and chicks and crucified bunnies at Easter; tiny American flags throughout June and July; autumn leaves, picture postcards from Cleveland, and plastic Union cards in August and September; and then we have the easy ones after that: Halloween, Thanksgiving and back to Christmas.

And it would be something everyone could participate in. You could create your own holidays and celebrate them. We would no longer be forced to deal with the Big Holiday being Christ's Mass. We could celebrate anything we wanted, any time we wanted, and no one would think us strange.

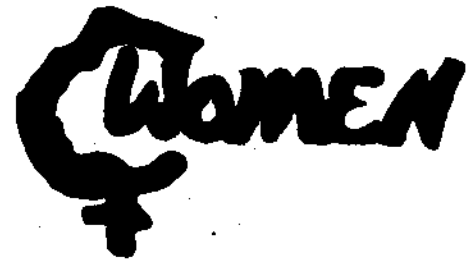
And everyone would be filled with the holiday spirit all year long, and the country would be filled with peace and love, and everything would be beautiful.

Then when RR or one of his ilk finally presses the button that will blow us all to oblivion, we can quick cut out little construction paper mushroom clouds, sit in our brightly lighted

living rooms, drink hot rum toddies, and silently and serenely wait to fry.

Happy holidays.

--Deborah Wiatt



If you have been raped, sexually attacked, or assaulted, call us for legal, medical and psychological assistance, referrals and alternatives

Call PATH

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and ask for the

RAPE CRISIS CENTER



the AMERICAN MYTHS 1982 calendar

'The Melting Pot', 'Columbus Discovered America', 'Women are Raped Because They Ask For It', 'Nuclear War is Winnable'. These myths and others THE AMERICAN MYTHS 1982 CALENDAR debunks through colorful, creative, sometimes humorous illustrations rendered by progressive artists. Positive myths, or visions, are also portrayed in the Calendar including 'This Land is Our Land', 'The Pursuit of Happiness', and 'Let the Bird of Earth Fly!'

With each Calendar is a mailing envelope and Flowers of Liberation, an attractive 16-page, 8"x11" cultural booklet.

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PO - Amerikan page 15 vol. 10, #8

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IN THE AREA

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SAT 10AM - 5:30PM
SUN NOON 'TILL 4PM.

Massage rubs Normal wrong way

Many of the residents of Normal who have gotten relief from various ailments at the hands of a trained professional masseur will again have to go outside of their community to find such relief as a result of the action of the planning commission and the city council.

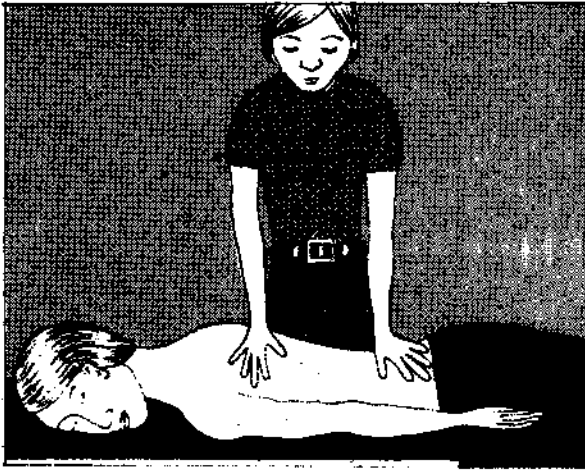
On Sept. 21, masseur Christopher Sovereign went before the Normal City Council seeking a text amendment which would allow professional, ethical massage in Normal. Christopher, who had been trained by Raymond Moser of Chicago in Structural Therapy of the Myo-fabril Technique, wanted to practice his healing art in Normal.

The technique employed by Christopher was developed by Moser after 20 years of work. It involves a deep tissue massage which seeks to release trapped toxins in the muscles such as lactic acid which can build up after a muscle contracts and then doesn't fully relax.

All parts of the body are massaged toward the heart to aid in this release. "This technique helps the body to work as it should naturally," said Christopher, and it has been successfully employed by Moser in the treatment of people afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease.

The matter was referred by the council to the city planning commission which handles zoning matters. After a public hearing at which Normal's Top

Cop David Lehr cited all the illicit activities such as prostitution and illegal sex which have been associated with massage parlors in other communities, the commission recommended denial of the proposal to the city council. At this time, feeling that a further rejection by the council was imminent, Christopher withdrew his request so that a precedent wouldn't be set for others who in the future would try to professionally massage in Normal.



For some reason, however, which even Normal corporate counsel Allan Novick wasn't sure of, the council went ahead and voted to "do nothing" on Christopher's request. "It could be that Christopher no longer lived in town and couldn't legally re-oppose an amendment, or that the council didn't

feel he was professionally qualified," said Novick.

Whatever the reason, the council saw fit to act on a proposal which was no longer before them. Evidently they were not going to let this matter slip by without their official opinion.

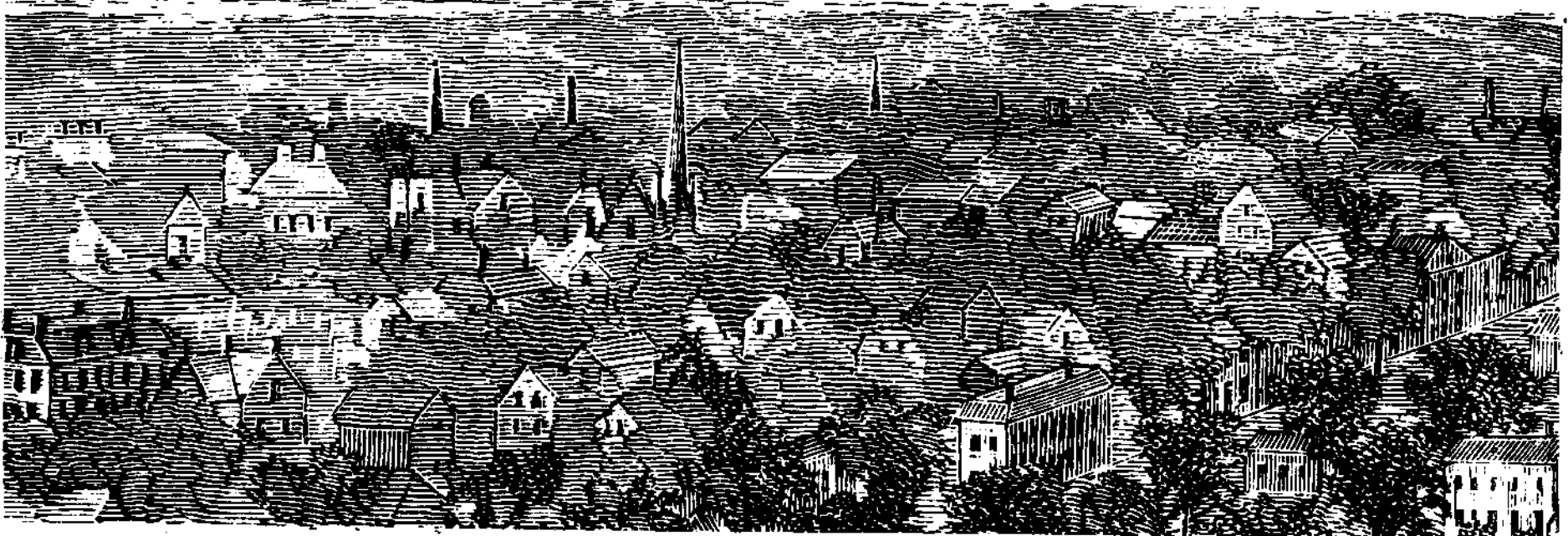
Apparently this issue has interested the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and has not yet been settled. "We're looking into this matter," said Scott Eatherly, local ACLU chairperson, "and I've brought it before the state chapter in Chicago and they too seemed quite interested." "It's very unfortunate that an individual with training in this field cannot pursue their occupation in Normal, and maybe some action will be taken on it," said Eatherly.

