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## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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2-1987

## Volume 15, Number 9

Post Amerikan

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**Nothing at all about the TV miniseries AMERIKA!**

Bloomington-Normal

February-march 1987 25¢

# POST AMERICAN

vol. 15, no. 9

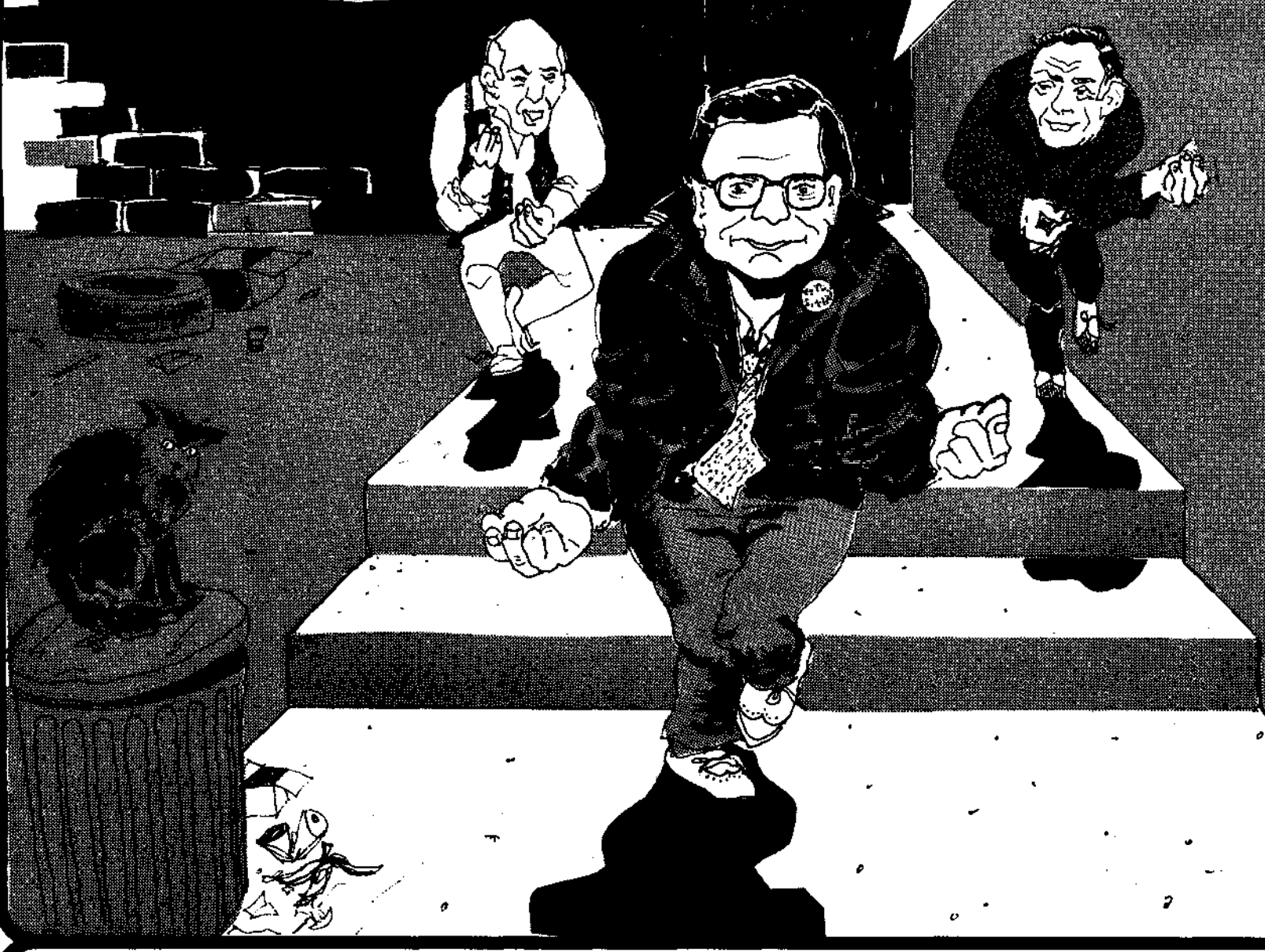
# WEST-SIDE STORY

Mayor  
sells west side  
for a song

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You're a Rat all the way  
From your first sleazy deal  
To your last power play

When you're a Rat  
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# POST AMERIKAN

## About us

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, 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.

The next deadline for submitting Post material is March 26, 1987.

## Good numbers

Alcoholics Anonymous.....828-5049  
 American Civil Liberties Union.454-7223  
 Bloomington Housing Authority..829-3360  
 Clare House (Catholic Workers).828-4035  
 Community for Social Action....452-4867  
 Connection House.....829-5711  
 Countering Domestic Violence...827-4005  
 Dept. Children/Family Services.828-0022  
 Draft Counseling.....452-5046  
 HELP (transportation for senior citizens, handicapped).....828-8301  
 Ill. Dept of Public Aid.....827-4621  
 Ill. Lawyer Referral.....800-252-8916  
 Kaleidoscope.....828-7346  
 McLean Co. Health Dept.....454-1161  
 Mid Central Community Action...829-0691  
 Mobile Meals.....828-8301  
 McLean County Center for Human Services.....827-5351  
 National Health Care Services--abortion assistance, 1-800-322-1622  
 Nuclear Freeze Coalition.....828-4195  
 Occupational Development Center.....828-7324  
 Operation Recycle.....829-0691  
 Parents Anonymous.....827-4005  
 PATH: Personal Assistance Telephone Help.....827-4005  
 Or.....800-322-5015  
 Phone Friends.....827-4008  
 Planned Parenthood...medical..827-4014  
 bus/couns/educ..827-4368  
 Post Amerikan.....828-7232  
 Prairie State Legal Service....827-5021  
 Prairie Alliance.....828-8249  
 Project Oz.....827-0377  
 Rape Crisis Center.....827-4005  
 Sunnyside Neighborhood Center..827-5428  
 TeleCare (senior citizens).....828-8301  
 Unemployment comp/job service..827-6237  
 United Farmworkers support.....452-5046  
 UPIC.....827-4026

## Moving?

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Thanks

This issue is in your hands thanks to Sue (coordinator), Laurie D., Laurie H., Dave, Melissa, Deborah, Val, Chris, Laurie S., Clarence, J.T., Susie, Peg, Margaret, Bumper, Ralph, Kay, Randy, Bill W., Tim, Jan, Carrol, Marty, and Cathy.

Special thanks to Mark Johnson for creative and dogged work on the Post Amerikan Benefit.

## Post Sellers

### BLOOMINGTON

Amtrack Station, 1200 W. Front  
 The Back Porch, 402 N. Main  
 Bloomington Public Library (in front)  
 Bus Depot, 533 N. East  
 Common Ground, 516 N. Main  
 Front and Center Building  
 Hit Shed, 103 E. Mulberry  
 Law and Justice Center, W. Front St.  
 Lee Street (100 N.)  
 Main and Miller streets  
 Medusa's Adult World, 420 N. Madison  
 Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park  
 Mr. Donut, 1310 E. Empire  
 Nierstheimer Drugs, 1302 N. Main  
 Pantagraph (front of building),  
 301 W. Washington  
 The Park Store, Wood & Allin  
 People's Drugs, Oakland & Morrissey  
 Red Fox, 918 W. Market  
 Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main  
 U. S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire  
 (at exit)  
 U. S. Post Office, Center & Monroe  
 Upper Cut, 409 N. Main  
 Wash House, 609 N. Clinton  
 Washington and Clinton streets

### NORMAL

ISU University Union, 2nd floor  
 Hovey Hall, ISU (in front)  
 Midstate Truck Plaza, U.S. 51 north  
 Mother Murphy's, 111 North St.  
 North & Broadway, southeast corner  
 White Hen Pantry, 207 Broadway  
 (in front)

Early April fools

# Mayor sells west side for \$2.50

A large section of the west side was recently declared a TIF district (Tax Increment Financing District).

This means that the City of Bloomington acquires the land, moves everybody out of their homes in the name of eminent domain and condemnation, and sells the land to developer Jack Snyder cheap (\$5 an acre!).

Why? Supposedly, after Snyder's finished developing a truck stop and whatnot, he'll pay taxes on the land at full value (significantly more than \$5/acre), providing revenue for the city. Also, the City would like us to believe that the deal will provide urgently needed development in the West Market St. area. West siders disagree, as the adjoining article explains.

In a surprise announcement today, Bloomington Mayor Jesse Smart told a stunned community that he had sold the entire west side of Bloomington to developer Jack Snyder for \$2.50.

Previously Smart had raised the ire of west side residents by selling a large tract for \$5 an acre to the wealthy developer, forcing a number of families to relocate.

Snyder plans to use the first segment to build a truck stop, once the families' homes are demolished, to compete with the existing truck stop and six restaurants and five gasoline stations already on West Market Street.

Coincidentally, the announcement of the first sale in December came after Snyder purchased the "Mayor's Christmas Tree," which was lit by the beaming mayor a few days before Christmas. This second announcement comes close on the heels of the purchase of the "Mayor's Easter Bunny" by Snyder.

Snyder's plans for the large area of family homes is still unclear. Initial speculation is that he will convert the neighborhoods into an amusement park.

"Everyone has always considered the west siders and their strange habits, well, quaint," said the developer's office.

Planned themes for the amusement park include a "hillbilly heaven" in the West Front Street area, a "back of the plantation" Southern motif around Sunnyside, and a European "Hungarian Village" in the northwest corner.

City government condoned the move, saying that most "west siders do just fine, they'll just have to get used to tourists in their neighborhood living room." Economic development was promised too, as the Mayor assured angry residents that those non-Japanese speakers who don't get jobs in the auto plant can "sell lemonade" in the new theme park.

\*\*\*\*\*

The above satire expresses the frustration a lot of the west side folks are feeling these days, seeing part of their neighborhood sold to a high-rolling, well-financed developer for a quick and easy \$5 an acre.

The current administration in City Hall justifies the move, saying that Jack Snyder had to put up \$400,000 in bonds before the City approved the move, that three other developers were offered the same package, and that somehow, because of this truck stop, west siders will finally get their grocery store.

Everyone knows that some change was coming with Diamond-Star Motors. Many people were willing to accept that, in the hope that the resulting new jobs would help restore a blue-collar neighborhood that's been hard-hit during the past six years of Reaganomics.



What makes people angry are the usual things that would make anyone angry. Local residents weren't consulted on the move, and an already wealthy developer is getting fat breaks, turning the City into his eviction agency at the same time.

If Jack Snyder really wanted a truck stop on West Market, he could have it. There is vacant land on both the north and south sides of the street, both sides of the interstate. If families had to be moved, let him pay them enough to make the move enticing.

Instead, the City can now use all the powers of government and eminent domain, the strength of the courts and law enforcement, to clear land for Jack Snyder. "Eminent domain" means someone can be moved if the move is "for the greater good of the community." A truck stop might be nice for Snyder's pocketbook, and will offer over-the-road truckers a choice between Union 76's bland food and Snyder's bland food, but little benefit "for the greater good" is apparent.

At the same time, City Hall promises a shopping center and grocery store are not far behind. That's great, but what do these things have to do with a truck stop?

