

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

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The Post Amerikan Project

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Volume 13, Number 6

Post Amerikan

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funbusters, cub fans, marital rape, nicaragua

POST AMERIKAN

25¢

October 1984
Vol. 13, No. 6



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POST AMERIKAN

Volume 13, number 6

October 1984

page 2

In this issue

Page	
3	FEAR IN SOMATILLO; THE NEW NICARAGUA Two more accounts of Witness for Peace experiences
4	MIDWIFERY STILL AT ISSUE Obstacles still not cleared for Illinois midwives
5	FUNBUSTERS NOT THAT FUNNY Party patrol should go after real criminals
6	REAGAN COURT ASSAULTS PRIVACY Recent decision says gay sex not Constitutionally protected
7	WHY WE NEED GAY RIGHTS Government inaction encourages queer-bashers
8-9	WHEN YOUR RAPIST IS YOUR HUSBAND The reality of rape in marriage; the Illinois response
10	MARITAL RAPE: FOUNDATIONS FOR LEGALITY Where laws and attitudes about rape come from
11	DETASSLING NEW YORK STYLE Office temps work the Big Apple plantation
	TOUCHY ABOUT TONES GTE tries another rip-off
13	PORNOGRAPHY IS A SOCIAL DISEASE Striking a balance between women's rights and free speech
15	INNOCENTS IN PARADISE--II The continuing saga of Bill and Becky Gringo in Mexico
16	WEIRD MUSIC FOR WEIRD PEOPLE Review of local recording group, Big Hair
	Cover.....1
	Cable Comix.....11
	Gen Tel article.....11
	My Sister, the Punk Rocker....12
	Community News.....14
	Back page.....16

ABOUT US

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or downplayed by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media. Decisions are made collectively by staff members at our regular meetings.

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, and news tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us call 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

We like to print your letters. Try to limit yourself to the equivalent of two double-spaced typewritten pages. If you write a short, abusive letter, it's likely to get in print. Long, abusive letters, however, are not likely to get printed. Long, brilliantly written, non-abusive letters may, if we see fit, be printed as articles. Be sure to tell us if you don't want your letters printed.

An alternative newspaper depends very directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe that it is very important to keep a paper like this around. If you think so too, then support us through contributions and by letting our advertisers know you saw their ads in the Post Amerikan.

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The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is November 1.

Thanx

This issue is in your hands thanks to: Drue, Deborah, Melissa, Diana, Mark, Sue, Susie, Have, J. T., Ralph, Danny, Bumper, Pink Bob, Nadene, Bobby, Kathy, Laurie H., Laurie D., Stan, Pete, and Dave (coordinator)--and others we probably forgot to mention.

No one sent in any generous contributions, so we have no one to give special thanx to (sob!).

Moving?

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Fear in Somotillo

POST NOTE:

These two articles are extensions of the Witness for Peace article we ran last month, describing local people's experiences in Nicaragua.

It was our second night in Somotillo, Sunday, August 5, not far from the Honduran border. The hot night air was filled with the sound of roosters proudly crowing across town, coyotes and dogs howling in packs, and outside our door the continuous murmur of Nicaraguan stategists plotted their survival against the C.I.A.-backed contra terrorists. They had to plot, these "Delegates of the Word," who had come together from all parts of Nicaragua to meet this week-end, for they are an integral part of the barrio life--so integral that they have all received death threats and are on the contra hit lists.

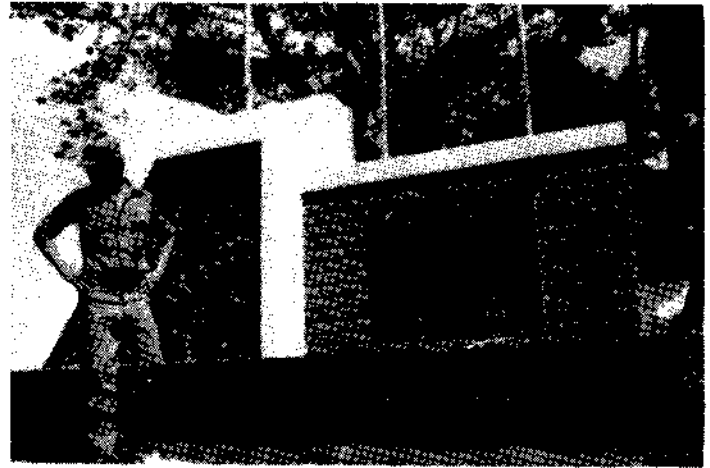
The air was suffocating. Our doors had been double locked and then secured with a five foot two-by-four. Whenever we opened them, succumbing to the heat, a Nicaraguan would stealthily creep over twenty-two bodies sleeping on the floor to again secure our one-room house. We were beginning to learn what it was to live with fear, to always be on alert.

Waiting in darkness

Suddenly the lights went out. It was about 9 p.m., so people were still milling about. A groan went up and flashlights flicked on quickly to lighten our fears. The water had been off all day, so why shouldn't the lights go out in this remote Third World barrio? People settled quickly, reminded that village life begins at dawn. But the fear still gripped me as I lay on my mat. I could see *Carmin searching in the darkness for one of our coordinators. I knew something was wrong.

Memorial to the heroes massacred on July 24, 1984 by contras.

Photo by Tina Sipula



"The contras have cut the lines," I heard her whisper in quick Spanish. She visibly shook. At twenty-one years old, she had more responsibility than most of us will ever know in our whole lives. As a Delegate of the Word, she is responsible as a religious leader in her community, as priests are scarce, and she is responsible for security in her barrio if there is a contra attack. Also, she is a part of the militia and must go to fight at the front (El Frente) if her barrio is on alert. It seemed her time had come.

Sleep in a war zone

Quickly everyone was quietly awakened. We whispered as if the enemy were outside the barred door, but we learned they were about eighteen miles away. In silence we dressed practically, water bottles were filled, crash packs were strapped to our sides. We were told to have someone sit guard and the others to go to sleep. Sleep was impossible! Here we were in the midst of a war zone, getting ready to move out, and we were told to go to sleep! Magically a circle was formed, arms about each other, a lit candle burned in the center. We had come a long way together, committed to nonviolence, to being with the

people in most danger, to staying awake as a prayerful people. Carmin wept. We had grown close with her in these few days. Our prayerful chant began and in silence a powerful bond emerged that washed clean the tears and fears.

*Pablo entered from the murmuring voices outside. "There is no danger. There is nothing to worry about. This happens all the time. It is nothing. We will wake you if there is real danger." He seemed unmoved by it all. This was no danger to him. He had seen his land ravaged, crops burned, cattle stolen, friends killed. Carmin had witnessed the murder of her uncle by the contras in her own home.

In silence we crawled back to our small sleeping spaces. The candle was snuffed, and in the dark Nicaraguan night, if I held my breath, I could hear a helicopter in the distance. Our journey had just begun.

Tina Sipula
Witness for Peace
August 23, 1984

*The names in this article have been changed for the protection of the innocent.

The new Nicaragua

Since returning from Nicaragua I have been trying to imagine how I might share my experience in a personal way. How do you capture the excitement of the people as they speak of the accomplishments of the "new Nicaragua"? Let me try by introducing you to someone I met.

Our group took an overnight trip to San Francisco del Norte. We needed two hours in the back of a flat bed truck, bouncing over the incredibly harsh roads of rural Nicaragua, to make the trip from Somotillo to San Francisco, a small village about 10 miles from the Honduran border. Two years ago, 15 villagers had been brutally killed by the contras.

The houses are primarily white-washed adobe with clay tile roofs. They have one or two rooms with an open-air kitchen on the back or out in the yard. All cooking is done on an adobe stove using wood for fuel. Water is drawn from a well or directly from the streams which run nearby. All the roads are dirt. This part of Nicaragua is very hilly, and because of seasonal rainfall, very green.

Old farming practices

Roberto is a campesino (farmer). He lives in town and walks the 2 kilometers to his fields everyday. He and his family farm about 10 acres of corn. The farms are not as we know farms in the Midwest. Fields are planted on the steep hillsides, and planting, cultivation, and harvesting are done by hand. There are chickens in and around the house and pigs in the yard. This is a common sight throughout the country. The animals seem to take the place of the "Orkin

Man" by keeping the bugs and spiders under control.