At the present, Christopher has been making efforts to possibly operate in Bloomington due to an ordinance which allows legal, ethical massage establishments there. "I've gotten the masseur permit, but it will take much more money to be able to comply with the structural requirements Bloomington wants," said Christopher.

Until that time let's hope that none of the Normal City Council members or commissioner Lehr gets a backache. They might have to visit the local bordello for relief.

--Francois

looks like a sleepy, serene community.



look again.

If you listen to the city fathers, the Pantagraph, the civic boosters and the phony speechmakers, you would think we lived in a 1930's Hollywood set. But let's look behind the scenes. Each month since April 1972, the Post-Amerikan has been denting that serene facade, printing the embarrassing truths the city fathers would rather overlook. Take another look at Bloomington-Normal. Subscribe to the Post-Amerikan.

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Who owns the presses?

There has been a dramatic surge toward concentration in the American publishing industry in recent years. The independent publishing houses and daily newspapers--traditionally the backbone of the industry--are rapidly being bought up by a handful of corporations with interests as diverse as fast food, cable TV, and defense contracting. There were close to 300 mergers and takeovers in publishing in the last 5 years--roughly the same number as in all the 20 years before--with the result that only 50 corporations now control half the nation's books, periodicals, and newspapers. In book publishing alone, at least 75% of the market is controlled by 50 large firms, and the 4 largest firms control 16%.

Other facts:

**20 corporations control 52% of all daily newspaper sales in the U.S.

**20 corporations control 50% of all periodical sales in the U.S.

**20 corporations control 52% of all book sales in the U.S.

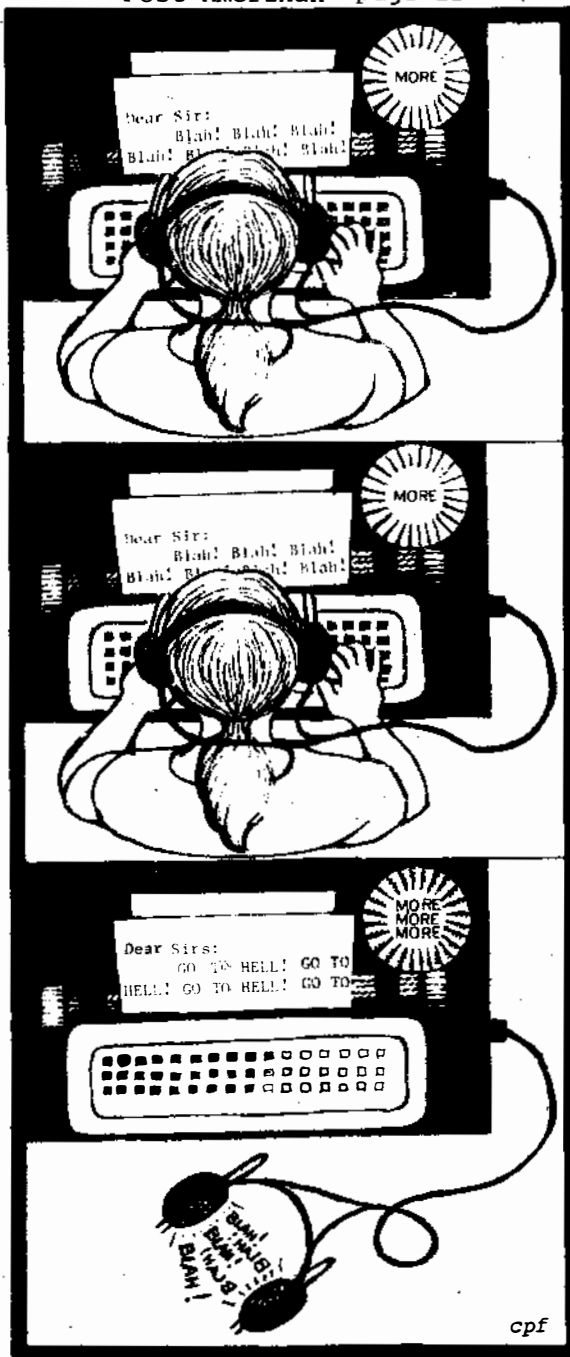
**20 corporations control 76% of all record and tape sales in the U.S.

**13 corporations broadcast to 76% of the TV and radio audiences in the U.S.

**7 corporations control 75% of all the movie distributions in the U.S.

Together, these corporations control 60% of what we see, hear, and read. Many control interests in more than one medium: Time, Inc., for example, owns 5 magazines, 17 weeklies, 5 publishing houses, a film company, and interest in cable TV and records; CBS owns 20 magazines, 4 record companies, Holt Rinehart Winston, Popular Library, and W. B. Saunders, among many other holdings.

--American Writers' Congress



What's the connection?

Between 1958 and 1959, sales of major home appliances went up 15%. So did the divorce rate.