Land is starting to tighten up around West Market, and I'm sure Jack Snyder would have had to pay other developers a pretty penny to get a prime site--this way he gets people's homes and the city to do the dirty work.

The current "development" craze needs careful planning. It's great when an auto plant, IRS office or State Farm expansion can bring more jobs. Second thoughts are needed, however, every time a developer wants to throw up another restaurant, motel, or gas station.

We don't need the west side turned into the automotive maze that the east side is. Even with its prosperity the Veterans Parkway strip still hosts numerous buildings that change their shingle every two or three months, unable to stay in business. One town can support only so many awful restaurants.

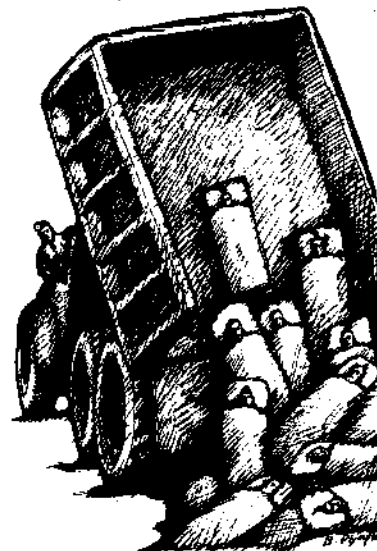
Many people castigated west siders after neighborhood opposition developed over MARC Center building a group home on the northwest side. East side attorneys put words in people's mouths, saying that west siders were worried about property values and were prejudiced against the handicapped.

If you know the west side, you know neither is true. What brought on the protest was a feeling of being used and neglected. It's great that MARC Center provides housing and programs: many of us have family living in their homes--but have you ever noticed where their homes are located? You wouldn't find any next door to east side condos and split-levels.

When west siders opposed the group home and the asphalt plant, they were trying to say "enough." Property value was not a concern; you don't live on the west side if your concern is property value. You live on the west side because it's affordable, it's family, and it's comfortable. At the same time, west siders are also concerned about their neighborhood and appreciate a voice and consultation in their own future. City Hall and east siders might think us backwards, but we do like our voice heard before we see the bulldozer at our front door.

The same outrage at being used and neglected, besides seeing blind stealing taking place at taxpayer expense, is what is fueling current protest over Snyder's truck stop.

When Diamond-Star announced its plant site, you didn't see the cities using eminent domain to clear families and landowners. Instead, a pretty price was paid and some folks made off with a nice little bundle in exchange for their land.



It costs, but then, that's "development." If west siders have to move, they should be given the same options as wealthy landowners, and have their bundle to show, too. Someone is going to be making big bucks off their former homesite, so residents have a right to share in future profits, just like Snyder.

The prospect of more jobs is always great, but let's not destroy affordable family housing in the process. And let's think twice before erecting more flim-flam restaurants and gas pumps, especially at the expense of established neighborhoods. But most of all, if developers want development, let them pay for it, and not use City Hall as their bulldozer and eviction agency.

--A lonely cry from the west



Censorship in comics

# Panelogical pinheads

It never fails: give an artist enough room to express themselves and before you can say Thomas Bowdler, you got an energetic group of "moral" pinheads trying to take that room away from 'em. Latest group of creators to be targeted by members of the censorship bloc? Why, comic book artists, of course.

You read about them last issue in the Post's special State of Comic Books Supplement--and perhaps in a group of Sunday articles in the latecomer Pantagraph--the new stream of alternative comics that have grown in commercial viability with the spurt of comics shops: titles like Love and Rockets, Raw, Elektra: Assassin, Watchmen, and more; titles produced for a more adult reader than your average issue of Spiderman; titles that have individually managed to piss certain readers off just because they don't pander to the sixth grade level mentality of the basic mainstream comic book.

The story's a familiar one. In the 1950s, comic books faced public condemnation due to the prevalence and popularity of crime and horror comics, an outcry that led to the kind of Senate hearings that have currently got the recording industry sweating. The comic book industry's response? A self-imposed comic book code with restrictions that were probably harsher than any outside agency would've drawn.

**Comics code**

The comics code authority has been used on mainstream comics to this day, though its guidelines have loosened somewhat since the times when even a

series title Elektra, for instance, costs \$1.75) and are packaged for a more Yuppified audience.

**Strong objections**

That hasn't stopped certain segments of the quasi-literate population from objecting to their mere presence, however. Foremost with the ballyhoo has been Steve Geppi, president of a comic book distribution company named Diamond Comic Distributors. Steve's

Focusing on Marvel Comics' Elektra: Assassin series, WUSA's alarmist news reporter catalogued scenes of atrocity and violence in the books, then followed with an interviewed parent whose six-year-old boy happened to look at the book in a comic book shop.

Also interviewed in the series? Diamond distributor Geppi, abhorring the situation with irresponsible artists and publishers.



biggest bone of contention has been the ninth issue of Eclipse Comics' Miracleman, which contained a graphic depiction of childbirth. Fantagraphics' Captain Jack #5, a funny animal comic that contained a scene with boy and girl animals fondling each other; and Fantagraphics' Love And Rockets #19, which contained a tame two-panel sequence depicting oral sex. All three of the comics contained an "adults only" advisory on the front covers, even though their material was fairly mild compared to work that has appeared in underground titles, but that hasn't stopped them from raising Geppi's ire. "Personally, I am getting sick and tired of making excuses for irresponsible publishers," he writes in a

While the above titles have had their share of critical acclaim (some in last month's Post, in fact), as well as positive publicity, moneymen like Geppi have been growing more vocal over the last six months about their unease with the product. What's really on the line is the fear that distributors and store owners have of being nailed for selling something that might be objectionable to the morality armies. Most comic shop retailers come from a background that would like to forget the comic book underground even existed; they prefer their comic book sex undercover and bound by conventionality, while violence is mainly masked by impact lines. Those few comics that manage to step over their bounds are discomfiting and perceived as potentially dangerous.

To date, none of the national nabobs of morality have chosen to attack the comics industry, but that hasn't stopped the Geppis from trumpeting their imminent appearance. Whether the industry, in the form of big league publishers like Marvel or independents like Eclipse and Fantagraphics will choose to engage in anticipatory reins-pulling or not is still unknown at present. If it does choose to start self-censoring even its adults-only titles--well, history shows what has happened when a bunch of paranoid publishers try to protect themselves: instant regression.

But at least Steve Geppi won't have to go around apologizing for his comic books anymore.

BS87



mention of drugs, for example, was considered a no-no. (As an example of how ridiculous the code's restrictions were, an issue of Spiderman in the late 60s was printed without the code seal when Marvel Comics ran a cautionary sequence about the dangers of LSD. The sequence was no different from the moronic anti-drug propaganda films prevalent in schools at the time, but code officials were more concerned about subject and not content.)

circular distributed to comics retailers. Sure is rough dealing with those arty types, eh Steve?

The circular, sent out in late Fall of 86, was in part stimulated by the attention being paid to comics by several isolated packets of news media. In October, Washington DC CBS affiliate WUSA devoted two days of teevee news feature time to the "sick heroes" of modern comics.

In attempting to forestall outside control, comic book publishers effectively ghettoized the artform for years by surrendering to the assumptions that 1.) all comic books were for kids and 2.) all comic book readers needed their delicate little psyches protected.

The underground comics movement changed that, as did a growing constituency of mainstream comic book readers who went into their adulthood either remembering pre-code comic work nostalgically or wishing to continue the comic book habit without having to feel childish about it. Few of the comics produced today for the comic shop consumer carry the code seal, but, then, their intended audience wouldn't have it any other way.

Most are priced beyond the means of your average young kid (where mainstream superhero comics go for 75¢ these days, an issue of the limited-

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## Comic books: What's what?

For those unfamiliar with the types of comics being produced today, the following division would be probably helpful:

1.) **Mainstream:** the bulk load of the comics industry; produced by companies that are pieces of a conglomerate (DC is owned by Warner Communications, for instance); primarily devoted to superheroes and humor aimed at a pre-teen market; available at bookstores, supermarkets, and neighborhood Mom and Pop stores. (Examples: Spiderman, Batman, Donald Duck.)

2.) **Alternative:** an outgrowth of the growing comic shop phenomenon as well as critical interest in comic book art; produced by independents primarily, though both Marvel and DC have their line of direct market titles; a broader spectrum of subject matter (though still depressingly overfilled with superheroes) aimed at a teen and older audience; primarily available through comic book shops. (Examples: Elektra, Love And Rockets, Miami Mice.)

3.) **Underground:** counter-cultural comix born of the sixties; produced by independents who have stubbornly hung on into the eighties; a much more personal street-level orientation to subjects aimed at adult audiences; available at comic shops (though usually behind counter) or through mail order. (Examples: Furry Freak Bros., Gay Comix, Weirdo, Zapl.)

# Comic book heroine saves Central America

Here's the premise: "An evil monster has taken over the mind of the next president of the United States, and a psychotic ninja assassin is the only person who knows this and can stop it." Pretty standard comic book fare, but add this detail: the ninja is a woman. A psychopathic bitch, according to Frank Miller, the creator of Elektra: Assassin.

Bill Sienkiewicz, responsible for Elektra's artwork, describes the series as "...punk...New Wave. It's counterculture. Very political." As depicted in the series, the world is a pretty grim place where it is hard to differentiate between good and evil--you know, kind of like real life. The characters face moral dilemmas of major proportions, and reality is subject to the perspective of the character perceiving it.

Strong political themes pervade Elektra. The heroine was the victim of child abuse, eventually ending up in an insane asylum, the victim of brutal shock treatments. This Central Amerikan madhouse is under the control of the United States government as part of its covert operation, and the rest of the story builds on our heroine's attempts to subvert that operation.

The storyline takes on more irony with each new revelation in the Iran-Contra affair. The evil politician is a blend of Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon, a nightmare in itself, and has only two expressions, serious and smiling. No matter what angle his body is turned to, he always faces the reader. His band of bureaucrats freely use all forms of persuasion, including drugs, torture, and murder,



to further their cause. That couldn't really happen here, could it?

For the comic geek, there is plenty of supernatural action, great big guns, and things blowing up real good. Elektra's male companion is a sort of buffoonish ex-secret agent, drawn as a super macho caricature of Charles Bronson, usually wielding a gigantic weapon of some sort. He is no match for Elektra, though, and they form an alliance that eventually turns into romance: The only truly objective character in the series is a female agent named Chastity, described as "a heroic bureaucrat." She's a strong, tough, by-the-book secret agent who tries to work for good within the system.

As for Elektra herself, this is no role model in the mode of Wonder Woman. She walks the line between good and evil, usually ending up on the good side but bringing all manner of chaos in her wake. She is not fighting evil for the forces of good, but rather for revenge for what has been done to her in the past. Her emotions, as well as her eyes, are kept shrouded from the readers, who are left to fill in a few pieces for themselves.

Perhaps even more striking than the plot lines is the artwork in Elektra. Sienkiewicz has taken a mixed media approach, using watercolor, pencil, and collage for a surreal visual effect. Deep reds pervade throughout, giving the visualization a very emotional, passionate feel. The artist admits to having been very influenced by David Lynch's Eraserhead, and works for that "repulsion-attraction force" that makes the reader uncomfortable but attracted at the same time.

