

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

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6-1990

## Volume 19, Number 1

Post Amerikan

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*Feminist has orgasm--tells all!*

Bloomington-Normal

# POST AMERIKAN

25c

Volume 19, Number 1

June/July 1990

## ISU shocker: AN ORGY of DEGENERATE DEPRAVITY

*Artist David Wojnarowicz raps with Post  
as art and obscenity debate continues...*

It could  
happen  
to you...

## Turn Into a Lefty in 5 Days

*New test  
developed  
by Post  
researchers  
may reveal  
your lefty  
potential*



## Should Cows Vote?

*The gloves are  
off in animal  
rights fight*

## *Post Amerikan Averts Hostile Wall St Takeover*

*More subscribers needed  
to stave off capitalist pigs*

## TENANT'S TOILET TURMOIL TURNS TABLE on TYRANT

*An inspirational  
tale of one woman's  
clash with a slumlord*

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 168  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
POST AMERIKAN  
POST OFFICE BOX 3452  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

# POST AMERIKAN

From the heartlands.....



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## Post sellers . . .

### Bloomington

- Amtrak Station, 1200 W. Front
- The Back Porch, 402 N. Main
- Bakery Banc, 901 N. Main
- Bloomington Public Library (front)
- Bus Depot, 533 N. East
- Common Ground, 516 N. Main
- Emerson and Main Streets
- Front and Center Building
- Hit Shed, 606 N. Main
- Hungry House, 103 W. Jefferson
- Law and Justice Center, W. Front
- 100 N. Lee Street
- Main and Miller Streets
- Medusa's, 420 N. Madison
- Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
- Mr. Donut, 1310 N. Park
- Pantagraph, 301 W. Washington
- The Park Store, Wood and Albin
- People's Drugs, Oakland and Morrissey
- Red Fox, 918 W. Market
- Susie's Cafe, 602 N. Main
- U. S. Post Office, 1511 E. Empire
- U. S. Post Office, Center and Monroe
- Upper Cut, 409 N. Main
- Wash House, 609 N. Clinton
- Washings Well, E. Front

### Normal

- Avanti's, 407 S. Main
- Coffee World, 114 E. Beaufort
- Hovey Hall, ISU (Front)
- Midstate Truck Plaza, U. S. 51 (north)
- Mother Murphy's, 111 North
- North and Broadway
- White Hen, 207 Broadway
- Subway, 115 E. Beaufort

## Good numbers . . .

ACLU .....	454-7223
ACT UP/CI .....	827-4005
AIDS Hotlines:	
National .....	1-800-AID-AIDS
Illinois .....	1-800-243-2437
Local .....	(309) 827-4005
Alcoholics Anonymous .....	828-5049
Bloomington Housing Authority .....	829-3360
Childbirth and Parenting Information Exchange (CAPIE) .....	827-6677
Clare House (Catholic workers) .....	452-0310
Community for Social Action .....	452-4035
Connection House .....	829-5711
Countering Domestic Violence .....	827-4005
Dept. of Children/Family Services .....	828-0022
Draft Counselling .....	452-5046
Gay and Lesbian Resource Phoneline ..	438-2429
HELP (transportation for senior citizens, handicapped) .....	828-8301
Ill. Dept. of Public Aid .....	827-4621
Ill. Lawyer Referral .....	1-800-252-8916
Kaleidoscope .....	828-7346
McLean Co. Center for Human Services .....	827-5351
McLean Co. Health Dept. ....	454-1161
Mid Central Community Action .....	829-0691
Mobile Meals .....	828-8301
National Health Care Services--abortion assistance .....	1-800-322-1622
Nuclear Freeze Coalition ....	828-4195
Occupational Development Center .....	452-7324
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

## About us . . .

The Post Amerikan is an independent community newspaper providing information and analysis that is screened out of or down played by establishment news sources. We are a non-profit, worker-run collective that exists as an alternative to the corporate media.

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

Most of our material and inspiration for material comes from the community. The Post Amerikan welcomes stories, graphics, photos, letters, and new tips from our readers. If you'd like to join us, call 828-7232 and leave a message on our answering machine. We will get back to you as soon as we can. Don't worry if it takes a while--we don't meet every week.

An alternative newspaper depends directly on a community of concerned people for existence. We believe it is very important to keep a newspaper like this around. If you think so too, then please support us by telling your friends about the paper, donating money to the printing of the paper, and telling our advertisers you saw their ad in the Post Amerikan.

## What's your new address?

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## DEADLINE . . .

The next deadline for submitting Post material is **JULY 27, 1990**. Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed in the next issue.

## This issue of Post Amerikan is brought to you by . . .

Scott (coordinator), Angela, Deborah, Susie, Pete, Jane, Laurie, Bill, Peter, Joe, Bumper, Ralph and probably others whom we forget to mention.....



# Letters:

## A friend of the Post

Dear Post Amerikan,

Enclosed are the names and addresses of two friends for whom I would like to order subscriptions to the Post Amerikan. I have included \$25 to pay for the subscriptions for a period of one year.

I pledge \$50 dollars per month in support of the Post Amerikan personally. However, rather than ordering a subscription for myself while I am out of town, I would like to urge the Post Amerikan and its supporters to consider starting a fund raising drive with the goal of publishing on a monthly basis.

Sincerely, your comrade for life,

Richard Scott Mote  
Seattle, WA



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## Vinnie gets a response

(The following is a response to an article by Vinnie the Lesbian which appeared in the previous issue of the Post. The article questioned the difference between "gay" issues and "lesbian" issues, and how the use of those terms effect the gay movement as a whole.)

Dear Vinnie the "Lesbian";

After reading your article on the "gay" vs. "lesbian" issue, I decided to bring it up to a few friends and we all came up with the same conclusion. We are all gay. This doesn't change with what color or nationality you are or what country you live in so why oh why should it change with your sex?

I really believe that all these phrases (dyke, nigger) came about only because people want to be different, special, or set just slightly apart from others. I do not care if someone calls me a lesbian instead of gay, but I just wanted to stress that no matter what anyone calls us, we are all gay. We are all in this together. We are all voting for the same rights so [someday] we can live a happy, comfortable life...in the same world as the heterosexuals. Please remember that. That is so much more important than what we are being called today.

Let us stick together as one GAY community so we can fight together for what is important.

In peace,  
Julie M. Heppie

## Corruption in Chicago

(Post note: Late into deadline week, we received a letter from Jan Mueller, formerly of Bloomington/Normal, now of SW Chicago. Although we can't print her letter in its entirety, we do want to convey that Mueller is interested in working on some stories about corruption on the SW side of Chicago. Any Chicagoland readers interested in the scoops? Give us a call at the Post and we'll put you in touch with Mueller.

And Jan--thanks for the letter! Hope you enjoy the Post.)

Dear Post Amerikan,

My name is Jan Mueller and I am an ISU graduate in Psychology living presently on the SW side of Chicago. I subscribed to Post Amerikan once a few years ago when I was active in Citizens Against Nuclear Power. I met Joel Harp who influenced me to subscribe as one of your friends. I also read the Post Amerikan while I was attending ISU from 1969 to 1973. I told Mark Silverstein that the paper had too much criticism and should be more constructive. He said, "Thanks for the criticism." Today, after I became exposed to reality in Chicago, I appreciate social criticism greatly.

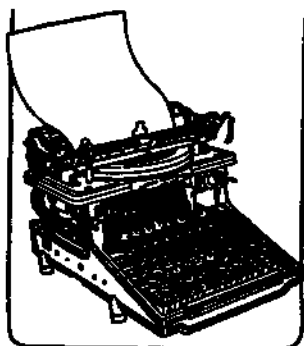
Jan Mueller

## Just say "no" to circumcision

Dear Post,

Congratulations to Skeet Floyd on a good, informative article about the cultural madness called routine circumcision. We need also to end routine genital mutilation through episcotomy and also unnecessary cesareans. The care (or lack of care) we show each other during the birth process says a lot about a society. We teach our children well--gentle births and respect for women and babies would help us all!

Sue



## Help the Post

WE NEED A TYPEWRITER!!! In the past year, all of our electric typewriters here at Post Amerikan have broken down. Although we do a great deal of our printing using computers, we still need a typewriter for last minute writing, corrections and editing, business matters, etc. If you have a used electric typewriter in good working condition to donate or sell CHEAP to the Post, we look forward to hearing from you. You can call 828-7232 and leave a message, or write P. O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

## Classy fried ads

### Roommates/Apartments

I am looking for a place to live for next fall, starting Aug. 1 and would like to find some roommates. Preferably ♀♀, but that is not a big deal. I'm looking to live in Bloomington, but close to Normal. If somebody needs a roommate, or wants to be a roommate, call Sue at 828-8232.

LOOKING FOR ANNA MADRIGAL!!! Do you have an apartment for one in Bloomington available on July 1? Safe space. Quiet, laid back, friendly. Hip tenants are looking for you! Call Scott or Angela at 827-6841.



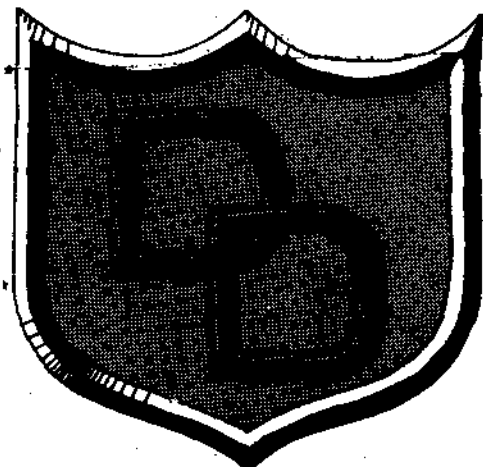
### Teacher position

Full time \*\* SPECIAL TEACHER \*\*  
Openings in June and August, 1990. Great benefits, comparable \$. Must be ILL SP ED Cert. Send resume to:  
Illinois Center for Autism  
548 S. Ruby Lane  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
618-398-7500



## Diesel Dick's

we specialize in  
GM diesel car repair



complete automotive  
and truck service

508 N. Madison  
9:00 am-5:30 pm  
828-1714

gas and diesel

foreign and domestic



**LEFTIES ONLY!**  
Rabble-raising t-shirt slogans at the  
First Annual Bloomington/Normal  
Progressive People's Picnic  
on April 29, 1990.



Woodcut by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff

## University Galleries Announces Summer Schedule

University Galleries of Illinois State University is pleased to announce the opening of three summer exhibitions. *Local Aesthetic 2: Twelve Bloomington-Normal Area Artists* will be on view in Gallery I from June 15 through July 28. Visitors to *Local Aesthetic* will see more than fifty works in a variety of media by Les Allen, Angel Ambrose, D. Bill, Michael Connelly, Kathleen Costello, Robert Cumpston, Todd DeVriese,

James Hejl, Bruce Roper, Gloria Schaab, Kevin Strandberg and Jeff Warren. The public is encouraged to attend a gala cook-out/opening reception and meet the artists at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 16. Several events are planned in conjunction with *Local Aesthetic*, including an original performance by Jeff Warren, which will take place in Gallery II at 8:00 p.m. on July 27. Also planned are the panel discussions *A History of the Visual Arts in the Bloomington-Normal Area* (June 26, 7 p.m.) and *The Future of Artists in the Bloomington-Normal Area* (July 26, 7 p.m.), which will both be held in Gallery I.

The exhibitions *Bloomington-Normal Artists: The 1800s* and *Figurative Works from the Permanent Collection* will run concurrently with *Local Aesthetic* in Galleries II and III.

*Bloomington-Normal Artists: The 1800s* will feature paintings by artists who lived and worked in this area in the 19th century, including Eliza Brown, Kitty Burke, Lou Burke, Almira Sarah Burnham, Elisha Hunt, Louis Lussier, Alfred Montgomery and Wolfe. Unfortunately, none of the artists will be able to attend the opening reception June 16, as they are all quite dead.

*Figurative Works from the Permanent Collection* features some of the best works in the I.S.U. collection, including lithographs and etchings by Max Klinger, Picasso, Rouault, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Joan Miro, Kathe Kollwitz, Nicholas Africano, and David Wojnarowicz; drawings by Harold Boyd, Duncan Hannah and Tony Wong; and sculpture by Won Sook Kim.

All programs at University Galleries are free and open to the public. University Galleries is open during the summer Tuesdays through Saturdays, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

# Community Community Community News News News

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Committee has passed a clause (attached to the Nicaragua/Panama aid bill) cutting off 50% of the U. S. aid to El Salvador immediately, and the remaining 50% of U. S. in 1991 if the U. S. government feels there has been a loss of good faith in the part of ARENA in negotiations with the FMLN or that the investigation of the Jesuit killings has been insufficient.

Please join the nationwide effort to phone congresspeople on June 6 to say that this is not enough and demand an immediate cut-off of all U. S. aid to El Salvador. Hopefully this will pressure them to at least pass the above clause rather than a watered-down Republican version.

CALL JUNE 6--

Rep. Madigan 662-9371  
Sen. Simon 202-224-2152  
Sen. Dixon 202-224-2854

STOP ALL U. S. AID TO EL SALVADOR!!

◆ ◆ ◆

Kick-Off  
for  
Pledge of  
Resistance Campaign  
focusing on  
"Low Intensity Warfare"  
US foreign policy characterized by  
economic strangulation,  
mercenary troop use, surgical air strikes,  
assassination, genocide, etc.

Featuring:

Members of the Association of National Security Alumni, formed in January 1989 by former CIA, FBI and other national security agencies to oppose use of covert operations as a way to achieve foreign policy objectives.

Saturday, 9 June 1990  
4-6 p. m.

The Commons, De Paul University  
2324 N. Fremont  
Suggested donation \$5-\$15  
(child care available)

Sponsored by:  
Pledge of Resistance, Bill of Rights Foundation,  
and De Paul University Ministry  
Call  
(312) 663-4398 or (708) 742-9364  
for more information

Also 9 June 1990  
The Commons at 10 a.m.

John Coatsworth,  
Professor of Latin American Studies,  
University of Chicago  
Speaking on Current Events in Nicaragua  
Organized by the Nicaragua Solidarity  
Committee

## PACT to perform Pinter play

An attempt is brewing to perform political theatre! Nothing novel in that, you say, well, depends on what you mean by political. Was ISU's recent attempt at political theatre, Dario Fo's "We Won't Pay, We Won't Pay" (originally "We Won't Pay, We Can't Pay") political? Once again, depends on what is meant by political.

The play, Dario Fo's, dealt with all the right stuff in a wonderful performance in a cozy little academic setting, and with what result? Overtures were made to local and trans-local issues of unfair labor practices, poverty, hunger, government indifference, brutality and repression only to once more be absorbed by the, for the most part, sensibilities of "do-gooder" intellectdom. I'd like to know how many out-of-work Eureka employees attended the play.

Dario Fo produces and performs his plays on the sites of injustice which is what makes them so effective and political. When the site of the university is at risk, as in the recent thumbing of the nose at the NEA concerning the David Wojnarowicz exhibition, then what the university is doing is political. But this creates a problem. The eternal quagmire. How to become political and still remain academic.

We have the answer! In early July sometime (we don't know where the "theatre of operations" will be yet either), the Performance Actors Coalition Theatre (PACT) will stage several performances of Harold Pinter's "Mountain Language".

What makes this academic, not-for-profit production political? Donations received at the door will go to funding a "witness for peace" volunteer in Nicaragua through July and August from Bloomington/Normal. With the recent news of the Contra's refusal to disarm, and in light of their murderous history, especially in rural Nicaragua, we thought this time, play and cause fittingly political. In other words, you can do something about your convictions! A rare opportunity in America!

## News from the B/N Coalition on Central America

Meeting Scheduled

The next meeting of the Bloomington/Normal Coalition on Central America will be:

Wednesday, 13 June 1990  
6:30 p.m.  
Newman Center  
501 S. Main Street  
Normal, IL

◆ ◆ ◆

Call-in reminder

June 6 marks the anniversary of ARENA party/death squad rule in El Salvador and increased terrorism and repression for the Salvadoran people. The House Foreign Affairs

Keep a lookout for flyers with the specific information on performances. We hope to see all of you, to help put someone on the site of the real political theatre.