Roberto is about 40 years old; his wife Anna is 5 years younger. They have 7 children. The two oldest sons are off fighting with the local militia. Roberto and Anna's days begin early. They leave for the fields by 6:00 a.m. and return about 1:00 p.m. The afternoon heat makes it impossible to work outdoors after that.

Hope through education

We sat and shared a cigarette and talked about his life. He began by saying that before the revolution people in San Francisco thought that the whole world was just like their village. He had never known that there were people who lived without constant fear of their children's sickness, who had medical help available, and schools for everyone. Now he see that things can be different. San Francisco has a new school building for elementary and secondary education, free for all children, and night and weekend classes for adults.

The literacy campaign of 1980 allowed Roberto and Anna a chance to learn to read and write for the first time. There is a medical clinic with a small nursing staff and plans to add a birthing room if the materials can be obtained. Extreme medical problems are now handled in Chinandega or Leon at free public hospitals. San Francisco now has a bus to Leon which runs 3 times a week. Roberto speaks of these new things with great pride. This is what the people of Nicaragua are doing for themselves. He asked me to go home and tell

Reagan, "We want to be left in peace. We want to get back to the work of building our country."

Rick Heiser



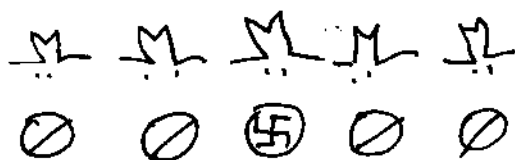
Escape tunnel in San Francisco del Norte.

Photo by Tina Sipula

Funbusters not that funny

In response to recent problems related to student parties near ISU, Normal Police Chief David Lehr has announced that his special five man tactical "party patrol" will now be known as "the Funbusters."

Members of the Funbusters party patrol were presently recently with official T-shirts depicting a beer keg with a red slash through it. As quoted in the ISU Vidette, Lehr said the presentation was a serious token of appreciation of "the citizens, the council, and the administration of Normal, and, I think, a lot of the students."



Lehr, while taking it upon himself to speak for his bosses as well as all of the residents of the town and most of the students, also commended the squad "For doing one hell of a job" in contributing to the reduction of the party problem, resulting in more than 60 party-related arrests in the first five weeks of the fall semester.

Not addressed at the press conference is the fact that all forms of "Fun" are not necessarily considered crimes. The citizens of Normal (and a lot of the students) might rest easier knowing that their dedicated police force was less concerned with fun-busting and more concerned with crime-busting, like Dick Tracy and Batman. Hopefully Lehr will stop his T-shirt presentations before he adapts another well-worn media cliché to "Where's the keg?"



But then again, the Post Amerikan is considering asking Lehr to make up a few special shirts for Bloomington's Officer Tom Sanders--"Headbusters"--and the FBI agents who are investigating him--"Fuzzbusters."

--LH

Cub fans run amuck; funbusters run and hide

Normal's Funbusters took the night off Monday September 24 while 2000 victory-crazed Cub fans ran amuck through downtown Normal and the ISU campus.

Cheering could be heard at least one half mile away as crowds emptied from the dorms and headed to Hancock stadium, where they ripped down the goalposts. Pieces of the goalposts were later recovered on the Quad.

Cub fans also stormed the Normal Theatre, refusing to buy tickets as they interrupted a showing of "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom." Theatre management estimates that at least \$200 worth of damage was done to the stage and screen during the episode.

Linda Herman, associate director of Intercollegiate Athletics, estimates the cost of replacing the goalposts at \$4500; several signs were stolen from in front of city hall; Normal Theatre was damaged; the cheering crowd obviously violated the city noise ordinance--and what about the availability of bathrooms and sealed containers? But no arrests were made.

In light of recent developments on the Fun frontier in Normal, several conclusions can be reached concerning these events. First, unruly mobs wreaking havoc and causing property damage if, and only if, they are connected with a major sporting event.

Second, crowds of 2000 or more will be considered hands-off by NPD's five member Funbusters tactical squad.

And finally, students consuming alcohol with acquaintances at their place of residence on a weekend night can expect to be hassled, arrested, fined, and have their kegs and maybe their heads, as well as their fun, busted.

Go Cubs.

--LH

Scales of Justice

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Wed. 17	MAXX
Thur. 18	JASON and the SCORCHERS (tentative)
Fri. 19	Record Release Party! MIKE JORDAN and the ROCKAMATICS
Coming November 8 DUKE TUMATOE	

These dates subject to change.
Call Mosey's for confirmation.

Post-Amerikan October 1984 Vol. 13, No. 6 Page 5

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN HOUSING IS YOUR RIGHT!

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The Bloomington Human Relations Commission is here to assist and to help.

Reagan court assaults privacy

On August 17 a federal appeals court ruled that private consensual sex between adults of the same gender are not protected under the U.S. Constitution.

Writing for a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, judge Robert Bork said that the court found "it impossible to conclude that a right to homosexual conduct is fundamental or implicit in the concept of ordered liberty unless any and all private sexual behavior falls within those categories, a conclusion we are unwilling to draw."

The unanimous ruling of the panel came in the case of James Dronenburg, a Navy petty officer who was discharged in 1981 after admitting that he had engaged in homosexual activities. The decision acknowledged that Dronenburg had an "unblemished service record" during 9 years in the Navy, had a top security clearance, and had received "many citations praising his job performance." But the panel of judges upheld the Navy's discharge of Dronenburg based on military regulations that say the presence of homosexuals in the armed service in "harmful to morale and discipline."

In other words, the Navy has a right to be prejudiced.

Reagan justice

The decision not only has serious consequences for the gay civil rights movement but gives an indication of just what "Reagan justice" is going to do to the Constitution: two of the three judges on the panel were appointed to the federal bench by President Reagan. Bork is said to be under consideration for a Supreme Court position.

The National Gay task Force released a statement calling the appeals court decision "a threat to all Americans. It suggests that the government has the right to enter the bedrooms of all citizens regardless of sexual orientation and impose its standard of morality on the private behavior of individuals."

Gay activists are particularly concerned about the ruling's effect on pending challenges to anti-gay sodomy laws in Texas and Georgia. Such laws are still on the books in over half the states. Although sodomy statutes

are usually used to harass gay people, most of them outlaw generic sexual acts like "anal intercourse" and "oral copulation."

Witch hunt

According to Dronenburg, the Navy hearings more than three years ago in Monterey, Ca, were a witch hunt that resulted in the discharge of a number of servicemen, including some nongay personnel who were wrongfully charged with homosexual conduct.

Dronenburg's attorneys said they would file a petition requesting that the full 11-member Court of Appeals in the nation's capital re-hear the case. Leonard Graff, legal director for the National Gay Rights Advocates, the public-interest law firm that represented Dronenburg, said the chances of reversing the decision are about 50-50. Recent appointments by Reagan of conservative judges to the appeals court make the job more difficult, Graff said.

--Ferdurdurke

Source: The Advocate, 18 Sept. 1984

Too gay to wash dishes?

Discrimination against gay people exists. In Bloomington, Illinois. The city council pretends it doesn't. That's what they said last March when they refused to consider adding gays --and other groups--to the list of people protected by Bloomington's Human Relations Ordinance (see Post, v. 13, #'s 1 & 2).

Council member Jesse Parker said: "I think the ordinance is working beautifully the way it is." Said council member Walt Bittner: "The present ordinance works and will continue to work."

Well, it may work, but some gay people won't. Recent evidence suggests that local employers don't worry about letting their anti-gay feelings influence their job decisions.

The evidence comes from the files of the police investigation of the Cedric Cooke case. One of the documents that the Post Amerikan came across in checking out the probe of the misnamed sex ring and the Cooke murder investigation (see last month's issue) was an application form that Rex Bell filled out for a job at Bob Johnson's Restaurant (aka Brandtville).

Bell has been indicted for the murder of Cedric Cooke. A week before that incident, the suspect applied for a job at Bob Johnson's. In checking Bell's activities prior to the murder, the McLean County Sheriff's Police obtained a copy of the employment application.

Here's what the interviewer wrote at the bottom of the application form: "Extremely small guy--looks like if someone said anything he'd walk out. Not impressed--plus he is so gay." The words "so gay" are underlined twice.