This is no average comic book. It isn't sexist, it takes a strong political stand without being righteous or reactionary, and it is demanding of the reader. Though extremely violent, the violence is not romanticized but rather shown for what it is--ugly and painful for the victim and sometimes even the perpetrator. Elektra: Assassin does for comics what Platoon does for war movies.

A side note: Elektra creator Frank Miller is one of the comic creators who have refused to work on any comics under the new rating system (see accompanying article).

--LH

(Sources: Amazing Heroes, v. 89, and Comics Interview, #34)

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# Censorship more dangerous than porn

It is a widely held view that those who read pornographic material are more likely to commit sex offenses, because they learn to see such behavior as rewarding or because the reading stimulates them to act upon their sexual fantasies.

This idea is completely false. None of the scientific studies on the causes of child abuse or violence within the family show that porn has led, in any way, to these harmful results. In a recent interview, editor Christie Hefner adds that the controversial Meese report "attempts to manipulate people's real concern about these social problems by convincing them that sexual images are to blame for sexual crimes. It attempts to fight complex social ills with simple prejudices."

It is true that pornography arouses people--although not all are affected, and those that are affected respond in different ways. Those most likely to be aroused sexually by porn are the young, the college-educated, the religiously inactive, and the sexually experienced. Most men are aroused; women often experience arousal mixed with guilt and disgust.

The point is that exposure to porn rarely causes any major changes in the viewer's sexual behavior, except for short-term increases in masturbation or sexual intercourse with regular partners. No effects on sexual morality have been found, nor is there evidence that porn causes sex crimes.

In fact, the legalization of porn in Denmark in 1966 preceded a decline in arrests for sex crimes, anywhere from a 56% decline in arrests for exhibitionism to an 80% decline for voyeurism. These declines are not trivial. The arrest rates may be partly due to a higher tolerance of such behavior, but the statistics show that the legalization of pornography has reduced sex crimes in Denmark.

## Obscenity defined

During a study in 1973 which looked at exposure to porn by several groups, there was no clear-cut pattern of antisocial sexual activity following arousal by pornography. Erotic material was a factor in a few of the offenses, but sex crimes are more likely to be associated with lowered inhibitions due to alcohol consumption, rejection by wives or lovers, and talking with friends who suggest crimes. Perhaps we should outlaw alcohol and marriage to reduce sex offenses? Or maybe legalize prostitution?

Fortunately, we still have a semi-free, semi-sensible government. In 1967, Congress created a national commission on obscenity and pornography to study the matter. In 1970, the commission reported finding no reliable evidence that porn caused crime among adults or delinquency among younger people. The commission recommended repeal of all laws prohibiting the sale of pornography to consenting adults. Apparently, some one or some group stifled all action on this report.

In 1973, the Supreme Court developed new guidelines for judging whether material is obscene, in the case of *Miller v. California*. According to the guidelines, material can be considered obscene "1) If the average person, applying contemporary community standards, finds that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; 2) If the material shows, in a clearly offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined as obscene by law; and 3) If the material lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value." These are the standards, much debated in the intervening years, which are still in use today.

Censorship is the control of what people may see or hear, write or read, or see or do. When a government or a private group feels endangered by free expression, it often turns to censorship to protect its basic beliefs. In the United States, the Bill of Rights and the Supreme Court are supposed to serve as checks on unlimited censorship. The following is an advertisement in a popular national magazine attempting to bolster our flagging rights:

### CENSORSHIP CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Censorship can make your life easier. When somebody else makes decisions about what you can read and see and hear, you don't have to think as much.

Censorship can cure the world of problems like violent crime and child abuse. If you believe information and ideas cause problems--instead of people.

Censorship can help everyone agree. If you weren't free to read or hear dissenting opinions, or to express your own, it would be a lot easier to agree ... just as easy as it was in Nazi Germany, or as it is today in Cuba, Iran, and the Soviet Union.

Once we make exceptions to the freedoms guaranteed us under the First Amendment, anything can happen. Ten years ago, the city of Miami banned *Mother Goose*. Other victims have included Shakespeare, and even *Ms.* magazine.

Right now, some Americans are trying to abridge your constitutional freedoms so they'll be able to choose what books and magazines you read, television shows you see.

As an American, you have the freedom to say NO to censorship. Say it today--tomorrow may be too late. Freedom is everybody's business.

It is certainly a powerful ad, but many, many more books than those mentioned have been banned--recently. Due to the recent Meese Commission's report on pornography, Waldenbooks published a list of 52 books that have been "challenged, burned, or banned somewhere in the United States during the last fifteen years." Here are just a few of these books and the reasons that some individuals decided that we should not be allowed the individual choice of whether or not to read them.



\* *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker. "Troubling ideas about race relations, man's relationship to God, African history, and human sexuality." 1984.

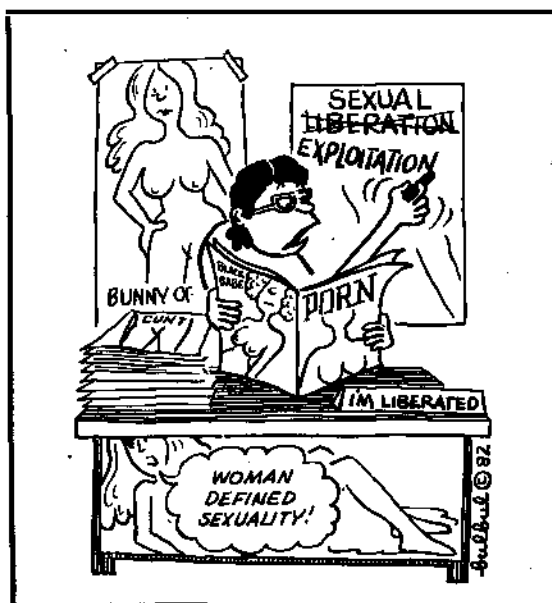
\* *Flowers for Algernon*, by Daniel Keyes. "Explicit, distasteful love scenes." 1981.

\* *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding. "Demoralizing as it implies that man is little more than an animal." 1981.

\* *Ordinary People*, by Judith Guest. "Obscene," "Depressing." 1982.

\* *The Shining*, by Stephen King. "Contains violent and demonic possession and ridicules the Christian religion." 1985.

So books that have troubling ideas, depressing chapters, religious criticism, or love scenes should be burned. Well, that certainly does not leave too much, does it? Is there a method to all this madness? It appears there is. There are numerous possible excuses to justify censorship, but "moral censorship" is by far the most common.





## Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

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## Rape Crisis Center



continues ...

Many governments or groups try to protect their standards of morality by preventing people from learning about or following other standards. Some people believe they have the right to force their values on others.

### Obscenity

In addition to the righteous indignation aroused, obscenity prohibitions are believed by many persons to conflict with the 1st and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which say that there shall be no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. However, in *Roth v. United States* (1957), the Supreme Court ruled that "obscenity is not within the constitutionally protected speech or press."

This holding, the first to deal specifically with the constitutional issue, was reaffirmed by the Court in 1973 by a margin of five to four. On the other hand, the same court held in 1969 that prosecutions for the private possession of obscene material are unconstitutional.

Many people are confused today about exactly what constitutes obscenity and what is legal. Even many lawyers and judges don't know exactly what to say when they are asked. One justice who knows his mind is Supreme Court Justice William Brennan. He wrote the dissenting opinion for *Paris Adult Theater I v. Slaton*, 413 U.S. 49 (1973).

"If, as the Court today assumes, a state legislature may act on the assumption that commerce in obscene books or public exhibitions focused on obscene conduct, have a tendency to exert a corrupting and debasing impact leading to antisocial behavior, then IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW STATE-ORDERED REGIMENTATION OF OUR MINDS CAN EVER BE FORESTALLED. For if a State may, in an effort to maintain or create a particular moral tone, prescribe what its citizens cannot read or cannot see, then it would seem that in following the same objective a State could decree that its citizens MUST read certain books or MUST view certain films" (emphasis added). Right on, judge!

### Basic rights

Freedom of expression is one of the most basic of all our constitutional rights in this country. The limiting of this expression by censoring pornography would be just the beginning for all types of limitations, opening the door to continued censorship in the form of book burning, curtailing of religious freedom, elimination of free political thought, and diminishing many other of our most fundamental rights.

I believe that pornography should not be censored when it involves consenting adults. Child porn is the only restriction I would place on what should otherwise be a completely free-ranging enterprise; all other pornography should be done with only the discretion of those directly involved to guide them. To support these claims, I refute the two most popular arguments supporting censorship of pornography--the paternalistic argument and the principle of legal moralism.

### Morality

The paternalistic argument says that the readers of porn will become emotionally, sexually, and morally crippled. Right from the beginning, proponents of this argument find that they absolutely cannot prove, in any way, these ridiculous and irrational claims. Such an attempt (at this time) is akin to trying to prove the existence of God. In both of these arguments, we must assert that the burden of proof rests upon those attempting to prove a disputed claim, not upon those who maintain that the current state of affairs must be preserved. This is one of the basic postulates of sound logic.

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### Consenting adults

Even if we DO assume that pornography possibly leads to emotional and moral crippling which, with all due respect, we cannot assume, then the State still has no legitimate right to prohibit consenting adults from viewing it. From the evidence that does exist, findings show that individuals tend to simply exhibit their natural tendencies after viewing porn--but in a heightened manner. If viewing these materials does cause a small minority of the populace to actually harm another person, then there are other legal avenues for retribution to be obtained.

If, on the other hand, the State is attempting to force upon us conditions that will limit our own moral freedom, then it is definitely wrong. Those in power can always give some kind of argument alleging that a certain type of behavior causes oneself harm, especially if that harm is theoretical and nearly impossible to prove or measure. We must curb this atrocious intervention into our private moral and sexual freedom at every possible step.

Individuals should have complete control over their own bodies and minds. But under the principle of legal moralism, the law may attempt to control or prevent what is considered by the majority as "immoral behavior." This attempt is wrong. Although some individuals are unable to protect themselves from the myriad dangers present in this world, that is simply an unfortunate fact.

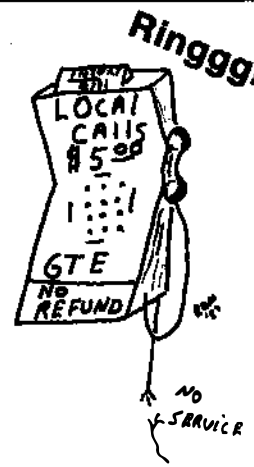
The law guards us from harming others, but when it tries to stop us from harming ourselves, there is no place to draw a line. Many laws are already in effect to limit our ability to do what is considered as harm to ourselves. That does not mean they are right. To keep a few indiscreet individuals safe, the law is depriving the majority of us our freedom of choice.

### Acceptable risk

I believe that it is correct to allow human beings individually to choose whether or not they wish to place themselves within danger. Many laws presently permit far more dangerous activity than that which is outlawed. Is skydiving dangerous? Does racecar driving put one in harm's way unnecessarily? Is drinking and then swimming hazardous? All of these activities are purely for sport and the individual's personal enjoyment, certainly not by any stretch of the imagination "necessary."