--from "She's Nobody's Baby"

Brinks job

The attempted robbery of a Brinks truck and the killings of three law enforcement officials in Rockland County NY Oct. 20 have sparked what the FBI characterizes as "a major inquiry of radical organizations dedicated to the overthrow of the government."

A Brink's armoured-car guard was killed in the attempted robbery of \$1.6 million in Nanuet, a small town 20 miles north of New York City. Shortly after, two policemen were shot and killed at a roadblock set up in Nyack, several miles from the robbery site.

Three of the four people arrested in the robbery attempt were members of the Weather Underground: Kathy Boudin, Judy Clark and David Gilbert. Sam Brown, also arrested in connection with the robbery, was not linked with any radical group. Upon learning the identity of the suspects, law enforcement officials and much of the media whipped up a frenzy about possible links among several domestic radical groups and their alleged connections with international organizations.

Federal officials said they had found links among the Weather Underground--a long-dormant ultra-left group that engaged in a number of bombings in the late 1960s and early 1970s--and the Black Liberation Army, the Black Panther Party and other radical groups. Kenneth Walton, assistant director of the New York office of the FBI and director of a joint Federal-New York City Terrorist Task Force said that the radical groups under investigation shared common purposes including "the creation of a socialist state" and "an end to the United States government as we know it." Walton promised that the investigation would be a major inquiry of radical groups.

Esther Herst of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation, a Washington, DC-based group, expressed the concerns of many leftists, progressives, and civil libertarians. She criticized "the rather automatic response of the FBI who see this as an indication of domestic terrorism tied up in a worldwide conspiracy....This could trigger a new witchhunt."

Targets of witchhunt

***Three days after the robbery police shot and killed Samuel Smith after a high speed car chase in Queens and arrested a companion, Nathaniel Burns. Police said Smith and Burns were linked to the case by their car license, which matched one sighted outside a suspected "gang hideout," and by a bullet found in Smith's pocket which police said matched one fired in the Nyack robbery. Police identified Smith as a member of the Black Liberation Army and Burns as a former member of the Black Panther Party.

***Police raided a number of houses in New York and New Jersey, seeking links to the robbery. In several of the apartments, police said they found weapons, ammunition, floor plans, floor plans of police stations, bomb manuals, walkie-talkies and "literature espousing radical causes."

***Police arrested Jeff Jones and Eleanor Raskin, two former members of the Weather Underground, in one of the raids in New York City. The FBI said there was no demonstrable connection between the two and the Brinks robbery, but said the couple was still wanted in connection with an earlier charge of unlawful possession of explosives.

***Using helicopters and an armored car, over 100 heavily armed police converged on a rural Mississippi farmhouse to arrest one black woman

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sparks anti-left witchhunt

allegedly connected with the robbery: Cynthia Boston. Police identified Boston as minister of information of the Republic of New Afrika (RNA), described as a "terrorist organization" by both police and press. Advocates of setting up a Black nation in the South, the RNA is a small, but aboveground, organization. RNA leaders in Chicago held a press conference to denounce the police and media slanders, but only the FBI and the Chicago Defender--a black paper--bothered to attend. Police released Cynthia Boston days later for lack of evidence.

***Police are describing the May 19th Coalition as a "clandestine terrorist organization" with links to the robbery. Actually, the May 19th Communist Organization is an aboveground group (it is even listed in the phone book), which engages in support work for liberation movements.

***Police arrested Eve Rosahn and charged her with allowing her car to be used for the Brinks robbery. Rosahn had just been released from jail on charges stemming from a protest

against the South African Sprinboks rugby team in late September.

***Police broke into a house in Garden City, Long Island on an "anonymous tip" that Assata Shakur was seen in a van owned by the occupants. The four Blacks were actually members of a cleaning company crew and had never heard of Shakur. However, the police harassed them and arrested one for "resisting arrest" and another for "possession of gambling records" because he had a numbers lottery receipt.

***Police and FBI are still actively searching for a number of other suspects they believe were connected with the Brinks robbery.

In an ominous development in the case, FBI agent Walton said: "We are looking at this as a major racketeering investigation and will look at possible links between all these groups and possibly some foreign organizations." Asked by reporters about the links among the radical groups, Walton said: "There is association and there is communication. That is why we are treating this very much as a racketeering investigation."

Legal observers note that if this line of investigation is pursued, it is a dangerous development, a political use of a racketeering statute originally directed at the Mafia.

The Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act of 1970 was directed at criminal organizations. Under the act, if any of 32 different types of crime such as robbery, murder, or extortion is committed by an organization, twice within a 10-year period, the organization could be considered a "criminal conspiracy" and all of its members subject to prison terms of up to 20 years even if they themselves have done nothing.

Lawyers point out that many groups such as labor unions could be subject to attack under the racketeering law.

"Nor," says Thurow, "have our competitors unleashed work effort and savings by increasing income differentials"; that is, by making the rich richer and the poor poorer. The West Germans have 36% less inequality of income than the U.S. does, and the Japanese 50% less.

Given these facts, Reaganomics is revealed for what it is: another grab by the rich and powerful for more wealth.

--D. LeSeure

Costly free ride

Nine out of 10 reads of U.S. corporations receive free use of a company car, according to a recent survey of over 15,000 chief executive officers.

The typical free car for the boss costs \$13,400 and is often foreign made. Among the most popular free rides are Jaguars, BMWs, Rolls Royces and Mercedes-Benzes. The boss's favorite American-made car is the Cadillac Seville.

--Nation's Business

If fights broke out two different times between a picket line and scabs, for example, it is legally possible that a union could be declared a "criminal conspiracy."

FBI officials said that the Brinks robbery "handed law enforcement a big break." FBI agent Walton told reporters the robbery and shootings "enabled lawmen to make more progress in one week than they had in years." The total membership of the groups initially targeted by the FBI probably wouldn't fill a large living room. However, the FBI declared that the groups are "bent on destroying American society as we know it," and quickly moved to heighten its investigations and public attacks against other left groups.

For example, FBI spokesman Joe Valiquette said in New York that the FBI had determined that Judy Clark, arrested in the Nyack shootings, "is now a figure in the Socialist Workers Party (SWP)." SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes responded, "As the FBI well knows, Judy Clark has never been a member of the SWP...This malicious slander is aimed at justifying the FBI's war of disruption against the SWP, and to give the Reagan administration new ammunition for its drive to step up spying and disruption against workers' organizations, including the labor movement, Black groups, and socialist and communist organizations."