Above this comment, the interviewer--whose name is not revealed on the form, so we can't tell you who the sleazy homophobe is--also filled in the standard blanks like this:
Appearance--good
Personality--fair
Seems qualified for this job--no
Seems qualified for another job--no

The position applied for?--dishwasher. How does one "seem qualified" for a job like that? Apparently being a large heterosexual helps.

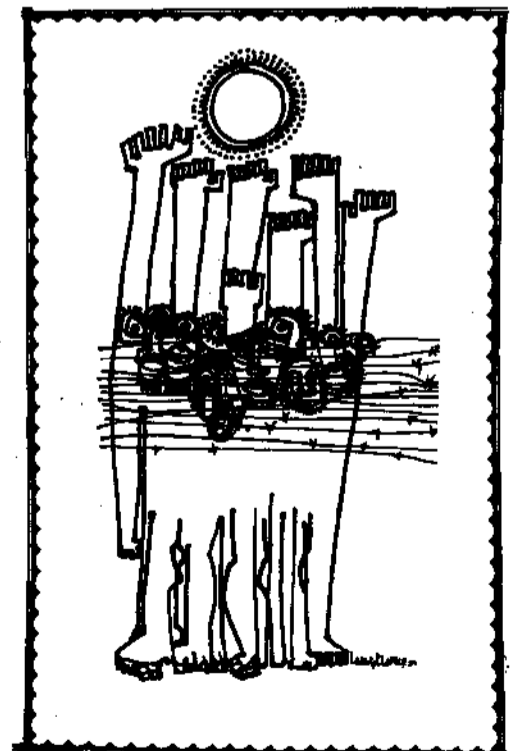
Now it's possible that a classy place like Bob Johnson's, which evidently employs only the most qualified help, could use the old rationalization that bigoted employers used to use when they openly discriminated against blacks and women and other now-protected groups: I don't mind having a small faggot working for me, but my customers would object. But a dishwasher?? Maybe they're afraid he'd get AIDS germs all over the silverware or steal the elegant dishes to add to his collection of fine china.

The sad reality is that the new head of of Bloomington's Human Relations Commission (HRC), Robert Heard, has recently said that the HRC plans to re-introduce the proposed changes in the Human Relations Ordinance--but without the protection based on sexual preference. That area is a "sensitive" one, said Mr. Heard. Yeah. Wouldn't want Bloomington-Normal restaurant-goers to worry that their dishes had been touched by homosexual hands.

--Ferdurdurke



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Murder in Maine

Why we need gay rights

"No, No, I can't swim!"

These were the last words of Charles O. Howard, a 23-year-old gay man from Bangor, Maine. Bangor police said that three youths attacked Howard on the night of July 7, kicking and beating him repeatedly. Then the youths picked him up and threw him off a bridge to drown in an eight-foot-deep stream.

According to police Lt. Thomas Placella, the youths were motivated by their hatred of gay people. "They were cruising in a car when they saw him. It was a spur of the moment kind of thing. One said, 'Hey, let's kick the shit out of this fag.'" Howard must have seemed easy prey, too, according to Placella, because "he was short, slim and effeminate."

A day later, three youths--James Baines (15), Shawn Mabry (16), and Daniel Ness (17)--were arrested after boasting of the attack to a friend. Police said the youths also confessed the crime to investigators. Baines alleged that Howard was "someone who made sexual comments to him a few weeks before," according to Placella.

But after only a night in jail, the three youths were released to the custody of their parents--an action that angered Maine's gay and lesbian community to the point that hundreds showed up for two separate demonstrations. The protests renewed a push for a state gay rights bill and encouraged Gov. Joseph Brennan to give qualified endorsement to an antidiscrimination law.

A grave injustice

On July 9, when the assailants were released on bail, more than 200 people met for a candlelight procession which went past the Bangor police station, where marchers chanted for an end to harassment of gay people. "A grave injustice has been committed in our midst," one speaker told the

crowd. "A brave young man was murdered for openly being who he was."

Then, on July 13, more than 500 people many of them wearing pink triangles (the symbol of the Nazi prosecution of gay people), held another demonstration in Portland, Maine. At both gatherings, speakers underscored the need for a state and federal law barring discrimination against gay people.

"We have asked the state legislature four times to take a stand on discrimination against gay and lesbian people," said lesbian-feminist Dale McCormick, a Maine delegate to the democratic National Convention. "Does it take a murder to make the state of Maine see that we, too, need equal protection under the law?"

The gay rights bill McCormick referred to was one that would amend the state's Human Rights Act to include protection for gays against discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and credit. The bill has failed four times in the Maine state legislature over the past six years.

The three youths pled innocent to murder charges on juvenile petitions. The attorney general's office said it would decide soon whether to try the teenagers as adults for the crime.

Meanwhile, relatives and friends of Howard reacted with shock over his slaying. To them, he was known as "Gentle Charlie." Only 3 months ago, Howard had left his hometown of Portsmouth, NH, to move to Bangor because "he didn't want to cause trouble for the family," according to his brother. "When Charlie told us he was gay, it was hard at first but the family accepted it," he added. "We all loved Charlie very much."

Howard was an artist who lived in a \$35-a-week rooming house. Fred Lewis, who also lived in the same house, said: "Before I met Charlie, I hated gays, like everybody else in Bangor. But Charlie changed my mind. He was very soft-hearted and kind."

--Abridged and adapted from *The Advocate*, 4 Sept. 1984.

Some support

The state's governor recently announced that he would support a bill forbidding anti-gay discrimination in housing and credit, but said he was less sure about a law protecting gays against job discrimination.



The following chart, adapted from the National Gay Task Force survey on antigay violence, shows the percentages of gay men and lesbians who reported being victimized in different categories because of their sexual orientation. Participating in the survey were 2,074 people in eight cities (Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, New York, St. Louis and Seattle.)

Have you ever been:	Men	Women	Average
Verbally harassed	90.2	77.5	83.8
Threatened with violence	48.9	34.2	41.5
The target of thrown objects	32.5	16.1	24.3
Followed or chased	36.9	30.5	33.7
Spit at	14.3	13.1	13.7
Punched, hit, kicked or beaten	23.8	9.1	16.4
Assaulted with a weapon	11.4	5.0	8.2
The victim of vandalism or arson against your property	20.4	14.4	17.4
Sexually assaulted or harassed	28.5	36.0	32.2
Harassed by police	23.3	13.3	18.3

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When your rapist is your husband

Who can I turn to?

If you are a victim of marital rape who wants to talk about your feelings, your situation, or the assault, call PATH at 827-4005 and ask for the Rape Crisis Center.

If you are a victim of marital rape who wants to talk but who also may need shelter, need alternatives, or need to get out of the situation or out of the marriage, call PATH at 827-4005 and ask for Countering Domestic and Sexual Violence.

If you are a victim of marital rape, remember that you are not alone, that you are not at fault, and that there are people out there who care about you and want to help.



Marital rape is still a contradiction in terms in most of these United States. Legally, in all but 5 states, a man can rape his wife any time he wants. A few states put restrictions on this: for instance, in some states a man cannot rape his wife and beat her up at the same time. But for the most part, anything goes.

Very little is known about marital rape. There have been two studies, one by Diana Russell in San Francisco in 1980 and one by the University of New Hampshire in Boston in 1983. The Russell study found that 14% of all married women interviewed (644 women) had been sexually assaulted by their husbands at least once. The U of NH study found that of the 521 women surveyed, over 10% had been sexually assaulted by either their husbands or the men they were living with.

These studies, and the knowledge gained through 10 years in rape crisis centers and battered women's shelters, are almost all we have to go on.

Since marital rape was not a crime at all until the late 1970s, one cannot call the local PD, get stats for all reported marital rapes in the past year, multiply that number by 10 or 20, and come up with a pretty good idea of the size of the problem in your community, the way you do with other types of rape and sexual assault.

Also, in marital rape, even more so than in acquaintance rape or date rape, the issues of sex and violence are very confused. Although almost every woman can tell you, after a sexual experience, whether what happened was sex or rape, women are afraid no one else will understand that difference. And, in fact, most men do not believe that she can tell the difference, especially if the perpetrator is her husband.