-Doug



# Rabies in McLean Co.

On May 8th McLean County Health Department Animal Control officials confirmed that a specimen from a bat, found near the vicinity of Mill and Allen streets on the West side of Bloomington, tested positive for rabies.

Rabies, which is almost always fatal, is caused by a virus which is present in the saliva of infected animals. The disease is present in wildlife, especially in skunks, foxes, raccoons and bats. Aside from the obvious threat to humans posed by wild animals, and even greater threat is presented when wild animals come in contact with domestic animals.

With the known presence of rabies in the community, the public should heighten awareness and take precautionary measures. Be aware that an animal need not be foaming at the mouth to be exhibiting rabies symptoms. Any change in an animal's normal behavior, such as difficulty in walking or overall appearance of illness, may be early signs of the disease.

Children should be warned to avoid stray animals even though they may appear friendly or healthy. Under no circumstances should wildlife be handled. Be particularly cautious when wild animals, especially bats, skunks, and raccoons wander into residential areas. Take precautions to limit potential exposure of pets to wild life.

Cats present a serious problem since Illinois state law does not require rabies vaccination for them. In addition to a general lack of rabies

vaccinations among cats, other factors enter into the potential for rabies in cats: 1) cat scratches are more frequent than dog bites; 2) wild animals tend to wander toward residential areas in search of food -- cats roam more freely than dogs; 3) cats are more numerous than dogs in rural areas, and 4) cats are natural hunters, thus increasing potential exposure to rabies when seeking prey.

The McLean County Health Department Animal Control Program urges all cat owners to vaccinate kittens between three and twelve months of age against rabies. Older cats should be vaccinated on a regular basis by a veterinarian. An unvaccinated cat suspected of exposure to rabies may be humanely destroyed under Illinois law.

If a bite or scratch occurs wash with soap and water and contact a physician. The McLean County Health Department Animal Control Program will be notified for the purpose of beginning an animal bite investigation.

## ACT UP/CI AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power Central Illinois

If you are interested in joining or corresponding with ACT UP/CI, write:

ACT UP/CI  
c/o Post American  
P. O. Box 3452  
Bloomington, IL 61702

### Timothy Johnson (R) Illinois Representative District 104

(Champaign/Urbana area)

Responsible for all funding being cut from the budget of GCAP, the Gay Community AIDS Project, in Champaign/Urbana. Anti-choice.

In 1989, voted incorrectly on bills about adding "sexual orientation" to the Human Rights Act, stiffening penalties for hate crimes, and requiring routine HIV testing at STD clinics and of certain inmates (Johnson's voting report card is identical to Penny Pullen's (R-Park Ridge) on these issues). Up for re-election in November.

What do you know about  
Tim Johnson?

We need your help  
to end the nightmare.

Write to ACT UP/CI

## LIFE-CIL peer counseling

The Living Independence for Everyone Center for Independent Living (LIFE-CIL) is offering a Peer Counseling Training Program, beginning on Wednesday June 6th from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. The sessions will continue each Wednesday for 6 weeks. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Peer Counselor for LIFE-CIL please call 452-5433.

## JOIN THE NEVILLE HOUSE PROJECT

Volunteers are needed to help renovate the Neville House, the most recent project of CDV, Countering Domestic Violence. The Neville House will provide a safe home for victims of domestic violence.

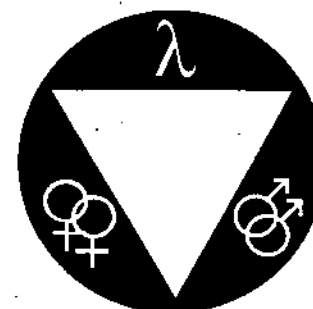
Renovation is going on now. Major roof raising/work project planned for July 14 and 15. 1101 E. Jefferson St., Bloomington. Call Carol at Community Action, 829-0691.



P.O. Box 304  
Bloomington, IL  
61702

309-827-4005  
24 hours a day

HOTLINES  
National: 1-800-AID-AIDS  
Illinois: 1-800-243-2437



G A L A  
GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE  
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

The lesbian and gay organization at Illinois State University is going to see some changes in the 1990-91 academic year.

First of all, what was once the GPA, the Gay People's Alliance, is now GALA, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance. The decision to change the organization's name to specifically include lesbians in the title was applauded at last spring's elections.

Also, after five years of faithful dedication as president of the gay and lesbian group, Denise Goff has stepped down from this position in order to finish her graduate work at ISU. Goff was instrumental in getting the Gay and Lesbian Resource Phoneline for the community and in getting the University to add "sexual orientation" to its affirmative action policy.

Vincent Constabileo, an active member of the group for two years, was elected president in last spring's elections. Constabileo hopes to increase the lesbian membership of GALA and incorporate more women's issues into the group. He is also planning many social functions for the year sponsored by GALA.

The Gay and Lesbian Resource Line will hold limited hours this summer: Wednesday evenings between 8 and 10:00 p.m. Regular hours will resume in the fall.

# New measles

New rules concerning measles vaccinations have been put into effect. All children entering fifth grade for the first time and all college students born after December 31st, 1956 entering or transferring into an Illinois college or university for the first time must show proof of two doses of live measles vaccine, or evidence from a physician of past measles disease.

As a result, the McLean County Health Department has scheduled several evening and Saturday clinics in order to assist local residents in obtaining measles vaccinations. The additional clinic schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, May 15th, 4 to 7 p.m.  
Saturday, June 2nd, 10 a.m. to 12 noon  
Tuesday, June 19th, 4 to 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 17th, 4 to 7 p.m.

The clinics, in addition to the regularly scheduled clinics held Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30

# immunization policies



p.m., will be held at the Health Department office located at 905 N. Main St., Normal. A parent or legal guardian must accompany any minor under the age of eighteen and must bring previous immunization records to the clinic.

The McLean County Health Department restricts immunization services to permanent McLean County residents. College age students must bring proof of residency prior to receiving service through the Health Department clinic.

Immunizations obtained through the McLean County Health Department are available on a sliding fee scale. Non-resident students seeking measles immunizations for college entrance requirements should check with their campus health service or private physician for information on obtaining the vaccine. The Health Department urges all parents to plan early for the upcoming school year by obtaining all required immunizations and physical examinations before the summer rush.

For more information on immunization clinic services phone the McLean County Health Department at 888-5450.

# Summer sleuthing

## Reading in equipolse

For summer reading, we think it's delightful to find a new mystery writer to read—especially one who's produced a line of several books we can read back to back as we lie on our couch with a light breeze blowing through our hair. We would prefer that these books appear in the public library so we can check big stacks of them out without thought of our Visa bills, but all those we list here are available in paperback editions.

Let us introduce to you—or perhaps remind you about—four such female and feminist authors, who also have in common that their main characters are detectives.

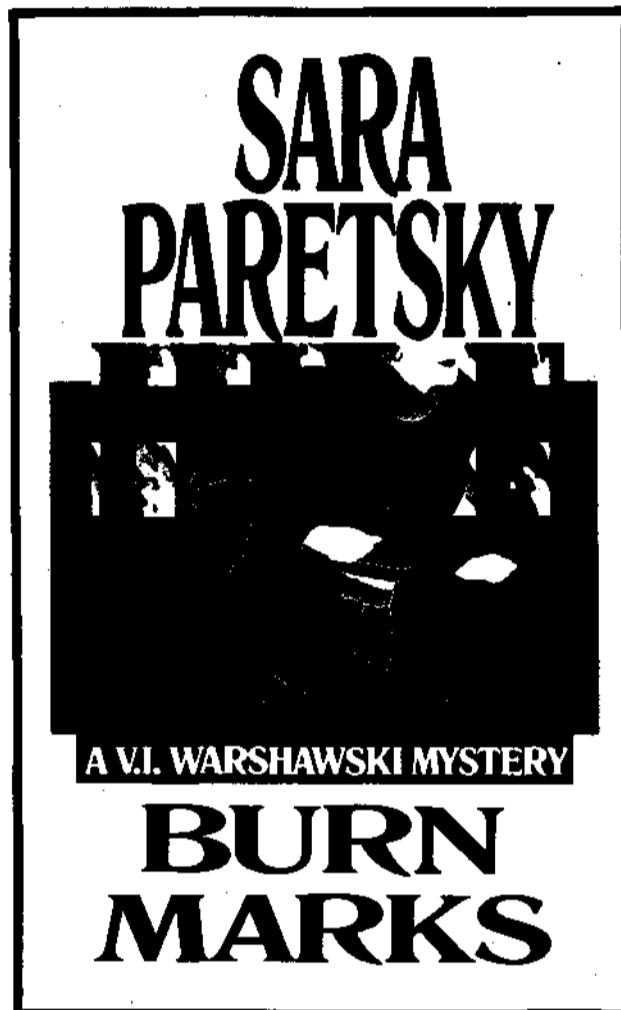
### Sara Paretsky

V.I. Warshawski, Sara Paretsky's hard-boiled feminist detective, is listed that way under "Investigators" in the phone book—V.I. Warshawski. Her first-time clients discover with surprise and chagrin that she's the "wrong" sex for her job, and the criminals and cops she comes up against agree.

But Warshawski is tough, very much in the tradition of the hard-boiled male detectives of Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, and Ross MacDonal: she breaks into offices of slimy insurance dealers, belts the truth out of snottosed teen-aged gang members, steals evidence, outshoots mob gunmen, pushes querulous old ladies around, and even beats up an archbishop. Like the men, she gets fired and stays on the job, and gets discouraged and stays on the job, and gets downright disgusted and stays on the job.

She really does feel badly about the old ladies. V.I. differs from the hard-boiled male dicks in that she's a committed feminist with a strong social conscience and a sentimental attachment to her sainted mother. Hard to find in Hammett and Chandler.

In *Bitter Medicine*, Paretsky's most overtly feminist book, V.I. defends a health clinic against the zealous attacks of anti-abortionists and discovers the ugly truth behind why a pregnant, teen-aged, unmarried Puerto Rican woman died in the emergency care of a wealthy suburban hospital. In other books, V.I. battles more traditional enemies of the hard-boiled detective: corrupt politicians, grasping businessmen, charlatan religious figures, dishonest union bosses and sick family dynamics, and in her latest, *Burn Marks*, thoroughly corrupt police detectives and feminist alderwomen who exploit old allegiances for new ambitions.



Paretsky's books may appeal to Illinoisans because they're set in Chicago and its suburbs. The recognizable, well-described settings reflect the bittersweet feelings that most city-dwellers have about their metropolis.

In order of their publication, the six Warshawski books are *Indemnity Only*, *Deadlock*, *Killing Orders*, *Bitter Medicine*, *Bloodshot*, and *Burn Marks*.

### Susan Dunlap

Susan Dunlap writes at least two separate series featuring female and feminist detectives, Jill Smith and VeJay Haskell.

For our money, the Jill Smith character is by far the more interesting of the two. Smith is a professional, a detective with the Homicide Division of the Berkeley Police Department, and Smith, who functions as first-person narrator, shares our affection for whatever's left of Berkeley's beserkeley past.

Dunlap's Smith series shows loving attention to detail, featuring some of the more interesting secondary and minor characters in contemporary "hard-boiled" detective novels. Drawing minor characters from Berkeley's large street community, and limning the tensions between it and Berkeley's even larger (far more distressingly so for us) yuppie populace, Jill Smith negotiates an interestingly ambiguous moral terrain between economic "progress" and political commitment.

For example, in *Too Close To The Edge* a local activist for the handicapped, wheel-chair bound herself, is found murdered near a new development—a marina no less. Apparently, she was not above a little blackmail herself, and not all of it for The Cause (housing for the handicapped) which she promoted with such sanctimonious and vociferous combativeness.

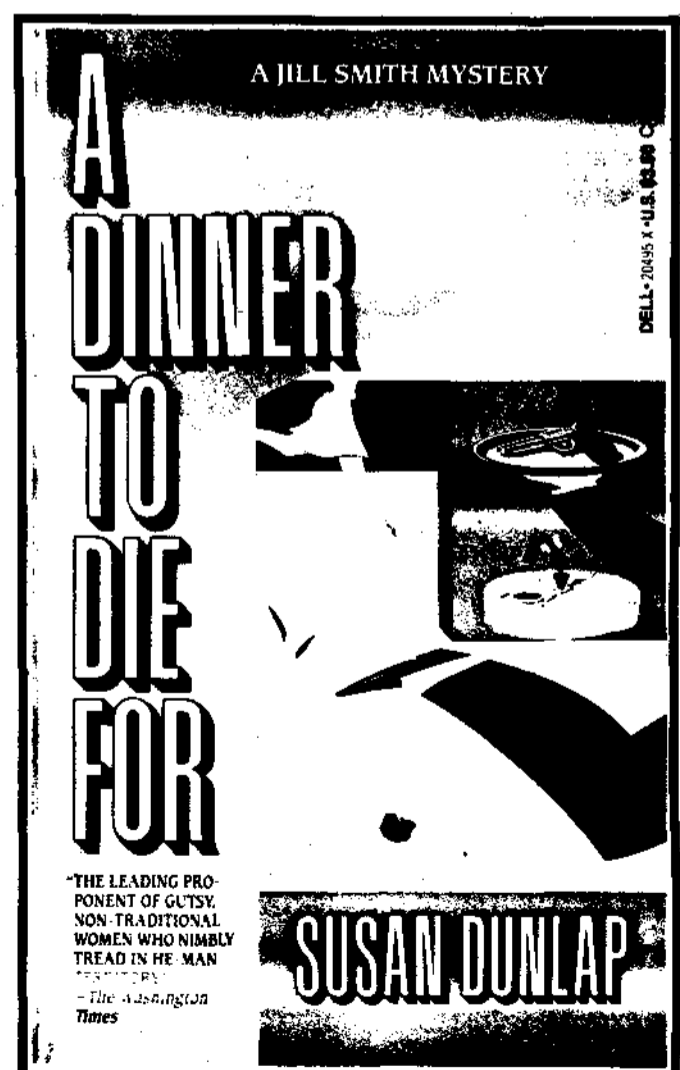
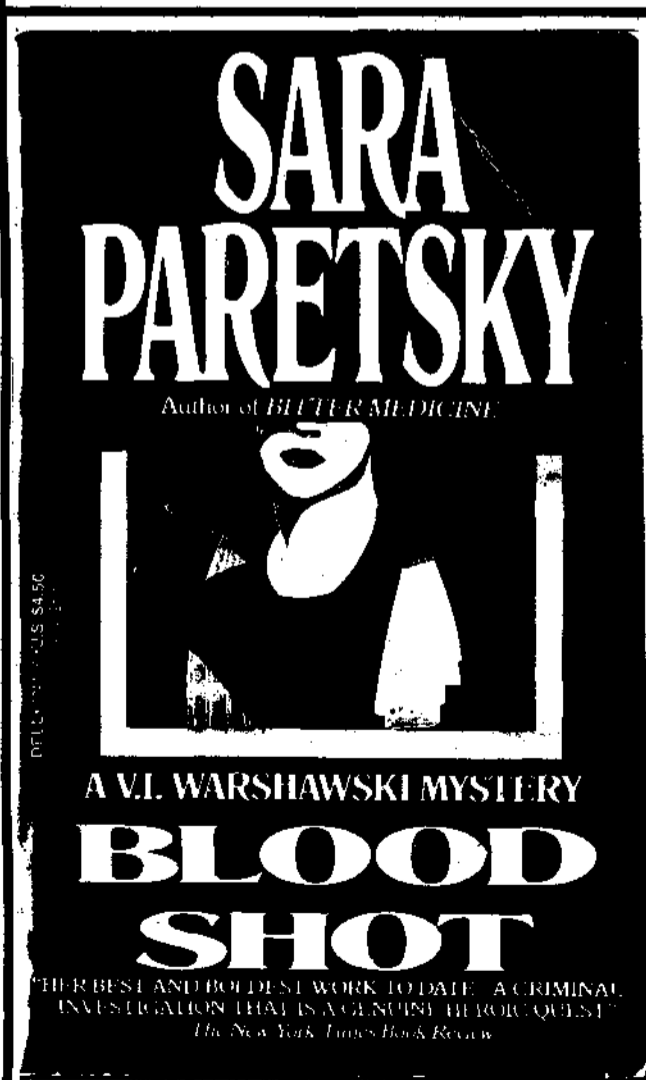
On the other hand, in *A Dinner To Die For*, yuppie restaurateur Mitchell Biekma's murder seems, in retrospect, increasingly inevitable, even justifiable, and the number of probable candidates for Biekma's murderer grows at a satisfactory but quite credible clip. This novel is especially notable for its complex and sympathetic portrayal of a street person, a key witness to solving Biekma's murder, known as the Elephant Man.