Haywood Burns of the Center for Constitutional Rights summarized the aftermath of the Oct. 20 robbery: "We feel that the FBI is using it as a pretext to extend their operations into the homes and lives of people that have unpopular ideas and this is a threat to all people's civil liberties."

--John Trinkel, the Guardian

The joy of labor-saving devices

In the 1920s, the average housewife spent 52 hours a week doing housework. Several hundred million washing machines and vacuum cleaners later in the 1960s, the average housewife spent 55 hours at housework every week.

--from "She's Nobody's Baby"

Theory behind Reaganomics: money

Although big business leaders, Republicans and other rich people claim that the way to cure U.S. economic problems is through more free enterprise and less government, the evidence from other more successful industrialized economies points to quite a different solution.

Economist Lester Thurow points out that "the hard-core conservative solution is to 'liberate free enterprise,' reduce social expenditures, restructure taxes to encourage saving and investment (shift the tax burden from those who save, the rich, to those who consume, the poor), and eliminate government rules and regulations that do not help business."

"In thinking about this solution," Thurow says, "it is well to remember that none of our competitors became successful by following this route," the route that the Reagan administration is now following.

For instance, government spending in the U.S. absorbs slightly more than 30% of GNP. In West Germany, the second most successful capitalist country, government absorbs over 50% of GNP. Not only is government bigger in Germany, but it also sticks its nose into more areas. West German law requires that union leaders sit on all corporate boards.

Similarly, Japan, the most successful capitalist nation, has a very high degree of central investment planning and government control of business.

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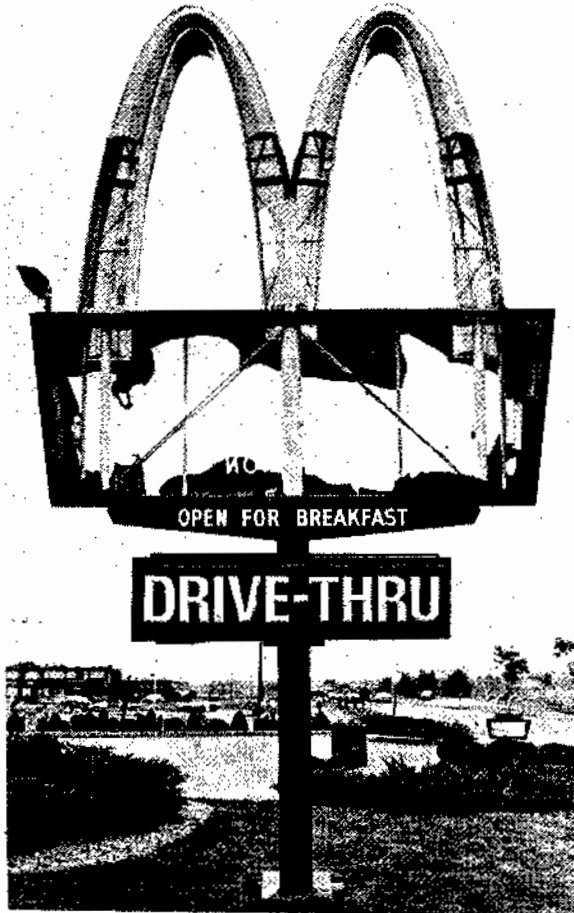
Voters reject Bible as textbook

Voters in Clear Creek school district, in Iowa, turned out in record numbers and overwhelmingly defeated a proposal to adopt the Bible as a supplementary textbook. District officials said the vote of 689 to 90 to reject the proposal was a record for the district.

Julie Gordaon, Iowa Civil Liberties Union executive director, said the proposition's defeat was the nation's "first real victory against religious zealots since the (1980) November election"--when the Moral Majority backed Ronald Reagan.

Residents of the district were worried that the referendum could lead to teaching the Bible in school and could open the way for cults to enter the school.

--GALA Review



CIA waging

Cuban President Fidel Castro recently made serious charges about a new biological warfare program against Cuba. On July 26, 1981, the 28th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Garrison, the beginning of the Cuban revolution, Castro stated that the government shares "the people's conviction and harbors the profound suspicion that the epidemics which have hit our country, especially the hemorrhagic dengue, may have been introduced into Cuba by the CIA." He pointed out that over the last seven weeks, 113 people had died of dengue fever, and nearly 300,000 were infected.

In addition, Castro raised questions about other plagues that have hit Cuba during the last two years: African swine fever, sugar cane rust, and blue mold on tobacco. Castro queried about a U.S. government role in introducing these pests which debilitated two key Cuban export commodities, tobacco and sugar, as well as one of Cuba's vital staples, pork.

The State Department and the U.S. media were quick to ridicule and discount Castro's charges. The Washington Post said that charges of dengue fever being introduced into Cuba by the CIA "makes no medical sense." While it is true that there are natural causes for a dengue fever epidemic, the possibility of CIA dirty work cannot be dismissed out of hand.

The U.S. has a long history of using biological weapons. A top-secret 1956 U.S. Army document, for example, urges that "military operational policies, plans and directives dealing with the offensive employment of BW (biological weapons) against specific targets" as well as "the fact that specific living agents or their toxic derivatives, identified by specific name and/or description, had been standardized for offensive military

Arson grounds herbicide copter

A group opposed to herbicide spraying set fire to a helicopter leased to spray herbicide over forests on the coast of central Oregon.

Two unnamed women from an organization called the "People's Brigade for a Healthy Genetic Future," claimed responsibility for the fire that gutted a \$180,000 1977 Hiller 12-E helicopter.

According to the Salem, Ore., Statesman-Journal, two women appeared masked in hooded jackets and bandannas in a videotape interview with Coast News Service, a local news organization. Calling it "an act of self-defense," the women said they had burned the helicopter "as a message to the companies who profit from spraying poisons indiscriminately with disrespect for human and animal life." And they said they "will strike again."

The spraying has been linked to miscarriages, birth defects, and cancer among residents of the area.

--WIN

Pontiac prisoner atmosphere getting worse

Post-Note: Every month, Illinois Prisons and Jails Project's Citizens Visitation Committee checks out Pontiac penitentiary, as well as other prisons around the state. The private citizen's watchdog group is allowed to go anywhere in the prison, talk with prisoners without guards overhearing, interview prison officials, and issue reports. The following is excerpted from the Project's new publication Outside Looking In, a bimonthly summary of the Visitation Committee's observations.