If we don't stop this practice of lawmaking to "protect individuals from themselves," or at least draw a line somewhere, it will continue unabated until we are unable to read what we desire, unable to drive our own cars, and perhaps be prohibited from eating what we wish. Other people DO NOT have the right to stop me from doing to myself what I wish to do, as long as I risk harming no one but myself. That should be the most basic right of all--to do with one's own mind and body whatever one desires.

--Kent Kuszajewski



Ellis Corso Sr.  
GTE Mgr.  
827-1811

# Is that my phone or their cash register?

Like worldly-wise women, GTE is now selling what it used to put out for free. You probably noted with alarm, as I did, that ominous GTE envelope bearing on the outside the dreadful words, "PLEASE REPLY IMMEDIATELY TO THIS IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR TELEPHONE SYSTEM."

Anyone who's been around the block knows that in GTEese, this means "OPEN YOUR CHECKBOOK AND WRITE US A CHECK FOR THE BALANCE SHOWN THEREIN OR YOU WILL HAVE A NASTY SURPRISE WHEN YOU TRY TO CALL THE THEATER ABOUT WHEN THE MOVIE STARTS TONIGHT."

Eventually, you'll do it. The Illinois Commerce Commission has given them the go-ahead to charge us 75 cents extra a month to maintain the wires and jacks in our homes.

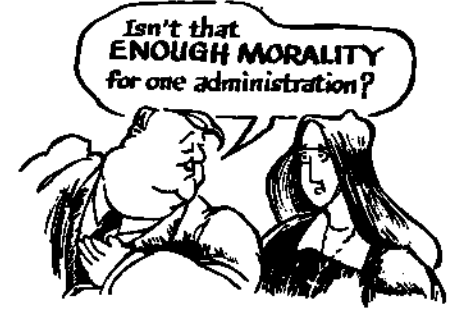
Of course we don't have to pay--only if we want "GTE REPAIR CARE: A CONVENIENT EXTENDED WARRANTY PLAN FOR CONTINUED WORRY-FREE PHONE SERVICE." The letter tells us that "you can also decide against REPAIR CARE coverage, and take your chances" (underlining mine). Hardly sounds convenient and worry-free, does it?

You can either fix those wires and jacks yourself (if you like going to the hardware store and messing around inside your walls instead of finding out when the movie starts); you can invite a perfect (you hope) stranger in to poke around; or you can call in GTE "for a repair visit at the new standard charge of up to \$70" (the going price of either keeping a starved child alive for 7 months or getting a salon perm that might wildly improve your life).

Well, I grew up in Joliet and respond readily to Mafia logic, so I'm sending my card back saying "Yes" to REPAIR CARE. Besides, if I don't decide before April 1, it'll cost an extra \$10 to sign up.

Over 1,000,000 Illinoisans got this hard-to-refuse offer; if all of them say yes, that's \$9,000,000 extra dollars (the going price of a central american country) a year for GTE, without any extra work. Who said no one writes effective letters any more?

--Phoebe Caulfield



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# Mobilize for justice & peace

April 25, 26, and 27 may be an uncomfortable three days for the pro-war, pro-intervention, and pro-Apartheid forces of the U.S. government.

On Saturday April 25, the Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa Coalition will hold a march and rally in Washington, D.C. On Sunday April 26 there will be an interfaith worship service followed by training in non-violence. On Monday, April 27, those members of the coalition and others who wish to participate after Sunday's training will engage in a demonstration of non-violent civil disobedience.

The Mobilization Coalition would like the government and the people of the U.S. to know that they are aware of our country's participation in many illegal and immoral acts in Central America and in Southern Africa.

In Central America our government is:

- Escalating its terrorism and war against the people and government of Nicaragua through CIA-directed Contra forces.
- Providing massive economic and military aid to a government in El Salvador that is bombing its own people, repressing church and human rights workers, and protecting those guilty of gross violations of human rights.
- Transforming impoverished Honduras into a gigantic military base for use by U.S., Contra, and other foreign forces.

--Granting military aid to the Guatemalan army that is responsible for widespread massacres, the use of strategic hamlets for population control, and the highest rate of disappearances in the Western Hemisphere.

--Rejecting opportunities to end the conflicts through political settlements providing security for all.

--Implicating us all in the killing of innocent men, women, and children.

In Southern Africa, our government is:

- Continuing to support the South African government through a sanctions policy that contains major loopholes that, among other things, allow U.S. companies to reinvest their profits and make short-term extensions of credit.
- Persisting in intelligence cooperation with South Africa's military and security forces even as those forces repress and torture people, including church, trade union, United Democratic Front, and student leaders.
- Supporting South Africa's economic strangulation of its neighbors by refusing to provide those neighboring countries major economic support and by cutting off aid to Zimbabwe because of its criticism of U.S. policy.

- Refusing to push South Africa to end its illegal occupation of Namibia.
- Allying itself with South Africa in its war against Angola by providing covert aid to the rebel group UNITA.

--Supporting repression against legitimate representatives of the people of South Africa and Namibia.

The Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa urges you to come to Washington and join in the struggle. When thousands of our voices are joined, we may be heard. And if we are heard, the illegal and immoral acts of our government may be stopped.

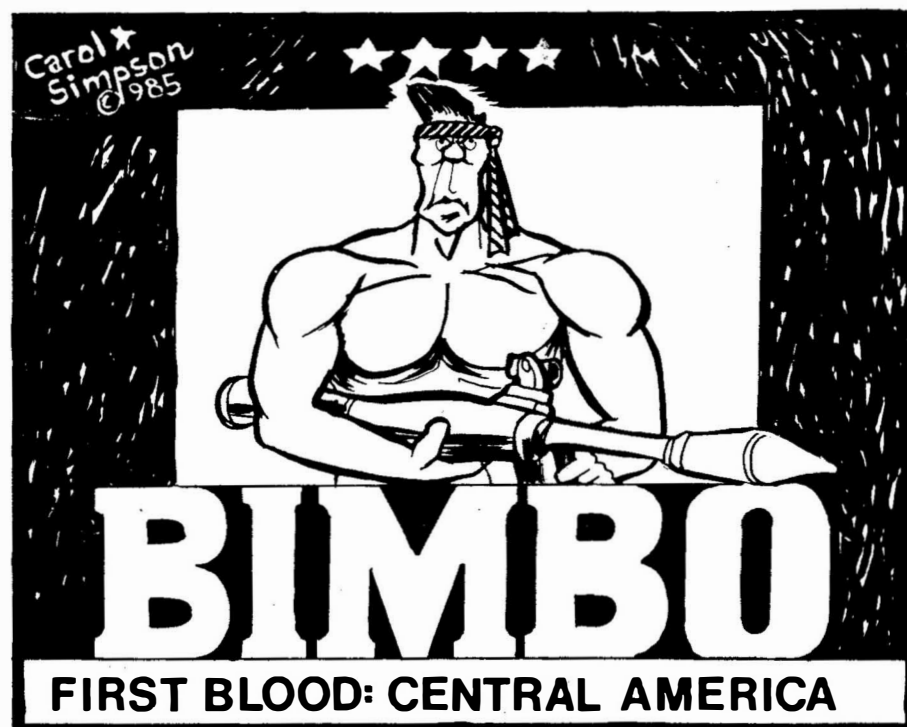
# National Guard in Central America

The Reagan administration is using what they call a "low intensity strategy" in Central America to re-assure the U.S. public that their policy is neither menacing nor dangerous for U.S. troops. In reality, this is just a new term for "counter-insurgency warfare," the same strategy that failed in Vietnam. Arms sales, economic assistance, military training, and development aid are integrated into a comprehensive program to advance U.S. interests. Winning a counter-insurgency war means changing the way people view the world at the grass roots--both in Central America and here in the U.S.

The National Guard is an integral part of Reagan's strategy in the region. The Army National Guard participates in military construction, medical and civic action programs, and military maneuvers to train the Honduran Army. This provides a public relations cover for extensive militarization. It also provides for back-door deployment of U.S. troops in Central America. Since they are being sent under the auspices of training, they do not need Congressional approval.

The Air National Guard is as involved as the Army National Guard. Air Guards from 15 states in the last year have been flying regularly to Panama, the headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command. From there they make embassy runs into every country in Central America with supplies, including military supplies. People in California found out that California Air Guard's 146th Tactical Airlift Wing has been flying as many as three times a week to Central America out of Van Nuys Air National Guard base since 1978. The Air Guard has taken over a task that ten years ago would have been the job of the regular air force.

Since implementation of Nixon's total-force policy in 1973, the National Guard no longer functions as a state militia. It has become an essential part of the national military under the control of the Pentagon. According to James H. Webb, assistant Pentagon secretary for reserve affairs,



"By the end of 1987, 51% of the Army's combat forces and 52% of its support forces will be in the Army National Guard and Reserve." Webb also stated that "The Army reserve components now provide 50% of the Special Operations Forces, and 90% of the psychological operations and civil affairs units are in the reserve components." National Guard and military Reserve units cost only a fraction as much as regular military units. Guard and Reserve units are trained and equipped so that the Pentagon can rely on them rather than enlarging the Air Force, Army, and Navy.

Resistance to National Guard deployment in Central America has come from the grass roots and involves solidarity, human rights, and pledge of resistance organizations. This issue provides a local handle for peace groups to make the war in Central America visible and allows us to challenge Reagan's foreign policy through the governor and legislature of each state.

Guard units from each state have their own specialties that they practice during maneuvers in Honduras. The Missouri Guard contributed engineers and road construction workers. The Kentucky Guard worked on public relations. Two units from the Oregon Guard spent two weeks in military maneuvers with the Honduran Army. Artillery units from the Pennsylvania Guard spent a month training in Honduras. Arizona sent a unit of bilingual Guard MPs to work on the road building project. Guard medical units were sent from both Iowa and Colorado. It is estimated that 20,000 men from 40 states have participated in Guard exercises in Honduras during the last three years. Missouri State Representative Mike Burton says, "Ninety percent of the U.S. presence in Honduras is the National Guard."

The resistance movement won its first two victories when the governors of

Massachusetts and Maine refused to allow their Guard members to deploy in Central America. Next, the governors of Kansas, New Mexico, Ohio, Vermont and Washington also refused to allow deployment in Honduras. The governors of New York and Arizona have reserved the right to say "no" on a case-by-case basis, and the governors of Minnesota and Wisconsin have privately told activists that they would do the same.