What makes the series notable is how often the Smith character, eminently and ultimately competent (she solves her cases in nicely procedural fashion), is mistaken in her assumptions and hunches as she pursues her investigation, how often she misinterprets facts and chases down false clues. Her uneasy assimilation into the police department, that bastion of patriarchal privilege serving in interest of its preservation, implicitly accounts for her misdirected and sidelined investigations.

We can't comment on the VeJay Haskell series with any pretense towards objectivity. Haskell, gas company a meter-reader who chucked life as a public relations account executive, her soulless yuppie of a husband, and the San Francisco ratrace for laid-back life in Northern California's Russian River country, is not a professional detective but an amateur.

Generally speaking, we find the subgenre of the amateur detective (with the obvious exception of the Amelia Peabody series), wherein the amateur detective character repeatedly features as principal investigator in a series despite the best sandbagging efforts of the absurdly inept (note we say *inept*, not *corrupt*) police, strains both our credulity and our patience to the breaking point. We never made it past page 25 of *The Bohemian Connection*.

There are at least five Jill Smith novels, *Not Exactly A Brahmin*, *Karma*, *As a Favor*, *Too Close To The Edge*, and *A Dinner To Die For*; there are also at least three VeJay Haskell mysteries, *The Last Annual Slugfest*, *An Equal Opportunity Death*, and *The Bohemian Connection*.



**Sue Grafton**

Sue Grafton's "F" *Is For Fugitive* has been on the *New York Times* paperback best-seller list for 5 weeks now, and it well deserves to be. A nice change of pace for the series protagonist, Kinsey Millhone, "F" *Is For Fugitive* finds her in Floral Beach, an hour's drive up the coast from her hometown of Santa Teresa (clearly Santa Barbara) on a very Lew Archer-ish case: she has to track down a fugitive who's been on the run for 16 years. "F" shows Grafton and Millhone at their best, with nicely parallel lines of plot and subplot.

Millhone's a professional detective, a former cop turned private investigator who does the odd turn as an insurance investigator but works mostly for hire. One reviewer called Millhone a "gregarious loner" and the description seems apt enough to us. Millhone has that peculiarly Southern California need to be considered likable, and by as many people as possible, and yet keep emotional though not sexual intimacy at bay.

The series runs, as you probably have guessed, from "A" *Is For Alibi* up through the very recently published "G" *Is For Gumshoe*, and we can't recommend the books highly enough. Well-paced, sharply observed, with fully drawn secondary and minor characters and terrific plotting, Grafton is one hell of a good writer and revises the hard-boiled detective novel in inventive ways.

This is not to say Grafton doesn't falter. "A" *Is For Alibi*, the first in the series, is too self-consciously revisionist; "G" *Is For Gumshoe* is rather disappointingly run-of-the-mill. Still, we recommend any and all of the Millhone books, particularly "E" *Is For Evidence*, with its extended critique of sexual roles, mores, assumptions, and its indictment of sexual violence as a tool of patriarchal oppression.

In order of their publication, the seven Kinsey Millhone mysteries are "A" *Is for Alibi*, "B" *Is For Burglar*, "C" *Is For Corpse*, "D" *Is For Deadbeat*, "E" *Is For Evidence*, "F" *Is For Fugitive*, and "G" *Is For Gumshoe*.

**Elizabeth Peters**

Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody books are not just your run-of-the-mill, sexy, Victorian, feminist, archaeological, mystery novels. Really, they may be the only ones of this entertaining type.

Our hero, Amelia Peabody, is an Egyptologist (so is Elizabeth Peters, with a Ph.D. in Egyptology from the University of Chicago). Peabody is assisted by her famous husband, Radcliffe Emerson, also an explorer of pyramids and a writer for the Oxford University Press. Their attraction is not purely intellectual by any means—within the first few chapters of any of the books, they have been overcome by lust (the sex act itself, of course, is indicated by an inch of white space before the opening of the next paragraph).

They are accompanied by their obnoxious child, Ramses; when Peabody introduces him in one of the novels, she says that he does have amiable qualities, "but I cannot call them to mind at the moment." Peabody does try to be an affectionate parent, and, in her own words, "I had certainly done all any human female could do to prevent Ramses from exploring abandoned pyramids, being buried alive in the sand, and being carried off by Master Criminals." (All of these misadventures do befall the overintellectual brat as the series unfolds.)

The plots of the tales have to do with the practice of archaeology in the Victorian era, which was a mixture of exciting historical revelation, grave-robbing, and chicanery. The exotic sites are ripe for perverse and sinister villains as well as creative escapes and heroic rescues, as in the "Indiana Jones" movies. And you'll learn more than you thought you wanted to about pyramids and mummies.

Peabody's feminism embodies itself in her quirky, independent relationship with her husband (note that they call each other by their last names); in her frequent, amusing commentary on the follies of men; in her refusal to idolize her only son; in her adoption of a shocking item of clothing, a split-skirt (what we'd call culottes), for her excavation work. Her tender humor and adoration of Emerson place her in the conflicted state of most humanist feminists.

The series is written in the style of the nineteenth-century, pseudo-memoir, extraordinarily well-imitated, the vocabulary is refreshingly various, and the punctuation (if you care about such things as much as we do) is elegant.

The five Amelia Peabody novels are *Crocodile on The Sandbank*, *The Curse of the Pharaohs*, *The Mummy Case*, *The Lion in the Valley* and *The Deeds of The Disturber*.

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Designed by Rick Bickhart

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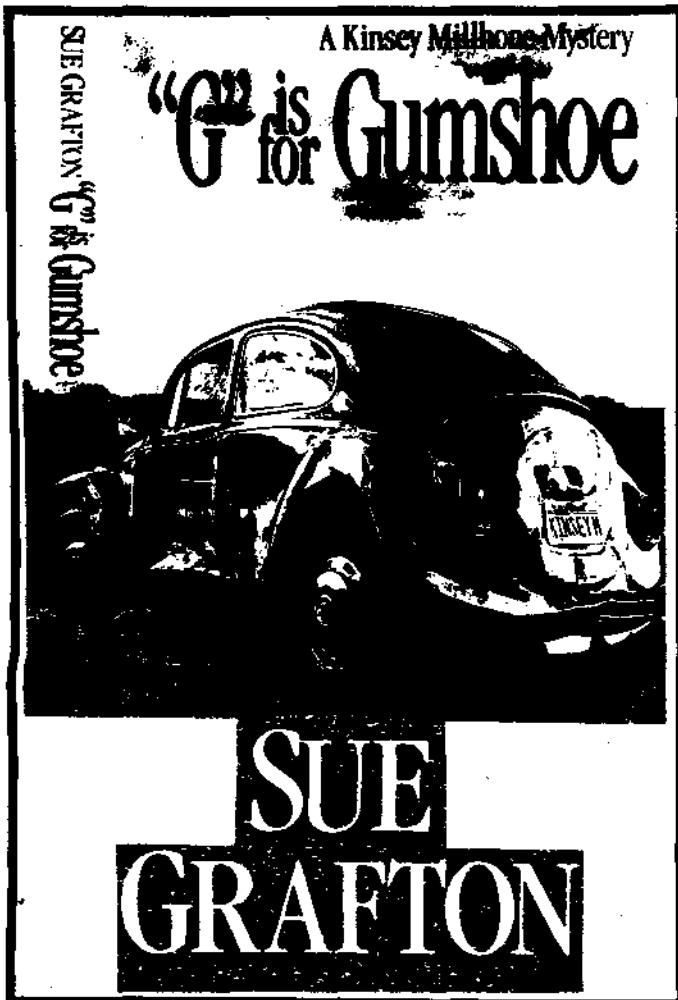
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While not self-consciously so, she is nonetheless thoroughly feminist, right down to her well-worn running shoes. Raised by a fiercely independent, unmarried aunt for whom extreme self-reliance was the only cardinal virtue, twice-divorced, solitary Millhone looks askance at cultural mystifications of family and marriage, femininity and sexuality. Commenting in "F" *Is For Fugitive* that "People talk about 'dysfunctional' families; I've never seen any other kind" when she has dinner with the particularly unpleasant family of her client, she affirms her self-reliance and solitude as the superior lifestyle. Given the comparison, so would anyone who wasn't brain-dead.

Millhone refuses to wear make-up, cut her hair with anything other than nail scissors, or shell out for another dress. Her one black "all-purpose" dress, "collarless, with long sleeves and a zipper down the back, [is] made of some slithery, miracle fabric that takes unlimited abuse. You can smush it, wad it up, sit on it, twist or roll it in a ball. The instant you release it, the material returns to its original state" ("G" *Is For Gumshoe*). Since this dress survived her apartment's getting blown up in "E" *Is for Evidence*, and survives a dive into an irrigation ditch in "G" *Is For Gumshoe*, you must concede her point, and fully appreciate her preference for jeans, sneakers and jumpsuits.

Enjoy!

--Deborah Wilson and Phoebe Caufield



# QUIZ: How far left do you really lean?

Okay, so you pat yourself on the back for sending fifty bucks to the Save the Whales Foundation. And you started recycling your bottles. You drive an old Volvo when it's too cold to ride your bicycle. And you have finally told your father you did not vote for Bush. But really and truly, just how far do you lean to the left? The Post Amerikan dares you to find out. Answers on page 15. Look for your nemesis, the *How Far Do You Lean to the Right?* quiz in the next issue.

- 1.) A homeless person comes up to you on the street and asks you for money. You:
- Pretend you don't speak English.
  - Give him/her a quarter.
  - Give him/her a terse lecture on the decline of the Protestant work ethic and the shameful moral torpor of American society.
  - Give him/her a touchy-feely lecture on how s/he's been oppressed by the system.
  - In a sudden flash of insight, you realize you too have been a pawn in the system, trade your Bloomingdale's clothes at the Goodwill and join him/her.

- 2.) Your mother announces that after forty years of marriage she really has been a lesbian all along. She needs to leave for the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival right away. You:
- Give her bus fare and drive your father to the cardiologist.
  - Tell her in a calm, soothing voice that she is just going through a phase, then slap her silly.
  - Have a screaming fit and tell her she never loved you.
  - If het, re-evaluate your own sexual orientation, based on the fact that it was shaped by what you thought were elemental truths set forth by your parents.
  - If not het, welcome her to the club and teach her the secret handshake.

- 3) Given three weeks paid vacation, you would opt to do which of the following?:
- Stay home and catch up on the *Post-Amerikan*, *Mother Jones* and *Utne Readers* that have been piling up.
  - Take off for Colorado with your skiing gear.
  - Take off to organize labor in Manilla.
  - Take off your clothes on the nudie beach at St. Tropez.
  - Pack the kids in the wagon and take off to Epcot Center.

- 4) In 1969, you and 25,000 other people were illegally arrested while participating in a peaceful anti-war demonstration in Washington, D.C. As a result of a long standing class action suit, you have a claim to \$2,000.00 compensation. What do you do with the money?
- You buy that marked down fur coat you've secretly coveted.
  - You give the money to the Southern Law Poverty Center.
  - You pay off your student loans.
  - You use the money to redesign the economy of a small country.
  - You tune-up your Saab, maybe buy a new set of tires too.



- 5.) You go to a party where your host(s) play many tunes from the '60's. Which one is going to give you a twinge of nostalgia and why?
- Barry Sadler's "The Ballad of The Green Berets," because it first stirred your patriotic urges.
  - The Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction," because you first heard the song on the same date in 1967 and ever since you've been on a twenty-something losing streak.
  - John Prine's "Illegal Smile," because you just can't find good dope any more.
  - Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth," because you heard it for the first time when you marched on the University of Illinois Campus and helped take over the Administration Building.
  - The Beatles' "She's Leaving Home," because it takes you back to the first sweet time you broke your parents' hearts.



- 6) You're going through your closet to make a donation to the Progressive People's Communal Yard Sale. What's the one item you can't bring yourself to part with?
- Your bong.
  - Your love beads.
  - Your wedding gown.
  - Your black light posters.
  - Your black armband.

- 7) You've been asked to plan the menu for a leftie's potluck. Which of the following dishes would you be *most* likely to serve?
- Grilled tofu.
  - Acid spiked punch.
  - Duck and pear salad with mango chutney dressing.
  - Felafels.
  - Whole-wheat macaroni and cheese.

- 8) You've been asked to run for public office. How do you handle the drug question?
- Gather all your resources of cunning, charisma and chutzpah and lie through your teeth.
  - Pass out your recipe for hash brownies, which after all was published in *High Times*, but be quick to lament that your desire to serve public need leaves you with little time for baking.
  - Stare them down and say: "It wasn't *me* who tried to smuggle acid into Tricia Nixon's party. It was that other bitch."\*
  - Offer to submit to a urine test, knowing that the capsules you need to fake the sample are readily available for those in the know.
  - Point out the major cultural contributions of Thomas de Quincey, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Herman Hesse, Timothy Leary and two Ginsbergs currently living

\* For an extra 5 points identify the following: (a) What was the party celebrating? (b) Who was that other bitch? (c) What was her connection to Tricia Nixon? (d) How did she attempt to smuggle in the acid? (e) Who was the other bitch's date?

- 9) Name the vegetable most commonly associated with each of the following five presidents and name the reason(s) for that association:
- Nixon
  - Ford
  - Carter
  - Reagan
  - Bush

10) Bonus Question: Answer True or False to the following five symbol/logo-identification questions.



a) This logo is found on obscenely expensive cars of dubious political origin.



b) This is the Peace symbol.



c) This symbol is found on the heels of the majority of currently presiding Supreme Court Justices.



d) This is the logo of the Parents' Music Resource Center.



e) This symbol is found on Ronald Reagan's boot heel.

# Coalition on psychiatric oppression

A new coalition opposing forces psychiatric procedures and involuntary psychiatric commitments announced its first action that took place in New York City, May 11-15, 1990: The North American Support-In to Celebrate the Human Spirit.

This coalition is made up of psychiatric survivors, people with disabilities, people of color, Greens, gays and lesbians, women's groups, holistic health practitioners, attorneys and advocates, educators, the homeless, peace and environmental activists, ex-prisoners, and seniors and children's rights activists. The intention of the coalition is to break the silence about psychiatric oppression with a two-part action.

First, it held a Festival of Alternatives near the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting being held in New York at the same time. This included a public protest on Sunday, May 13th, against the APA's endorsement of procedures such as forcible drugging (recently upheld for prisoners by the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Harper vs. State of Washington decision), seclusion, and restraints.

Another protest, protesting against electroshock, took place on Monday, May 14th. The festival also featured workable, voluntary options for humane emotional support, such as peer counseling, meditation, expressive therapy, massage, tai chi, homeopathy, and orthomolecular and ecological medicine, throughout the entire five days.

A nearby Counter-Conference included talks by representatives of different organizations working for social change on how psychiatric oppression affects their group's efforts. Noted feminist Kate Millet spoke from her forthcoming book *The Loony-Bin Trip*, which describes her incarcerations in psychiatric institutions. On May 14th, the Support-In presented Mad Celebration at the Anshe Chesed Synagogue, featuring performances by Unforgotten Voices (homeless poets), the Wobbly Chorus, ACT UP, Disability Rights, and others.

For the second part of the action, groups throughout the U.S. and Canada, which included Colorado, Alabama, California, Oregon, and Pennsylvania, held local public "Support-Ins" to celebrate alternatives for emotional support and to demand human rights.

According to East Coast Co-Coordinator Janet Foner, "There are many ways this struggle has relevance for everyone. Fears of 'going crazy' or being labelled 'abnormal' keep most of us from feeling free to be outspoken, to enjoy ourselves unreservedly, even to dress as we'd like."

