

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

---

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

---

8-1990

## Volume 19, Number 2

Post Amerikan

Follow this and additional works at: [https://thekeep.eiu.edu/post\\_amerikan](https://thekeep.eiu.edu/post_amerikan)



Part of the [Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Ethnicity in Communication Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Publishing Commons](#), and the [Social Influence and Political Communication Commons](#)

---

Bloomington-Normal

Vol. 19 No. 2

25c

# POST AMERIKAN

Aug-Sept  
1990

That little girl in the 4th row sure is cute!



That little girl in the 4th row sure is cute!



## Our Lady of Perpetual Guilt Grade School 1961-1962

That little girl in the 4th row sure is cute!



Grade 1

PA Photo

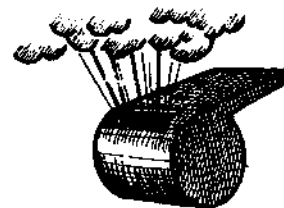
# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

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.....



**In this issue:**

**Contents:**

- Cover
- Page Two Stuff
- p. 3--Women's Bodies and War Criminals
- p. 4--My Trip To America's Siberia
- p. 5--Lambda News
- p. 6--Gayla
- p. 7--Why I Hate The Catholic Church
- pp. 8-9--Voice For Choice Update/Ms. Hippie
- p. 10--Feminist Primer
- p. 11--Shut Up and Deal
- p. 12--Quiz: How Far Right Do You Swing?
- p. 13--Confessions of A Straight White Male
- p. 14--Community News/Letters
- p. 15--ISU Stuff
- p. 16--News from Operation Recycle
- p. 17--Corporate Fascism; Impure Thoughts
- p. 18--Uppers and Downers
- p. 19--Benefit
- p. 20--Join The Post Amerikan

**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 Allin
- 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) .....	827-6672
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 Phonenumber .....	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 September 21, 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 . . .**

Laurie, Deborah (coordinators), Angela, Pete, Scott, John, Jane, Bumper, Susie, Dino, Peter, Ralph, and probably others who we forgot to mention.



# Women's

# bodies and war criminals

Several weeks ago finally I finished reading *The Handmaid's Tale*. It was by the way incredible. I began reading it whilst on vacation in OK City. Ya' know, taking a vacation, light reading, escapism. All that kinda' stuff. Yeh, right! read some fiction. Right! read about things that don't happen, aren't happening in reality. Fiction? Aaaaahh-Haaaaa and girl don't make me laugh. Those days are O-V-E-R. Baby, they are G-O-N-E.

You see, I was stunned by the shocking story of this woman, Offred. And then I was shocked at myself for being stunned. I was knocked out by this fictional, imagined, not-real-life, only-in-your-worst-nightmare, story where all the women had absolutely no control over their bodies. I thought, "how awful to be living in such a bigoted, male-governed/pseudo-female oriented, society where women's roles and identities are defined and prescribed and determined completely by their reproductive capabilities." I read the back cover again: "In the world of the near future, who will control women's bodies?" Wow! Scary, I thought, to think that in the future, not now but somewhere out there, not in 1990 but "in the near future," at some point soon, women might lose control of their own bodies?

"In a serious blow to reproductive rights activists across the country, the state Senate passed the most restrictive anti-abortion law in the U.S. June 26. The measure, which bans abortions except to save the life of the woman, passed the Senate 24-15 . . . The bill has no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, and carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison with hard labor for anyone who performs an abortion, as well as possible fines of up to \$100,000. The law does not establish penalties for women seeking abortions" (GCN, July 1-7).



I opened *The Handmaid's Tale* to escape again, to remind myself that possession and re-possession belonged with the sheriff's office, with used car companies, with bank loans and car payments.

"Beside the main gateway there are six more bodies hanging, by the necks, their hands tied in front of them, their heads in white bags tipped sideways onto their shoulders. . . . The men wear white coats, like those worn by doctors or scientists. Doctors and scientists aren't the only ones, there are others, but they must have had a run on them this morning. Each has a placard hung around his neck to show why he has been executed: a drawing of a human fetus. They were doctors then, in the time before, when such things were legal. . . . They've been turned up now by the searches through hospital records, or—more likely, since most hospital destroyed such records once it became clear what was going to happen—by informants: ex-nurses perhaps, or a pair of them since evidence from a single woman is no longer admissible. . . . These men, we've been told are like war criminals. It's no excuse that what they did was legal at the time: their crimes are retroactive. They have committed atrocities and must be made into examples, for the rest. Though this is hardly needed. No woman in her right mind, these days, would seek to prevent a birth, should she be so lucky as to conceive" (*The Handmaid's Tale*, 43).



You know, one of the things I find most offensive about this further legal crime against women, is the complete disregard of a woman's ability to think for herself or participate in any way whatsoever in the decision making process of aborting a foetus. "The law does not establish penalties for women seeking abortions." I am by no means advocating such penalties, but hidden in the subliminal consciousness of this phrase is the belief that no woman in her right mind would want an abortion. This complete, unflinching attack on a woman's ability to make a decision, to think for herself, to choose for herself lies firmly beneath all anti-choice legislation. The penalty of an unwanted child is completely disregarded in terms of labor costs, time and money. It is ironic that the penalties for performing an abortion pretty well equal the penalties for not performing one: a 10 year hard labor sentence and a \$100,000 fine.

Anti-choice, anti-abortion legislation will not stop women from having abortions. The bill states that only licensed physicians may perform an abortion in the circumstances allowed by law. Ironically, the legislators in their mind-absent, sensory deficient ignorance, are already acknowledging that back street abortion clinics are the necessary survivors of such restrictive legislation. This latest abortion bill will not stop women from terminating unwanted pregnancies. It will ensure that women only can be thought for, spoken for, legislated for, controlled and owned by law. It will ensure that women only find illegal and hazardous ways to terminate unwanted pregnancies.

Governor Buddy Roemer's insistence that the bill include exceptions for rape and incest is a disgusting and cheap attempt at patronage not to mention a display of arrogant hypocrisy. In a time when each anti-choice voting legislator is effectively raping every woman of her basic rights to control her own body, such veto threats aren't worth to women's rights the paper they're printed on. Perpetuating the myth that a

rape or incest foetus is more "murderable" than a regular foetus is symptomatic of anti-choice logic. A forced pregnancy, whether caused by sexual violence or consented sex, is a rape pregnancy. Again, the senators have got it wrong. The issue isn't abortion, it's choice. It's women's rights: who owns the legal rights to a woman's body? Who owns the legal rights to her decisions and choices? Who controls a woman's body?

"The ceremony goes on as usual. I lie on my back, fully clothed except for the healthy white cotton underdrawers. . . . Above me, towards the head of the bed, Serena Joy is arranged, outspread. Her legs are apart, I lie between them, my head on her stomach, her pubic bone under the base of my skull, her thighs on either side of me. She too is fully clothed. My arms are raised; she holds my hands, each of mine in each of hers. This is supposed to signify that we are one flesh, one being. What it really means is that she is in control, of the process and thus of the product. If any. The rings of her left hand cut into my fingers. It may or may not be revenge" (*The Handmaid's Tale* 120).

All women are not one being. We are not all the same. We do not all have the same wants, needs and desires. But we should all have the same rights. We should all have the same right to control over our own bodies. No legislation would ever be tolerated that sought to prevent women from having children. That kind of legislation we call population control and we condemn it as violating civil rights. A bill prohibiting pregnancy except in cases of rape or incest would be considered an affront on our civil liberties. A bill prohibiting abortion except in such cases isn't. A woman who chooses to continue a pregnancy is protected, a woman who chooses not to is protected: the doctor only is held responsible. A woman's choice doesn't even count, it doesn't even enter into the issue! And if women's choices don't count, then women don't count. And basically that's what

all this legislation comes down to. Women beyond the viability of their ovaries are worthless.

The new bill will protect us further: "Abortion performed on a rape victim is not a crime. Abortion performed on an incest victim is not a crime."