In marital rape, as in other types of rape, the motivation is violence, domination, and humiliation. Not sex. Sex is used as the weapon in this type of rape as well. Many marital rapes include forced anal sex, which is seen in most circumstances as the ultimate act of submission. Many others include forced oral sex. In both these cases, the anal and oral sex is not a usual part of the couple's lovemaking.

Very few marital rapes are brutal, just as are very few rapes in general. Most involve threats of violence to the

woman or her children, threats that the husband will leave if she does not submit, taking with him the family's only means of support, threats that he will divorce her and have her declared an unfit wife and mother.

Some marital rapes happen when the woman is very drunk or drugged (either by her own instigation or his) and cannot give consent. In other cases of rape this would be enough to levy a charge of rape against a man. But not against a husband.

Marital rapes occur in much the same way as other types of acquaintance rape. There is usually no verbal threat, no physical violence, no weapon. What there is, is a man who says yes, a woman who says no. Most of the time he wins because of his superior size, or her fear.

Very few women can easily talk about marital rape. Even women who can go to a shelter and talk about a husband who batters cannot talk about a husband who rapes. And when they do talk about it, they are likely to say "He used me" or "He made me." Rarely, and only rarely, "He raped me."

Even women who call rape crisis centers often begin by saying, "It wasn't rape, because he's my husband, but..."

For almost one third of marital rape victims, the rape happens only once. Sometimes the behavior is stopped because one partner, usually the wife, leaves. Sometimes the behavior is stopped because of counseling. Sometimes if the couple talks about the incident, how they both felt, why it happened, how to not have it happen again, it will not re-occur.

But for most women, marital rape does not happen only once. Where it is clear that there is a pattern of sexual abuse in the relationship, the rape is stopped usually only because the wife leaves.

Marital rape is not a clean and tidy issue to understand or to deal with. Most marital rape victims feel very guilty about the assault and feel that they brought it on by something they did or said, or by something they did not do or say. Many victims do not want the marriage to end. They certainly want the behavior to stop; but they love their husbands, they like most aspects of their marriage, they want their family life to continue. For most women they cannot have what they want. For most women the only answer is divorce.

Nicholas Groth, who works with sex offenders, believes that men who commit marital rape are not all that different

from men who commit other types of rape. He has found that the vast majority of men who rape their wives were sexually abused as children themselves. He also believes that marital rape "may be the most predominant type of sexual offense committed."

If marital rape were recognized by the legal code as a crime, most women would not choose to go through the legal system to stop the problem. Most battered women do not choose the legal system as a resort; even most stranger and acquaintance rape victims do not ever see the inside of a police station or court room. But recognition of the crime would give the women who are being raped in their own bedrooms by their own husbands some validation, some respect, and some acknowledgement.

Through counseling and support, it is possible to help both the victims and the offenders of marital rape. But until our society recognizes marital rape as a problem and as a crime, that help will not be forthcoming. And until it is, the job of picking up the shattered pieces of a married woman's life will still belong solely to the battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers of this country, who, for the most part, can only listen and comfort, and explain that what happened was not okay, but was also not a crime.

--Deborah Wiatt



Illinois' response to marital rape

When the Illinois legislature passed the revised sexual assault laws last year, one of the changes made was the removal of the marital rape exemption. The legislature said that if a couple had filed for divorce, were living apart, or were legally separated, a spouse could charge a spouse with rape.

This version was far more restrictive than the anti-rape groups in the state had wanted, recognizing that poor people cannot always afford separate domiciles and that not all people who are raped by their spouses want a divorce. But it was better than the nothing that had existed before.

Governor Thompson, that bastion of women's rights, saw fit to exercise his line-item veto when the legislation hit his desk. One of the items he vetoed was marital rape.

So now, in Illinois, a spouse can be charged with criminal sexual assault only if there exists one of the five aggravating circumstances (that the accused used a weapon, that the accused committed another felony as well, that the accused inflicted bodily harm on the victim, that the situation was life threatening, that the victim was over 60 years old) which make the crime a Class X felony.

The new Illinois law, as amended, does not speak to the majority of marital rape victims. While it is true (based on statistics from battered women's shelters across the country) that 80% of all battered women are also sexually assaulted by their husbands, it is not true that anywhere near that number of women who are sexually assaulted by their husbands are also battered.

For many women, there is no battery involved. According to a study done by Diana Russell in San Francisco in 1980, one third of the marital rape victims she interviewed admitted that they had been sexually assaulted by their husbands, but that it had occurred only once.

Another third said they had been sexually assaulted from two to 20 times, and the final third had been raped by their husbands over 20 times.

It is probably this last group that is also being battered as well.

Although some husbands do present weapons to force their wives into submission, rarely is the weapon ever actually used. A mere mention of the gun he keeps in the nightstand is enough. The presence of a weapon in the room would not be enough, under Illinois law, to convict a husband of rape. In the 4% of women in the Russell study where a weapon was actually used against them, the new law would in fact help. But only for those four percent. In 83% of the cases, no weapon was even present.

The new law also covers women if the situation was life threatening or if there was evidence of bodily harm. The Russell study found that in 82% of the cases there was little or no force used. Pushing, pinning down, and even slapping is not life threatening or considered bodily harm. For the 18% of women who admitted to being slugged or beaten, the new law would cover them. But probably only them.

Most men do not commit other felonies while in the process of raping their wives. For the 8% of the women in Russell's study who were already separated from their husbands when the rape occurred, the husband could possibly be charged with home invasion or burglary if he entered her new home without permission. But again, these cases seem to be relatively rare.

Most marital rape seems to occur during the marriage, with a minimal amount of force. The new legislation does not speak to these situations.

It is the hope of the groups who work with marital rape victims that when the legislators and governors and other men in public office realize that women are not going to fabricate a story of marital rape just to get a better property settlement in a divorce proceeding (which many elected officials have actually said they fear will happen) that there will be additional legislation to cover the majority of marital rape victims as well as the minority covered now.

When this legislation was being introduced, the Cook County State's Attorney's office called all the prosecutors and police chiefs in all the major cities in the states where there is no marital rape exemption to see if women were, in fact, flocking to the courts with false charges of marital rape.

They found, as they had expected to find, that women were, in fact, not making false accusations, that women were not using marital rape in property settlements or child custody hearings, and that the laws were working as hoped: to give protection to a class of people, married women, where there had existed no legal protection before.

Even with this information, the powers-that-be chose to water down the proposed marital rape legislation, and Big Jim chose to all but eliminate it.

Maybe someday, when men realize that it is they, and not women, who confuse rape with sex, will there be adequate laws in all states which deal with the issues of power, domination, and humiliation--rape--and which give married women the rights and dignity they deserve.

Maybe. I'm gonna keep hoping and I'm gonna keep educating. But I'm not holding my breath.

--Deborah Wiatt

Women, a Journal of Liberation/cpf



Planned Parenthood
of Mid-Central Illinois
201 E. Grove
Bloomington
827-8025



Talking about sexual abuse isn't always easy -- even in close families. That's why Planned Parenthood sponsors National Family Sexuality Education Month in October.

Coming Sex Education in the Family Workshops

Oct. 1 & 2	Sexuality and Sexual Abuse Logan County Headstart Parents & Children, Lincoln	Oct. 24	OK/Not OK Touches Metcalf--Fairchild Parents
Oct. 3	OK/Not OK Touches Normal Public Library	Oct. 29-30	OK/Not OK Touches Metcalf--Fairchild Children
Oct. 4	OK/Not OK Touches Parents of Sexually Abused children, Pontiac	Nov. 5	OK/Not OK Touches Lexington PTA
Oct. 9	Sexuality and Sexual Abuse Mason County Headstart Parents & Children, Manito	Nov. 13	OK/Not OK Touches El Paso Teachers
Oct. 10-12	OK/Not OK Touches Irving School	Nov. 15	OK/Not OK Touches Sheridan School Parents
Oct. 15-16	Sexuality and Sexual Abuse Piatt County Headstart Parents & Children, Cisco	Nov. 17	Mother-Daughter Communic- ation about Sex Workshop
Oct. 22-23	Sexuality and Sexual Abuse DeWitt County Headstart Parents & Children, Clinton	Nov. 19-20	OK/Not OK Touches Sheridan School Children
		Nov. 28	OK/Not OK Touches Pontiac Jr. Women's Club Parents & Children

Marital rape: Foundations for legality



In the 1600's, in England, Sir Matthew Hale (who made a name for himself by presiding over witch trials) wrote an article on rape for History of the Pleas of the Crown. In his article he stated, "But the husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife, for by their mutual matrimonial consent and contract, the wife hath given up herself in this kind unto her husband, which she cannot retract."

should suffer, even when her husband's conduct amounts to cruelty.