"On a larger scale," adds West Coast Co-Coordinator David Oaks, "undertaking significant social measures, such as major environmental policy change, building adequate affordable housing for the homeless, and eliminating poverty, is hampered by people 'numbing out' their feelings through apathy or worse."

Publicity/Media Chair Mather Pfeiffenberger commented, "Society's definition of what is 'normal' and what is 'crazy' are holding the human race back from solving some of its most fundamental problems, even as the world is changing daily and old systems are confronted with upheaval and new challenges. In this sense, people who have survived being labelled 'crazy' or 'mentally ill' and found alternative ways to support each other as whole human beings have found something profound and important to offer the world at this time."

For more information about the Coalition, contact:

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# Animal rights agenda: violation of civil rights or moral imperative?

The issue of animal rights is proving to be the hot topic of the new decade that some people had predicted it would be. The media is giving major coverage to the fur controversy, as well as to broader issues of human and animal rights. Animal rights activists are becoming more vocal and visible and the fur industry has launched its counter campaign. The gloves are off!

On a television talk show a woman in a \$20,000 lynx coat screams "It's my right to wear fur!". *New York* magazine carries a cover story: "The Fur Flies: The Cold War Over Animal Rights" Royko, Kilpatrick, Chapman and Goodman all have contributed editorials concerning animal rights to major newspapers within a three month period. And *Glamour* magazine--amid its articles on health and fitness, fashion and beauty--runs a story titled: "Whose Life is More Important: An Animal's or a Child's?".

Animal activists are calling for an end to the needless suffering and killing of animals while their opponents hurl accusations concerning the loss of their civil rights.

If one places the animal rights debate in the context of current events in Berlin and Romania it comes as no surprise that opponents of animal rights have chosen to focus on what they see as a threat to their freedom of choice. As Americans witness what they believe to be the fall of facism and rise of freedom in Eastern Europe, they are not willing to accept what they perceive as a threat to their civil rights. Animal rights activist's very visible anti-fur campaign is seen as a threat to the American consumer's hard won freedom.

Mike Royko claims to be an advocate of women's rights and believes that "a woman can do as she chooses with her body, and if she wishes to wrap her body in furs, that is up to her". A clever tactic, this argument, considering the other volatile issue in our country today: abortion. Various arguments have been made concerning the connections between a woman's right to control her own body and the issue of

animal rights. While many anti-choice supporters find the pro-choice/pro-animal rights stance contradictory many feminists and animal rights activists have made the connection between the oppression of women and the oppression of animals.

Animal activists are being called "bigots," people that are intolerant of any choices differing from their own, by columnist James Kilpatrick. And Ellen Goodman believes that "anti-fur extremists" have "staked out a moral position leaving no room for the way we live."

The fur industry is utilizing the issue of rights and choice in its efforts to boost faltering sales. Their ads claim that anti-fur activists want to take away people's right to purchase leather, wool, and meat as well. One ad reads: AMERICA Means the Freedom to Wear Fur! At a time when Americans are proud and happy that Moscovites can now experience the dubious pleasure of a Big Mac, the suggestion that someone may be trying to take away their consumer freedom is going to hit home.

In her editorial, Ellen Goodman states that "People make choices from the first time they knowingly eat a hamburger or catch a fish". Interesting . . . To choose means "to select freely and after consideration". I would argue that Ellen Goodman and most people claiming that their rights are being taken away by animal rights activists are operating under the illusion that they have freely chosen the practices/habits that the activists are fighting against. Most people in our country--and the world--do not have the information needed in order to truly exercise their right to choose.

We are not told of the miserable conditions of the factory farms before we are fed our first piece of flesh.

We are not told of the pain and suffering of trapping and fur ranching before our society sells us the false glamour of a fur coat.

And we are not told of the cruelty of beauty--the needless and horrendous experiments performed on animals so that we may wear make-up and perfume--before we are indoctrinated into making cosmetics a part of our life.

So, yes, indeed our freedom is being threatened--without information our right to choose becomes simply an empty meaningless ritual. Instead of calling animal rights activists bigots, zealots, and extremists bent on destroying our civil rights perhaps we should thank them for providing us with the information needed, so that we can in fact--freely and after consideration--choose.

Wait a minute . . .

There is an underlying implication to the argument that I have just made that I am not at all comfortable with making. My argument suggests that if a person has all of the information concerning society's abuse and oppression of animals but still chooses to continue to behave in ways that support that treatment, their decision is acceptable. This is not at all what I mean to suggest.

For a person to know how animals are raised, trapped and killed for fur and continue to purchase and wear fur is not acceptable. For a person to know how animals are blinded, poisoned and killed in the name of beauty and continue to purchase cosmetics from these companies is not acceptable. People are concerned about their rights being taken away, afraid that they will no longer have a choice--but what about the choice of the animals?

Many will find the very idea of animal choices preposterous. To explain why both animals and humans have certain rights would require much more time and space than is available here. Many books have been written on the subject, for example *Animal Liberation* by Peter Singer). Suffice it to say that because an animal is a living being who can feel pain s/he deserves a certain quality of life. Certainly animals do not need the exact same rights as humans--a cow does not need the right to vote--but a cow can feel pain. As a living being that cow has a right to avoid situations that cause him or her pain. So we must ask if animals were given a choice would they choose to suffer and die painfully in order to be someone's fur coat; would they choose to be tortured and murdered so that humans may wear cosmetics? I think not. Ellen Goodman says that "anti-fur extremists" have "staked out a moral position leaving no room for the way we live." What room does our way of life leave for the animals?

None.

--Isis

# Tongues of Flame to sing

After the very stimulating exhibition *Tongues of Flame* at ISU's University Galleries, David Wojnarowicz's imagery came under the attack of a less than scrupulous gang of politicians. Included in the fray are Senator Jesse Helms (R, NC), Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R, CA), and the Reverend Donald Wildmon. These men have used their influence to manipulate the intentions of David's work.

Senator Helms, you may well know, was the first politician to come to the fore in the media as an opponent against future funding of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Last year, he selectively targeted the work of artist Robert Mapplethorpe, publicly decrying those images he considered "offensive"—namely images containing homosexual subject matter. That's old news. Following Helms' highly publicized lead, Dana Rohrabacher jumped on the morality bandwagon to attack the work of David Wojnarowicz. In March of this year, after David's exhibition *Tongues of Flame* (at I.S.U.) had closed, Rohrabacher sent out a memo to members of Congress calling David's work "an orgy of degenerate depravity." He also afforded interviews to anyone with a steno pad or a microphone, among them, *USA Today* and the *McNeil-Lehrer News Report* on public television.

Then in February, having heard the call of the Almighty the Reverend Donald Wildmon (Tupelo, MS) took up the issue, running full-page advertisements in *USA Today* and the *Washington Times*. The ads denounced a list of dozen or more NEA grants (including the I.S.U. *Tongues of Flame* exhibition) as pornographic and "anti-Christian." Most recently, Wildmon has sent leaflets to his mailing list of 178,000, including legislators, which contained images excerpted from the catalogue for the *Tongues of Flame* exhibition. These images (mostly diverse images of sexuality, though the Reverend did mistake a photo of two men dancing for two men having sex—but what the hell, they were touching each other—yuck!) were cropped from larger works, of which they are an integral part. Naturally, when taken out of context, any image will take on a different flavor, and in our culture images of sexuality are especially subject to hysteria.

On May 18, I spoke with David Wojnarowicz to get a clear and honest assessment of the events that had taken place up until that moment. The following remarks are taken from our conversation.

DW: This is from a *Daily News* story Wednesday, May 16th, about the Kennedy/Hatch bill, which would give emergency aid to the states hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic. It looks like its going to pass, despite conservative opposition. Apparently, not even conservatives are listening to Helms at this point, understanding that he has some serious mental problems, given his obsession with homosexuals. It says here, "The only vocal opposition to the bill came from Helms who said the measure would 'proselytize a dangerous lifestyle.' There's not one AIDS case on record that did not have its origin in sodomy," he said. He added that if gays were told to stop what they were doing there would never be a new case of AIDS." So he gave up his efforts to block the measure when he realized there was overwhelming support for it. The people from the Center for Disease Control said that he was absolutely wrong about his assertion that all AIDS cases have their origin in sodomy, because they've tracked 128,319 cases of AIDS nationwide and they said it's being transmitted through heterosexual sex, sharing needles, and being passed from mother to child. Even Jean White, the mother of Ryan White, spoke out against Helms, saying that he was a very prejudiced person and that Ryan was against the disease, not the people who have it.

Some thoughts on the NEA, Mapplethorpe, Wojnarowicz, and ACT UP Central Illinois

## Freedom of speech, obscene art, AIDS, and me

So I'm talking to my mom the other day and the topic of censorship comes up. "I was listening to Paul Harvey the other day on the radio," she says. "He feels that all these people trying to defend 'freedom of expression', you know, like with the obscene art. Well he feels that those people are just trying to restrict other people's rights of free speech. Those artists don't think the religious people have the right to say they object to degrading depictions of Christianity and sexually explicit art."

"Yeah, mom, I've heard it all before. The left objects to bigotry and the right says that expressing bigotry is defended under the first amendment, and those godless commies want to take away their right to being racist, sexist, and homophobic..."

"Huh?" says Mom.

Let me explain.

### Once upon a time...

In case you haven't been following along, last fall a bill was passed in the congress of amerika regarding the National Endowment for the Arts and its responsibilities in the allocation of funds. The bill, which was a compromise of earlier, conservative legislation, was seen as a victory for art advocates. The art lobby rallied against a bill proposed by senator Jesse Helms in which he had sought to censure and restrict the NEA for funding exhibitions that he felt were offensive and obscene. Instead congress passed a compromise bill which removed most penalties against specific artists and institutions and merely required that the NEA observe legal bans on obscenity. This bill was hailed by the art community as a victory for freedom of expression.

This bill states that the NEA is prohibited from funding "obscene materials including but not limited to depictions of sadomasochism, homoeroticism, the sexual exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts." Furthermore, grant recipients from the National Endowment for the Humanities are required to sign a loyalty oath not to produce "obscene" art. The implication is that the definition of obscenity lies within the wording of this bill: "obscene materials including but not limited to depictions of sadomasochism, homoeroticism, the sexual exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts."

If indeed this definition of obscenity is implemented on every NEA and NEH grant, then as an artist, I will never receive one of their grants. The phrasing of this statement, especially the inclusion of a ban on homoeroticism, goes against my personal beliefs. The term homoeroticism implies to me any reference to homosexuality and homosexual love. As a homosexual, my art is as inseparable from my sexuality as it is from my very being. To remove my homosexuality from my work, or to even hide it when presenting myself and my art, is repugnant and disgusting. This bill's statement, as innocent as it may seem, and as widely hailed as it initially was by art advocates, is anti-gay, homophobic and an affront to my personal dignity.

### Local color

"Aids Kills Fags Dead" quoth Rick Mirs, resident on the 9th floor, Wilkins Residence Hall, Illinois State University. He found this particular phrase important enough to display it in his dorm-room window earlier this spring. "AIDS was started by the homosexuals. It didn't start with a healthy man and woman having sex," he says. Rick got the idea for the "Aids Kills Fags Dead" sign from the heavy metal group Skid Row. Musical groups like Skid Row have become notorious of late for writing hateful and bigoted lyrics like the infamous Guns 'n Roses song containing the line "faggots... don't make much sense to me... spreading some disease."

When Rick Mirs displayed his "heavy metal" sentiment about AIDS and homosexuality in his university residence hall window, a gay student, and coincidentally a member of the new local ACT UP, Vince Constabileo, took offense. When Constabileo inquired with the residence hall coordinator about the implications of a blatantly bigoted and misinformed statement and its display on university property, the coordinator ordered the sign removed. The residence hall observes an anti-harassment clause as prescribed in the wider University's Affirmative Action statement, which disallows discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. All students are in turn required to sign a "bill of rights" upon entrance into the residence hall in which they acknowledge their commitment to fellow residents' right to personal dignity.

The sign came down. A petition was then drawn up by ACT UP Central Illinois (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) in which they requested that the University respond to this act of bigotry in an appropriate manner, as the University should do in any case of discrimination based on race, religion, sex, physical disability or sexual orientation. The student newspaper, *The Daily Vidette*, on the other hand, defended the act of Mirs under free speech. They were not concerned as much with the content of the sign, but that the expression thereof was completely defensible under the constitution and everyone's first amendment right. ISU's Affirmative Action office, under the Office of the President, responded similarly. Any action taken against the student would be a lost cause. It was free speech.

The University and *The Vidette* missed the point. As is typical with many conservative institutions, any vocal disagreement with a statement that attacks a liberal cause, namely rights for gays and people with AIDS, is seen as a threat to free speech. ISU and its student-run newspaper saw the response of the activist group as attempt to restrict the dorm resident's right to express his opinion, when in fact it was the University's own policy which had already arranged for the removal of the offending message. The true motive for ACT UP was not to limit students' abilities to express their views, but to get a response from the campus at large in light of persistent bigotry and ignorance, to receive University support in distributing the truth about AIDS and the truth about gay, lesbian and bisexual lifestyles, and to reaffirm the University's commitment to human dignity.

### An artist's response

"In 1990, the human body is taboo. We're denied information about our own bodies in the time of AIDS. If there were a disease that hit only politicians and religious leaders... the president of the united states... how much of the defense budget would be channelled into medical research?" A quote from artist David Wojnarowicz, who visited the campus of Illinois State University two months before the "Aids Kills Fags Dead" incident. The quote is from a performance given by Wojnarowicz at the opening of his show at the University Galleries.



# e preacher's pocketbook

I just wish some journalist or politician would ask Helms what his problem is, and at what point during his childhood did he have same sex attractions, and what was his reaction.

PA: You had mentioned to me something about a lawsuit you were filing against the American Family Association. Can you elaborate on that?

DW: Well, my lawyers are filing a lawsuit against the Reverend Donald Wildmon and the American Family Association for mutilating images of my work and printing them on a broadside. They sent out 178,000 to religious leaders, members of Congress, religious organizations, individuals, newspapers, etc. What the guy did was a pretty horrendous thing. He chopped up seven works, including images from the *Sex Series*. He edited the images down to sometimes as little as 2% of the original image. He blew up those details and printed them on a broadside with my name on it and basically stripped my work of any political or artistic meaning, creating what I consider to be his own work. I don't even claim it as my work anymore. I think it's reprehensible that first, he would even do that--and then, he would put my name on it. I think it's going to be extremely harmful, and it's already harmful to me.

Given that my work is not shown widely outside of New York, people who see this broadside are going to back off from what I do. People who are involved in publicly funded institutions are also going to back off, given the climate in the country. In terms of the attacks Wildmon, Rohrabacher and Helms, among others, have orchestrated against the NEA, I think this issue needs to be seriously addressed--Wildmon's actions need to be seriously considered. They're very dangerous actions, especially in terms of what it means if he is allowed to get away with it.

PA: Yes, to think how many people it will affect now and how it will affect people in the future.

DW: Yeah. I think that for Wildmon to undertake an action of this sort, in terms of distortion and libel, it's a terrible thing if that goes unchallenged. When someone's work can be so severely distorted, and yet the work can be sent to an incredible amount of people around the country with that person's name on it, even though this kind of attack only occurs to a minority of people (which includes me), this kind of thing can and does have repercussions for anyone who makes things. What their intent is, what their rights are in making what they make--this is meaningless if someone can come along and completely rip it to pieces, creating a whole new work which will still be attributed to them. That's

frightening, and it makes me very, very angry to have that work existing out there with my name on it. It is not mine. Wildmon needs to take responsibility for that in a very real way.

PA: Are you concerned about the future of the NEA's congressional funding?

DW: Yes. The bottom line is, what the NEA does, although it's not perfect in terms of funding minorities, is something that is intended to open up creativity on a variety of levels. That's very positive in the long run on any level. It's one of the few positive things coming out of public funds or taxes. I think that in general, what our government uses our taxes for has very little to do with us. There is very little in it to benefit us--a terrible health care system--actually a collapsing health care system, no provision to help the homeless people, and so on. So something like the NEA, I consider to be one of the few positive things that the tax money--public money--goes for. So yes, I am concerned about the dismantling on the NEA or restrictions on the NEA. The peer review panel process [to determine what grants are given] is a perfectly good one, although it could be strengthened to be more representative of minorities--to represent the whole spectrum of people.