Pontiac has the misfortune to be best known for the 1978 uprising and subsequent trials. The Illinois Prisons and Jails Project has consistently found that the atmosphere at Pontiac, far from improving, has become more hostile in recent months. Staff frequently voice concern about what they view as increased gang activity, while many prisoners raise charges of staff harassment and physical abuse of prisoners.

The committee discussed a recent inci-

A religious minority?

Homosexuality is as healthy and biologically normal as heterosexuality, according to a report approved by a division of the American Psychological Association. The 4-year study by a team of 31 natural and social scientists characterizes the gay community in America as a kind of "religious minority" at odds with social mores.

"Gay people," says the report, "are a religious minority in the sense that they dissent from a dominant religious belief system which often seeks to punish them for their defiance of religious sexual taboos." Such taboos are "a major source of discriminatory laws and oppressive majority actions."

One of the study's originators, Harvard psychology professor William Paul, stated that "homosexuality is biologically natural since it appears spontaneously all over the natural world. This should put the sickness theory to rest forever."

Wanna bet? •

--GALA Review

dent in the segregation unit with both an internal investigator and a number of the prisoners present during the incident. As described by the investigator, a routine shakedown was being conducted throughout the prison, with all residents on lock-up. This necessitated officers performing all janitorial and food service functions in segregation. Reportedly, as the noon meal was being served, residents at the low end of the gallery began throwing food, urine and other material at officers. Prisoners were removed to the far end of the tier to facilitate food service, but the prisoners being moved reportedly became combative.

Prisoners present, however, allege that many residents were beaten without provocation, pointed out that only four disciplinary tickets were issued, although about 20 prisoners say that they were beaten.

The most seriously injured appeared to have been a young man with his arm in a cast. He reported that he was on a higher gallery when someone on his gallery shouted, "Kill! Kill!" He alleged that officers charged into his cell, and that his arm was broken when he raised it to protect his head from an officer's riot stick. Another man said that he was absent from the cellhouse when the disturbance began but was brought back from a committee hearing during the fracas. He reports that he was dragged into the office cell at the end of the tier and beaten.

At the time of the committee visit, a resident law clerk was moving down the tier, interviewing prisoners. He indicated that many of the men in the unit had given sworn affidavits. Some prisoners claimed that these events were not unusual, adding that mistreatment by officers in the segregation unit is routine.

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biological warfare in Cuba



employment" has to be kept "top secret."

In his book, Chemical and Biological Warfare--America's Hidden Arsenal, Seymour Hersch also quotes a report stating that an inventory at Fort Detrick, Maryland, included "mosquitos infected with yellow fever, malaria and dengue; fleas infected with plague, ticks with tularemia, relapsing fever, and Colorado fever; houseflies with cholera, anthrax, and dysentery." In addition, Fort Detrick facilities, which have been used by both the CIA and the Army, included "laboratories for mass breeding of pathogenic microorganisms and greenhouses for investigating crop pathogens and various chemicals that harm or destroy plants."

In 1977 it was further revealed that the CIA, during the early 1960s, maintained a clandestine "anti-crop warfare" research program "targeted at a number of countries" (Washington Post, 9/16/77). In spite of the 1969 order by President Richard Nixon to halt research on and planning and stockpiling of offensive biological and chemical weapons, the CIA and the Army have continued research on and use of such weapons.

Newsday reported on Jan. 9, 1977, that "with at least the tacit backing of U.S. CIA officials, operatives linked to anti-Castro terrorists introduced African swine fever virus into Cuba in 1971." The operation was successful. Six weeks later an outbreak of swine fever forced the slaughter of 500,000 pigs to prevent a nationwide epidemic. Newsday described how the biological



warfare operation was carried out: one intelligence operative was given a sealed container with the swine fever virus in Fort Gulick in the Panama Canal Zone. At Fort Gulick, according to Newsday, the CIA also "operates a paramilitary training center for career personnel and mercenaries." At the time, Fort Gulick was also used as "a staging area for covert operations in the Caribbean and Latin America."

From Fort Gulick, the container with the virus was transferred to members of a counterrevolutionary Cuban group, which took it by trawler to Navassa Island, a deserted U.S.-owned island between Haiti and Jamaica. After a stopover in Navassa, the container was taken to Cuba and given to operatives near the U.S. military base, Guantanamo.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization stated that the swine fever outbreak in Cuba was the "most alarming event" of 1971 in the Western Hemisphere, and Fidel Castro said in his 1971 speech celebrating the anniversary of the attack on the Moncada barracks: "the origin of the epidemic has not yet been ascertained. It could be accidental or it could have been the result of enemy activity. On various occasions the counterrevolutionary wormpit (Cuban terrorist groups in the U.S.) has talked of plagues and epidemics...."

A proposal for a CIA food study serves as one more indication that the CIA is targeting Cuban food production in its continuing war against Cuba. The study requested by the CIA was to "evaluate national nutrition and health problems and strengths...as they affect food availability and consumption requirements of key less-developed countries...." One of the "key countries" listed in this proposed 1978 one-year study was Cuba. The study was supposed to answer questions including: "What are the nutrition and disease factors related to food availability and utilization?; what is the impact of the biological/ecological/cultural environment on nutrition, health and disease?"; and finally, "what is the impact of national food needs and demands which result in parallel incidence of debilitation and crippling diseases in the labor force?"

Biological warfare research by the Army and the CIA is not a thing of the past. For example, last year U.S. "government laboratories" were studying the Rift Valley fever virus for use "as a biological warfare agent." Like dengue fever, Rift Valley fever is transmitted by mosquitos; it causes blindness, severe bleeding, and liver damage, and can cause inflammation of the brain, and death. Col. Gerald A. Eddy, the chief virologist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute in Frederick, Maryland, commented on the danger of Rift Valley fever: "We think the world is relatively unprepared for this potentially devastating virus." According to Col. Eddy, only the U.S. Army has certified vaccine, and it is only enough to immunize some 100,000 people (Facts on File, 4/25/80).

That the CIA wants to "keep the option open" to use biological warfare was confirmed in a "joke" by then-CIA Deputy Director Frank Carlucci. (He is

now Deputy Secretary of Defense.) Carlucci stated in a speech given to the American Bar Assn. in June 1980 that he is opposed to any prohibition of biological warfare:

"We've gone through successive iterations of intelligence legislation, there are some concepts that have arisen that I personally consider a bit curious or difficult. One is that we can reduce every detail of the intelligence business to state. The original intelligence charter...had an array of prohibitions....There was one that said CIA agents should be prohibited from overtly taking an action likely to lead to flood, pestilence, plague or mass destruction of property. In the CIA there was a tongue-in-cheek comment that we ought to oppose this just to keep our options open."