British common law came to the colonies, and until the 1970's in the U.S., "marital rape" was a contradiction in terms. It still is, in over 35 states. Our marital rape laws came from the 17th century. Unfortunately, most of our attitudes toward marital rape lie in the 17th century still.

--Deborah



There was, according to legal scholars, no basis in law or in fact for Hale to make this assumption. But make it he did, and the rape laws of both Great Britain and the United States have reflected the sentiment expressed by Hale over 300 years ago.

In 1888, in the case of Regine vs. Clarence, a woman brought her husband to court, claiming that he had knowingly inflicted her with gonorrhea. Her claim was for grievous bodily harm, and she stated that if she had known he had gonorrhea she would never have agreed to have intercourse with him. A panel of 11 judges heard the case and acquitted the husband, 7-4, on the grounds that since she could not legally have denied her husband intercourse, he was not guilty of unlawfully causing bodily harm.

Justice Pollick, in speaking for the majority, cited Hale's article as the authority they had used for coming to their decision. He went on to say that a wife never has the right nor the power to refuse her husband, no matter how much she

Sources

The following were used as sources for the articles on marital rape: Rape in Marriage, by Diana Russell; The Guardian, September 26, 1984; Response to Family Violence and Sexual Assault, March/April 1982; American Bar Association Journal, September 1980.

For more information on marital rape contact the Rape Crisis Center of McLean County, P.O. Box 995, Bloomington, 61701, or call PATH at 827-4005, and ask for the Rape Crisis Center.

One step forward...

Five states--Nebraska, Oregon, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Florida--have no rape exemption (protection of husbands or others from accusations of rape). Spousal rape is considered, at least by the law, the same (and as serious) as rape by a stranger.

Several other states have limited the marital exemption. In these states it is usually considered a crime if the couple is legally separated, has filed for divorce, is living in separate homes, or if the woman is badly beaten or threatened with a weapon at the same time.

Thirteen states have seen fit, in the past 10 years, to limit the sexual assaults within a marriage. Not bad.

--Deborah



New Times/cpf

...Two steps backward

The most recent legislation in Texas concerning marital rape takes a slightly different approach. Instead of eliminating or amending their marital rape exemption, Texas has expanded its definition of marriage. Under new Texas law, a man and woman who are living together as a couple are included in the rape exemption.

Commentary on the law says, "Adults cohabiting may terminate their relationship if one dislikes the other's sexual conduct. There is no justification for the criminal law's intrusion into the relationship."

And lest you think that Texas is isolated in its backwards rape mentality, in Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, and North Dakota there is a partial rape exemption for rapes committed by "voluntary social companions" (dates) if the woman has previously had sex with the man.

West Virginia offers a partial exemption in all date rape situations, whether or not the couple has had prior sex.

--Deborah



Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

WE'RE A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER GROUP WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES. FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ANSWER OUR CALLS, BUT BOTH MALE AND FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.

If you want to talk to one of us

Call PATH 827-4005

and ask for the

Rape Crisis Center

GET YOUR POST T-SHIRT TODAY

Yes! I want a colorful Post-American T-shirt. Better yet, I'm sending \$5 to pay for it!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State & Zip _____

Extra line _____

The correct line _____

I will mail my money and this money order form to Post-American, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

Detasseling New York style: the permanent world of office temps

As a former Big Appler, I decided to compare my experiences in the 70s and a decade later.

There is a new underclass in the offices of New York. Some very famous people have been members: people like Goldie Hawn, who went on to more precarious temporary fields--stardom. Others are not so lucky.

Temporary office work can be lucrative and ludicrous. But one thing is certain: it is booming in New York.

There are dozens of temporary office help agencies in New York now, many of them specializing in data processing, word processing, or legal and medical secretaries. It is like office detasseling--you are farmed out to wander the corporate fields, to work quickly to process the crop of the information plantation: data.

In the new world we do not harvest or plant, we input and process.

Experienced word processors can make \$12 to \$17 an hour. There are no unions for temps no matter how much they make an hour. Temps are paid by the agency, not the company, but they must follow the rules of the firm they are assigned to--no matter how unjust.

Since competition for corporate clients is keen, temps get little backing from their agency if a problem arises. As a temp you can easily be replaced if you "don't cooperate."

Since corporations have cut back on permanent hiring, they are using temporary agencies more and more to staff departments. It is not unusual to find entire departments that are staffed by temps.

The trend toward permanent, part-time, temporary jobs with no benefits may be the wave of the future. If this is so, this is a world George Orwell would recognize.

An assignment for a large hair coloring firm is typical of the New Grimness that is New York office life, circa 1984.

The elevator banks of this skyscraper on Park Avenue could be entered only by inserting an employee computerized ID card. To enter the main reception area, bathed in pink carpeting, with a marble desk and a light collage of moving wavy lines, you had to be buzzed in by the hawk-eyed receptionist. Kafka disguised as Clairrol.

Since office temps are considered potential industrial spies, you must be escorted to the security office where you are cheerfully told to list your home telephone, address, social security number, bra size, and is that your natural hair color?

Next you are photographed and fingerprinted. Is this hair coloring a cover-up for covert activities? After all, we know that Mr. Hair Dye in the White House has plans for a world where we are going to make it safe for us all to look like movie stars. Can you imagine being a temp going to several companies being in a file of detergent or bathroom tissue subversives?

It is also comforting for a woman living alone to know that creeps in security uniforms have her unlisted phone number. And yes, you must show your driver's license and social security card before being locked in the Marketing Department.

And you are locked in better than anything they have at Pontiac Prison.

Getting a cup of coffee is a major breach of security. Nobody tells the temps, of course, that they can not get into the cafeteria without the magic card. Temps have no card, they only hold illegal cups of coffee.

Madly signaling through a glass door into yet another plush reception area proves fruitless. The receptionist continues doing her nails and pointing toward the security phone.

Without the computerized card you are stuck forever in the Twilight Zone of cold coffee and ever colder employees who slam the door in your face. These people are afraid, of themselves, of us, of each other, of crazed Clairrol cops shooting each other.

Are they afraid the growing number of homeless people who live in the tunnels of Park Avenue, like the hundreds of rats that over-ran the flowers a few years back, will take over the corporate palaces?

Or are there cracks in the pink marble of corporate America where thousands of workers have fallen through? What happens when they crawl toward the surface? You can't eat marble.

In the New Grimness that is Reaganomics, workers are temporary economic exiles in their own country, and multinational corporations are the permanent government.

In the end we all detassel the same plantations. "Normal" is not just a tiny inkblot on the map. It is a state of mind where all workers are temps in a world rushing madly toward death.

--Jane M. Glize

Touchy about tones

Phoebe even complains about other folks' phones



When a friend got a new phone from GTE in Bloomington, he was told that touch-tone cost a dollar or so a month. Being cost-conscious, he decided to forego the flashy finger action. He was told that at any time he could add touch-tone for 98¢ a month.

Within a month, he started a business and needed a long-distance discount phone rate. He found one, but it required touch-tone.

He called GTE asking to add the touch-tone. The rep told him that it would cost \$10 to get the touch-tone hooked up. When he protested that he'd not been informed of the hookup cost, he was told, basically, "tough."

He sent a check for the hook-up. The next day, a GTE rep called him back, saying that they were unable to hook him up to touch-tone since he already was hooked up to touch-tone, but they would be glad to pro-rate and refund

the current month's charge for the touch-tone which he accidentally had got (a sum of 75¢), then bill him a \$10 disconnect charge, then reconnect so he could get touch-tone, for a \$10 connection charge.

"Can't we just leave me hooked up and not charge me at all?" he asked.

"Well. . . I guess probably we might be able to do that. . ." said the mystified GTE rep.