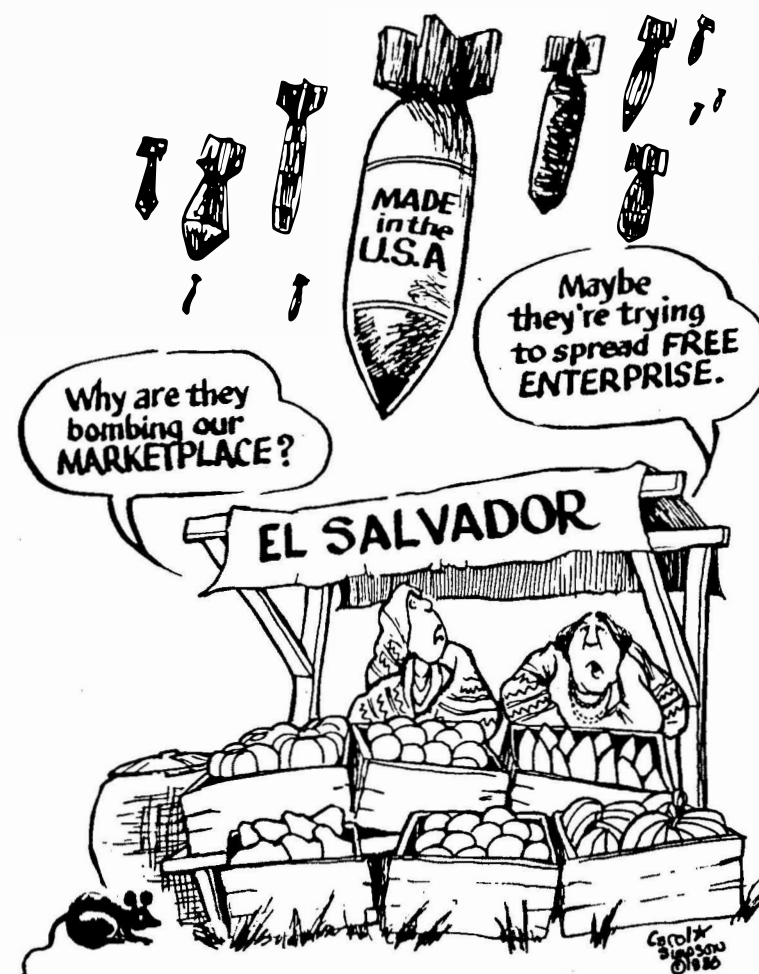
This has been an empowering process for everyone at the grass roots. Through demonstration (some involving civil disobedience), petitions, educational events, letter-writing campaigns, phone-ins, vigils and lawsuits, the grass roots are having an incredible impact, and are making this into a national issue. Many states have made it a campaign issue during this election year.

A measure of our impact can be seen in the attempt, sponsored by the Pentagon, to take away state governors' ability to veto deployment of their National Guard. Legislation to this effect has been proposed by Representative G.V. Montgomery (D-MS). The National Governors Association strongly opposes it, and the National Governors Convention passed a unanimous, bi-partisan resolution to fight the Montgomery Amendment.

On July 15, 1986, James Webb said, "The governors' authority has become a vehicle to debate or influence foreign policy. This is no longer a case of a few isolated incidents. It is a demonstrated way for dissent groups, state legislators and state governors to seize a forum to debate foreign policy."

Our intent from the beginning was to blow the cover on their "low-intensity strategy" and to force them to wage their war openly so that the U.S. public would have to confront it. We have taken the first big step in doing just that.

--Peggy Moore from RECON



## No roads to war

On Saturday, February 21, over 900 demonstrators from Bloomington, Carbondale, Champaign, Charleston, Decatur, Jacksonville, Normal, Peoria, Rock Island, Springfield, and other locations around the state gathered at the entrance to the Springfield Air National Guard base to voice their disapproval of the intensification of U.S. military presence in Central America. Between January 10 and May 10, over 900 Illinois National Guard members will be sent to Honduras to participate in "trainings." The protesters opposed this deployment as a continuation of illegal and immoral U.S. policies against Nicaragua. It was their intention to stop "business as usual" at the base.

The protesters held up a "Wall of Witness," a 65-foot mock brick wall plastered with the names and photographs of victims of the Reagan administration's Central American policy. Further, eight individuals chose to act in solidarity in an act of non-violent civil disobedience: they formed a human blockade on the road leading to the base, thereby denying entrance to all vehicles.

Spirits were high as the protest got underway. When the first car approached the blockade, its members stood firm. A National Guardsman stepped out and tried to break the line in order to enter the base. No dice--he had to crawl underneath. Later, a woman drove to within feet of the demonstrators and shouted, "I don't care!" She had to turn around. A particularly bellicose Guardsman drove right into the line, but then retreated. The blockade was victorious.

All the while, the crowd chanted, sang, and shared personal convictions about the war in Nicaragua. The presence of local, county, and state police was seen, but hardly felt; the group karma was too strong. "The people united shall never be defeated." The demonstration ended in celebration of that strength.

If unity was ever needed, now is the time (this means you). Florida National Guard members have recently stated that in December they were involved in combat against Nicaragua.

--MJ

### Central America, family farm problems

## Polite dialog with Madigan ends in horror

The thing that bothers me the most is that for a 20 minute lesson in frustration tolerance, I had to wait on a list for a full year.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, Rep. Ed Madigan, US Congressman, was seeing constituents in B-N. I was told the time allotments were a measley 10 minutes. I did expect it to be an intense, confrontational time, but I did not expect him to lower the slick mask of a professional politician.

He never even bothered with the mask. After shaking hands, he sat glaring, waiting for my friend and me to start. There was another "blue suit"

in the back of the room, no one bothered to introduce him or explain his presence.

Incredible, Madigan's hostility and twisted thinking. We began by stating we did not want the Illinois National Guard to be used to build the roads connecting the newly built US bases established for a quick invasion of Nicaragua. He reasoned, "I believe the Guard should be trained in wet and dry conditions, in heat and cold, as much like the ones they'll possibly be needed to fight in."

But what about the legalities of establishing permanent bases outside of Congressional approval (violating the War Powers Act)? He replied, "What do you call a permanent base? An airstrip? A road? These services are for the Hondurans, to take food to market." (Hondurans

in remote areas don't own cars, have no markets, are subsistence farmers.) "You know the Indians" (did he mean the Ethiopians?) "couldn't get those food donations to many of the poor for lack of transportation."

"Oh," we queried, "the US is planning a hunger relief program for Honduras?" "No, I didn't say that. Now your time's running out. Get to your purpose here."

We parried back and forth, the dialogue occasionally being broken with one of his long blank stares. Most of his logic (I use the term loosely) was that the Soviets are bad people, so the US is justified in breaking any laws, international or national, in the process of protecting US interests. To him, it seemed, Central America is a place for East/West cold war games.

He offered no response when we affirmed that the Nicaraguans we encountered on our August trip were willing to die before accepting the return of the Somoza National Guard as rulers, or before accepting U.S. domination in any form.

We told him about the effect that the arms race has on the family farm. As the deficit skyrockets with nuclear arms expenditures, the resulting economic climate means death to private ownership of family farms. He had the nerve to claim farmers are better off than ever, with billions available to them in loans. He told us to review our sources better before we quoted them. (How patronizing.)

American farmers are losing their

farms to bank foreclosures at the rate of 3 per day. (In contrast, Nicaragua has a policy of no foreclosures, low interest loans, and returning the poor to the land.)

"No Roads to War" is the theme taken up by peace groups throughout the country opposing the illegal use of National Guard troops turning Honduras into the staging site of the invasion of Nicaragua. From January to May, Illinois troops will leave every 2 weeks to do their fair share.

Reliable sources state that the Florida Guard engaged in combat in December against Sandinista forces, violating US law. Please protest these actions! Join in demonstrations! Contact your representatives: Request a NO vote to further Contra aid! Contact your local Pledge of Resistance to help work against another Vietnam in Central America.

Francis Boyle, a U of I professor specializing in international law, surprised a group here recently when he declared that the only "legal" recourse Americans have to influence foreign policy is massive civil disobedience. Take action now, before more US troops engage in combat and more innocent Central American lives are lost.

Mr. Madigan's attitude made it clear that this administration needs a strong and determined radical resistance before it will relinquish its policy of destruction.

The time is now!

--Diane Speir



"Now, here's his feeding instructions."

# Quest for peace

Bloomington-Normal residents will once again have an opportunity to actively oppose the U.S. administration's war on Nicaragua by collecting supplies to be sent to that country. From January to April, local Pledge of Resistance and Witness for Peace groups will join a nationwide campaign to send educational and medical supplies and clothing to Nicaragua.

The Quest for Peace was launched in December, 1985, with the goal of matching Congressional aid to the Contras with humanitarian aid to the people of Nicaragua. It began as a challenge to the U.S. Congress,

demanding an end to the violence in Central America, and asking the national media to report which aid nourishes life and which aid fosters destruction and death.

By June, 1986, the Quest for Peace campaign had raised \$27 million, matching Congressional appropriations for the Contras. Over 600 organizations and thousands of individuals took part in this effort, striving in a non-violent way to bring about peace in Central America.

In light of the continued support by the Reagan administration for the Contra rebels attacking Nicaragua, the Quest for Peace is continuing its humanitarian aid campaign. Its goal is to send \$100 million in medicine, food, clothing and school supplies for the people of Nicaragua by October, 1987. Once again it is hoped that U.S. citizens will respond by matching Contra aid with humanitarian aid for Nicaraguans.

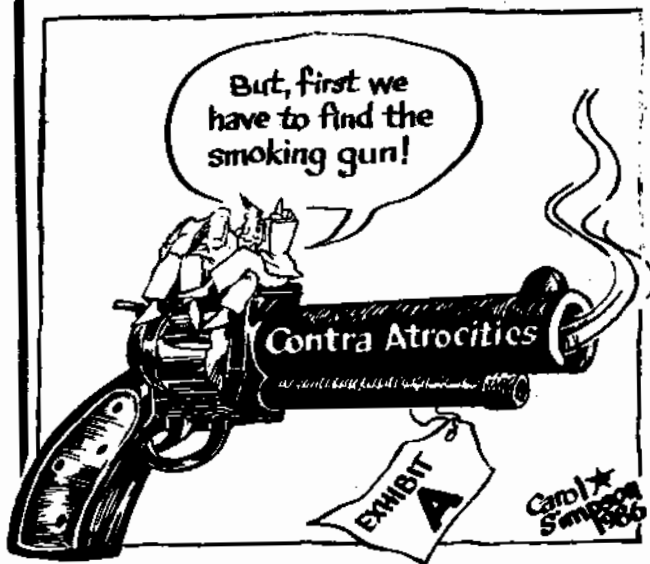
Supplies sent to Nicaragua through the Quest for Peace are distributed to a number of organizations in Nicaragua. Last year, aid from the Quest for Peace reached over 150 communities, refugee camps, hospitals, health centers and schools.

The Quest for Peace campaign is expected to be launched locally within the next month, with various collection points for supplies. Volunteers are needed to contact churches, schools and private groups for donations and assistance in collecting supplies. See phone numbers below if you are able to help.

Upcoming articles in the *Post* will focus on particular areas of need. Please begin now to collect these general supplies: summer clothing; aspirin; band aids and gauze; paper, pens, pencils, and crayons; misc. educational supplies.

Quest for Peace is also in need of monetary donations. Each dollar donated ships \$50 in aid. Thus, \$5,000 will send a 20-ton cargo container of donated supplies averaging \$250,000. The Quest for Peace goal of \$100 million in humanitarian aid becomes just \$.42 per person when divided among all the people in the U.S.

For more information or to help in any way call Julie at 829-1889 or Diane at 829-4377, or call 452-5046 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.



## Army wants peace groups out of high schools

The U.S. Army is seeking to overturn a landmark court decision which grants equal access in high schools to groups countering the presence of the military. This court decision, according to the Army, "poses a significant threat to military recruiting." The outcome of this case could have broad and lasting implications for peace organizations nationwide.