"My red skirt is hitched up to my waist, though no higher. Below it the commander is fucking. What he is fucking is the lower part of my body. I do not say making love because this is not what he's doing. Copulating too would be inaccurate, because it would imply two people and only one is involved. Nor does rape cover it: nothing is going on here that I haven't signed up for. There wasn't a lot of choice but there was some, and this is what I chose" (*The Handmaid's Tale* 121).

The alternative is "The Colonies." A hard labor camp for infertile women.

Margaret Atwood published her book in 1985. There are parts in which her characters reflect on the abortion riots. "In the world of the near future who will control women's bodies?" 1990 is passing and we are still fighting for the rights to control our own bodies. Every time a new piece of legislation comes through that chips unceasingly at our rights of control I feel angry and inspired to write. But what Margaret Atwood wrote as fiction in 1985, I read in the pages of national publications as news today. But time is slipping by, and control of people's bodies is becoming a trend for the '90's. Firmer, tighter, stricter abortion legislation, firmer, tighter, stricter healthcare policies for PLWA's. Mandatory AIDS testing, insurance discrimination, high AZT costs, the 1990 International AIDS conference that has "no place for people with AIDS." Abortion legislation that has "no place for women."

When I see Atwood's future in the pages of my daily paper, when I see it as part of my daily life, somehow the future doesn't seem remotely far away. And whilst this isn't a blatant call to action, action would probably be one of the few options left to us these days that would allow us to exercise our right to life.

--Virginia Girly

# My trip to

I'm reporting to you live, via U.S. Mail, to deliver a first hand account of a strange argument that has been taking place here on the New England coast. As do most arguments, this one centers around two conflicting perceptions.

It seems that residents and visitors of Maine are under the impression that the trees, streams, forests, mountains, lakes, and coastal regions of this state are ideal for camping, swimming, and sightseeing.

These same citizens are deeply concerned about the depletion of the earth's natural wilderness and the forthcoming environmental disaster that such mindless destruction will bring. They see the political world approaching a long overdue peace in light of the tearing down of the walls in Eastern Europe, and assume that it is time for Amerika to begin putting the money it spends on the military to better use.

## The other side of the tax payer's coin

Strangely enough, the Pentagon views the situation here in Maine a little differently. According to the Pentagon, these deranged local residents cannot see the military training forest for the trees.

The National Guard, which already terrorizes 181,000 acres of wilderness in Maine plans to grab up 720,000 more acres of virgin Maine forests for its low-level and night-flight training, war games, tank maneuvers, and firing ranges. Bombers and tankers already buzz past magnificent nature walks, flying as low as 100 feet, frightening wildlife and campers alike.

It seems to the Pentagon that Maine, as well as wonderlands like Montana, Washington, Idaho, and Northern California are "remote wastelands." James St. Pierre, the head of Maine's Wilderness Society said that these military strategists are using the same logic as the people who targeted Maine for a nuclear waste repository three years ago.

Insiders say that another reason Maine has been targeted is because its terrain greatly resembles that of the Soviet Union and China.

## Time to tear down all five walls

This operation would be part of the Pentagon's proposed expansion from 25 million acres of U.S.-land-turned-battleground to an enormous 30 million. This would be the largest land-acquisition program for the military since World War II.

If the plan goes through, the military will purchase over 7,000 square miles of wilderness, mostly owned by the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and private land owners. 7,000 square miles. That's like twice the size of Lebanon, kids.

# Amerika's



# Siberia

Sorry to interrupt this unbiased piece of journalism, but I can't keep it in anymore. Doesn't anyone at the Pentagon read the newspaper?

The Cold War is thawing. The environmental revolution is upon us. The country is debating how to cut the military's grotesquely inflated budget to the bone without putting too many people out of work or selling too many \$25,000 coffee pots, and yet, the Pentagon wants to take more of our national forests, our last remaining wilderness areas, away from the earth because they are "too remote."

## Who's land is it anyway?

Tank maneuvers, exploding mortar shells, sonic booms, low-flying fighter jets, and machine gun fire have an odd way of screwing up even the oldest untouched ecosystem. Wildlife is driven out in hordes, the tranquility of local communities is sacrificed, soil is eroded, grazing and recreational areas are abandoned, groundwater is polluted, and vegetation destroyed.



Granted in D.C. life in states like Maine must be difficult to imagine, but I'm here in one of 12 states targeted for military expansion. It is true that people are not crowded shoulder to shoulder out here, weaving in and out of skyscrapers, but that doesn't make the land barren. There are a lot of those funny looking things called plants and animals, that one reads so much about in the big city.



Furthermore, Native Americans once again have seen their homelands targeted by callous government planners, and will have their ways of life put in jeopardy by expansion.

Even the Air Force, in their environmental impact statement, concluded that the disturbances to sacred Native American sites, as well as loss of wildlife habitats, fires from live ordnance and flares, restriction to access water, and withdrawal of grazing and mining areas would have "potentially significant impact" on the Natives in designated expansion areas such as Idaho.

Hopefully, Congress, weighing the costs and benefits, will simply laugh at the Pentagon's proposal for this new land when the bill is considered later this year. However, at least 2 million to 4.5 million acres, including 720,000 in Maine, remain for the state National Guard, and therefore do not require congressional approval.

In this case, the only action one can take to save the planet is to let the Bureau of Land management in D.C. know how you feel. Writing the Pentagon is probably futile, unless you have some crayons lying around.

—SHADD

**HEY!**

**We Want To Buy YOUR Tapes, Records + CD's**

**MOTHER MURPHY'S**

**Rockin' For 20 Years!**

**MOTHER MURPHY'S**

**ROCK-N-ROLL EMPORIUM**

**111 1/2 STREET**

**452-6712**

# Lambda news

## HIV infected man sues insurance company

New York, New York--A man with advanced HIV infection brought suit July 12, 1990 in state court asking for an emergency order to require his insurance company to pay for the treatment that could save his life.

The judge will have to determine who should make critical decisions on payment for needed health care—patients and their doctors, or insurance companies.

The lawsuit, filed in New York Supreme Court by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, charges the insurer, Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield, with refusing to pay for a bone marrow transplant for Thomas Bradley, in violation of his insurance policy.

Empire has refused to pay because it says the procedure is "investigational," even though the Federal Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and New York State's Medicaid Program approved it. The lawsuit asks the court to order the company to pay immediately for the procedure so Mr. Bradley can get treatment before it's too late.

"Every day that goes by for Mr. Bradley without this operation risks his life," said lead counsel Mark Scherzer, a Lambda Cooperating Attorney in private practice in New York City. "We believe that under the policy, Mr. Bradley's insurance company must cover any medically necessary treatment. But if Mr. Bradley's health worsens before he can get the transplant, he will not be able to undergo it. We are asking the court not just to do justice, but to act fast."

"This case presents a key issue for health care in the '90's," said Lambda staff attorney Evan Wolfson, co-counsel for Mr. Bradley. "Who should decide what treatments are to be used—patients and their doctors, or insurance companies with built in conflict of interest?"

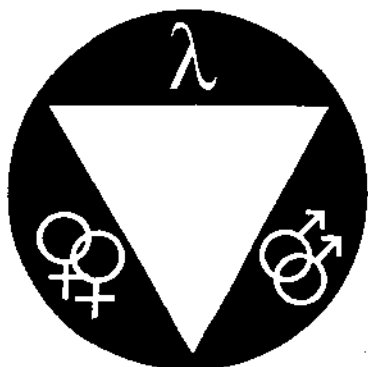
Time and time again, as in our fight with them over AZT, we have seen insurance companies try to avoid having to pay the costs of caring for people with AIDS and helping to stop the progression of HIV illness. We hope the court will act swiftly, not only to save this man's life, but to make it clear that doctors and patients make the medical decisions, not insurance companies."