--Patrick McDonnell



Artist David Wojnarowicz in front of his painting, "Newspaper as National Voodoo: A brief history of the U.S.A."

David Wojnarowicz is a homosexual and has AIDS. Over 700 people attended a performance in which he decried the way gays and persons with AIDS are treated in this country. The crowd listened intently to Wojnarowicz's impassioned words about homophobia, and the less than human status given to homosexuals, IV drug users, people of color and other AIDS high risk groups. He defied the audience to be offended by his confronting them with the fact that he is a "queer." "What kind of country do we live in where two people can't fuck each other the way they want to."

I heard these words and cried inside. I am angry, too. I still find myself being ashamed of who I am. I find myself hiding my sexuality. Letting strangers allow themselves to assume I am heterosexual. "Do you have a girlfriend?" No, I have a boyfriend. But no, I don't say that. "This is my roommate."

Sometimes I feel that I am very sheltered. I am lucky to have been relatively unaffected by the hate which affects the daily lives of many homosexuals and persons with AIDS. As a student and an artist, I am rarely exposed to direct confrontations about my sexuality. I was able to come out to my thesis committee at my graduate oral exams with little fear of backlash. My friends have all been supportive and active in their defense of my rights as a homosexual and my rights as a human being. But as I listen to David talk, that "thin line between the inside and the outside" erodes. Despite David Wojnarowicz's appearance on ISU's campus, there are still many persons at this university who are ignorant and hateful enough to put a derogatory sign in their dorm window without fear of recourse. "AIDS Kills Fags Dead."

## Community values

On April 7 a grand jury indicted the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) in Cincinnati on charges of obscenity for presenting a controversial exhibition of work by artist Robert Mapplethorpe. Some of the works depict explicit homosexual and sadomasochistic acts and three are photographs of naked children. This show, and another exhibition featuring a work entitled *Piss Christ* by artist Andres Serrano, were the target of attack last year when Senator Helms launched his campaign to censure the NEA. It is also these works and assumably the works of David Wojnarowicz to which our own president has referred to as "filth" and "blasphemous."

A grand jury secretly traveled through the Mapplethorpe show, mingling with opening day crowds. They were able to hand down an indictment the same day. Cincinnati has very active and vocal anti-pornography alliances, like the Citizens for Community Values (CCV). These groups are in turn heavily supported by County Sheriff Simon Leis. The city has effectively been able to keep most "adult" businesses and their associated pornographic materials out of town. Nevertheless, in a specially arranged hearing, U.S. District Court Judge Carl Rubin granted a restraining order to prevent interference by Cincinnati city police or Sheriff Leis, who had vowed to remove the materials himself if the court would not. "You may not remove any photographs... close the exhibit...[nor] take any action which would be intimidating in nature to prevent the public from seeing this exhibit," Judge Rubin said.

Reaction from the gay community and its supporters was positive. David Geisler, development director of *Nouveau*, a gay magazine said "this could be the best thing that's ever happened to the arts...The crackdown has galvanized support among creative people concerned with basic rights to be able to see, hear and say what they want--to make their own decisions. People are rallying around CAC's right to display an exhibit of artistic merit that is not legally obscene." Betsy Greisler of Stonewall Cincinnati, a political action committee and human rights group, said "homophobia is the real issue. A lot of the efforts of [CCV] is really trying to rally the right around anti-gay sentiments [here] and in many other parts of the country. It's a real sad statement," she said.

"This is a significant victory for the first amendment, for our client, and for citizens of Cincinnati," announced CAC attorney Mare Mezibov when heard of the judges ruling. The CAC had been very careful about funding for the Mapplethorpe exhibition, considering the controversy that had already surrounded previous federal grants. No NEA money was used for the Cincinnati showing. In addition, the sexually explicit "obscene" photos are being shown in a separate room and no one under 18 is permitted to enter without an adult (Zeh 1).

## It's the law

The current legal definition of obscenity can be found in the 1972 Supreme Court decision on *Miller vs. California*:

- 1) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient (sexual) interest, and
- 2) the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specified by the statute, and
- 3) the work taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

From this definition, it seems that art and obscenity are mutually exclusive. Any grant submitted to the NEA would seemingly already have at least a degree of "serious literary or artistic value." John Dare, spokesperson for the NEA said that last fall's bill, a compromise on the initial legislation of Senator Helms, is vague and can be liberally interpreted. The definition of obscenity within the bill is irrelevant and can be worked around.

Supporting the sentiment expressed by Dare is the NEA continued support of controversial art, specifically by means of \$15,000 granted to ISU's

Continued on next page



# Lesbian/gay news

## Dixon supports AIDS bill

U. S. Senator Alan Dixon (D-Illinois) has agreed to support S 2240, the Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990 (CARE), following a request by the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF). The legislation, sponsored by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), provides \$600 million in federal assistance for cities, counties and states that have been hit hardest by the AIDS epidemic.

Under provisions of Title I of the CARE Act, Chicago would receive an estimated \$5 million in assistance. Under Title II of the CARE Act, Illinois will receive a state block grant totaling an estimated \$9.4 million.

The legislation has broad bipartisan support, including U.S. Senator Paul Simon (D-Illinois),

who is a co-sponsor. IGLTF asked for Senator Dixon's support in part because Dixon has supported AIDS funding measures in the past, and also because he has had a generally good voting record on lesbian and gay issues during the current Congress. A vote on the CARE act is expected sometime in April.

"We're delighted to be able to count on Senator Dixon's support," said IGLTF National Legislation Director Arthur Schenck. "He has shown outstanding leadership on gay and lesbian issues during this session of Congress, and this is just another example." Schenck and IGLTF Co-Chair Joanne Trapani were the first leaders of a lesbian/gay organization to meet with Senator Dixon, and have since maintained an ongoing dialogue with the Senator and his staff.

"The recent record of Senator Dixon again shows the importance of constituent lobbying," said Trapani. "His record on lesbian and gay issues has improved dramatically since IGLTF began a dialogue with him."

IGLTF has formalized its grassroots lobbying efforts in the IGLTF Citizen Action Network, and intends to use the IGLTF-CAN more and more. IGLTF is promoting the program throughout Illinois to make sure that gay and lesbian voices are heard by elected officials.

Founded in 1974, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force is the only statewide lesbian/gay civil rights advocacy organization in Illinois. It works with the state legislature, members of Congress from Illinois, and other public officials throughout the state on issues important to the gay and lesbian community of Illinois. For more information on IGLTF or the legislation that it is monitoring, write to IGLTF 615 W. Wellington, Chicago, IL 60657-5305. Telephone (312) 975-0707.

## Domestic partnership legislation--Illinois

In a history making move, legislation validating Domestic Partnership relationships has been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly.

At the request of the Illinois Gay & Lesbian Task Force, State Senator William Marovitz (D-Chicago) and State Representative Ellis Levin (D-Chicago), introduced the proposed Domestic Partnership Act in their respective chambers of the General Assembly last week. In the House the bill number is H.B. 3787; in the Senate the bill number is S. 2269.

The official synopsis of the legislation reads as follows: "Creates the Domestic Partnership Act. Provides that 2 people who meet certain qualifications may enter into a domestic partnership by filing a Declaration of Domestic Partnership with the County Clerk of the county in which they reside. Sets forth rights and responsibilities of domestic partners and effects of domestic partnerships. Sets forth procedures for termination of domestic partnerships and effects of termination."

No hearings will be held on either bill this session, reports Tim Drake, the state Legislative Director of IGLTF. "The twin goals of this

legislation," said Drake, "are to begin the debate on the issue of domestic partnership in the political forum, and to start the organizational groundwork necessary to win passage of a Domestic Partnership Act within the decade."

The legislation will allow unmarried persons--homosexual and heterosexual--living together and sharing household duties to "declare" that they live in a Domestic Partnership.

To qualify for a Domestic Partnership a couple must reside in Illinois, not be related to each other, not be currently married, must live together, must be at least 18 years of age, be competent to enter into a contract, and "agree to be responsible for each other's welfare."

"Declarations of Domestic Partnership" will be filed with the office of the County Clerk, the same way marriage certificates are currently filed. The legislation also allows for the dissolution of a Domestic Partnership.

According to Drake, the legislation is not meant to be comprehensive. "The sole purpose of this legislation, this year," he says, "is to show, in as simple a way as possible, how such legislation can work."

The Domestic Partnership Act is designed to serve as a "registry" that can be pointed to by other laws. The example given in the current legislation concerns health care facilities. If adopted, any health care facility that restricts patient visitation to family members will be required to allow for the visitation of a patient's legal Domestic Partner.

Using the same procedure, IGLTF intends to draft a comprehensive Domestic Partnership Act for introduction in the 1991 session of the General Assembly. The comprehensive bill will cover such areas as insurance and banking regulations, real estate laws and inheritance laws, explained Drake.

"Nothing in this proposal is chiseled in stone," said Drake. "The IGLTF welcomes comment on the issues involved."

Copies of the legislation can be obtained by writing IGLTF at 615 West Wellington Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657, or calling (312) 975-0707. Copies of the bills may also be obtained from the House or Senate Bill Rooms, State Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706.

### Some thoughts on the NEA, Mapplethorpe, Wojnarowicz and ACT UP Central Illinois

Continued from page 11

University Galleries for the exhibition of work by David Wojnarowicz. Representative Dana Rohrbacher, an ally of Helms, called the exhibit an "orgy of degenerate depravity" and has expressed vehement opposition to NEA funding for the show. Despite Rohrbacher's outrage, the show was very well attended and passed with hardly a sign of protest from the taxpaying attendees. Robert Mapplethorpe's show in Cincinnati has likewise been well attended, with a record 10,000 ticket paying museum patrons packing the show over its first week.

Yet the Mapplethorpe exhibit is also an example of the conservative agenda at work. By raising such a high degree of anti-homosexual, anti-sexual hysteria, Senator Helms has caused a degree of self-censorship within the art community and the NEA. The CAC was careful to arrange funding for the exhibit without the help of the federal government, funding which they surely have as much right to as do exhibitions of "non-offensive" art. Obscenity has been translated into a political agenda just as surely as lack of "obscenity" furthers the goals of the political right.

#### Inaudibility coextends expiration

"AIDS Kills Fags Dead." To be silent in the face of this statement is to condone its bigotry and ignorance. When a "liberal" group like ACT UP speaks out against such a statement, though, it is

accused by the right wing of attempting to restrict freedom of speech. This accusation contradicts the attitudes of conservatives like Helms and Dana Rohrbacher, who want to limit artists' abilities to have unrestricted freedom of speech and support views which oppose homophobic statements like the one made by Rick Mirs.

The wording of the bill passed by congress last fall denies funding to artists who use depictions of homoeroticism or other "obscenities." Yet these very same conservative groups reproduce these exact images in their own attempt to limit the dispersal of "homoeroticism." It is wholly ironic that Wojnarowicz's depictions of homosexual sex acts are obscene when "used" in the context of an art exhibit, but do not reflect at all on pro-censorship forces when they "use" reproductions of these depictions in a nationally distributed flyer decrying the erotic intent. These groups are obviously not censoring the images themselves, for they are using the same images for their own purposes. They are censoring the context of the image and the "obscene" ideas they feel the original artist intended.

These groups then contend that these artists may have a right to express these ideas, just not in a public forum with government funds. The government just happens to support many programs with my tax money that I personally oppose. These programs receive far larger sums of money than is allocated to the arts, and I have no right to control or censor those programs. Why should the religious right have a right to control or censor me?

It is ironic that despite David Wojnarowicz's appearance on campus earlier this spring, with even an interview in the *Post Amerikan*, the culture at large is seemingly unaffected and unenlightened. "AIDS Kills Fags Dead" is still perceived by some, if not many, as an acceptable statement, reinforced by the culture itself through popular arts and music. When I speak against these anti-homosexual opinions, I do not want them forcibly silenced. I do not want to condone them by being silent myself. And I do not want my government or the NEA to be a part of my silencing by refusing grants to art that depicts "homoeroticism". Cultural attitudes towards homosexuality, and sexuality itself, must change. All of the above mentioned controversies and confrontations, from the NEA to Mapplethorpe, AIDS bigotry, and Wojnarowicz, are all seeded in an opposition not to the images, but the ideas behind them. The groups on the right do not want positive views of homosexuals to be heard, let alone have institutions support displays of homosexual depictions. They in effect are silencing the gay community and its supporters by restricting the forum for free speech. They are silencing by omitting "homoeroticism" from the traditional cultural context. This affront to human dignity must not be tolerated. I will not be silenced.

--Peter Doubt

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# National--from Lambda

Post American Vol. 19 No. 1 June/July 1990

## Lesbian denied employment at cop shop

New York, New York--Lambda legal defense and Education Fund today announced the filing of a suit against the State of Texas, the City of Dallas, and the Chief of the Dallas Police Department (DPD) for denying a lesbian employment as a Dallas police officer, solely because of her sexual orientation. The DPD refuses to hire lesbians and gay men, and cites as a basis for its policy of discrimination Section 21.06 of the Texas State Penal Code, which criminalizes certain "homosexual conduct." Lambda's lawsuit also challenges the constitutionality of that law, which by its terms specifically discriminates against gay people.

In March 1989, the plaintiff, Mica England, interviewed in her home town of Tulsam Oklahoma for a position on the Dallas Police Force. At the time, a recruiter told her that her being a lesbian would not be a bar to employment and encouraged her to come to Dallas. Based on that assurance, Ms. England traveled to Dallas to complete interviews. There, Ms. England was subjected to intrusive questioning about her personal life and private



sexual activity, and was not permitted to complete the application process because of her statement that she is a lesbian. Police Chief Mack Vines told Ms. England that the DPD "doesn't hire gays."

"The use of the Texas sodomy statute to justify discrimination in hiring by the government is a classic example of how these highly intrusive and stigmatizing laws harm lesbians and gay men, even when they themselves are not arrested or prosecuted for violating them," said Evan Wolfson, the Lambda staff attorney who, along with Patrick Wiseman of the Austin firm of Richards, Wiseman & Durst, represents Ms. England.

"The mere existence of these laws is used to justify all kinds of discrimination--from refusing to allow gay people to adopt or keep custody of our kids to refusing to allow us to serve our country in the armed forces," said Wolfson. "As long as lesbians and gay men can be branded criminals for ordinary private intimacy, we will always be second class citizens and fair game for any bigot, even when it's the government."

## Mandatory HIV testing efforts rejected

New York, NY--A New York appellate court in Albany has upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit brought by four physicians' groups that sought to require the New York State Department of Health to permit testing without consent of those who are suspected of carrying HIV antibodies, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced May 11, 1990.

The New York Appellate Division, Third Department, in a 3-2 vote, upheld the position of Dr. David Axelrod, the New York State Commissioner of Health, who argued that forcible testing and name reporting would do nothing to reduce the spread of AIDS and would, in fact, be counterproductive to the public health.

"The court's decision constitutes a double victory: one for the legal rights of people at risk for AIDS and one for the public health interests of all New Yorkers," said Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's executive director, who had argued against the physicians' groups. "The decision permits a climate in which individuals will feel free to seek testing, counselling and treatment."

The suit, brought by the Medical Society of the State of New York, the New York Society of Surgeons, and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, demanded that the Commissioner of Health designate both AIDS and HIV infection as "sexually transmissible" and "communicable" diseases under the state Public Health Law. Under such circumstances, names of all persons with HIV seropositive results would be reported to the Department of Health. In addition, physicians would have the authority to test anyone suspected of being positive, sexual partners would be notified by the State about the possibility of infection, and isolation and quarantine provisions would be triggered.

In November, 1988, Justice F. Warren Travers of the New York State Supreme Court ruled that forcible testing and name reporting would do nothing to reduce the spread of AIDS and would, in fact, be counterproductive to the public health. The physicians' group requested that a higher court rule on the issue.

In rejecting this appeal, Justice Norman L. Harvey re-affirmed that mandatory testing and contact tracing are not effective in stopping the spread of HIV infection. The Appellate Court agreed that because of the potential for discrimination associated with AIDS, those at risk do not avail themselves of testing and counseling when name reporting and contact tracing deprive them of confidentiality.