In spite of the devastating effects of successive plagues, Cuba has proven in the past that the country is able to defeat attempts by counterrevolutionary Cubans and the CIA--including biological warfare--to defeat the revolution. Far from destroying it, attacks on Cuba have strengthened the determination of the Cuban people. Says Fidel Castro: "This country may be wiped off the face of the earth, but it will never be intimidated or forced to surrender."

--counterspy



Packaging, the stuff of life

If you're an average American, \$1 out of every \$11 you spend for food and beverages actually goes to pay for the packaging.

For one quarter of the items in the typical supermarket, the package costs more than the food inside. Among the worst buys are soft drinks and chips: their packaging generally costs twice as much as the stuff inside.

Last year the packaging industry produced 600 pounds of packaging for every person in the U.S. The packaging industry now uses 61% of the paper, 71% of the metal, and 96% of the glass used in the U.S. •

--Nation's Industry

Coloreds: In-between in South Africa

Post Amerikan page 22
vol. 10, #8



Cape Town is one of the world's most beautiful cities, and it's one of the most pleasant--if you're white and well off.

For the last few decades, there have been two Cape Towns: behind the mountains that frame the picturesque city are the Cape flats, where several hundred thousand native South Africans live in poverty and virtual "exile."

These people are officially classified as "colored." They occupy a special place in the crazy quilt of South African racial politics. The descendants of 17th-century unions between Dutch and native Hottentots (with Bushmen, Indians, and Asians mixed in), the coloreds are considered neither black nor white. They exist in a kind of no-person's land between the two racial groups struggling for control of South Africa.

Cape Town is their center. About one-third of South Africa's 2½ million coloreds live in the southern sections of the Cape province.

'Brown Afrikaners'

White citizens of Cape Town have long taken coloreds for granted--patronizing them, protecting them from the competition of black labor, and discriminating against them. The whites call coloreds die bruin Afrikaners (the brown Afrikaners), although the label is misleading, since "coloreds" come in all shades between black and white.

For a long time, though, coloreds accepted this designation and docilely played their assigned role in apartheid. This peaceful picture was severely shaken last spring when coloreds in the Cape and elsewhere staged a long series of protest demonstrations.

The protests focused on inadequate and rundown schools, but in Cape Town they grew into a boycott that crippled the city for two days.

South African police responded with their usual violence--at least 33 men, women, and children were killed; many more were injured, and an unknown but large number were "detained." Under

the country's harsh laws against political protest, offenders who are "detained" can be jailed on vague charges and held for an indefinite amount of time.

Although blacks joined the protests, this effort was inspired and largely organized and maintained by coloreds, especially by teenagers from the dusty flats above Cape Town.

Apartheid setbacks

Until 1948, coloreds had lived and worked among the whites of Cape Town; they had developed their own residential areas within the city. But in 1948 the National Party, new to power and eager to keep it, instituted formal apartheid.

For Cape coloreds, apartheid brought two severe setbacks. One was their removal from the common voters' roll. Male coloreds had been able to vote for white candidates but the National Party, wanting to dilute their opponents' power, disenfranchised the coloreds. They remain so today.

The second setback came with the Group Areas Act, which gave the government the authority to uproot non-whites from any area they wanted to use for other purposes. In 13 years, this piece of legalized oppression has turned a city that was more than half colored into one where only a few pockets remain.

For instance, in District 6, largest of Cape Town's remaining colored areas, four-fifths of the 10,000 families have been forced out. Their houses have been bulldozed to make way for a whites-only technical college and housing for upper-middle class whites. At the same time, some 65,000 colored and Indian families await new housing in Cape Town.

Like Sowetto

The Group Areas Act has also turned the arid Cape flats into a barren stretch of phony "townships" and festering conditions that erupted in the boycotts. While the flats are somewhat different from Soweto, the huge black township outside Johannesburg, they do

duplicate a number of Soweto's conditions and problems: overcrowded housing, inadequate public services, and an absence of job opportunities that force the residents to commute to the city for work.

The flats are also covered by wretchedly squalid housing "camps," where the most powerless of the Cape's non-whites are herded (such as the Malawian immigrants who have no right to government-assisted housing).

Although last spring's protests were organized as a boycott of poor schools, they grew out of broad feelings of colored frustration and powerlessness. They were also accompanied by strong anti-capitalist attitudes.

"These kids," a young colored social worker said, "have been reading and learning. They--we--don't simply want to exchange black ways for white ways. We don't want, as they seem to in the States, to get the white man's big house. We want a society in which everybody has a fair share."

The immediate goal: a non-racial, unitary school system to replace the one that spends about 10 times as much on white pupils as on blacks and three times more on whites than on coloreds.

Whites divide

To achieve these goals, however, coloreds will have to resist the attempts of the white government to divide them from blacks. The National Party regime of P.W. Botha has been playing up to colored leaders, proclaiming the "interdependence" of whites and coloreds and predicting the "assimilation" of coloreds into the white community.

The present trend among coloreds is to consider themselves more black than white. But black leaders are in no hurry to make a firm political alliance with a small group that suffers far fewer restrictions under apartheid. In Cape province, black resentment has been intensified by job preference laws that favor coloreds at the expense of blacks.