Mr. Bradley's doctor, H. Kent Holland of the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center in Baltimore, a specialist in the procedure, stated in

sworn court papers that because Mr. Bradley has a twin for a donor, he is an excellent candidate for the bone marrow transplant, a standard treatment for patients with congenital immune deficiencies. "As an identical twin, Mr. Bradley is fortunate to have a special treatment option. Through a combination of bone marrow transplantation and intensive chemotherapy, he has a reasonable chance of reconstituting his immune system and of setting back his level of HIV infection." Doctors estimate a 90% rate of survival and improvement with his operation.

Because the transplant is arduous and can only be performed while the patient is in good physical condition, time is of the essence for Mr. Bradley. Nevertheless, the hospital will not perform the transplant unless the insurance company agrees in advance to pay for it. Without the insurance that is part of his employee plan, Mr. Bradley does not have the personal resources to pay for the hospitalization costs associated with the bone marrow transplant. Forty-seven years old, he has been a public school employee in Suffolk County for nearly twenty years, as a schoolteacher and now as a computer coordinator.

"In a very real sense," Mr. Bradley stated, "my membership in the Empire insurance plan is, or at least should be, one of my chief assets. But it's no good to me if the policy is not honored. My doctor's judgment should be accorded deference, and my treatment, which my life depends on, should not be held up until it's too late."



**G A L A**  
GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE  
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

## Help needed in restructuring lesbian/gay organization

Times are rapidly changing, from "outing" on a national level, to the organization of Central Illinois' own AIDS activist group. Changing

times demand a change in the Bloomington-Normal's official lesbian and gay organization.

GPA was the group of yesterday. Today we have Gay And Lesbian Alliance (GALA).

If you're interested in being part of the restructuring or want to be represented in the new, now is the time to act. We have a new name, new officers, and a new president. I invite you to come and help redefine this new organization, whether you want to insure that GALA fulfills the needs previously met by GPA, or insure that more needs are properly addressed.

Our goal is to represent the Bloomington-Normal lesbian, gay and bisexual community, but we need community support.

Sincerely,  
Vince Constabileo, president

GALA meetings are scheduled on Wednesday nights at 8:00 pm in 112 Fairchild Hall on the ISU campus. The first meeting of the fall semester will be on Wednesday, August 22 and will cover the restructuring of the group. Everyone welcome.



**P.O. Box 304  
Bloomington, IL  
61702**

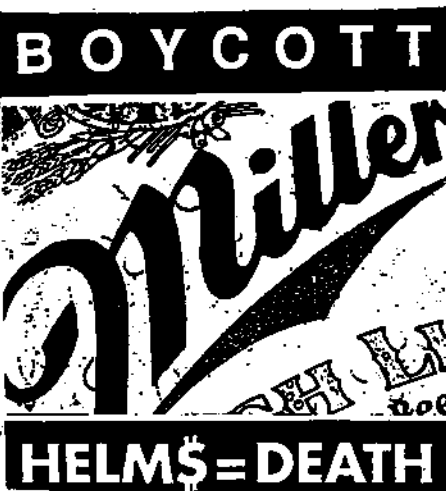
**309-827-4005  
24 hours a day**

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



**AIDS Coalition to  
Unleash Power  
Central Illinois**

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



Philip Morris Companies, Inc, manufacturer of Marlboro cigarettes and parent company of Miller Beer, is the largest corporate political donor to homophobic and AIDSphobic North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms. Philip Morris is also the largest corporate donor (\$200,000) to the right-wing extremist's self-glorifying "Jesse Helms Museum," slated to open in 1992. **BOYCOTT MILLER BEER AND MARLBORO CIGARETTES.** And call Philip Morris to tell them why you're boycotting. (800) 343-0975 or (800) 446-7030.

HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the virus linked to AIDS. AZT, the only treatment widely available to stave off HIV replication on a temporary basis, was the subject of legal challenge up through last year, because insurance companies refused to heed doctor's conclusions that it should be used at an earlier stage of infection. "Despite massive evidence of AZT's utility, some insurance companies continue to resist paying for the drug," said Wolfson.

## Michigan sodomy law overturned

New York, New York—As of July 6, 1990, a trial court in Wayne County, Michigan became the second court in a month to strike down a state sodomy statute on state constitutional grounds. In reasoning similar to that used by a Kentucky court in early June, the Michigan court recognized that the state sodomy law and so-called "gross indecency" laws violate every citizen's right to privacy under the state constitution.

"This is an important victory for everyone concerned with privacy rights in this country. The Michigan ruling is a good example of the growing trend around the country to challenge and overturn these antiquated, oppressive laws," said David Piontowsky, lead attorney for the Michigan Organization of Human Rights (MOHR), a plaintiff in the suit, along with eleven other diverse individuals. MOHR brought the lawsuit together with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a national lesbian and gay rights advocacy group, and the Michigan ACLU.

A broad range of plaintiffs from all over the state successfully challenged the Michigan law, including a 75-year old lesbian; a gay male couple, a lesbian mother, an unmarried straight man; a married straight man; a bisexual man; and a straight, disabled woman. All the plaintiffs told the court that because of these laws, they have suffered a chilling effect on their behavior and fear of prosecution since, in Michigan, a sodomy conviction is classified as a felony and can result in up to fifteen years in prison and a fine of \$5,000.

Wayne County Circuit Judge John A. Murphy ruled that the sodomy and gross indecency law violate the plaintiffs' (and, by extension, all sexually active adults') state constitutional right to privacy, the fundamental right to be free of government intrusion in making personal decisions.

The lawsuit also claimed that the laws—which define sodomy as the "the abominable and detestable crime against nature" or "an act of gross indecency"—are unconstitutionally vague and provide unlimited discretion to prosecuting attorneys and arresting officers as to what conduct is criminal.

"The right to privacy victories in Michigan and Kentucky within a month are extremely significant, because they show that state courts and state constitutions can do what the federal courts used to do: protect minorities and basic American freedoms against intrusion," said Paula Eitelbrick, one of two Lambda attorneys on the case.

Lambda's Evan Wolfson added, "The 1986 Supreme Court *Hardwick* decision (which was the *Dred Scott* decision of the 20th century) and last year's *Webster* decision on abortion told all Americans, particularly lesbians and gay men, that we will have to defend our basic rights and freedom court by court, state by state with no help from a hostile federal government. Kentucky and Michigan show that we can still hope the keep the government out of our bedrooms."

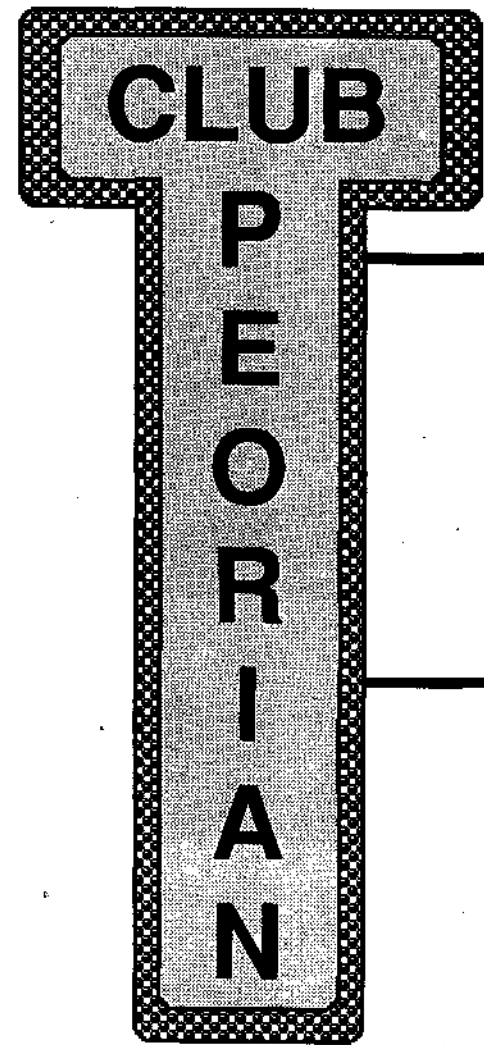
Before the rulings in Kentucky and Michigan, twenty-four states (as well as the District of Columbia) still criminalized so-called "sodomy," oral or anal sex between consenting adults in private. Noted Eitelbrick, "Seven of those states (including Kentucky) singled out lesbians and gay men as criminals for private sexual acts that most adult Americans engage in, and did not prohibit the exact same conduct between heterosexuals."