Lambda, the nation's oldest organization advocating lesbian and gay rights, worked in conjunction with Leslie Salzman of the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and Robert Bacigalupi and Wilfredo Fernandez of the law firm of Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts.

This coalition organized a joint response by public health authorities, including the Public Health Association of the City of New York, the Citizens' Commission of AIDS for New York City and Northern New Jersey, Dr. Gerald Friedland and Dr. Mathilde Krim, in opposition to the proposed designation, and submitted a brief to the court on their behalf. The brief sought to demonstrate that permitting mandatory measures would undermine rather than enhance the public health by, among other things, eliminating the possibility of anonymous HIV testing in New York State.

Anonymous HIV testing, which is currently available throughout New York State, allows a person to take an HIV test without giving a name or other identifier. Several recent studies have shown that when anonymous testing is available, many more people seek HIV testing and the recommended counselling.

"The proposal put forward by the four doctors' groups is in opposition to positions of the New York City Department of Health and the New York State Department of Health, and is contrary to [the] position taken by American State and Territorial Health Officers' Association," stated Lambda staff attorney, David Barr.

Robert F. Bacigalupi, of Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts, said "We are particularly pleased that the court has re-affirmed the view that voluntary cooperation in HIV testing programs would be chilled by the threat of mandatory testing and reporting."

Although both rulings in the suit have completely upheld the notion of voluntary testing, Lambda anticipates that the physicians group will appeal the ruling to New York State's highest court, the Court of Appeals.

Section 21.06, more commonly known as the Texas "sodomy" law, makes it a Class C Misdemeanor for adults to engage in consensual oral or anal intercourse with other of the same gender, even in the privacy of their own homes. Texas is one of twenty-four states (along with the District of Columbia) that still criminalizes such private and personal conduct, and one of seven that singles out lesbians and gay men.

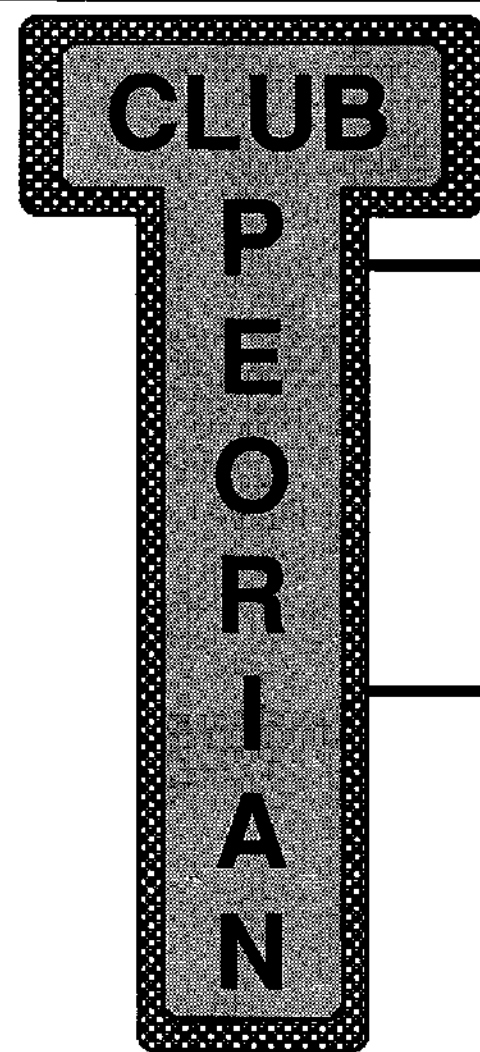
Lambda's suit contends that the law interferes with Ms. England's constitutional and legal right to be free of unwarranted government intrusion into her personal sexual conduct with another consenting woman in the privacy of her home. The suit raises claims under the Texas Bill of Rights, and was filed today in state court in Austin, the capital of Texas.

Mica England expressed her happiness that Lambda had taken her case. She stated "I have wanted to be a police officer for many years now. I studied for it in college and moved to Dallas to be able to work here. It hurts very deeply to be denied this opportunity just because of who I am, without regard to my qualifications to do the job. I intend to fight for my right to serve and to be treated fairly."

"Dallas is one of the few large cities in Texas where openly gay people cannot work as police officers," noted William Waybourn, president of the Dallas Gay Alliance, a local advocacy group supporting Mica England's case. "The Texas State Department of Public Safety and the police departments of San Antonio and El Paso, to name just a few, all recognize that anti-gay discrimination is unconstitutional, unfair, and counter-productive to the interests of the taxpayers who need the best officers they can get."

In another pending case, Lambda is challenging the Michigan "sodomy" law on similar legal grounds under that state's constitution.

Founded in 1973, Lambda is the nation's oldest and largest legal advocacy organization dedicated to the civil rights of lesbians and gay men. A national organization, Lambda has offices in New York City and Los Angeles (starting September 1990).



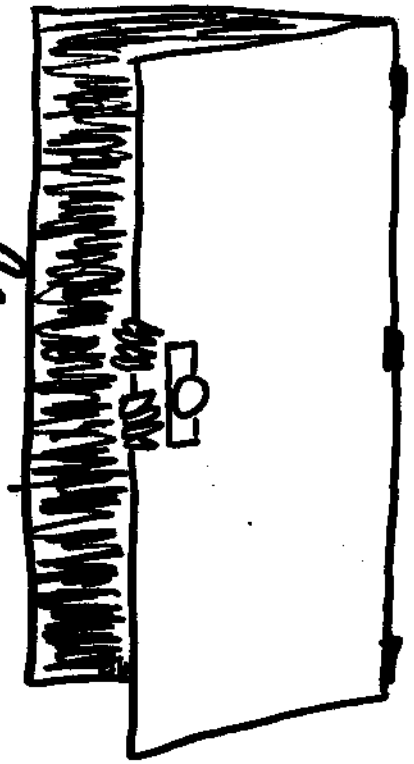
**FINEST GAY ENTERTAINMENT IN  
CENTRAL ILLINOIS**  
733 S. W. Adams, Peoria, IL,  
(309) 676-9030

Sun-Wed: 10-3:00 a.m.  
Thur: 9-3:00 a.m., Show night  
Fri-Sat: 9-4:00 a.m.

Present this ad at the bar for a drink.  
One per customer per night

You won't need the RV for this outing!

# Unhinging the closet door



A controversy is raging in the homosexual community over the issue of "outing." For those unfamiliar with the term, to out someone is to name them publicly as a homosexual. The controversy stems from whether or not an individual has the right to bring another out of the closet against that person's will. My answer is a qualified yes.

To see why outing must become a viable weapon in the battle for out rights, it is necessary to examine the rationale behind it. The more vocal among outing advocates claim outing serves two purposes. First, by outing prominent people or celebrities, role models are created for gay men and women, particularly gay and lesbian teenagers. Second, outing political figures who publicly oppose gay rights neutralizes them as threats.

Although it would be fantastic if more famous people would come out on their own (especially women; Rita Mae Brown is not going to live forever), outing celebrities is flawed in logic. In outing a closeted celebrity, the message is sent that the only way to build a successful entertainment or business career is to stay closeted, the exact opposite of the desired effect.

In the matter of outing political foes, I say go for it! There is no need to out a closeted person who is working for gay issues, but every reason to out a gay opponent. By choosing to represent a segment of the population, either as an elected official (from school board to President) or as a spokesperson, such a person becomes open to the scrutiny of that population. If a black politician consistently votes in such a way as to damage the interests of African-Americans, that official must be questioned on that basis. Likewise, every woman in America should speak out against the reactionary stands taken by Phyllis Schlafley and her ilk.

There is no difference concerning closeted gays. If a closet case speaks or votes against gay issues (and you know they do), we must demand why they, as a gay man or woman, are hypocritically oppressing their gay brothers and sisters.

But what about the right to privacy? Legally speaking, those who choose to live in the public eye are considered to have private lives of "legitimate public interest." In other words, the same law which allows *People* magazine to print all the latest celebrity gossip permits us to issue statements naming public figures as homosexuals, as long as it's true.

There are also ethical and moral questions of violating an individual's privacy. Yet, if an anti-gay person is projecting a public heterosexual image, but goes out to the bars or has same-gender sexual partners, how private is he or she being? How ethical and moral is she or he being? Incidentally, have you noticed that many heterosexuals don't see a right to privacy for us in terms of sodomy laws and other discrimination, but in this instance scream "right to privacy" with the best of them?

If a public figure is fair game, what about private citizens? The key word here is "private." the same rules which apply to public figures don't apply to the general populace. Currently, calling someone a homosexual is considered so heinous that the name-caller can be sued for slander, whether the one named is gay or not. And again, while it would be great if every gay man and woman would come out tomorrow, those who participate in outing realize that announcing "Joe Nobody from Anywhere, USA is gay" won't accomplish anything. So there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect the average queer on the streets.

The most important question has to be how effective is outing going to be? For the answer, just examine the case of Thomas Foley. When Foley became the Speaker of the House of Representatives last year, Republican National Committee Chairman Lee Atwater (and his dancing brain tumor) circulated unsubstantiated rumors that Foley was gay. Openly gay Representative Barney Frank threatened to out gay Republican congresspeople if the rumors were not stopped. The rumors stopped. And that points to the effectiveness of outing. Perhaps if these folks become concerned for their own closet doors, they'll make it a little easier for the rest of us to open ours.

Outing is admittedly an extreme step, and as such must be employed with extreme caution. Yet in a society where we cannot marry the partners of our choice, where our housing and employment is vulnerable, where sex is a criminal activity in half the states, where 30% of all teenage suicides are thought to be gay or lesbian, extreme measures are needed.

--Horny Dilemma

**Peoples History**  
**MARCH 8: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!**  
 Since 1910, International Women's Day has commemorated the struggles of women in the workplace in the home and in society the world over.



**Peoples History**  
 February 6, 1919  
 General Strike in Seattle, Washington. 65,000 workers walk out in support of striking shipyard workers.

**Peoples History...**  
**MARCH 25, 1972**  
**CHILDREN'S MARCH FOR SURVIVAL**  
 20,000 children and adults marched on Washington, D.C. to fight for basic economic rights.



**Peoples History**  
 February 1, 1960  
 Civil Rights sit-ins begin at a Segregated Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.

**Peoples History**  
 November 7, 1917: The **Russian Revolution** succeeds, led by V.I. Lenin and the Bolshevik party.

**Peoples History**  
 February 3, 1969  
 Student strikers at San Francisco State join striking workers at Oakland, Richmond, California.

**Peoples History**  
 January 31, 1971  
 Vietnam vets begin Winter Soldier hearings on U.S. war crimes in Indochina.

**Peoples History**  
 February 9, 1968  
 4 Black students killed, 50 wounded by police in Orangeburg, S.C.

**Peoples History**  
 November 10, 1965: Beginning of the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

# How'd ya do? Answers to "How far left do you really lean?"

**Answers:** Scale runs from 0-4, 4 being the highest score for all but the bonus question. The Bonus question, like the extra to question 8, is worth a total of five points, or one point for every correct answer.



1) (a) 1: This is not California you know. Illinois does not yet have an official language. (b) 2: A really good leftie would have popped for a fiver. (c) 0: Not only politically incorrect but could get you in major trouble. (d) 3: Semi-politically correct, but futile, boring and frankly, makes you seem suspiciously like a liberal humanist. (e) 4: We were wondering when you were going to wake up.

2) (a) 2: Practical but unimaginative. (b) 1: Violence toward women is a tool of patriarchal oppression. (c) 0: Get modern. (d) 4: Shows intelligence. (e) 3: Secret handshake? Sure, and you still have your "Man From U.N.C.L.E." secret decoder ring, don't you?

3) (a) 4: Boring but politically astute. (b) 0: What? And contribute to the Coors' economy? (c) 1: You ought to know that it's going to take more than three weeks to organize the workers in Manila. (d) 3: Obviously an unreconstructed yuppie, aren't you? (e) 2: Your worst nightmare has come true: you've become your parents.

4) (a) 0: Surely, we don't need tell you why that one's wrong? (b) 4: Perfectly correct. (c) 1: Dream on, pilgrim. It's going to take a lot more than \$2,000.00 to pay off your student loans. (d) 3: Okay, but how small is that country anyway? (e) 2: Good lefties drive Volvos; really good lefties ride bicycles.

5) (a) 0: That wasn't your patriotic urge that was stirring. You may have been too young to know better then, but what's your excuse now? (b) 2: Why aren't you in therapy? (c) 4: Because of the refrain, "It don't cost very much/but it lasts a long while." Even if you did find a good connection, when was the last time that you only paid \$5.00 for a nickel bag? (d) 1: Wrong. That was Illinois State University. Trying to embellish your '60's radical image again? (e) 3: Yes. And have you written them lately?



6) (a) 1: You know you can't get good dope any more. (b) 2: Current activism beats cheap symbolism any day. That was as true in 1970 as it is in 1990. (c) 0: All good hippies, when they deigned to invite the state, wore dashikis to their weddings. (d) 3: Good thing you've hung onto those. They're going for a good price. (e) 4: We need those now more than ever.

7.) (a) 2: Contact us. We want to know how you keep it from falling into the coals. (b) 3: A nice idea, but you can't get good acid any more either. (c) 0: This, like masturbation, is what we might call self-indulgence and is best when done alone and in private, where you won't discomfit your guests. (d) 4: Tasty, nutritious, inexpensive--the perfect leftie choice. (e) 1: Who do think you're kidding? Real lefties know from long potluck experience that whole-wheat pasta tastes like hair. Besides, the vegetarians probably wouldn't eat it because of the cheese.

8.) (a) 2: All that dishonesty is not going to do a thing for your karma. (b) 1: Brave but stupid. Remember, the point is to get into office so you can change some of these laws. (c) 4: The quintessential Ms. Hippie answer. (d) 0: You are an opportunist and a coward have no right to take this quiz. (e) 3: But your argument would be lost on the hysterical, anti-intellectual masses. \*(c) Extra points: (a) Smith College reunion. (b) Grace Slick. (c) Classmate. (d) She taped tabs of acid under her fingernails. (e) Abbie Hoffman.

9) (a) 0: Lettuce. *Everyone* knows he made a point of eating lots iceberg salads during the United Farmworkers' Boycotts (b) 3: Beans. Many political scientists believe that a bean rich diet caused Ford to say "Pardon" and history was made. (c) 1: Peanuts. Not a vegetable of course, but we had to give you a break somewhere. (d) 4: None. The man may have his faults, but he is not a cannibal. (e) 1: Broccoli. All this silly media attention focusing on Bush's distaste for broccoli diverts attention from his underestimating the deficit and his 180 degree turn toward raising taxes. Unless, of course, they're capital gains taxes--he hasn't changed his mind about those.

10) (a) False. (b) False. (c) True. (d) True. (e) True. If you missed *any* of these, you're brain-dead.

**Scoring: Total Possible Points: 46**

40-46: If you're such a good leftie, how come you're not working on the *Post-Amerikan*?

33-39: All errors can be forgiven if you've kept up your subscription to the *Post-Amerikan*.

26-32: Liberal but sincere and well-meaning.

19-25: Aha! Another leftie wannabe unmasked.

0-18: Darwin wasn't always right.



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# Toilet fails . . . tenant prevails

## in tonight's episode of *Slumlord tales*



Dear Readers:

It has never been my intention to intentionally hurt anyone—mentally or physically—but the following subject is an issue I strongly feel needs to be brought to the attention of the public.

I have resided at 508 E. Monroe, Apt. #3 for the fourteen months. Through the duration of my residency, I have found my landlord, Robert Finnegan, to be no more than a money-grubbing slumlord! During all my years of renting (and there are some), I have never been faced with such disrespect and outright negligence as show by Mr. Finnegan and his henchman, Greg (the apartment manager).

The scenario I am about to relate to you began Friday, April 21st, 1990. Upon returning from work, I found my toilet not flushing properly. Due to my lack of knowledge in regard to plumbing, my only alternative was to purchase an "over the counter" drain opener, which I did immediately. The contents were poured into the bowl and the directions were followed precisely. The next morning, I awoke only to find that even without flushing, the toilet remained stopped. I then purchased a different brand of drain opener, followed the directions once again, then left until about 4:30 the same afternoon, only to find this particular brand didn't work, either.