--Phoebe Caulfield

Call, COMIX



Cans, bottles, papers taking up floor space? Why not recycle?

Operation Recycle (OR) will hold a recycle drive Saturday, October 20 from 9am-3pm at the Sears, Eastland Parking Lot and the ISU Turner Hall Lot. If you don't know about OR, you might be asking, "What's a recycle drive?"

Recycle drives are one of three ways in which area residents can get recyclables to Operation Recycle, the only volunteer-supported, non-profit recycling center in McLean County. At the drives, trucks are on the parking lots, and volunteers are available to help people unload materials from their cars.

An average recycle drive brings in over 15 tons of newsprint, several tons of container glass, and dump trucks full of tin cans. Aluminum and corrugated cardboard are also collected at the drives which are held at the same locations every 5-7 weeks. Dates of future drives are December 1, and January 12.

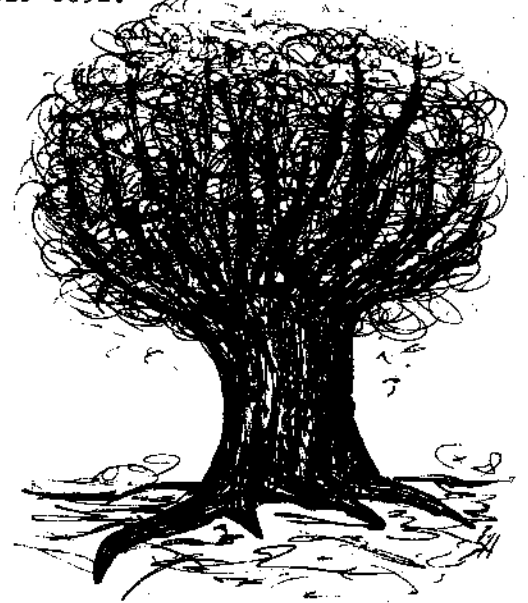
For those who miss the recycle drive, Operation Recycle also has drop boxes located around town at 501 E. Stewart St., the ISU parking lot on the NW corner of College and Main, the K Mart parking lot and at 1100 W. Market. Recyclables can be left at these locations anytime.

Operation Recycle also buys aluminum cans, newspapers, and container glass from individuals on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at the recycle warehouse, 1100 W. Market. Glass must have all metal rings and lids removed but it does not have to be sorted by color. Newspapers should be tied or in grocery sacks.

Individuals who recycle do make a big difference for our environment. Approximately 130 lbs. of newsprint saves one mature tree and the use of 23 gallons of fuel. Each aluminum can recycled saves enough energy to burn a light bulb for 12 hours.

Harder to measure are the positive effects recycling has in cleaning up streets and roadways and the savings in landfill space. While relying primarily on volunteers, Operation Recycle also has created a few jobs for low income residents.

The recycling center has an office in the Mid Central Community Action Agency. For more information call 829-0691.



Religions declare nuclear free zone

Thirty-two religious institutions across the country have rejected the fall-out shelter status of their buildings as part of a nationwide Religious Nuclear Free Zone Campaign.

The effort to declare places of worship and religious institutions Nuclear Free Zones is the newest initiative to support the wider Nuclear Free Zone strategy which has been gaining ground as more and more hospitals and communities reject civil defense plans for nuclear war preparations. According to the Baltimore based Nuclear Free America, to date 57 cities, towns and counties

have passed binding resolutions which declare themselves Nuclear Free Zones and in most cases restrict the local nuclear weapons industry from research, development, production, storage, transportation and detonation within their borders.

As Reverend Richard F. Drinon, Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Wausau, Wisconsin, states, "It is a matter of whether we are willing to cooperate in the encouragement of the carefully planned illusion that nuclear war is survivable. Allowing our church building to be designated a

fall-out shelter means that we accept the idea. We do not."

Sister Barbara Joseph Lammers, Director of Global Ministries for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, said upon her Motherhouse's rejection of its fallout shelter status, "The way the crisis relocation program has been proposed we feel would give the citizens of our area a false sense of security about nuclear war."

WELL, SINCE NO ONE WROTE IN LAST MONTH TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO, NOBODY WINS A CHEAP PRIZE! BOY, DID YOU MISS OUT!! AND NOW, THIS MONTH, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE RAVINGS OF A SECRETLY VIOLENT, OPENLY NEUROTIC MIND... AND IF YOU'RE A SERIUSTYPE AND LACK A CERTAIN PERVERSE SENSE OF HUMOR, TURN TO ONE OF THE ARTICLES ON THE WATER DEPARTMENT! OTHERWISE... READ AS I PRESENT A COUPLE OF MY PETPEEVES AND MY VENGEFUL FANTASIES OF RETRIBUTION!!

MY SISTER, the PUNK ROCKER

CHILDREN WHO STAND DEFIANTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET IN SPITE OF AN ONCOMING CAR...

SOLUTION: I THROW MY CAR WILDLY INTO REVERSE, THEN DRIVE THEN REVERSE AGAIN, ALL THE WHILE, PRESSING THE ACCELERATOR FIENDISHLY, LEAVING A WAKE OF LITTLE BODIES FLAT AS PAPER AND A COUPLE SURVIVORS TO PASS THE TALE DOWN TO FUTURE GENERATIONS! DON'T STAND IN THE GODDAMN STREET!!

YOUNG MEN WHO SPEAK IN A DISGUSTING AND UTTERLY DEGRADING WAY ABOUT WOMEN IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUNG BOYS, THUS PERPETRATING THEIR PUTRID ATTITUDES ON THE SLIGHTLY INNOCENT MINDS OF A NEW GENERATION OF POTENTIAL MEN...

SO I SAYS TO THIS CHICK, I SAYS, "BITCH, YOU'RE TOO UGLY FOR ME TO LOOK AT WHILE IM SCREWIN' YAL. YOU BETTER ROLL OVER!!" HA, HA!

SOLUTION: NOTE: THE SCENARIO IN WHICH I NAIL HIS BALLS TO A TREE AND GIVE HIM A KNIFE IS TOO VIOLENT TO BE PORTRAYED IN THIS OH-SO-TASTEFUL COMIC STRIP SO I HAD TO PICK MY #2 SOLUTION: THE FLAMETHROWER MOTIF! BETCHA' DIDN'T KNOW I WAS A CRAZED WAR VET, EH?

MOVE ASIDE, BOYS! IT'S THE RAT PATROL!

OF COURSE, THESE ARE ONLY A FEW OF MY MANY PLEASANT DAYDREAMS!

BORN TO REPRESS

NEXT PUNKS ARE EVERYWHERE

they're so snappy!

Pornography is a social disease

POST NOTE: A Post staffer saw a longer excerpt of this article in the April, 1984 issue of the Utne Reader and was attracted to the balance of anti-censorship and feminist awareness. The full text appears in The Body Politic (Jan/Feb 1984), Box 7289, Stn. A, Toronto, Canada MSW LX9.

I think one of the basic failures in recent debates about pornography and censorship is some women's inability to see that censorship won't work, and some men's inability to see that pornography is an issue as important as, and separate from, freedom of expression.

If we are not talking about writing laws, defining pornography doesn't pose as serious a problem. We do have different tastes. Maybe some of mine come from my middle-class background (my mother wouldn't think so!).

I don't like bodies presented without heads, particularly female bodies. The motive may sometimes be the protection of the individual, but the impression is decapitation, and I also happen to be someone who is attracted to people's faces. This is a matter of taste.

What I object to is the representation of acts of violence against bodies in the name of sexual freedom. Live rats, guns, and hot hair-curling irons placed in women's vaginas are not sexual acts, any more than dismemberment and murder are sexual acts. If these were images only to be found in the archives of criminal pathology, women might not be as concerned as they are, but these are, in fact, images found in widely distributed films. There are apparently a great many people are willing to pay money to look at images of that sort.

I don't find evidence, as some radical feminists do, for the claim that all men are rapists and murderers. If all men are, potentially, rapists and murderers, then they are so only as women, too, have a potential for destructive behavior. Women, however, have been traditionally trained away from such behavior (how else would the two-year-olds of the world survive?), except as we can turn it on ourselves in madness and self-destruction. Why else would Sylvia Plath's suicide inspire myths rather than simple pity?