In another case, Lambda is challenging the Texas sodomy law on similar legal grounds under the state's constitution. The plaintiff, Mica England, an open lesbian, was denied employment as a police officer with the Dallas Police Department because of the state sodomy law, although she had never been charged with violating it.

"The Texas case is a good example of how the mere existence of these laws is used to justify all kinds of discrimination, even when gay people are not formally prosecuted," stated Wolfson, counsel in the Texas sodomy challenge along with local Texas attorneys. "Because sodomy laws allow lesbians and gay men to be branded criminals for ordinary private intimacy, they are often cited as the reason why gay people should not be allowed to adopt or keep custody of our kids, serve our country in the military, or even hold our jobs in the community." The Texas sodomy challenge is currently pending.

In the Michigan case, the state attorney general must now determine whether the state will appeal the trial court ruling which overturned the sodomy and gross indecency statutes.

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 (as of September 1990). MOHR is state-wide gay and lesbian advocacy group whose victories include helping secure the passage of the Detroit human rights law, which like numerous other such ordinances in America's largest cities, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.



**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



Post Amerikan has six issues of *Harley Women* for sale. A friend of the *Post* donated the 1986 issues to help us raise money for the paper. You can read all about these magazines in this month's "Dear Ms. Hippie." We would like to sell these collector's issues for their cover price, \$2.00 and issue. Call soon to get the whole set for \$12.00.

# THANKS...

A big thanks to everyone who helped our friends Greg and Jerry, the two men who were beaten up en route to Columbus, Ohio.

Our community should be commended for how it pulled together to help these people in their time of need. A BIG THANKS to PATH and the Crisis Team for their networking and contributions, and to the community members for their gifts of money, food, and time.

"Somebody still cares about quality!"

**Turn heads  
as you walk  
down the street!**

CLIP-N-SEND

YES, I crave the fame and glory a Post-American T-shirt will bring me! I can't live without it. In fact I'll just die if I can't have a Post T-shirt! Enclosed is my check for \$9.00 Thank you. You've made my life worth living again.

Circle Size L XL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Clip-n-send to Post-American, P.O.  
Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701.



not to scale

# Why I hate the Catholic Church

So what's wrong with the Catholic Church? Nothing a few years of intensive psychotherapy or the election of a pregnant black lesbian Pope couldn't cure. Although for most of its history the Catholic Church has been unresponsive to the needs of its members, recent times have seen a series of actions from the Vatican Boys' Club which might finally mean self-destruction for the Church.

Where the Church is most out of touch with reality is in the area of reproductive freedom. The Bible commands the faithful to "be fruitful and multiply." Back when the Earth's human population was in the tens of thousands, that was not a bad idea. Preservation of the species, maintenance of breeding stock, that sort of thing.

But even in the Middle Ages, when the Church was at the height of its power in Europe, population pressure had increased to the point of the near-destruction of agriculture in England because of soil depletion. Then, the situation was alleviated only by the Black Plague.

Today, when humans number over five billion, many of whom live in crushing poverty, the Vatican still insists on the exclusive use of the "rhythm method" of birth control. When that fails, which is often, the woman is forced either to carry the unwanted fetus to term or violate another Church law to terminate the pregnancy.

As a result of this attitude from Catholic and other "Christian" groups, Amerika now withholds funding from any population control effort that acknowledges any birth control method other than "natural family planning" or even mentions the word abortion.



Right

This "every sperm is sacred" mania has gripped the Church so tightly that Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York announced plans recently for a five million dollar anti-abortion advertising campaign. Meanwhile, Catholic children in Central Amerika starve.

When advertising and "pastoral counseling" fail, the Church still has its favorite weapon: intimidation. The Church's most recent threat has been against pro-choice politicians. As Peoria Bishop John Myers wrote in "The Obligations of Catholics and the Rights of Unborn Children":

"Catholicism does not recognize a 'right' to dissent from authoritative church teachings on abortion ... Persons of good conscience must refrain from seeking office if the price... is the enforcement of evil laws which allow the killing of the innocent."

The Vatican apparently agrees with Myers, issuing a statement earlier this year barring public dissent by theologians who in any way challenge papal authority.

The attrition has already begun in Amerika. In June, Rachel Vargas, director of a Texas abortion clinic and a Catholic, was excommunicated. The effect on Vargas? Despite the "intense emotional pain" the Church inflicted, she will continue to operate her clinic.



The Women's Show/epf

A favorite O'Connor platform has been his opposition to the use of condoms. This not only encourages more unwanted pregnancies, it defeats efforts at AIDS education and prevention. The Church doesn't believe you should do anything to protect yourself from AIDS, but will act with utmost "compassion" to "victims" of the disease.


Another victim of Catholic "compassion" is the homosexual. Dragging out that same tired "abomination" verse from Leviticus, the crucifix contingent has decided to "love the sinner but hate the sin." In other words, it's OK to be a queer, just so long as you feel real guilty about it. So what if estimates put the number of gay priests at 20-30%? And of course, the Church will act with utmost "compassion."

Which explains their compassionate treatment of Dignity, a group formed by gay Catholics to reconcile their homosexuality with Church doctrine. When Dignity suggested that one could be gay and Catholic and guilt-free all at the same time, the Church disenfranchised the group and barred them from using Church property for meetings.

Besides being sexist and homophobic, the Catholic Church is also racist. Recently, citing "financial difficulties," the wealthiest religion on the planet shut down a number of dioceses in the Chicago area. Strangely enough, the dioceses hardest hit were those serving the inner city with the highest number of ethnic minority parishioners.

Then there's ex-Father George Stallings, a black former priest from Washington D.C. Father George dared to suggest that the boys from "Guilt-R-Us" were less than sensitive to the needs of their African-American members. To meet those needs, Stallings founded the Imani Temple African-American Catholic Congregation in 1989. The Catholic Church excommunicated him.

Currently the Catholic Church is in a serious state of decline in Amerika. An aging priesthood, a shrinking number of new priests and nuns, and declining church membership and attendance are all directly related to the Catholic Hierarchy's inflexibility on key issues like married and female priests, homosexuality, women's rights and birth control. Any institution that ignores the will of its people long enough will be toppled by its people. The Catholic Church has been ignoring its people for about fourteen centuries. It shouldn't be long now.

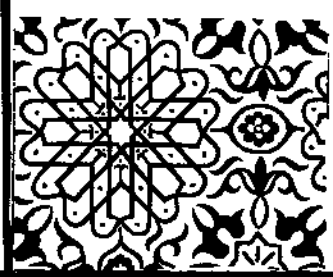


## Rape Crisis Center of McLean County

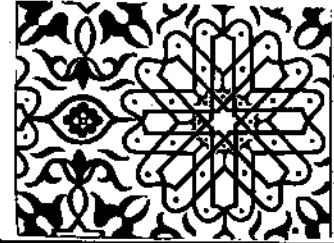
**WE'RE A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTEER GROUP WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.**

**FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ANSWER OUR CALLS, BUT BOTH MALE AND FEMALE VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.**

**If you want to talk to one of us  
Call PATH 827-4005  
and ask for the  
Rape Crisis Center**



The Rape Crisis Center is a volunteer organization always in need of financial support to provide a range of services to the people of McLean County.





# News from Voice for Choice

## New amendments could counter conservative Supreme Court

Even if George Bush is able to tip the scales of justice by stacking the Supreme Court with conservatives, all is not lost. There would seem to be two possible approaches to the matter of choice and the right to privacy.