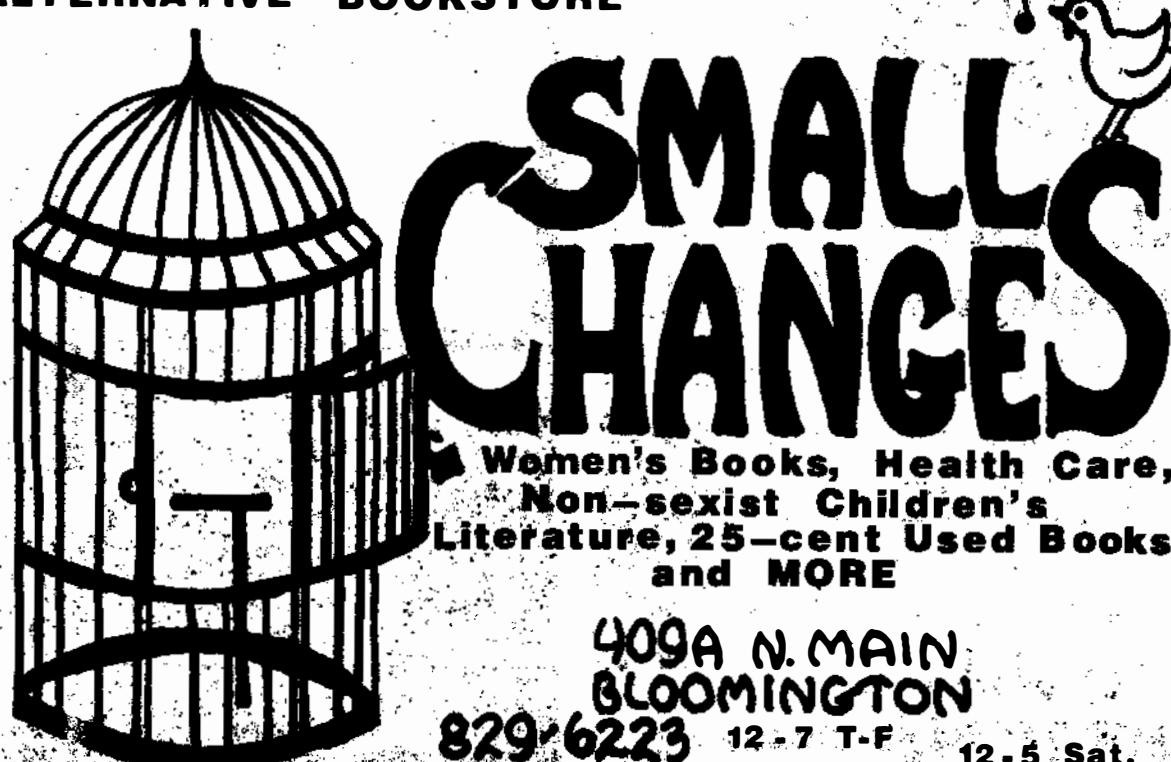
Colored leaders take pains to minimize these distinctions. David Curry, national chairperson of the Labor Party, says of job preference, "We don't want that. We're for putting the best people in the jobs."

Curry also makes a claim that many other coloreds echo: separation between them and blacks is the artificial result of apartheid, not the product of innate differences between the two groups. The acceptance of that claim will determine the role coloreds play in the racial struggle in South Africa.

--Adapted from an article by Roger M. Williams, which appeared in Commonweal, Feb. 27, 1981; with additional material from Southern Africa: Reference Shelf #31 (1978).

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Whatever happened to the old rads? And who cares anyway?

I should have known better. But time and ego worked their tricks, blunting my common sense and sapping me with my own naivete.

Why else would I let the Pantagraph interview me?

The phone call came on a Wednesday, and I have to admit that my first response to it was a paranoid one. Here was this female voice that I'd never heard before, asking me if I was the same Bill Sherman that had once gotten involved in anti-war protest--you can hardly blame the defense mechs for kicking in. The voice belonged to Emilie Krebs, Pantagraph reporter, and the reason for her call was a proposed Saturday feature, a nostalgic "where-are-they-now?" look at the movers in Bloomington-Normal's Vietnam-era protest. Now, I wasn't all that big a mover, but I was still living in town, which made me easier to reach than most of my former compatriots. The longer I talked with that newspaper reporter, the more my paranoia was soothed. It might be fun, I thought, to get to pontificate on a significant part of my early life . . .

I was a chump.

The interview took about forty-five minutes, counting a five minute photo session in the backroom of Drastic Plastic. I thought it went pretty good at the time. About the only moment I remember feeling really awkward was when the interviewing Krebs asked me about long hair. ("If you had children, and they came in with long hair, how would you react?" The question was meaningless, I thought, in the context of today's culture. Some of the most reactionary clowns I know today have long hair.) Then the article came out in Sunday's Pantagraph ("Protesters' Cause 'Just Living,'" Nov. 1, 1981). I was the last of four interviews. I got five paragraphs and a photo, and I felt like a fool.

I am not a Good Interview.

There are Good Interviews and Bad. In newspaper terms, a Good Interview fits the format: short paragraphs and a fifth grade vocabulary, a knack for taking complicated issues and succinctly encapsulating 'em into a single sentence. Now, I'm as good as most folks when it comes to fatuous one-liners: I can do 'em, especially when I've got a couple of beers in me. But put me in front of an interviewing notebook, and I start sounding like a student out of "Welcome Back, Kotter": full of vague pronouns, repetitions, false starts and stops and "y'knows."

This isn't entirely my fault. There's a certain irreconcilable conflict between the way I answer questions sober and the way newspaper reporters mean to have their questions answered. Maybe I'm too (ahem) subtle or something.

I blame part of the problem on the modern reporter's indiscriminate use of ellipsis, that trio of dots placed in quotes to indicate that part of the quote is missing. Too frequently, when part of a quote is missing, part of the meaning is also. Here's an example. At one point in my Pantagraph interview, my interviewer asked about my "politicization."

I answered by attempting to describe the political climate of the late sixties/early seventies, to describe the sense many of us had in the period that everything you did had a political meaning. "Even going to college was a political decision," I said (or words to that effect), "because you knew in going that you were postponing the draft." This didn't mean that every male who entered college was avoiding the draft--that's palpably ridiculous--but you couldn't avoid the fact that by being in college you weren't in the service. And you had to respond to that fact somehow.

I don't think my point was all that complicated, but it fell through the ellipsis anyway. My quote on the subject appeared thus in the Pantagraph: "Going to college was a political decision...you enrolled in college



to avoid the military." So much for heady pontification.

But a good reporter doesn't need ellipsis to beat an answer into submission. Sometimes plain bullying works. My favorite part of the interview--a part that bothered me during the interview itself but which has retrospectively come to exemplify the straight newspaper mentality--came at the very end of the Pantagraph's piece. "If you could pinpoint the main reason for your involvement in the anti-war movement," my interviewer asked, "what would it be?"

My answer was long. I couldn't pinpoint one single reason, I said: there were many reasons for getting involved in the Vietnam era anti-war movement. You could be pacifist, a leftist who saw the war issue as something to educate folks around, a confused shmce who didn't want to add to the confusion, a coward...at one point, I was any one of these people. I couldn't pinpoint just one reason.

"But if you could," my dauntless interviewer persisted.