The case originated in 1982 after the Grossmont Union High School District in East San Diego, California, overruled student journalists and banned advertising in student newspapers by the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD). COMD filed suit against the district charging a violation of its First and Fourteenth Amendment rights. COMD's

initial request for a preliminary injunction was denied in federal district court, and the group appealed.

On June 6, 1986, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled that COMD's rights indeed had been violated and issued a ruling in favor of equal access in high schools for groups challenging the activities of Selective Service System (SSS) and military recruiters. The appellate court found that the school district had engaged in viewpoint-based discrimination when it banned COMD's advertising. It ruled that military recruiting ads were inherently political and controversial.

In explaining its ruling, the court said: "There has been opposition to military service, both compulsory and

voluntary, throughout our nation's history....Because the Board on a number of occasions permitted the publication of advertisements advocating military service, there can be no question but that the Board intended to open the newspapers for advertisements on this topic..."

"The Board cannot allow the presentation of one side of an issue, but prohibit the presentation of the other side."

The Army's request to intervene as a co-defendant at the appellate level was rejected by the 9th Circuit, as was a request for a rehearing. The case must now return, however, to the District Court for a trial to determine whether COMD should be granted a permanent injunction. At that time, the Army could again attempt to intervene.

In arguing for the right to join the school district in the case, the Army declared that the decision "poses a significant threat to military recruiting....At issue are not only ads in student newspapers, but also access to school job fairs and counseling offices, which may well be cut off if political groups must also be given equal access....Any decision that impairs the access of recruiters to the high schools affects the vital interest of the U.S."

The Army wants to use the power of the court to dictate our First Amendment rights and to secure uncontested influence over young people. COMD intends to oppose the Army's action and to defend the positive precedent established by the 9th Circuit's decision. COMD needs contact with individuals who can provide expert testimony on a variety of subjects relating to the case: The nature of military jobs, the political nature of the military, and the controversial aspects of military recruiting, for instance. The right of high school students to have access to alternative information on military enlistment and the draft is now at stake.

The Army has enormous resources in its attack on our 9th Circuit victory. COMD could use contributions. Send them to COMD, PO Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92115. Donations of at least \$25 can be made tax-deductible by making the check out to "Project YANO."

--Rick Jahnkow, from RECON

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# Civil rights march invades all-white town

The civil rights movement finally arrived in all-white Cumming, Georgia, January 24, a generation behind the times and 75 years after the last of the black residents were chased out. But there remains the issue of what the massive "March against Fear and Intimidation" actually accomplished.

When the demonstration was over, the snow had turned to mud and the best intentions to doubt. In Forsyth County little had changed.

Ralph Taylor, 56, said he joined the 20,000 marchers out of curiosity. "I'd never been here before because of the reputation." Taylor doubted he would return to Cumming. "I haven't seen anything to make me want to come back."

Such was the aftermath of the South's biggest civil rights march since the 60s, a demonstration that required more than 2,200 national guard and police to keep the peace. And even then, peace was a tenuous thing.

A few rocks and a slew of racial epithets were hurled at marchers. There were some major incidents, but some 60 people were arrested, most of them among the 1,000 jeering Ku Klux Klan-led white counter-demonstrators. The marchers made

their point with vigor and astounding numbers, some ten times what was originally expected, which seemed to disarm those who gathered to yell racial slurs.

There were 60s-style hippies and 80s-style punkers, middle-aged white couples, children, a few dogs, and old-timers from the civil rights movement of two decades ago. Indeed, for the marchers, it was sweet repayment for the previous week when a small group of 75 marchers were harangued by rock-throwing white supremacists.

The Reverend Hosea Williams, along with Coretta Scott King, led the two-mile march from the outskirts of Cumming to its county courthouse. Williams praised the marchers and the town but said the real heroes were those who marched the week before. "The marchers last week didn't have the National Guard and the GBI (Georgia Bureau of Investigation) to protect them," he said.

Williams organized the first march to bring blacks back to the county which had driven them out in 1912 after a black man allegedly raped a white woman. The man was lynched, and blacks fled the county, leaving behind their land and their homes.

"We've come back to claim our land!" Williams yelled.

One local man was angered by the inconvenience caused him by the marchers. "Let then goddamn niggers walk a mile for diapers." Listening to the children yell "nigger go home!" made it obvious how racism in Cumming has been perpetuated.

As the crowds headed home, a young black man and a young white man stood across the street from each other and exchanged insults. Whites carried signs that read "Black Trash" and "Rednecks, White Skin, and Blue Collars."

But the brightest sign was the hatred --eyes filled with fire and voices filled with rage.

--Ivan Lupino



Post-Amerikan Feb.-March 1987 Page 11

## Movie Review

# Platoon: Insight through murder

What I have to say about Oliver Stone's Platoon is simple, although my thoughts are also in radical disagreement with just about everything else I've heard or read about the movie.

First, Platoon is not an anti-war movie. Neither is it a pro-war movie. Rather, it is a movie that promotes a "willingness to participate." Stone portrays the Vietnam war as morally ambiguous, but he does find VALUE in it. This stance makes Platoon a much more dangerous movie than Rambo. Rambo convinced adolescents that war fantasy is "neat." But Platoon convinces adults that--morality and politics aside--there is something to be gained from participating in war.

But this is the film's largely unspoken ideology. What the film and its fans say overtly is that the film is "realistic." It is supposed to be realistic because it is not "political" (unlike Coming Home and

Apocalypse Now). It tells things as they were.

Apparently, it is still necessary to say that the politics of Vietnam were the most important reality of that war. Why were we in Vietnam? as Norman Mailer put it. Platoon acknowledges without seeming to care that none of the soldiers knew why they were in Vietnam. The fact remains, as true today as it was then, that we interfered with Vietnam's legitimate need to rid itself of the vestiges of decades of colonial rule. In the regimes of Diem and Thieu we asked Vietnamese and Americans to die for oligarchy, for the rule of the privileged.

And what is "realistic" about the central dramatic conflict of the movie? The good sergeant, Elias, competes with the bad sergeant, Barnes, for the heart and mind of the innocent, young private. Sounds like Hollywood black hat/white hat to me.

What is even more disturbing than this simpleminded moral conflict is that Stone allows it to be resolved in such a way that it seems that "good" can win out. The private ultimately gains revenge for Elias' murder and redeems his own participation in the war by killing Barnes. It is perhaps unusual that the bad guy is one of us, but the more important point is that the bad guy, which ever side he is on, can be defeated.

What Stone seems to find crucial is the idea that war itself (even the most indefensible war) is capable of generating its own worth and interest. War remains the place where a young man can go to find out about himself and his world. Platoon may not be patriotic, but it does preserve the Romance of War.

To my mind, this romance keeps Stone's movie firmly entrenched in Western Death Culture and its willingness to find war an acceptable response to political and social situations one does not like. In that sense, our present attitude toward Nicaragua and our support for the Contras is precisely like our Vietnam experience.

Stone is determined to overlook the fact that the rest of the world (especially the third world) is not a merely theatre in which America can act out its moral paradoxes. The destruction of Vietnam and the deaths of thousands of Vietnamese is not justified by the possibility that we learned something about ourselves. Vietnamese lives are real lives. But for Stone, as for Audie Murphy's classics, the "gooks" remain curious, pajama clad, wind-up toys who traipse through the jungle in a foreign and finally non-human way.

Unfortunately, the critical reception of Platoon may be colored by our desire to finally "welcome home the vets." No doubt some sort of reconciliation with Vietnam veterans is desirable. But not if it means having to become reconciled to the war itself as well. Not if it means I have to say there was value in what they participated in.

The Vietnam war was an unjust war that no one should have supported. It was supported because, as Stone himself points out, many believed in stupidities like Patriotism. Nevertheless, it is important to say that Platoon replaces Patriotism with stupidities of its own, which, I fear, will in the long run contribute to the betrayal of yet another generation of warrior/victims.

--Teddy Boy

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# Miscellaneous animal victories (for once)



Purveyors of bad taste recently lost a major battle to renowned animal activist Bob Barker. Bob has been the host of the Miss U.S.A. pageant for 20 years, and adds a certain touch of class to otherwise vacuous video-fare.

"Beauty contests" represent all that is trivial and unnecessary on television: mediocre talent, glitzy production numbers, jiggling bosoms, and jello-brained bimbos. They are an affront to women, and a sure-fire audience grabber. And, for the most part, they're harmless.

However, this year one production number made Bob take a stand. Every young miss was to wrap herself in flowing (real) furs and parade around stage, singing some inane song which in my mind could only be a paean to senseless slaughter.

With the pageant short days away, Bob informed the producers that he would not appear unless the real furs were replaced by fake alternatives. Imagine the hue and cry that such an announcement would create! His timing could not have been better, for there was no time to find a replacement for him; much simpler to raid local boutiques for humane alternatives.

In an "Entertainment Tonight" interview post-pageant, Bob spoke his mind on the situation. He could not condone the exploitation of animals, and he knew his participation would have been tacit approval. While I did not have the fore-thought to jot down his exact comments, the gist of his words was to make every person who does wear real fur feel shame and ridicule for their thoughtless actions.

Every animal activist and person of conscience must applaud his brave stand. Celebrities who are willing to open themselves to the derision and scorn of their audience can only be an inspiration to those of us who have far less to lose for airing our beliefs. Kudos, Mr. Barker! Please don't let the controversy halt your crusade. We need your voice. Every fur coat hurts.

### Observations

This month's column is sadly quite sparse, lacking much in the way of hard news (I haven't yet received my newest Citizens for Animal Rights newsletter). Therefore, I submit for your approval some personal observations.

Why do so few TV series feature families with pet members? Even Bill Cosby, in an episode this season, would not allow Rudy to adopt a dog. Pets enrich our lives, and television does not reflect the vast majority of viewers who do share their homes with family pets. Perhaps the actors are just afraid that they will be upstaged by Felix or Fido.

A recent tabloid cover at the supermarket screamed that Liberace's dying wish was for someone to care for his "children," and the accompanying photo showed him with two beautiful borzois. It's ironic that this pitiful man should have such warped values. He loved his dogs, but flaunted priceless fur coats in his shows. His furs and feather capes represent countless tortured creatures whose only crime was being born beautiful.

### Adoptions

If you want to give a thoughtful gift to yourself or someone else, adopt a whale, manatee, or raptor. For a very reasonable donation, you will help fund the care and feeding of an endangered animal, receive a certificate and photo of the adoptee, and in most cases, have "visiting privileges." It will also make you feel great.

Pick from a list of 70 migrating humpback whales. Cost: \$15. Offered by: Whale Adoption Project, International Wildlife Coalition, 320 Gifford Street, Department FC, Falmouth, MA 02540.

Would you rather save a manatee? Offered by: Save the Manatee Club, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751. Cost: \$15.

How about a bird of prey? Offered by: Adopt-a-Bird Program, Florida Audubon Society, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751. Cost: \$15 for hawks and owls; \$20 for bald eagles.

Thus ends another column. If you are aware of any animal outrages that should be shared, drop me a line in care of the Post Amerikan, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702. You may remain anonymous if desired, but remember that unless one is willing to speak out, those who cannot speak will continue to suffer in silence.