First, work for a Constitutional amendment regarding the right to privacy. Such an amendment could and should also cover gay and lesbian rights. The second approach is to work for a similar state amendment which could insure a woman's right to an abortion even if the court overturns *Roe v. Wade*.

Whichever route you may favor it will require more than lip service to the cause. What it will require is your physical presence at functions, your financial support if you are able, and your vote for pro-choice candidates this November. Don't turn power over to the right without a struggle.

## Plans to counter anti-choice boycott

The National Christian Action Council plans to hold a press conference on August 6 in New York to announce a national boycott of

companies who have contributed to Planned Parenthood. We must fight back! Voice for Choice is asking you to write letters to the companies on the list (which will be released at the press conference) to express your support. Patronize these companies and let them know why you're shopping with them. Voice is also researching the contributors to the anti-choice movement and will hold a similar press conference. Write for more information.

## Human Rights march in Bloomington-Normal

Human Rights March in Bloomington-Normal? You heard right. Voice for Choice is currently seeking co-sponsors for a Human Rights march to be held sometime in October or early November. We are seeking groups who have as their focus working for equal rights for all and an end to oppression. The only requirement for participation in the march is that your group cannot work to oppress any group of persons. If you are neutral on every issue except your expressed issue, that's fine. If your group/organization is interested in helping sponsor and plan the march or just wants to march, write us at P.O. Box 905, Bloomington, IL, or call 828-3108.

## Choice bits

Voice for Choice is also planning a benefit concert and dance, tentatively scheduled for October 13, 1990. It should be at least as much

fun as the alternative prom was. Write or call Voice for Choice for times, location and ticket information.

Speaking of a great time, have you always wanted to march in a parade? We have requested to march again this year in the Labor Day Parade. We were in it last year and had lots of fun. If you're pro-choice and would like to march with us, just call or write us and we'll tell you whether we'll be there and where to meet us.

Voice for Choice is also applying to the state to become Deputy Registrars so that we can conduct a voter registration drive. We hope to offer a ride service on election day, as well. For more info, write or call us.

Finally, look for Voice for Choice at the Ewing Arts Festival and the Eastland Mall Women's Health Fair. We will be requesting space again this year at both events. We hope to be there and see you there, too.

Would you like to receive more information on issues of Choice? Voice has a newsletter, *The Pro-Choice Voice*, published six times a year. Subscription rate is \$3.00 per year. Send your check (make sure the address is correct) to Voice for Choice, P.O. Box 905, Bloomington, IL.

Voice for Choice thanks the *Post American* for the opportunity to bring you this information. With all the talk of networking among the left this year, it would seem that we forgot to recognize that the *Post* has been doing it all along. Thanks again.

# 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 you 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.

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

### 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

### Doctors and 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. Witton 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. Jerome 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

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

# Dear Ms. Hippie:

Dear Ms. Hippie:

Please find enclosed 6 pristine issues of *Harley Women*, numbers 1-6. These should have collector's value. I was thinking of placing a notice in the "Classy Fried Ads" section advertising these for sale. I figured selling them for cover price would be reasonable, proceeds to be forwarded to Post Amerikan Relief Fund (National Endowment for Anarchists).

In fact, have you folks considered soliciting unwanted—but saleable—goods as contributions for a Post Amerikan Relief Fund yard sale (autumn??) I'm sure a suitable location for the sale can be found.

For instance, I have a number of very good books I can forward to PA. If you should publish a call for contributions, I will send them on.

The idea behind the Relief Fund is that even though many of our readers are strapped for funds, they may be in a position to send saleable items. In fact, you all might even consider offering a free year's subscription for contributions that fetch beyond the cost of the subscription???

I am a 44 year old ex-bank robber with a 16-40 year sentence. I am financially supporting a woman and her adopted daughter (3 years old) in Nicaragua. To have an appreciable impact on their lives, I send a considerable amount of funds (via personal emissary) every 3-4 months.

Even though I am working for establishment pigs, I send the proceeds to victims of U. S. aggression (\$900 per year), thereby liberating some money out of this system. Rather than spend this money supporting capitalism by buying crap out of the prison commissary or ordering other crap from department stores, I'm brightening someone's life. What do you think of this dialectic, Ms. Hippie?

I really love your column and PA, too.

Love and peace to you and all,

Mike L.

Dear Mike,

You're clearly doing your bit to improve the world, and you've done even more by publicizing your actions in the *Post*. Ms. Hippie doubts that capitalism will come to a grinding halt due to your altruism (considering that the super-rich probably have \$900 a month CD budgets), but your program is admirable.

Ms. Hippie sometimes feels that she personally is buying all the medical supplies necessary for El Salvador and Nicaragua and is happy to discover that this is not the case. She will now unearth her Crate and Barrel catalog from the recycling bin and peruse it with zeal. Thanks, dear reader.

Dear Ms. Hippie:

What's a person to do?

Do you believe that certain types of people attract certain types of people? I mean, if there is a pattern in my life with the guys that I meet, do you think that says something about me?

In the last three years, I have had short—VERY short—relationships with or attractions to some real losers who at first seemed quite normal . . . with no good ones in between. Catch this:

--a violent alcoholic knife wielding psycho freak who continues to work at bars so he can cash and consume his paycheck at work.

--a manipulative, sex-crazed, racist, sexist, pig who has a record of 5 past lovers being institutionalized after dating him (I escaped with only slight emotional trauma).

--a born again christian who after restoring his faith in the Catholic Church cheated on his lovers and slept around a great deal. One day we went to Micheleo's for a lunch special—he prayed at lengths before eating.

--a terribly misguided capitalist pig who thought he could make it rich by becoming a teacher. The funny thing is is that he has become rich. Brand new car, home, clothes, lots of cash. But he doesn't like his job—doesn't care about his students—not much regard for education. And then he asks me if I can buy him a beer when we go out.

But wait! Could things be changing? Check this one out:

--he's smart, kind, he makes me laugh, he's attractive, creative, great taste, has goals for his life. The problem? He's not attracted to me. Plain and simple.

So what do you think, Ms. H? What are your theories about who attracts whom? Am I too picky? Should I lower my standards? Is this my problem or should I quickly try to avoid taking all responsibility for this situation?

What's a person to do?

Dear WAPTD,

I would be more alarmed if your pattern of lovers were not so varied. Your taste for diversity is encouraging.

My only advise is unfortunately obvious. There is no Rule-Book-o-Love, and most everyone experiences a degree of trial and error before stumbling upon a suitable companion. So you've experienced a bit more error through your trials than others. So what. The 90's are here. Be as selfish and picky as you want. Don't go lowering your standards. Your past lovers can't say that much about you, unless you think your taste in lovers hasn't changed, which judging from the assortment, doesn't seem likely.

Keep in mind that instead of several traumatic if not colorful short relationships in a three years, you could have been tied down to some jerk the whole time in a stagnant relationship. Your life could be so entangled you wouldn't know how to escape in one piece. This may not seem encouraging, but I think that you have escaped your love affairs with at least your sense intact. You did, after all, have the sense to write Miss Hippie. You've probably learned at least something from these experiences, if only what you don't want, and I think that's as important as anything.

Dear Ms. Hippie:

Should a person ever forget his or her politics for the purpose of personal advancement? Under what circumstances is the politically correct or politically unsound?