So I gave a second answer: a muddled bit of gobbledegook about Order and Chaos that read like something out of a hack job fantasy novel. That muddle got printed as the article's capper: one man's incoherency used to wrap an article that took a part of four folks' lives and turned it into a piece of Sunday novelty. I should've known better.

The photo was nice. I sent a copy to my parents. ●

--Bill Sherman



NATURAL FOODS

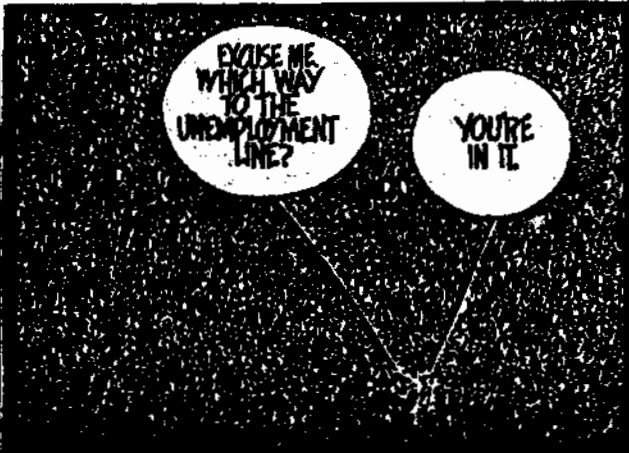
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**Post-Amerikan
Plastification
Award**

**Frumpy
Frosty
deceives
little ones**

What will we do when all the children of Bloomington-Normal believe that a snowman has a big pink plastic tube for a head? And sports a see-through body? And has ratty tinsel-and-plastic candy canes jutting up from his butt at a drunken tilt? And never melts?

That's what the city of Bloomington is telling them with the frumpy plastic Frosty in front of the Consistory on East Street. This mangy fellow, with his thin black idiot grin on not just one but two sides of his head, is an insult to our hero of song and story, who the children say could laugh and play just the same as you and me.

This towering tawdry piece of Christmas litter on the parkway is as hollow as the sentiments we express with most of our Christmas gift-giving. He's got no guts, no heart (not even a chilly one). You look between his shaggy tinsel ribs and gaze on the pitiful tangle of wires that power him and you think of the wires that jerk you like a puppet up and down the snarled and snarling aisles of shopping malls.

So while you're sweating it out hoping Miller's has another individual electric egg scrambler for the second-cousin-once-removed you've never spoken to, getting a headache, adding another wrinkle to your brow, worrying about spending too much money and feeling like a fool, don't forget that the city has got you all beat with this seedy pseudo-snowman. They paid \$1575.00 for him in 1978.

--Phoebe Caulfield.



Note: For a cost rundown on all the city's resplendent Xmas junk, see P-A VIII # 7.

Plastification runner-up

Navy gives peace sign

A second popular entry for the plastification award is this 5-by-12 billboard before the viaduct on Center Street as you drive from Normal to Bloomington.

Having trouble reading the small print as you zoom by? It says, "the navy." PEACEthenavy, then, is the sign's entire text: a message eloquent in its simplicity.

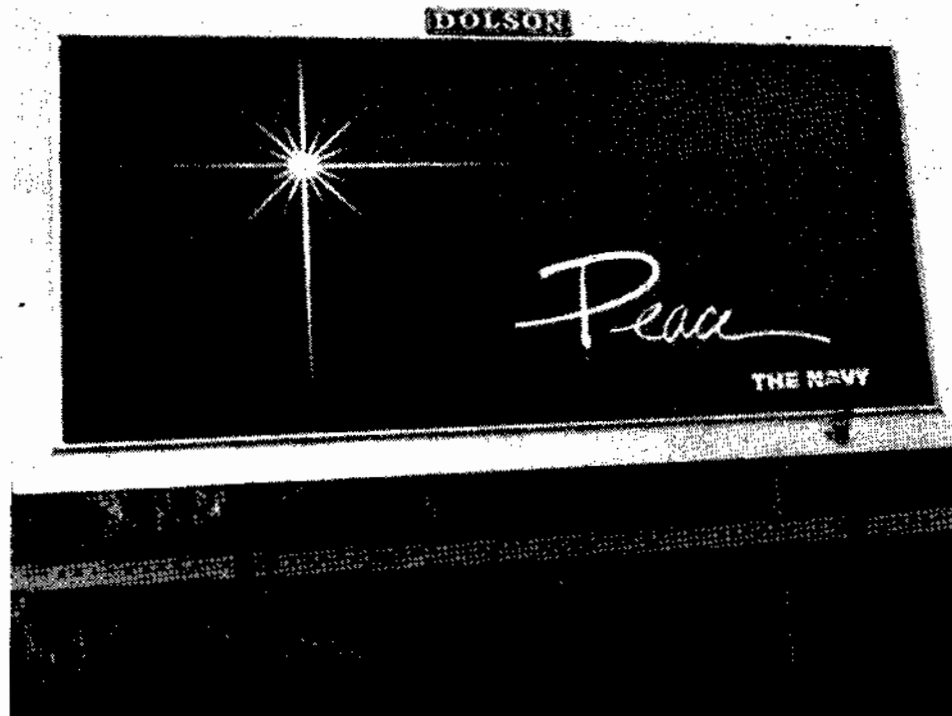
Rumor has it that this billboard is just the first in a series designed to repatriotize Amerikan motorists subconsciously. Others in the cumulative series will include PEACEthemilitary, PEACEaggression, PEACEtheneutronbomb. The final sign will be an elegant PEACEwar.

Which sounds kinda like something I read in a novel somewhere sometime.

PEACEbigbrother.

FREEDOMslavery.

--Phoebe Caulfield



Phone in your nomination for next issue's Plastification Award: 828-7232.

Designer genes

Recombinant DNA researchers at Chick & Little Agribusiness Laboratories in Gumboro, Delaware, have announced the development of a fully boneless chicken. The breakthrough was achieved, a spokesperson said, by inoculating ordinary eggs with genetic material from seedless grapes, and growing the resulting embryos under heavy doses of gamma radiation from nuclear waste.

The firm expects to market the flexible (and

fissionable) fowl early next year, if approval can be obtained from the Food and Drug Administration and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Nuclear industry representatives are enthusiastic about the possibility of finding a commercial use for waste, and other researchers say they are anxiously awaiting such further developments as Easter egg trees and pre-stuffed turkeys with up to 12 drumsticks.

--Prairie Sun