--RAF

## The Conscious Calendar MARCH 1987

SUNDAE	MOONDAY	BLUES DAY	FRIENDS DAY	WORSE DAY	FRIED DAY	SHATTERDAY
1 Send your suggestions for the next calendar to the Post, P.O. Box 3452, Blm. 61702	2	3 ART EXHIBITION: "ROAD and ROADSIDE: PHOTOGRAPHS SINCE 1930" opens at CVA GALLERY I	4 MOVIE - GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE: "DONAHUE: 'GAY PARENTING'" Epm 112 FAIRCHILD HALL	5  LVD's BIRTHDAY Send Money	6  ZAP! MICHELANGELO'S BIRTHDAY Send Flowers	7  Begin overhauling your motorcycle.
8  INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DAVE'S BIRTHDAY Send drugs	9	10  I. S. U. SPRING	11 	12 START YOUR ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TODAY	13  BREAK	14 
15 Lie in bed with BONBONS Day! 	16 GAY G.P.A. MOVIE: "THE LIFE & TIMES OF HARVEY MILK" 8pm 302 SHROEDER HALL	17  Liberate Ireland Day AND LESBIAN AWARENESS GUEST SPEAKER TO DISCUSS HOMOPHOBIA - 8pm 210 MOULTON HALL	18 GAY/STRAIGHT RAP 8pm 112 FAIRCHILD HALL	19 GAY BLUE JEANS DAY	20 WEEK BENEFIT - GAY + LESBIAN RESOURCE PHONE LINE: AIR BAND/LIP SYNC CONTEST 8pm 210 MOULTON	21 G.P.A. POTLUCK PARTY
22 weather permitting, plant your flower bulbs today G.P.A. METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE - 7pm 210 MOULTON HALL	23	24	25 Melissa's BIRTHDAY - Send articles G.P.A. AIDS DISCUSSION 8pm 112 FAIRCHILD	26 POST AMERIKAN DEADLINE for articles, comix, ads B-N *Charles King* UNION BENEFIT Music Tom Carpenter's Hall	27  LAYOUT WEEKEND	28
29  LAYOUT CONTINUES	30 NEXT ISSUE OF POST AMERIKAN HITS THE STREETS!	31 LAST DAY for Oral Roberts Keep those fingers crossed	1 April FOOL'S DAY Be sure to use your birth control and safety devices!	2 In April, watch for C.I.S.P.E.S. and Pledge of Resistance benefit concert and the Rape Crisis Center fabulous fund-raising event! Look for the POST's 15th anniversary in May!	3	4



## Book review

# Attitude Problems

Remember, back in the seventies, that spate of self-defense-for-women books that hit the presses? Well, the eighties have added one of their own. Called *Attitude*, this one is written by a woman named Lisa Sliwa, national director of the Guardian Angels.

For those of you (like me) who don't read your daily newspaper, the Guardian Angels are a national group, founded in New York, of "public defenders." They patrol subways and other high crime areas, protecting the folks that the police don't have the time or personnel to watch out for. They also do public education. Ms. Sliwa has been touring the country for the last five or six years (she's not big on dating the bio part of her book), teaching women self-defense and opening new chapters of the Guardian Angels.

To reach the women she wasn't reaching on her tour, she wrote a book. As the cover blurb says, *Attitude* is intended to contain "commonsense defense for women."

The good news is the book does have some solid practical advice. And it has a pretty interesting bio of Sliwa, who is Miss America-style beautiful, bright, and hard as nails.

Most of the tips on safety and self defense are practical and, well, common sense. She explains several avoidance and resistance methods--poke his eyes out, stomp on his instep, stay out of unlit areas, like that. She has some interesting additions that I hadn't heard of (my favorite was: if someone nabs you from behind

in a grocery store parking lot, wing your groceries over your head on top of him), but most of it was standard stuff.

The bad news is it's an incredibly insensitive book (intentionally, I think--Sliwa has a sort of tough cookie image). This is not an unforgivable sin, but if you are a rape victim, especially a date rape victim, I'd skip this one if I were you. In the disproportionately brief passage on date rape (considering how high a percentage of rapes are acquaintance rapes), she says that a woman who allows herself to be pressured or guilt tripped into nonconsensual sex is "nothing more than a prostitute." In other words, it's all your fault, baby.

She doesn't deal with the issue of acquaintance rape (friends, relatives, other folks you know well enough to be leery of poking their eyes out) at all. I know that it's a self-defense-against-crime-in-general book, and not just against-rape, but the emphasis is definitely on rape.

Since the name of the book is *Attitude*, you might wonder where that concept comes in. Most unfortunately, the title concept is the weakest part of the book. Sliwa says, quite rightly, that unless you have the right attitude (i.e., a willingness to cause damage to an attacker without guilt), all the self defense training in the world won't help you.

She demonstrates this by describing a incident in which she was nearly raped. She says that, despite all her training, they had been beating on her for awhile before she started fighting

back--she didn't have the right attitude. The problem is, reading this book (or any book--let's be fair) will not give you the right attitude. And she implies that it will. She offers some simplistic self-esteem exercises, on the assumption that if you do these things and stop feeling guilty (easy to say, hard to do), you will have the right attitude. You will be able to fend off rapists all day.

Right.

One last gripe--she goes to great lengths to describe the criminal type (she calls 'em perverts, punks, deviants, etc.). The criminal she describes looks a lot like what we around here sort of fondly call the disaffected youth--punks, heavy metal fans, the young outcast type. She even says, "Their choice of clothing is an act of defiance against conventional society." Very true. But lots of folks who defy conventional society aren't even vaguely interested in bashing your head or raping you. And lots of folks who do want to bash your head or rape you aren't even vaguely interested in defying society.

Seems like dangerous thinking, connecting the two.

So if what you're looking for is interesting narrative and some practical hints on how to feel safer, this isn't a bad book. But the theoretical groundwork in this book is very, very shaky--I would take everything she says that isn't concretely practical with a grain of salt. Or two.

--Chris M.

Lisa Sliwa. *Attitude*. Crown: New York, 1986.

## Rep. Schroeder's parental leave proposal

# California dreamin' 'bout leavin'

At first glance, the picture of both fathers and mothers taking 4 1/2 months' leave from work when they have a baby looks good. And U. S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D [of course]-- Colo [of course]) has proposed the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1987, which would require employers to give new parents 18 weeks' unpaid leave.

The picture looks feminist, too, since it would encourage more creative ways to be parents--now, outside of *Doonesbury*, it's expected and economically more sensible for the working woman than the man to leave a paid job when they have a baby. She's expected to pick up her outside work life later--only sometimes later is never, and usually later means a scaled-down or dead-end version of what she did before. In short, lack of guaranteed maternity and parent leave ruins her work life.

In only 10 percent of U. S. households is the father the sole breadwinner. More than half of the mothers of children under five do outside work, in spite of the fact that our nation's child care system is a public embarrassment. So that's a lot of women who could benefit from the support that the Schroeder bill offers, and rightly so.

Still. Some of us have to gripe.

During our work life, some of us have thoughtfully, methodically, and at a degree of personal cost, decided not to litter the environment with Pampers and the McDonald's parking lots with sneering unemployed teenagers. We think that we should get some

legislation, too, for this commendable restraint.

Most child-free women I've discussed this with agree that giving us 18 weeks' vacation at normal breeders' intervals (every 2 or 3 years?) isn't quite fair. After all, parental leave is hardly a vacation--more like moving temporarily to another planet.

However, some suggest, what if we were guaranteed 18 weeks to do equivalent service--something kind of grim and tiring and educational and boring and selfless, but necessary to the healthy continuation of life on the planet? Like sitting in to stop nuclear power or nuclear war, or tediously counting members of endangered species in some damp chilly region, or handing out smudgy pamphlets explaining socialism to New Yorkers, or going to jail for some glorious act of civil disobedience, or camping out with no bug repellent on the Nicaraguan border to discourage U. S. bombing, or doing hopeless repetitive work at a battered women's shelter? Hey, that oughta count!

I personally would approve 18 weeks' guaranteed leave from work, in addition, for learning to play the piano, speak French like in the movies, paint perfect watercolors of wildflowers, and fall in love.

When Congress gets around to deciding all the things that are worthwhile for people to do instead of wage work for 18 weeks, I have a really long letter to write.

--Phoebe Caulfield

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Post-Amerikan benefit aftermath

# Local lineup: From punk to poetics

It had to happen.

The natives were growing ever more restless. Time seemed stuck in its tracks--some wondered if we had reached the end of history. But then, all at once, it appeared.

Live music and art in Bloomington/Normal.

With the closings of the Galery and the underground club Hell last spring, live performance became harder to find in this community. The Post Amerikan Benefit of Feb. 7, held at the Eddy Building in downtown Bloomington, provided a much needed showcase for the works of many of the artists who continue to strive among us.

Besides that, it was a helluva good time.

Next Step opened the evening's festivities with a raucous mix of rock, punk, and reggae numbers. To quote sportscaster Vin Scully, "These boys came here to play."

The Earl's Breakdown took the stage. This band should call it's first album "Pee Wee Herman Meets the Beatles." Their diverse, slightly neurotic repertoire includes everything from hard-driving originals to variations on the "Peanuts" theme.

Mike Hogan did an excerpt from a play by Wallace Hart, which discusses, among things, desensitization. It was Mike's dramatic debut, but no one could tell. This man seems to be good at most anything he does. Especially practicing.

Next up, That Secret Toxic Tricycle Hope, a.k.a. the Collective, proved that the best minds of our generation have not all been destroyed by madness. Indeed, some produce fine music. TSTTH kept the audience pulsating with its contagious array of original material. Keep a lookout: they should be playing again soon. That is, if they can keep Secret Dave out of a straitjacket.

Collaborative artists Ed Ridgeway and Todd Garrison the presented another of their mysterious, spell-binding performances. These two seem to dwell in previously unexplored territories of light and sound. Watch for more of their performances in the near future in Normal and/or Bloomington.

Subsequently, the band it appeared. it fashioned songs in irreverent time signatures, and ran the scales from Turkish blues to Henry Mancini ("Baby Elephant Walk" was a crowd pleaser). it was on a somewhat different plane. And, believe me, it's only just begun.

Then, after a few choice words from verbal artist Jonno Guzzo, One Big Woman came to the stage for its final performance anywhere. The biggest enigma since the Triune God (three into one?), OBW will be sorely missed in Bloomington/Normal. But, as singer/guitarist Lisa Formosa is going to Chicago to pursue a theatrical career, there is an off chance that OBW may be seen in some future remake of "Dream Girls."



Rounding out the evening, 100 East offered its well styled, highly-energized body of sound. Actually, the whole building started to shake when the drummer started pounding those skins. Excellent job.

Thanks go to everyone who made the benefit possible, including performers, those who helped with equipment, etc., and the 300 plus who attended. A special thanks to Larry Sylvester and Mary Ann Dillman for once again providing their space to meet the needs of B/N's artistic community. Don't miss mantra mash '87, "artluck," to be held at the Eddy Building on Sat., April 25. Between now and then, keep supporting live performance.

It has to happen again.

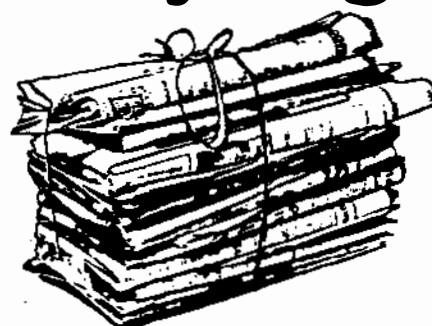
--MJ

## CHARLIE KING & MARTHA LEADER



Charlie King and Martha Leader will appear at the Bloomington Carpenter's Hall on March 26 to benefit the McLean County Union News. Please see story on next page.