Waiting on the political sidelines

Dear WOTPS,

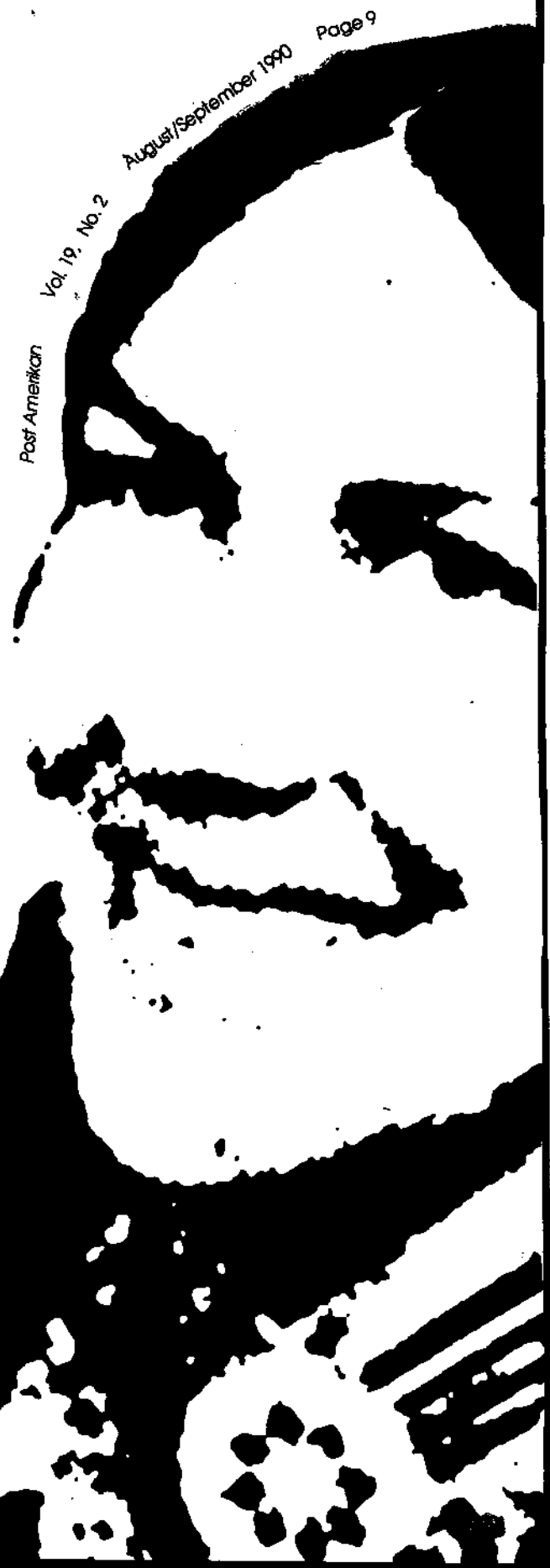
Ms. Hippie always appreciates questions in which she can draw from her extensive knowledge of all things philosophical and spiritual, especially her interpretation of eastern philosophy. The answer, my friend, lies within Zen. The only absolute in life is Zen, the nothingness.

Let me expound, at length. Life is a compromise. Despite our best efforts, our lives are forever tied up in the good and evil of this world. It is impossible to do anything good without there in turn being some evil done. Even the most die-hard vegetarians, on their way to the animal rights rally in D.C., kill countless bugs on the windshield of their VW bus, and stock their travel cooler with 20th century food products that at one time, in the distant past, were tested on a helpless lower life form in a dark and cruel laboratory.

Everyone must make choices daily on how much to compromise personal values, on every level from what we eat to how we deal with our own personal advancement. It is futile to try to live a life of absolutely perfect politics, for I have found that nothing in life is absolute

What was your question? Oh, yes. When dealing with one's politics, many have realized that by making certain compromises, by occasionally putting aside one's views, one can advance into a position of power in which larger change can be more easily accomplished. However, no matter how large or small the compromise, you must never forget that you had to put aside your politics for personal advancement. When you have advanced into a better position, remember the personal compromises you made, and use your new powers to make amends.

The answer then is no, don't forget your politics for the purpose of personal advancement. However, keeping in mind Zen, remember nothing in life is absolute, and an occasional "evil" may be necessary to add to the common good.



Post Amerikan  
Vol. 19, No. 2  
August/September 1990  
Page 9

"IN HIP WE TRUST"

# The Feminist Primer #8

## P is for . . . Post Amerikan.

Given the age it's grown up in, the Post has warmly embraced feminism in all but its most virulent forms. Throughout the years, women have usually been in the majority on the paper's staff, and women's issues have been prominent in its pages from the very beginning. The first series of local exposés concerned a local gynecologist who showed leering interest in the sex lives of his patients—interest that went beyond the professional. Our investigation made us think about our attitudes toward going up against the powerful forces in the community, about how and whether to validate women's reports of their experiences (many called and wrote in about this doctor), about how long to keep the issue alive in the paper, about how to follow up our reportage with action. These are weighty concerns, and they led to more reflection than many radical groups engaged in during the early 70s.

Another of our early local causes was defending the first amendment rights of the dirty book store. Today many would say that pornography is anti-female, and many of us said that back then, too. However, the staff, being a newspaper staff, felt that freedom of the press was crucial. We joyfully endorsed the right of the porno store to go about its sleazy business. When it got busted and the paddy wagon came and impounded the sex magazines, we got a priceless shot of a cop sitting in the paddy wagon browsing through one. The picture graced our next front cover, with the caption, "What kind of man reads smut?"

Since our feminist position has always included men, we've nauseated separatists. A woman in Bloomington wrote in to say that she did not even want to see pictures of men in the Post Amerikan. We were gleefully tempted to buy her a subscription to Alaska Men, but refrained.

Lightheartedness energizes the Post and always has: this means that some people don't feel at ease. We have lost female staff members who did not want direction from men on the paper. We have lost males who didn't get enough automatic respect. We have lost Marxists who despaired at our muddled, pluralistic politics. We have lost Christians who were surprised by the depth and durability of our paganism. We have probably lost straight people who couldn't stand our screeching-queen gossip sessions, and we have probably lost gay people who couldn't bear another moment of our fashion illiteracy.

With our robust but blurry endorsement of human rights, including women's rights, we have survived a long time. And face it, when you have a paper to get out, it's great to have a lot of women around.

-- Phoebe Caulfield



## Q is for . . . Queen.

The queen bee, the perfect female of her colony, will kill another queen who attempts to invade her territory. Queen Mary I, better known as Bloody Mary, killed 300 people because of religious politics. But the queen of the drag, who rules her own kind of land—*she would just kill for those shoes, honey!*

On the surface, the queen seems to promote extreme stereotypes and may not be what some desire as a representation of women today: extravagant hair styles, the face paint and jewelry, the spike heels and revealing black evening gown, maybe a fur. She may be a bit loud, and her gait and poise draw a great deal of attention.

Many gay men have little tolerance for her. They blame her for the stereotypes attributed to them in the media. They laugh and poke fun at her because "she REALLY couldn't cut it as a guy." And there is the testosterone boost at her expense: "If I wanted a woman, I would get a woman."

Many others are just plainly confused by her: What am I supposed to say. He or she? I wish he was comfortable with who he is. He must really not like himself to go to such extremes. The least he could do is dress like a normal woman. Where did he buy those clothes? What bathroom do they use?

But of course, good feminists who practice the ways of The Feminist Primer look at her in a different light. Good feminists see a bold, colorful, creative, socially significant, take-charge kind of human being.

It's amazing that people think the queen is anything but strong and courageous. She really has no choice. It's tough belonging to any non-mainstream population. But she belongs to a group who has little sense of community to turn



**St. Merry Erection**

to. Because of bigotry and confusion, she is often dismissed by women, shunned by men, both straight and gay/lesbian.

When she's in drag, though, she likes herself. She has taken control to construct her own sexuality—or as she might say, "Fucked with Mother Nature's ideas of gender . . . just a bit." She has empowered herself with a sense of dignity that no one can touch. She stands out—if she is being true to her feelings, invisibility is not really an option. It's not a matter of someone wanting to be someone else or wanting to be something that they aren't. She wants to be herself, and she is being who she is.