Becoming frustrated with the waste of money and the non-effectiveness of the products, I phoned Mr. Finnegan to inform him of the problem. Before I could relay the problem completely, Mr. Finnegan became irate and said continuously "Don't use it. Don't make a mess over there." When asked when he could be expected, or what I should do for bathroom facilities, he merely repeated "Don't use it!" How ridiculous! Where was I supposed to go?

Mr. Finnegan told me before hanging up that he would take a look at the toilet on Sunday (4/23), after 2:00 p.m., as I was to be out of town during the morning hours of the same day. Sunday, upon my return home, one hour before Mr. Finnegan's supposed arrival to look at the problem, I found a plunger had been placed at my front door! I then phoned Mr. Finnegan once again to inform him that a plunger and two different types of drain openers had all failed to work. He hung up.

Monday (4/24) when I returned from work, I was met by Greg, the manager, with a 5-day eviction notice in hand. Granted, rent was actually due, but during my tenancy my rent was always paid in the last two weeks of each month, which I had just entered into for the month of April. I told Greg not to expect any rent until my toilet was repaired, and in addition, I would take the issue to court, if necessary. He, in turn, said, "You're

too caught up in your righteousness." He told me that if the courts became involved, I would, under no terms, win—money wins. Then he said, "Since you have none, it would be pointless!" The nerve—this issue is neither black nor white. This issue basically regards rights of people in American society, poor or not, to live as humans, not animals. On Thursday, (4/26), my rent was increased by \$50.00. The following Tuesday, after the landlord had made no attempt to repair the toilet, I contacted the City to report Mr. Finnegan's neglect. Curtis Donnelly, a city employee, came Wednesday morning to inspect the premises. Even with all the repairs actually needed on the property, my utmost concern was proper plumbing. As a result, a copy on the investigation and the findings were sent to Mr. Finnegan on Monday (4/30). Tuesday, (5/1) Greg and another employee came to my home to flush and plunge the toilet three times. "Guys," I said, "that doesn't work—I've followed the same procedure for two weeks. It just doesn't work!" (Keep in mind, too, that this was the first time anyone had looked at the toilet!)

On May 7, I contacted the Health Department (it was getting that bad!), who referred me to the Building Safety Department of Bloomington. As a result, Mr. Henderlighter came to my apartment to inspect and contacted Mr. Finnegan with his recommendations.

The toilet was unstopped on May 14 by Roto-Rooter.

This article is being written in an attempt to outlaw and banish the slumlord ideals from our community. Granted, some of us in the community live on a fixed and/or limited income, but does that mean we, as humans, must adhere to the negligence of landlords, such as Finnegan? The property is located in one of the nicer areas in Bloomington, and with work could possibly be a pretty good place to live. Homes and rental properties, if not kept up, become deteriorated through the years of wear and tear, but while it is the responsibility of the tenant to inform the landlord of problems when they occur, I feel that the responsibility of necessary repairs lies with the landlord.

It is my hope that in writing this article, Mr. Finnegan and others like him will be boycotted in our community until that time when more than facial, cosmetic repairs are made to properties.

Note: The results of my hearing in court were favorable on May 21. Mr. Finnegan was ordered to return my initial security deposit upon my vacating the premises. No rent was due for the period following the toilet "gruntles."

—Alfreda Jones

# Uppers



'n'



# Downers

**Downers...** to Mr. Pirana, owner of Chester Street, Champaign/Urbana's (and in a way, B/N's) gay bar. Ten years into the AIDS epidemic, and he still isn't selling the right type of condoms for his patrons. First of all, the picture on "The New Ultimate Condom by Protex-Skin Tight" is of a man and a woman (the woman wearing a tight pair of shorts—*derriere* in focus). The condoms are not extra strength and do not have Nonoxonyl-9. And the instructions only mention VD and birth control, and read, "It is important not to permit the penis or used condom to contact the vagina after withdrawal." The next time you are in Chester Street, demand that Mr. Pirana dispense condoms which are manufactured to protect against transmission of the AIDS virus.

**Downers...** to "Adrienne" (as if being a furmonger wasn't bad politics enough) and others who are currently criticizing Operation Recycle's perhaps unsanitary storage space. Why are these people so short sighted, only concerned with cleaning up our shops and neighborhoods? The fact is that if more money were given to fund this wonderful recycling project, we could be more concerned with cleaning up our planet.

**Uppers...**

Have you been watching *The Simpsons*? It's nice to see an aggressively enlightened show like this make it big. With themes like "Don't treat women as objects," creator Matt Groening has turned lefty attitudes into hip family entertainment.

**Downers...**

Hey, I watch *The Smurfs* and happen to like it, too. But what's the deal with the sexist attitudes? Most of the characters are male and have names like "Bratny," "Clumsy," or "Painter" Smurf. The main female character's name, however, is "Smurfette," her main attribute apparently being her gender. It seems that the *Smurfs* are telling our kids that men's names and therefore their characters are defined by their mental or physical abilities, whereas women's characters are predominantly defined by their femininity, hence a name like "Smurfette". Maybe out of fairness there should be a stereotypical masculine character named "Penis" Smurf.

**Downers...** writes a *Post* reader, to WIRL 1290 AM in Peoria, especially on-air performers "Steve" and "Beth." On May 10, they included an item about Angela Bowie once discovering David Bowie and Mick Jagger having sex. Steve registered his disgust by pretending to vomit and moaning "No, no." When he later referred to Jagger as "The Jag," Beth's response was, "That rhymes!" A complaint to the manager drew the justification of these homophobic remarks that "Steve makes fun of everybody." Maybe so, but who believes similar remarks directed at an ethnic or religious minority would be treated to cavalierly? God knows I believe in freedom of speech, but some things just don't need to be said.

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# Feminist Primer # 7

## N is for . . . nurturing.

**Nurturing**—Often confused with *natural*, especially in the sense of being *essential* or *organic*. Usually misidentified as a secondary sexual characteristic in women, even a normative female personality trait. In actuality, *nurturing*, like many other personality traits, can be and usually is socially inculcated, but it is as desirable in men as it is in women.

Effective nurturing should be done first of all for yourself. Without taking proper (sometimes confused with *selfish*) care of yourself, it is impossible to function as an effective or valued nurturer of others.

## O is for . . . orgasm.

**O is for Orgasm.** That's orgasm pronounced

oooooooooarrrrr-ggaaaaasssssoouuuuuoooo-  
owwzm . . . . . as in now . . . . . slowly . . .  
slowwwwwwwly . . . sloooooowwww . . . wait,  
. . . no . . . not . . . yet . . . wait . . . not . . . wait . . .  
just . . . aaaazzzzzrrrrhhhh . . . hold on, baby . . .  
not yet . . . yes . . . yes . . . yesss . . . yeesss . . .  
mmmmmmmm . . . yaaeeeeeeeeesssss sssssss  
. . . don't . . . stop . . . don't . . . stop . . . that's it, that's  
it, that's it . . . I'm com . . . aaaaaaa . . .  
rrrrrrzzzzz . . . zzzzzeeeeeouu . . .  
uuuuuuuuuuuu . . . . . Oh! god, oh! god, oh!  
god . . . . . more tongue, less teeth, oh! no, oh! yes,  
oh! yes, harder, faster, deeper, oh! yes, oh! yes,  
oh! yes, oh! yes, yes! yes! yes! yes! oh! oh!  
ooooohhhhhh . . . jjjjzzzzzz! uh-oh! oh! . . .  
uuuuuhhh-huuuuuuuhhhhh . . . oh! thankyou.  
. . .

My, my, my. And didn't that feel . . . feel what? Like a real orgasm? The commonly held attitude toward orgasm is that it's the experience we should do anything to have. Yet only 50% of women have orgasm with any regularity, and for those who don't well there's those nice labels of "frigid," "uptight," "non-feeling." As JoAnn Loulan says, "no one wants a muscle spasm in her leg, but everyone wants one between her legs." Of course not having an orgasm means you're avoiding intimacy; it means you don't love the partner you're with; and of course not having an orgasm means that your partner isn't giving you one.

Well, it's time to shatter that orgasmic icon and end the tyranny of orgasm in your bed. Silence those god damned fake squeaks and yelps and let the real good times roll (and roll and roll and roll). Bring out those vibrators, stimulate that imagination, put that dressing room in Victoria's Secret to work (or any other place in public that may fall into your top ten list of fantasy spaces to have sex), and start making body waves on your own terms.

Tune into your body responses. The experts are saying that when we sneeze, when we laugh, when we walk, we need to think about how it stimulates us. There are times when those responses to stimulation are intense-- o.k so there's also times when they are almost non-existent--but think of the potential for pleasure. Loulan suggests that we stop searching for the "ultimate" and instead look towards what turns us on individually. Orgasm is reached "when you stimulate yourself to a certain point and you cannot go any further, when your body just will not tolerate any more stimulation." And if you can let that happen just walkin' down the street,

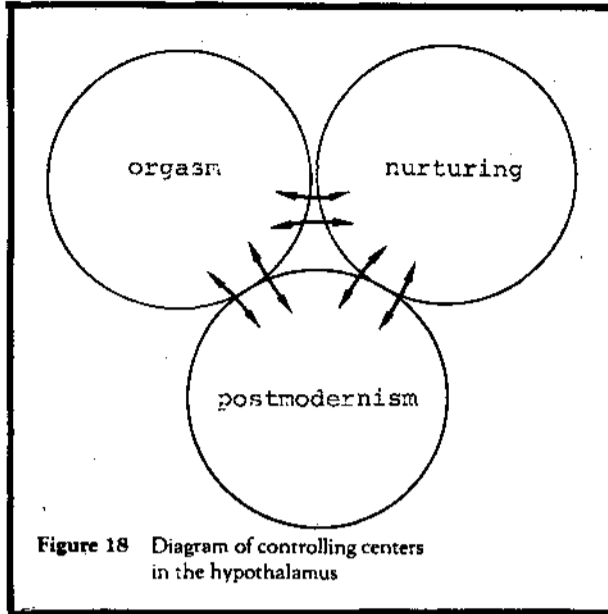


Figure 18 Diagram of controlling centers in the hypothalamus

then hell keep walkin', sneezin', laughin' and if you like it, if it gives you pleasure, then look out ya'll, and thank god I get allergies.

- 86%: Orgasm with masturbation
- 81%: Orgasm with a partner
- 13%: Occasionally orgasm with a partner
- 8%: Occassionally orgasm with masturbation
- 6%: Never orgasm with masturbation
- 6%: Never orgasm with a partner

For those interested some great reading material:

Barbachs, Lonnie. *For Yourself: Fulfillment of Female Sexuality* Doubleday: New York, 1975.  
Loulan, JoAnn. *Lesbian Sex* spinster/aunt lute: San Francisco, 1984.

--Virginia Girly--

## P is for . . . postmodernism.

I confess. I have been seduced by the frenzy of postmodernism. But what's hot and what's not changes more often than my hair color. Defining postmodernism has become the latest parlor game for wannabee public intellectuals (Todd Gitlin, Fred Jameson, Arthur Kroker). They catalogue culture to offer a collage definition of the term, only to render "postmodernism" indistinct and impressionistic. Collage, after all, was a modernist technique. As such their postmodern efforts of definition fail.

**Postmodern** is an adjective that describes everything from apartment buildings to Bill Blass fashion layouts in *Vogue*. As an adjective, it means "contemporary"--nothing more. The term "postmodern" first named an architectural movement. Art theorists

extended its range to name an eclectic collection of contemporary artists: Andy Warhol, Kathy Acker, Barbara Kruger, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, Twyla Tharp (among others). There is little consensus, however, on the aesthetic characteristics identified as "postmodern."

Postmodernity names a historical period--after modernity. This means late capitalism, post-industrial capitalism, or multi-national capitalism. In my book, this is the only proper use of the term "postmodern."

Postmodernism identifies all the media speculation and theory about postmodernity and postmodern culture. Postmodern cultural critics--those public intellectual wannabees--love to read certain celebrated French theorists, (Jean Baudrillard, Gilles Deleuze, Felix Guattari, and Jean-Francois Lyotard). These same cultural critics then proclaim that postmodernism is about the triumph of the simulacra, cultural schizophrenia, and the lost credibility of master narratives.

For my money, postmodernism names the advent of wide-scale male paranoia. Let me elaborate. In theory, postmodernism is about the loss of faith in the traditional master narratives of western culture, especially marxism and psychoanalysis. This simply means that, according to the reigning postmodern theorists, Marx and Freud have been displaced as the authoritative fathers of cultural understanding.

What postmodernism's theorists have discovered is that the real world is complex and not simply reducible to economic or oedipal relations. Postmodernism, according to this account, is about the lack of faith in a **universal** explanation of social and cultural reality.

To a feminist, this failure of faith doesn't seem all that new or "postmodern" at all. In fact, feminists have long doubted the universal explanatory power of the master narratives of western civilization, arguing, for example, that women are alienated not only as laborers, but also as sexed beings. Furthermore, feminists have repeatedly pointed to the blindspots of the universal subject created in the image of the white male ego. So that, postmodernism, from a feminist perspective, is about the crisis that the white male ego confronts when he understands, perhaps for the first time, that the world exceeds his efforts to master it. Paranoia and panic result when the male subject is confronted with the limitations of his own knowledge.

Women, on the other hand, have never entertained the illusion that we were the masters of the universe. So if postmodernism is about a culture coming to terms with the limits of western knowledge, women, it seems, have already been there, and therefore can offer more sustained insights into the postmodern condition.

--Anne Balsamo

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Rape Crisis Center



# Dear Ms. Hippie:

Dear Ms. Hippie,

I have a problem relating to cats, landlords and wounded feelings.

My landlord, who, I should mention, is also my neighbor and friend, himself supports quite a menagerie—parrots, fish, rabbits, even an eel. Consequently, he does not object on principle to my two cats. Indeed, he even tried in his bouncy, aggressive, but-no-harm-intended way to make friends with them. In short, Ms. Hippie, he would insist on petting them.

To my shame, I saw nothing wrong with this practice until at least one of my adorable kitties developed spastic colitis. After earnest consultation with the veterinarian of my choice, I concluded that while their affliction might have been organic in nature, it could well be, as they say, stress-related.

Upon due consideration of the evidence, I came to the inevitable conclusion that theirs was not a problem organic in origin. In a word, Ms. Hippie, my bouncy landlord, friend and neighbor was scaring my kitties shitless.

I, of course, immediately explained to him that although he meant no harm, scaring two kitties shitless was no small thing, especially for a landlord famed as an eminently humane and loving breeder of exotic birds, and that he should cease and desist from his insistent petting.

My kitties, meantime, have taken to hiding on hearing his approach. My bouncy landlord, in turn, now pouts that I should trade in my adorable kitties for new ones which, presumably, could be conditioned to more aggressive petting. Clearly, I am not about to do that, which he well knows. Not really my problem, I know, Ms. Hippie, but I do *so* hate to see his feelings hurt. What, if anything, should I do?

--Tenant In A Quandary

Dear Tenant,

As far as Ms. Hippie knows, tenants are not legally responsible to change pets upon the landlord's command. Reread your lease, though—in a college town, the rule is possibly written in there. If not, you can suggest to your landlord that he check-pet all animals whose masters he intends to rent to, to assure the level of cuddliness he requires.



Dear Ms. Hippie,

Through no fault of my own, I was the most favored—and, not incidentally, the middle-child in a family of three girls.

My older (by 14 years) sister, Louise, and I get on famously, but our younger sister, Beth, and I have virtually no relationship.

For despite my vehement protestations to the contrary, in our mother's eyes I could no wrong and Beth no right. This our mother pointed out to her daily.

What prompts me to write to you is that Louise has had several small but nonetheless thoughtprovoking skirmishes with skin cancer.

The enormous grief I would feel over her devastating loss is not the issue. Since she is 14 years my senior I expect I will outlive Louise even if she dies (as I fervently hope) of old age. My anxiety is this.

Louise has been the glue that has held Beth and me tenuously together all these years. For example, when Beth and I were children and Louise a grown married woman with her own home, our parents always took us to her house for holidays and special occasions.

I fear that without Louise, Beth and I would have no relationship at all.