### There's a Four-Letter Word for Recycling.



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## Taking "fifth" legitimate right

Dear Post Amerikan,

I have a complaint about something you printed in your January, 1987 edition (pg. 17). Your reprint of the "Scandal Scorecard" from Waves, Jan., 1987 includes, as an impropriety and illegality, "Took the Fifth."

I believe I speak for most Post readers when stating that taking the Fifth Amendment is a Constitutional Right of every American citizen and therefore can hardly be considered illegal or scandalous in any respect.

In the last sentence of paragraph 2, a reference is made to obstruction of Justice—I wonder if this is in direct relation to the "scandalous" taking of the Fifth Amendment?

Although this was a reprinted article, I am surprised that the Post, usually a staunch upholder of freedoms and rights of all people, made no note of disagreement with this statement.

Kim  
Chicago, Illinois

## Koko Taylor

KOKO TAYLOR, internationally acclaimed as the "Queen of the Blues," will be appearing for one night only, Friday, February 27, at Duffy's, 4604 Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights. Performing with Ms. Taylor will be her crack touring and recording band, THE BLUES MACHINE. Showtime is 9:00 p.m.

## New women's group starting

A new womyn's support group is starting in Bloomington-Normal. The members of the group would like to invite all local womyn to join them as they explore attitudes, possible futures, rituals, consciousness raising, and empowerment.

The group meets on Monday nights. For more information about the group call Nancy at 827-4951 or Susie at 828-5662.



## Roommate wanted

Non-smoking and relatively quiet roommate/boarder sought by ISU professor. Own room in beautiful historic home at Taylor and Clayton Streets in Bloomington. Four bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 working woodburning fireplaces, sunparlour with Eastern exposure. Age, race, gender, sexual orientation not issues; pets negotiable. \$225 plus 1/3 of utilities. Contact Paul Siegel, 827-0629.

NERVE GAS Testing in Your Backyard? Find out with a free copy of the Winter RECON, P.O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

FREE LIST of redhot books about the struggle for peace and justice around the world from RECON, P.O. Box 14602, Philadelphia, PA 19134.

## Union News benefit

Folksinger Charlie King will appear at the Bloomington Carpenters Hall, 2002 Beich Road (by Howard Johnson's) at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, in a benefit for the Livingston and McLean Counties Union News.

King will be accompanied by Martha Leader, a fiddle player. King is famous for his topical, full of humor and pointed commentary about current issues. He has worked as a solo act and has toured recently with the folk group Bright Morning Star. King has recorded four solo albums, and his latest, "My Heart Keeps Sneakin' Up on My Head," was highlighted and recommended by Billboard Magazine.

Martha Leader is from New England, and has appeared to numerous audiences there, working as a solo act, with bluegrass bands, and with a women's trio. She co-founded Living Rainbow, a bi-lingual band of black, white, and Latin musicians.

The Livingston and McLean Counties Union News is the local official publication of organized labor, distributed monthly to union members in the two-county area. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Union News.

Tickets are \$5. They will be available at the door, or can be obtained by calling 828-4368.

## Sabiá to perform

SABIÁ will be performing Monday, April 6, at 8:00 p.m. at Hayden Auditorium. The performance will be sponsored by CISPE and Pledge of Resistance. Sound will be provided by Roper Acoustics/Midwest Concerts. Tickets are \$3.00. Call 829-3954 for information.

SABIÁ is a group of musicians unlike any other.

Since SABIÁ's early inception as a young, all women quartet specializing in Latin American music, they have steadily expanded and developed into an exciting, powerful group of six with an indefinable quality that separates them from all others.

Based in Los Angeles, SABIÁ's material is drawn from a wide variety of sources; the "Nueva Cancion" or New Song Movement (composition firmly rooted in the folklore of Latin America that speaks to situations relevant today), original compositions by members of the group and other contemporary works by a variety of writers in the Americas. The group's

## Senior citizen health check

The McLean County Health Department will be conducting a health screening clinic for senior citizens at the Colfax American Legion Hall, Colfax, on Wednesday, March 4, 1987, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Hematocrit, glucose and blood pressure tests will be provided to senior citizens sixty years of age or older.

A Health Education program, "Physical Fitness for Senior Citizens," will be provided by BroMenn Wellness Center.

Senior Citizens Health Check is a program provided by the McLean County Health Department through partial support of the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging.

For information, call the Health Department at 454-1161.

Donations requested.

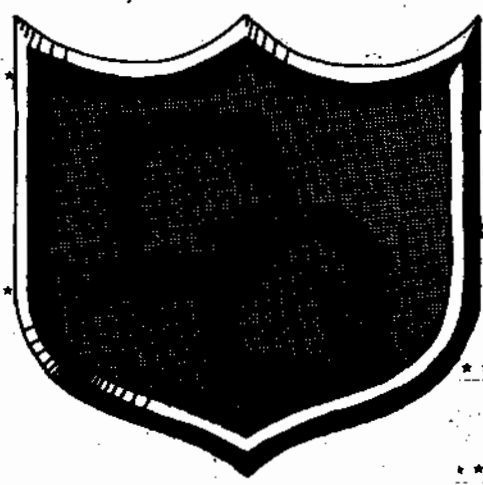
## Diabetes support group

Do you or someone you care about have diabetes? Do you have questions, concerns, feelings, and insights you want to share? The Diabetes Support Group (affiliated with the Corn Belt Chapter of the American Diabetes Association) meets 7-9 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month in the basement Faculty Conference Room of the Menonite School of Nursing, corner of N. East St. and E. Chestnut St., Bloomington. For more information, call Margaret Wolf, 828-8875.

repertoire is further enhanced by a unique collection of songs written by for, by and about women.

SABIÁ has toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Central America. In 1983, SABIÁ was asked by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees to perform for Salvadorean refugees at the Mesa Grande Refugee Camp in Honduras. Out of that experience, SABIÁ produced a cassette/songbook collection of songs written and sung by the refugees at the camp titled "Hear Our Voices." In addition to their live performances, SABIÁ has recorded two albums: FORMANDO UN PUENTE-BUILDING BRIDGES on Redwood Records, October 1984 PORTAVOZ-VOICE CARRIER on Flying Fish Records, December 1986

### Diesel Dick's



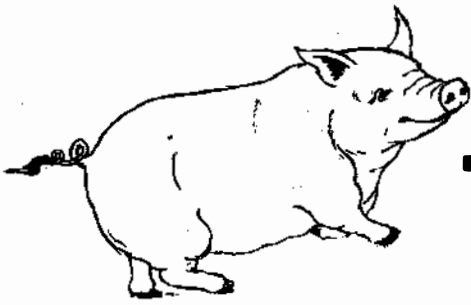
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Pigout review

# The Underground Glutton



If you've been reading the Post for a while now you may be familiar with the witty and insightful reviews of the Underground Barflies and the Underground Vegetarian. Just so you don't get the impression that all we do around here is drink beer and eat sprouts, here comes "The Underground Glutton," out to prove that some hippies' eating habits are just as politically incorrect as the next guy's, unless the next guy happens to be Idi Amin.

What we did was to go in search of the best food bargain in town, for those who want to consume mass quantities for a small amount of money. Some have suggested that you get what you pay for, but that would depend on your taste, or perhaps more accurately, your lack of it. Whatever the case, we found two places where the hungry can lay out just a few dollars and go home a few belt sizes bigger.

## Shakey's Buffet, the human feed trough

If you are looking for good taste, in the food or in the atmosphere, don't go to Shakey's for the dinner buffet. But if you have an insatiable appetite, this could be your kind of place. Shakey's Pizza (the same place that was rumoured to use dog food as a pizza topping a few years ago?) offers an "all you can eat" buffet featuring not only several varieties of pizza ("I'll have mine with mushrooms and Alpo, please") but about fifty yards of other favorites covering all of the food groups many times over.

For \$3.69 (day) or \$4.19 (evening), the ravenous can belly up to the buffet for salad bar fixings, all manner of entrees, and a large selection of main dishes. Chicken, fish, ham, spaghetti--you name it, it's likely to be here, along with potatoes, cobbler, vegetables, and lots more stuff, some we couldn't even identify. Not that this food is

particularly tasty, though it isn't horrible either--if you've been on a steady diet of dorm food or macaroni and cheese, this might seem just like what Mom used to make.

Generally speaking, the buffet has that certain institutional generic tastelessness about it, but most of the patrons don't seem to be here to savor their dinner. The appeal of Shakey's is to eat as much of as many foods as possible. Many wide-eyed patrons could be seen going back again and again, finally leaving with that satisfied look worn only by one who has eaten more than any human being is realistically capable of consuming. You may have seen it in your own homes at Thanksgiving dinner.

We might add here that this is not the most relaxing environment to eat in. This can be partially attributed to the stampede back to the trough to load up another plate. Shakey's is also a big place, and when filled with big appetites, it can be pretty noisy, especially when it seems to be a favorite spot for high schoolers in search of pig-out nirvana.

Don't go to Shakey's for the atmosphere, don't go for the taste. Actually, don't go at all unless you are in search of more food than your body could process in the next three months.

## Mr. Quicks, The critic's choice

For the fast food aficionado, the best burger deal in town can be found at Mister Quick's, on the corner of Clinton and Washington Streets in Bloomington. A long time fixture at this location (one Post staffer can trace her relationship with Quick's back about twenty years), Mister Quick's offers not only decent fast food at reasonable prices, but a unique atmosphere sorely missing at your average McDonald's or Burger King.

For one thing, people can actually be seen arriving at Mister Quick's on foot. When was the last time you saw that happen at a non-campus McDonald's? Mister Quick's is located in a neighborhood. Yes, it is on a busy intersection, but there are actual houses next door, not malls or interstates. Customers appear to range from State Farm types to street folks, but the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming. Some of us have spent hours at a time observing this melting pot of activity from the comfort of a booth with a panoramic view of Washington Street. The rushed atmosphere of the typical fast food chain is inexplicably missing from Mister Quick's.

(Some might recall that a few years ago the Post gave Quick's a plastification award for the tasteful use of artificial bushes. We are pleased to announce that the bushes have disappeared. We might also point out that there is an actual, frequently used, phone booth outside of Quick's, an endangered artifact these days.)

And what about the food? No better or worse than most, but the real drawing card is the Evening Special. From 4:30 until 10:00, you can get a hamburger, fries, and a soft drink for 99 cents. This is half of what a comparable meal costs at any of the other joints, and, get this, they don't cook the burger until you order it. What a concept--the picky eater who wants just ketchup on their special (that's a "one K and one" in Quick lingo) doesn't wait any longer than anyone else, and it's hot every time.

There are other weekly specials on the other selections--tenderloins, cheeseburgers, etc.--prominently displayed on the sign outside each week, but we recommend the "one and one." Or two, or three, or more if you are really hungry, but sit back, relax, take your time. You can even buy a Post Amerikan from the machine across the street.

--Anna Rexia

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