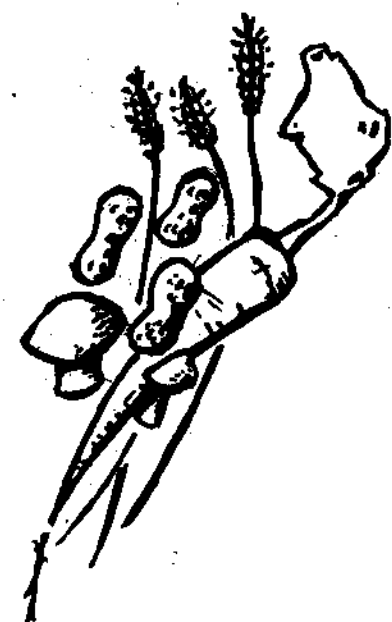
It was this sense of empowerment and courage and pride and color that all met with anger at the Stonewall Inn in the summer of '69. Constant harassment by the cops pushed the queens far enough to hike up their skirts and kick off their heels and fight the pigs who had dared to take away their sense of human dignity. They chose to fight knowing that there may be no one willing to fight along with them, but knowing that their fight was right. And the fight was not only for the queens, but for human beings who had ever been and would ever be oppressed—for being themselves.

*So just try to fuck with that, honey!*

--Skeet Floyd

• Herbs • Spices • Fruits • Vegetables • Nuts

Soaps • Coffees • Breads • Beans



## Common Ground

NATURAL FOODS

516 N. Main St.  
Bloomington, Ill. 61701  
829-2621

Soaps • Coffees • Breads • Beans

Lowest price on gourmet coffee beans in town  
Cruelty-free products—no animal testing  
Wide book selection—health, cooking, vegetarian  
Wide variety of spices—considerably lower priced than packaged brands

• Vitamins • Grains • Flours • Shampoos



# So, shut up and deal

Life's tough. Three out of three people die, so shut up and deal.

—Ring Lardner

People who have confronted the suddenness and capriciousness of death up close—for example, foreign correspondents and war veterans, survivors of earthquakes and hurricanes, famine-relief workers and paramedics—typically cite their initiatory experiences in "the field" as *that moment* which made them truly appreciate the fragility of life and the total, inexplicable randomness of fate.

Unlike them, however, I've experienced no singular trauma, suffered no epiphanic crisis that would account for my markedly increasing realization of how little time, really, I have left and how much I still want to do.

Suddenly, mortality for me is being measured out not in coffee spoons but in coffee mugs. In the last four years, I've taken my Ph.D., seen three sets of good friends have children, watched both my younger sister and my niece get married. I've discussed tax shelters and retirement plans—my own as well as theirs—with my sisters. I've watched the most bohemian of my friends buy houses and buildings for investment purposes.

This year I realized with a shock that I am truly old enough to have been most of my students' mother(s). In another month, my niece will make my older sister a grandmother and my younger sister and me great aunts.

All of these events mark the passage of my time. They drive home to me that despite all our best efforts, inexorably, at times unwittingly, we become grown-ups. Thus we make that bemused transition to the downside of the ageing process.

So, I've been asking myself lately just how it is that suddenly, when I wasn't looking, I became thirty-five. I actively wonder what impact this shock of recognition will have on me, and what use I make of the forty years or so I probably have left. After all, when Dante was my age, he'd already begun the *Divine Comedy* and assured himself of earthly posterity. When Mozart was my age he was already dead, leaving behind him his extraordinary, enduring opus. When Virginia Woolf was my age, she'd already started glowing with the intellectual and literary phosphorescence of a great mind entering its

prime. Those of her contemporaries who cared about such things could observe a new star rising in the modernist sky. And the novels that would assure her vaunting reputation—*Mrs. Dalloway*, *To The Lighthouse*, *The Waves*—yet lay before her, waiting to be written.

Lately, I've been watching friends from graduate school advance their careers. They publish articles and attend conferences and generally watch their reputations grow, enjoying the comparative fame that they've been working so very hard to achieve. Yet I still watch from the vantage point of one still slogging away, struggling as one who has yet to break through the barriers, one who has not yet arrived, and perhaps never will. I observe my more successful friends with pleasure and satisfaction, both vicarious and disinterested, yet tempered, I am almost ashamed to admit, by more than a little envy.

Here I sit, then, roughly halfway through my life, feeling mortality breathing down my neck, assessing what I want to accomplish, what I want to do, and what I want my life to have meant. I can laugh at my feeling a little bit whiny about it all, laugh at my cold-water-thrown-in-my-face-confrontation with the finiteness of my own life.

What has added poignancy to my otherwise amusing intimations of mortality, however, is my observing the growing frailty of my parents, who are in their early seventies and not so very old. During my last several visits with them, for both family gatherings and family crises, I've gradually become aware that our roles are shifting in ways typical for most of us with ageing mothers and fathers. My parents are less and less my parents, and I am less and less their child.

The other night my friend Laurie asked me if I still "wanted my mommy." I replied "No, but sometimes I still want my daddy." As she explained to me what she meant, she touched on the very issues with which I was struggling to come to grips.

She said she sometimes wakes up in the middle of the night in an absolute panic about something or other, longing to make a four-in-the-morning-phone call to her mother. Instead, even though she could make that call, she of course soothes herself, she becomes her own mommy. She tells herself that everything will be all right, even when she knows that's a complete lie.



Laurie's eloquent question struck a loud chord in me, for I have had to become my own daddy. Although I still occasionally want to turn to my father for solace, I do so with increasing rarity these days, and never at four in the morning.

A year ago last March, I had to rush back to Cleveland to help care for my parents. My father had been hospitalized with pneumonia and my mother was scheduled to enter Cleveland Clinic for tests for what we mistakenly thought would prove she had pancreatic cancer. During that episode, I became suddenly aware that my father, now so needy and childlike, would never, ever again be my daddy.

After one particularly trying period in that family crisis, I'd called my older sister, crying from frustration and outrage at his refusal to allow me two uninterrupted hours with a friend, over his insisting that I spend every moment with him and my mother, even though their individual crises were long past.

Carolyn pointed out to me that I couldn't let them do that to me, that I had to demand my time to myself, that I couldn't let them manipulate me out of it, that I had to tell myself that they are the children and I am the parent.

So now I look at my parents, frail, slightly doddering, increasingly insular, and see in their thinning hair and stiffening joints and proliferating ailments the signs and indications warning me that sooner than I ever thought possible, I will no longer be somebody's child. In a very real, very existential sense, I too am now all alone in the world.

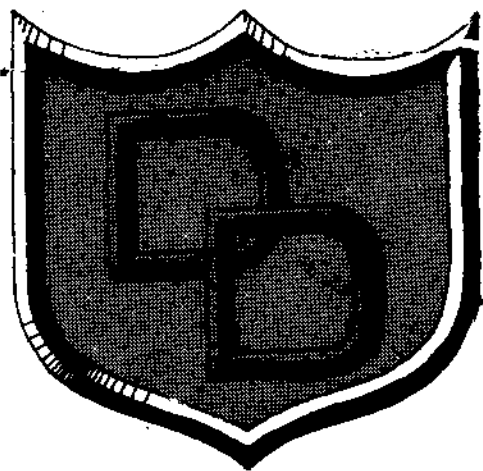
With childhood's end of course comes prerequisite knowledge that I really do have to plan for my future, even though I've barely started my career. With childhood's passing also comes the even more important realization that my parents may indeed be largely responsible for shaping my personality. My Catholic education more than likely informed my world view. Conversely, with childhood's passing, I realize that no matter what their origin, it is now my responsibility to change personality quirks and habits I don't find productive, to toss out the psychic baggage I now find excessive, to cut my personal losses and begin the game anew.

Poker hands, like the universe, may be random, but if you pay attention and take into account variables and probability, you can learn to calculate the odds with reasonable accuracy. So it's my turn to sit down at Lardner's poker table, to steel myself to the tasks before me, to stop whining about that last, lousy hand I got dealt. I have to start shuffling for all I'm worth. No complaints now, because I'm the dealer for this round.

—Deborah Wilson

## Diesel Dick's

we specialize in GM diesel car repair



complete automotive and truck service

gas and diesel

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

foreign and domestic

# Confessions of a straight,

Early one morning around a quarter past puberty, I awoke and was powerful. I wasn't quite aware of it—I didn't feel powerful and wasn't prepared to take advantage of it, but there it was. Slowly, I began to notice it and the way people reacted to it. Somehow I had been given a carte blanche authority on any issue over any woman or person of color. When I was young, it seemed a strange phenomenon; as I grew older, a cruel institution.