Trained to kill

Men are trained to kill in circumstances of war. Because for most men such behavior is abhorrent, it must continually be glorified to persuade them against their own moral sense to destroy rather than protect other members of their own species.

I find the preoccupation with violence in the daily fare on television just as frightening as violent pornography. Men are presented to us hourly as heroes who beat up, torture, maim, and kill other men. Their victims are "bad guys" who deserve what they get, much as the women in violent pornographic films are presented as beneath contempt. That these are the most common images given to men for their power and self-worth should be as energetically protested by men as by women.

It is not only women but men who must stand up and say, "no, that is not who we are." Women, in stating our own case against our misrepresentation in the fantasy-life of the world, and therefore our lack of representation in the real world, sometimes don't want to hear that men are as victimized, if differently.

The generation of women currently involved in the feminist movement are mostly too young to remember world wars. I remember, with horror, the old stars in windows marking proudly a house which had lost a son, brother, or father. I remember, with horror, a mother proudly receiving her country's honor for having "given" five sons to victory. Whole generations of young men were killed in both these wars. Any woman who proudly sees men off to

war has very little moral claim to insistence on the sanctity of her own life, exempt from the violence she condones.

Men's indifference to pornography as a basic threat to our humane survival is akin to the indifference of men and women alike to the daily glorification of male violence when it is directed against other men, not only in thrillers but on the nightly news, where we are supposed to go on applying the brutish morality of "good guys" and "bad guys."

It is not a matter of wanting to turn away from "things unpleasant," from



"reality." Both the glory and the terrible vulnerability of human creatures grows from our ability to learn. But we do also have some capacity to resist our educations, to influence the world we live in, to change our perceptions of ourselves and other people. If this were not so, those in authority would have no fear of dissenters.

If we refuse to help create a climate which glorifies mutilation and death, if we protest against it, we can begin to change it. What makes all human

atrocities on a large scale possible is the passive acceptance of them by the majority of people, who have been conditioned either to feel helpless or to be indifferent to the suffering of others.

Wide gap

The wide gap between trying to suppress violent pornography (either by calling in the police or destroying private property) and helping to sell the stuff offers plenty of comfortable moral and political space to live in. In this consumer society, not helping to sell and not buying are very strong weapons in the hands of the people.

Men and women can be together on this issue. Women don't have to play into the traps of the moral majority by demanding censorship which will be politically abused. Men don't have to condone pornography degrading to women in the name of sexual freedom and freedom of expression. We won't sell it. We won't buy it. We will instead do everything we can to change the image of man as a defiler of the earth, proving his superiority to nature by destroying it.

One message of gay liberation is that men are capable of loving their brothers. It should be sweet news to every woman in the world, for if the capacity of men to love those whom they've been taught to treat as competitors and enemies can transcend their education, the world can begin to heal.

The message of women's liberation is that women can love each other and ourselves against degrading education. It is not necessary for men to protect and despise women, nor for women to nurture and fear men. It is time for us to share subversive truths about the courage of men and women to live in diversity and peace.

--Jane Rule,
The Body Politic

Page 13

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community news

Page 14
Vol. 13, No. 6
October 1984
Post-American

Breakin' at Braden

An Illinois and Missouri breakdance competition at Illinois State University, Braden Auditorium, Normal, Illinois on October 20, at 7:00 p.m. will showcase some of the top breakdance teams in the area. There's a \$1,000 1st prize.

Competing teams: U-Crew, Normal; Playgirl Possession, Decatur; Steppin Out, Decatur; Champaign Bea Boppers, Champaign; Twin City Breakers, Urbana; Street Masters, Rantoul; Explonic Rockers, Maywood; Foss Park Community Center, North Chicago; Master of Motion, Chicago; Fortune 3 Breakmaster, Chicago; Alpha Beta Breakers, Marshall, Mo.; St. Louis Crash Crew, Berkley, Mo.; Boogaloo Crew, Florissant, Mo.; Omni Rockers, Bloomington.



Radical Changes ISU

Student Center Board CenterStage committee will present the band, "Radical Changes," on Wednesday, October 3, from 8 to 10 p.m. Admission is 50¢.

The band includes four students who specialize in a variety of improvisational music. CenterStage is a non-profit organization that promotes student and local talent. For further information, call 438-5411.

Art & drama at Wesleyan

There will be a faculty art exhibition at IWU from September 17 through October 21. The show will be in the Merwin Gallery of the Art Building from 1 - 4 pm daily and from 7 - 9 pm Tuesdays. There is no charge.

On October 11 - 14 and 18 - 20 IWU will sponsor the play, "A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine." The play will be at McPherson Theatre at 8:00 pm. Admission is \$5.00

N.F.O.T.M. in October

October 6
Musicfest
Arlo Guthrie & David Bromberg
--Braden Auditorium

October 27
Albert King, "King" of the blues
--Bone Student Center, Prairie Room

All shows start at 8:00 p.m.

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Innocents in paradise--II

Post note:

Innocents in Paradise continues from Post Amerikan volume 13, no. 4 the saga of Bill and Becky Gringo as they attempt to integrate the bourgeois decadence of a guided tour south of the border and their social conscience surrounding third world poverty.

Cortes reported that Ixtapa Island was a matriarchy where, although men were not allowed, at times they invaded and ravished the women. The children born of these unions were kept on the island if girls, but boys were banished to the mainland.

in pleasant conversation.

After lunch, we decided to explore down toward an old sea wall. In climbing upon the black rocks, we found huge piles of empty mollusc shells, the remains of shellfish orgies by meat-starved natives.

I brought back several shells, much prettier than Amerikan litter yet just as destructive. The early evening rain sent us scurrying back over the hill to the boats.

On the beach we were approached by the omnipresent beggars and vendors who had waited patiently for the gringos to return. The bus trip home was uneventful and we returned to our room to prepare for Fiesta.

Dressed in our finest glad rags, Bill and I caught a taxi to the Holiday Inn where our tour group was hosting a party, with what was the most generous buffet I've seen in a long time. The Mexican equivalent to a State Farm-style lounge band was playing across the balloon festooned room. We found the table where our new-found friends were seated and joined them. In that awkward period before the festivities began, waiters plied the room with pitchers of native-strength margaritas and pina colodas, leaving no glass empty.

This happy hour was punctuated by "slammers," foamy concoctions of tequila and 7-Up which were chugged with much fanfare by the bravest guests. By the time we filled our plates with food, my taste buds could not fully appreciate dinner. However, the party had just begun.

For the Amerikan gringos who were missing 4th of July festivities, Michael had purchased sparklers and a few fireworks. We trooped outside for the show. We drunkenly cheered every splutter and pop. Someone began to sing "America the Beautiful," and we proceeded to run through an entire repertoire of patriotic songs, en masse. George M. Cohan would've been proud. After we had exhausted our efforts, we returned inside for games and dancing, and more libations.

Prizes were awarded to those in the tour who had lost keys most often (I heart Ixtapa keychains) and those who had been sickest (Pepto Bismol and rolls of toilet paper). A pinata bash and dance contest followed for the energetic. Finally, Michael, with much fanfare, announced the names of the couple whose enthusiasm and friendliness most exemplified the Thomson vacationer--that honeymooning couple from Bloomington, Illinois, us. (My frequent flirtation with our rep may have influenced this decision.)

The entire evening was high good times, a typical back-home bash. The leftovers would have fed several native families for days. This was a party as Amerikan as any we'd known, an orgy of food, drink, and merriment. We danced 'til the band packed up, and were sad to see the evening end. We found a taxi home and spent a sated night of much needed rest.

--RAF, with help from BS (and Michael)

Next issue, as previously promised: crabs, more cops, and the Revenge!

We sloshed through the surf to the island beach, then took a brisk hike over a small mountain to the other side of the island where lay Playa Carey, our objective. Bill and I strolled, finding many sea treasures among the crags and crannies. Shells seemingly abandoned would suddenly grow pincers and legs.