I would like to work at establishing a better relationship with Beth, but I don't know how to deal effectively with her tremendous hostility toward me.

I know it takes more than one person to defuse such large bombs as this, and that without Beth's cooperation it will be impossible. I know too that I probably could have tried harder to establish a better relationship with her when we were growing up. I regret that I didn't, but I have only the present and only the present has potential.

I am willing to work assiduously at establishing a closer relationship with Beth, Ms. Hippie.

But how do I do that with someone who blows off my phone calls, letters and even skipped town once when we arranged my coming by for a visit? If she were not my sister, I would have written her off long ago. And I adamantly refuse to be a doormat. The visit incident occurred, you may be sure, only once. I now call and leave one message, at her home and one at her workplace only when absolutely necessary that I get in touch. Letters I confine to birthdays and Christmas, not expecting and rarely getting a response.

Advise me, please, Ms. Hippie. What am I to do? Should I just proceed as usual and hope for the best? Ignore her except at family gatherings? Take her by the lapels and insist on a lengthy heart-to-heart?

--Sister In A Quandary



Dear Sis,

You've got your roles nicely defined here: you are the advancing member of the relationship, and she is the retreating one. This pattern comes about frequently (it's very common in romantic relationships, as well). The received wisdom on this quandary, which Ms. Hippie for the lack of anything better must endorse, is that the advancer has to stop advancing. As soon as the retreat notices, she will wonder what's going on and begin to advance.

This is the theory. Clearly, advances are creating retreats, and there's not much to do but see whether the roles can be balanced better. Your becoming a more bold advancer (as in demanding a long talk, writing a long explanatory letter, driving slowly by her house at night) will most likely cause her to be a more firm retreat.

If your retreat turns out just to create more distance between you, probably that means that Beth doesn't want to have a relationship with you. In that case, at least you have gracefully retired from the field and offered her some relief. You can gain some measure of solace by muttering under your breath whenever you think of her, "Forget that bitch!" Ms. Hippie believes that this is what men do when they give up advancing, and it seems quite effective.

Who  
Loves  
You  
Like  
Your  
Mama  
Do?

COMIX POSTERS T SHIRTS POSTERS JEWELRY BOOKS  
CONCERT VIDEOS POSTERS BOOKS  
BUTTONS TAPES MIX  
POSTERS T SHIRTS  
JEWELRY  
CONCERT VIDEOS  
POSTERS  
BUTTONS  
CULT VIDEOS  
STICKERS  
TAPES  
PARROTS  
CONCERT VIDEOS  
COMIX  
POSTERS  
RECORDS  
BOOKS  
POSTERS  
CULT VIDEOS  
JEWELRY  
CD'S  
POSTERS  
T SHIRTS  
JEWELRY  
CONCERT VIDEOS  
ROCK N ROLL EMPORIUM  
1 1 1 1/2 NORTH ST.  
NORMAL, IL. 61761

# THE RESURRECTION

MY SISTER, THE ICONOCLAST

AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW.



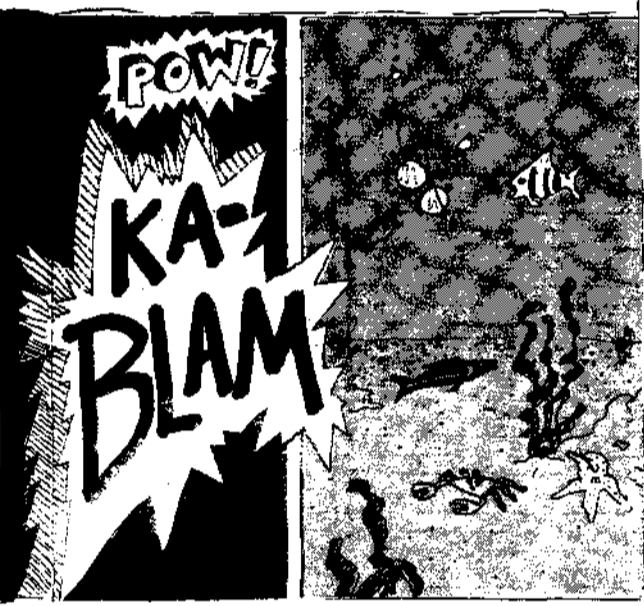
HI! REMEMBER US? WE'RE JILL AND KATIE, THOSE FABULOUS, FUNNY SISTERS WHO USED TO GET INTO ALL KINDS OF WACKY ESCAPADES IN THE PAGES OF THE **POST AMERIKAN!** I WAS JILL, THE STRAIGHT ONE, AND THIS WAS KATIE, THE NOT-SO-STRAIGHT ONE.

A REGULAR LAUGH RIOT, UNTIL THE ARTIST GOT REAL DEPRESSED AND KILLED US OFF.

...THAT WAS IN 1986. OUR PARTING SHOT LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE THIS. THE READER WAS LEFT TO DRAW THE BLEAK CONCLUSION...

BUT **THAT'S THE BEAUTY** OF FICTION! WE WEREN'T REALLY DEAD— WE WERE JUST ON SABBATICAL. OR MAYBE WE **ARE** REALLY DEAD AND NOW WE'RE JUST GHOST CARTOONS! ...OR MAYBE WE'LL PEEL OFF OUR FACES AND YOU'LL SEE WE'RE REALLY J.F.K. AND JIM MORRISON!!

NO FAIR, SIS! YOU ALWAYS GET TO BE JIM MORRISON!  
LOOK JILL, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE! AS JFK, YOU GET TO HAVE SEX WITH MARILYN MONROE, REMEMBER!



NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE.



I DON'T WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH MARILYN MONROE.

WELL, WHAT, THEN?



I'M TIRED OF ALWAYS BEING THE SQUARE!

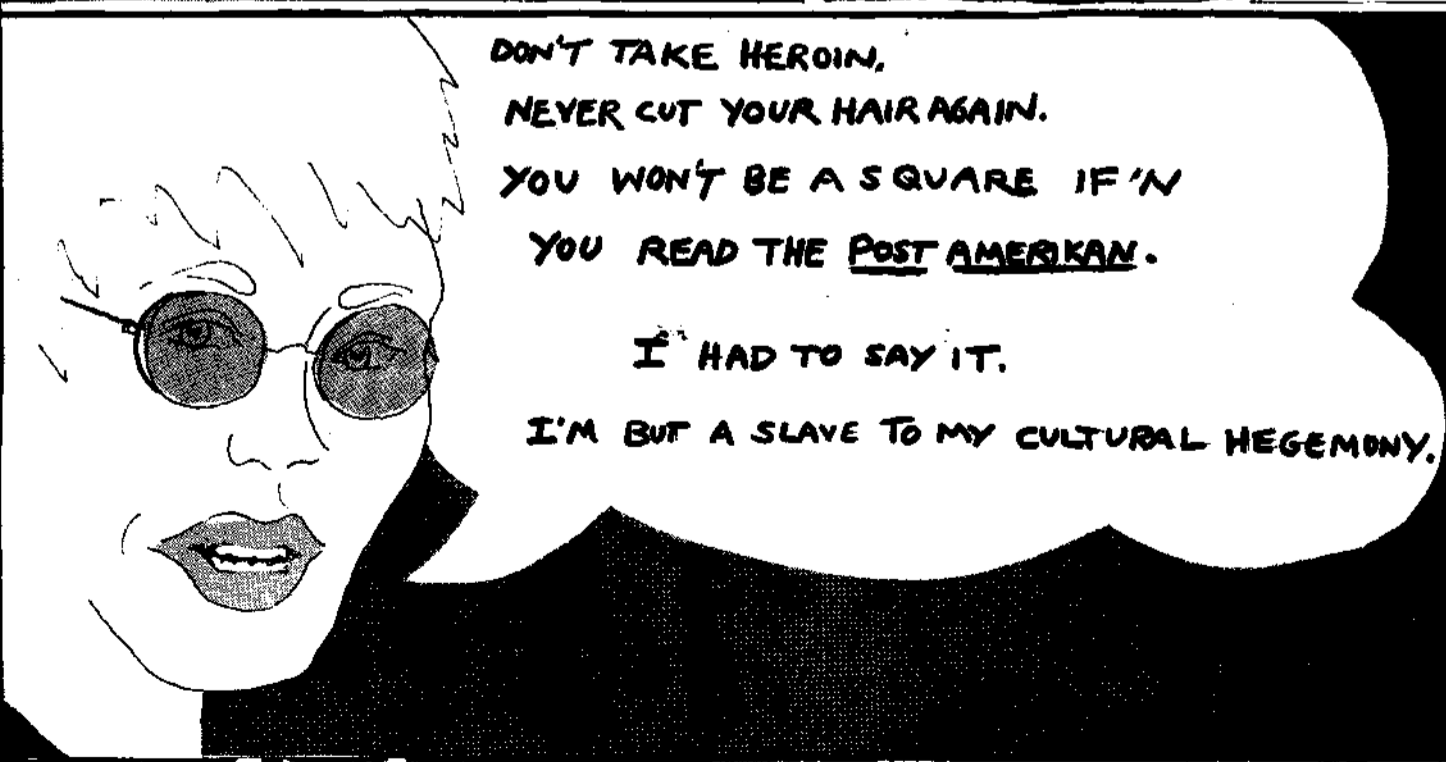


WELL, HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL, ALWAYS BEING THE BADLY-DRAWN ONE?

DON'T PATRONIZE ME, KATIE! WE'RE BOTH BADLY-DRAWN (AND YOU KNOW IT!)

POINT WELL TAKEN, JILL. BUT LET'S NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT HERE IN OUR WORLD, AS CONSTRUCTS OF THE IMAGINATION, WE'RE NOT RESTRICTED TO ANY OF THE PRESCRIBED BEHAVIORS OF THE OUTSIDE HEGEMONY, HENCE THE REFERENCE TO "ICONOCLAST" IN OUR TITLE...

TRANSLATION, PLEASE...



DON'T TAKE HEROIN, NEVER CUT YOUR HAIR AGAIN. YOU WON'T BE A SQUARE IF 'N YOU READ THE **POST AMERIKAN**. I HAD TO SAY IT. I'M BUT A SLAVE TO MY CULTURAL HEGEMONY.

YES. I WANT TO BOW TO THE CULTURAL HEGEMONY. GIVE ME A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE **POST AMERIKAN**, AND I'LL GIVE YOU \$4.00.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAVORITE FOOD \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE AMBITION \_\_\_\_\_

THE POST AMERIKAN • P.O. Box 3452 • BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

# News from Voice for Choice

Voice for Choice is planning a benefit concert and human rights march in November. If your group would like to march, write us at: P. O. Box 905, Bloomington, IL 61702-0905.



Would you like to see the boycott list as a full page ad in the Pantagraph? Voice for Choice would, but it cost at least \$1,700. If you can help, please do. Send any contributions to: P. O. Box 905, Bloomington, IL 61702-0905.



After 25 years of support, AT & T has withdrawn its funding for the Teen Education Program of Planned Parenthood, bowing to pressure from the anti-choice movement. We encourage you to let AT & T know that this decision is unacceptable.

In addition to the above listing, the boycott against Dominos Pizza continues. For those who are unfamiliar with the reason, Dominos' owner has been a large contributor to anti-choice groups and activities.

J. C. Penny has also pulled support from the pro-choice movement. We are asking card holders to cut up your cards and mail them back to Penny's with a note explaining why they are no longer your store of choice.



Did you know that at a recent meeting of Republicans in McLean County, the Republican candidate for Attorney General George Ryan was heard to say the he's anti-choice, but he doesn't like to talk about it. Talk to Mr. Ryan about it.



## Voice for Choice boycott list

On January 21, 1990, the McLean County Christian Action Council sponsored an advertisement in the Daily Pantagraph. The ad stated that those persons and/or businesses listed in the ad were opposed to legalized abortion. In essence, they were anti-choice.

On January 27, 1990, the McLean County Voice for Choice declared a boycott of all practices and businesses listed in the January 21 ad. This included individuals who signed and had their own businesses or were partners in a business. We urge your not to patronize the practices and businesses listed below, the same practices and businesses listed in the January 21 ad.

We ask that you not support these people and their businesses as they do not support the rights of women to control their own bodies and destinies. We encourage you to support businesses that respect women's rights and, on a wider scale, the right to privacy. Choose a business or a doctor who respects your right to make your own decisions.

As consumers, we can use our dollars to state our stand on the issue of reproductive freedom, the right to a safe and legal abortion. We can use our dollars to let this community know that we are pro-choice, we are not second-class citizens, we too have power.

### Businesses

C II East Lounge  
102 S. East St.  
Bloomington

Martin Reiser  
Reiser, Jennings and Co.  
2412 E. Washington  
Bloomington

Central States  
Insurance Services  
501 N. Main  
Bloomington

Ink & Images  
1801 W. Hovey  
Normal

Curtis Mathes  
Home Entertainment  
1407 N. Veterans Pkwy.  
Bloomington

Werberg Furniture Galleries  
2601 E. Oakland  
Bloomington

Ensenbergers Furniture  
212 N. Center  
Bloomington

Naborowski Independent  
Insurance Agent  
27 Bay Pointe Dr.  
Bloomington

Parrott & Associates  
3006 Gill  
Bloomington

Larry Curtis Auto World  
1003 S. Main  
Bloomington

C. A. D. Productions  
No address available

Lincoln Truck & Auto Parts  
1800 W. Oakland Ave.  
Bloomington

### Medical practices

Dr. Richard Leese  
Leese Chiropractic Center  
409 S. Prospect Rd.  
Bloomington

Dr. Curtis Lowry (Chiropractor)  
816 Eldorado Rd.  
Bloomington

Dr. Richard Sikora (Dentist)  
305 S. Linden  
Normal

Dr. Gregory Rackauskas (Dentist)  
305 S. Linden  
Normal

Dr. Richard Martin (Dentist)  
2103 E. Washington  
Bloomington

Dr. William Rademacher  
Lesse Chiropractic Center  
409 S. Prospect Rd.  
Bloomington

Dr. Richard Lohr (Chiropractor)  
512 IAA Drive  
Bloomington

Dr. Gary Johnson (Dentist)  
2206 E. Oakland  
Bloomington

Dr. Robert Horenkamp (Dentist)  
2102 E. Washington  
Bloomington

Dr. Bradley Barnes (Dentist)  
1537 Fort Jesse Rd.  
Normal

Dr. Richard Stephey (Dentist)  
202 Eldorado Rd.  
Bloomington

Drs. Dan and Scott Hume (Dentists)  
Hume Dental Associates  
914 N. Main St.  
Bloomington

Dr. Bashir Ahmed, M. D.  
707 N. East St.  
Bloomington

Dr. Lawrence Dowden, M. D.  
(Family Practice)  
1300 Franklin Ave.  
Normal

Dr. Sharon Weaver, M.D.  
(OB/GYN)  
900 Franklin Ave.  
Normal

Dr. Harold McGinnes, M.D.  
(Surgeon)  
Surgical Assoc. of Bloomington  
1404 Eastland Dr.  
Bloomington

Dr. Witoon Wera, M.D. (Cardiology)  
Suite 250  
107 E. Chestnut  
Bloomington

Dr. Owen Deneen, M.D.  
(Internal Medicine)  
McLean County Internal Medical  
Associates  
326 Fairway Dr.  
Bloomington

Dr. Mark Yontz (Dentist)  
202 Eldorado Road  
Bloomington

Drs. Michael & Dan Milligan  
(Dentists)  
Milligan Dental Center  
1404 Eastland Dr.  
Bloomington

Dr. John Wittington, M.D.  
1300 Franklin Ave.  
Normal

Dr. Edmund Ligman, M.D.  
707 N. East St.  
Bloomington

Dr. James Seehafer, M.D.  
(Dermatology)  
105 N. Regency Dr.  
Bloomington

Dr. Larry Kneezel, M.D.  
(Internal Medicine)  
The Health Center  
702 N. East  
Bloomington

Dr. Gerome Gehl, M.D.  
(Radiology)  
Bloomington Radiology  
200 S. Towanda  
Normal

Dr. Robert McEntyre, M.D.  
No listing for Bloomington-Normal

St. Joseph Medical Center  
& affiliated offices  
2200 E. Washington  
Bloomington