After exploring the wild side, we crossed the strand to a tranquil bay where swimming and snorkeling were favorable. The beach was lined with small-vendors, huts where one could rent inner tubes, snorkle and fins, a siesta on a hammock strung between palm trees. A bar-and-grill stood to one end of the beach, where our guide had promised lunch at noon. We had become friendly with several of our fellow travelers, so lunch was spent

Tuesday, July 3:

Morning dawned much too early with the sound of hammers, drills, and the hacking spits of native workers drifting from the balcony above. Feeling utterly roused and ready to explore outside the hotel alone, Bill and I taxied into Ixtapa. Originally the sight of salty marshes (deriv. from Indian for "salt river"), the land was reclaimed by the Mexican government for their largest official industry, tourism. This short stretch of beach, nestled within a vast coastline of jagged black rock, is now domoed with hotels such as Riviera del Sol and Club Med.

We found the shopping center, as quaint as one could envision a native market, only cleaner.

We had been informed by tour rep Michael that, while bargaining is an integral part of shopping, stores with air conditioning have fixed prices and haggling is considered gauche. All the shops in Ixtapa have fixed prices, properly inflated as well. However, since I had been so repulsed by Zihua, we paid the price as we found souvenirs for family and friends.

Pleased with the purchases we had made, including the six pack of native beer that Bill bought for less than half the price he'd had to pay at the hotel, we journeyed back to Camino Real. It was a hot, semi-sunny afternoon, so we spent our time sunning and swimming by the pool. Real gringo tourists.

Wednesday, July 4:

Bill and I breakfasted early, to catch the bus for our trip to Ixtapa Island.

Presently a wildlife preserve,

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THE gallery

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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OCT. 1 MITCH DUERFELDT	2 CLARENCE GOODMAN	3 THE OUTNUMBERED (FROM CHAMPAGNE)	4 MACBETH	5 T.B.A.	6 REACTION FORMATION	7 RICH MARGHERIO
8 JOHN C. WISEMAN + JEFF LOVELL	9 JOHN WALSH	10 HEAD FIRST	11 OMEN PEOPLE'S JAZZ GROUP	12 T.B.A.	13 T.B.A.	14 IMPRESSIONIST AWARD NITE 1st PRIZE \$25
15 RICH MARGHERIO	16 MITCH DUERFELDT	17 THE SAINTS	18 BEAUFORT ST. JAZZ QUINTET	19 FUN AND ANGUISH	20 SPRINGTOWN ROAD BAND	21 AUDITION NITE!
22 CLARENCE GOODMAN	23 FRANK POWELL	24 T.B.A.	25 TWIN CITY JAZZ QUINTET	26 OUT OF ORDER	27 TOXIC SHOCK	28 T.B.A.

Weird music for weird people



Local music review

Big Hair/Big Deal--is available on Bloomington's very own label, Home Recordings (cassette only), P.O. Box 4071, Bloomington, 61702, or at Appletree Records.

What we have here is an incarnation of various members and friends of That Hope (primarily ex-diaTribers Dean Carlson and Ed Pierce and the new kid in town Skot). They've been recording all summer in various combinations, and this tape is a cross-section of their particular brand of weirdness.

This music is what you'd call experimental. Songs have no beginning, no end, and flow passively from one to the next. You won't find crashing drums or thrashing guitars on this one. You will find a fascination with all kinds of sound effects, layered over sporadic bass and percussion tracks, with occasional input of sweeping guitar or synth.

This tape is a twilight walk into deep woods of mysterious sound. There are electronically squeezed vocals, computerized percussion, and jet take-off sounds. "Keenan" features a child's voice and laughter compressed in an indescribably eerie way. "Caution" features the spoken word "caution" superimposed over something as incongruous as bits of a Bill Cosby comedy routine. Yes, it's strange.

As you may well imagine, the music projects mystery and atmosphere you could cut with a knife. It would make excellent material to combine with visual imagery. But on its own, it just doesn't stand up. It's proto-plasm--no cell walls, no bones. It lacks the reference points--a simple refrain, rhythm, or beat to come back to.



I think this lack of solidity happens because there is very little group-ness behind the songs--they're mostly individual efforts with a helping hand given by anyone, er, handy. I suppose that's why the tape was released under the name Big Hair, even though it contains contributions from all the members of That Hope.

At worst, this music falls into a monotonous groove and at best, it captures glimpses of brilliance. Dean's voice ranges from droning to drilling and is especially thrilling when his strained high octave is dubbed over the low. Skot, lucky guy, has one of those voices full of blatant ease and strength, which will make it a great foil for Dean's. However, they don't do too much vocal work together on this tape. In fact, songs here depend equally on guitar, synth, vocals, percussion, and extraneous noise.

This tape may be disjointed, but it doesn't worry them and it doesn't worry me. They did it for their own enjoyment, without the affected air of someone trying to make it BIG. Some numbers worth remarking about:

- "Pan into Fire": My personal favorite (it tied with "Trouble in Town"). This one is a diamond in the rough. Dean's voice has that sincere quality which vacillates between anguish and dull confusion. The phrasing and lyrics are neat, but it ain't got no beat.
- "Gaining Confidence": One of Ed's babies. Instrumental, lots of sweeping guitar effects. Atlantis music.
- "Somewhere in Africa": Neat percussion, more than ethereal. Gnost music. Something about Ed's songs makes me feel like I'm inside the body cavity of some huge mammal. They breathe.
- "Road to Being": Weird.
- "Trouble in Town": Another personal favorite. Add another verse and send this one to Robin Plan. It's fun. Boy named Sue meets Big Hair.
- "Area 14": Sorry, but this one is a Floydian slip (Pink, that is).
- "Love ya 2 Much": The song with three words and one number. Call me crazy, call me impetuous, but this one has one of those flashes of brilliance. But I've been wrong before.
- "Keenan" and "Joy": Both cut from the same cloth; minimalistic, eerie, nightmarish, and perverse. What more could you ask?

--LVD

About the cover

Haven't you been pissed off in the last week or so? At your boss, your school, your lawyer, your doctor, your shrink, your hot tub serviceperson, your handwriting analyst, your local cops, George F. Will, Bill Flick?

Haven't you felt vaguely dissatisfied with the way things are going generally? Education, government, religion, that sort of stuff?

Come on. You know you have. And even if you can't get your damage deposit back and you'll never be able to prove in court that the cops beat you up that night, you can do something.

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We're in desperate need of writers. Not only folks with personal gripes to air, but also people who'd like to do interviews and air other people's gripes, to follow up on suspicious rumors about powerful people and institutions, and yes, even to provide occasional positive articles on this and that.

Maybe you think that being a Post writer requires burdensome commitment to some ideology or organization. Well, when you've put out a paper for thirteen years, your ideology becomes less

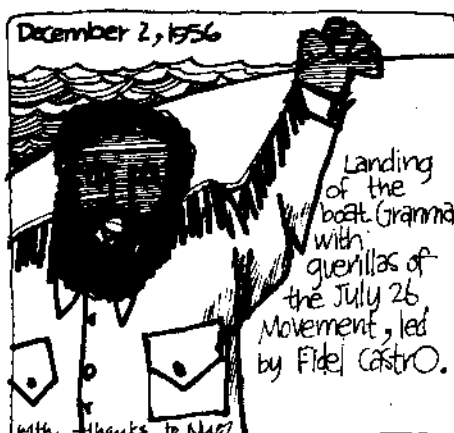
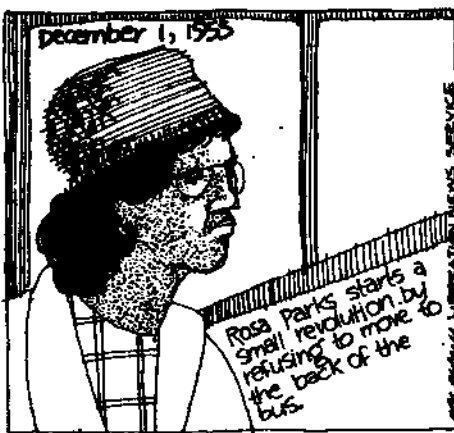
and less rigid, and your organization bends to accommodate all sorts of personal eccentricities and levels of devotion.

Maybe you think you have to be a skilled, experienced writer. Hah. Some of our old-time regulars can't spell "harass" or remember where commas go. We have a few copy editors who do know, though, and they'll fix your prose.

If you've ever felt the urge to put pen to paper for possible Post publication, now is the time to do it. Joyful welcoming noises are practically guaranteed.

--Phoebe Caulfield

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