So, I grew to understand this society. And, with time I came to feel I was absolved of any guilt or responsibility because of my understanding, because I was "in the know." Without putting it into words, I thought I had joined some imaginary club of non-threatening, non-authoritarian white males. It was with this conviction that I argued my innocence as a non-rapist in a conversation with a friend. She seemed to be of the feeling that I was obligated to cross the street at night rather than follow behind a woman walking alone.

"But I'm not threatening her."

"But you are."

"I'm not doing anything."

"She's listening to your footsteps and wondering what you're going to do next."

"But why should I have to go out of my way because of something other people, other men do?"

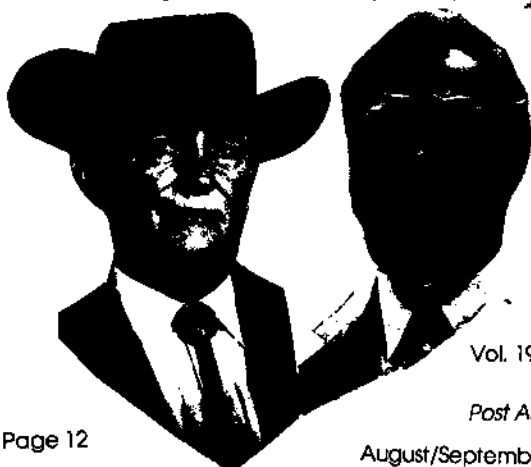
"Because she's scared."

And it went on. I understood the idea, of course, that if I could avoid frightening someone I should. But I didn't want to have to feel guilty about my presence on the street. And if there were a class of bad people I certainly didn't want to be a member.

I came to envy the unity of the oppressed—the unity that makes blacks follow Reverend Farrakhan, that makes black women proud of Wattleton. Non-straight and non-male persons got to celebrate films and books that addressed their lives and issues, and such issues seemed somehow more commendable than the mainstream. They got to feel good about such things while I could only intellectually address the importance of this work coming out of such a time when blah, blah, blah, blah. O, to be a Latina lesbian! At best, I was "responsible." At worst, it was "a black (homosexual, woman) thing, I wouldn't understand."

I realize now the problem which had long eluded me. Sure, if I as a powermonger-corporate-elite-white-collar-cannibal, none of these would have troubled me. But I'm not, and it's a strange thing to have authority you never asked for and don't want. I am the man man-haters hate, the slave owner, and the heterosexual in a heterosexist society all rolled into one. When I speak the words I say come from the mouth of a straight white male and are treated as such. Although such treatment works to my advantage, I too am being judged on something other than my own merits. In a sense I came to see myself in the position I had long admired: I was bound by the power structure but privileged with the will to challenge it.

At times I find myself feeling a certain unity with my class. I hesitate to say "the white man is my brother," but only because of the reaction I would get. Still this is what I am and this is what I identify with. As far as gender-specific and cultural-based tendencies exist, I have the SWM ones. The point is that I am not involuntarily, and unalterably an oppressive



Vol. 19, No. 2

Post American

August/September 1990

Page 12

pig, but that it takes a certain awareness and a degree of conscious effort to get past the mind set with which all us SWM's have been indoctrinated. Any understanding I might have of minority issues has come to me second hand. To say that all people should have equal respect and opportunity is for me at first an intellectual claim and only later an emotional one.

Recently a friend of mine left her husband. He is controlling and manipulative. Counselling and a trial separation didn't work which left divorce. As much as I supported her taking action for herself, I found myself thinking about him as I helped her move. Not that I felt he was being wronged, not that I even liked him. But I felt an understanding for him. I can't imagine what it would be like to gather the strength to walk out of a marriage, but I can imagine what it would be like to watch your wife and daughter walk out the door and feel that you had failed not only in your personal life but in what you, as a man, are supposed to be capable of. To be strong, to be the provider, to be either the man you thought your father was or the man you swore you'd be because he wasn't.

I've felt the nervous anger that comes with finding you've lost control, when all your life you've been told to be in control. And I've felt the confusion that comes with finding that anger within you. It's not something you talk about because the last thing anyone wants to hear about is the plight of the straight white male, but there it is.

please don't get me wrong. The last thing I want to do is start prioritizing the negative effects of stereotypes, even if I was I wouldn't try to claim any ground. Just because I claim that I'm not being judged by my own merits doesn't mean that I don't realize who's getting the long end of the stick . . . .

In this nation we are all defined by a structure which defines not only who will be oppressed but who will do the oppressing. If the oppressed are to rise, if the blacks and lesbians and gays and women and Hispanics and differently abled and poor and homeless and youth and senior citizens and everyone else who makes up the



foundation of the structure are going to rise up against it (as they must) then they must do so together. Such a growing unity is evidenced by the growing multi-issue focus of activist groups: the strength of ACT UP women's caucus, the Progressive Student Network chanting "Money for books, not for war, U.S. out of El Salvador" outside of the Dept. of Education in Washington. Such strengths is evidenced by the very existence of the Vietnam Vets Against War and the fear of opposition in Jesse Helms' eyes.

But if we are to be united in a struggle against the power, we must also realize what power does to those who have it. Those who get authority are also twisted by the capacity to use that authority. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. I've come to see my own confusion at being given special privileges, and have worked to see past it. Such an understanding is integral to seeing the power structure and its inherent injustices, for what it is. And this understanding will not be possible unless we recognize the differences between the structure and then people in the structure, and the individual problems of each.

Try to see that the straight white male who stands his ground and hold his own all the while going for gusto, may not realize that he doesn't have to. Try to empathize with the straight white male, with any member of the oppressive class, who looks back in surprise and says "who? you don't mean me, do you?" Try to separate the way he behaves from the reasons why he adopts such behavior. Consider both him and the forces which have dictated to him how he should behave and what he should say.



## do you swing?

All right. So you've finally both a stock portfolio and a money market fund. You're thinking about property values and tax shelters, and were disconcerted to hear that your old college friend's parents voted for Jesse Jackson in the 1988 Presidential Primary. But does that mean you're a latent Republican? Take our quiz and determine once and for all where you stand.

1.) You are invited to a masquerade party. You choose your costume and go:  
 A) as a pregnant nun.  
 B) in one of those flabby rubber Reagan masks.  
 C) as Mr. Rochester from Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*.  
 D) as yourself, feeling that dressing up in a silly costume is beneath your dignity.

2.) Now that Justice Brennan has resigned from the Supreme Court, and you realize that Justices Marshall and Blackmun are also in their eighties, you've been mulling over who you'd like to see on the Supreme Court to take up the slack. You'd choose:  
 A) Barbara Jordan.  
 B) Phyllis Schlafly.  
 C) Nancy Reagan.  
 D) Lynn Martin.

## Quiz: How far right

# white male



The people in power aren't the target so much as the institution which gave them the power. Know thine enemy, and realize we're all in this together.

--Babakuul



3) You've been watching the Louisiana State Legislature's anti-abortion maneuvers with great interest. If you were Governor Buddy Roemer's assistant, you could tell him that there is an ulterior motive behind the Legislature's attempts to recuperate *Roe v. Wade* categorically (initially, the Legislature sought to ban abortion even in cases of rape and incest). The Legislature seeks to ban abortions in Louisiana because

- A) if victims of rape and/or incest were permitted legal access to abortion, the population would decline too precipitously.
- B) those southern gentlemen want to make those wanton women pay for having been foolish enough to have believed them when they said: "Don't worry. I just forgot to bring my 'proof-of-vasectomy' card with me."
- C) it believes in the sanctity of precious male seed.
- D) as did Mark Twain, they know that keeping women barefoot isn't enough.

4) You visit an exhibition at your local university art gallery. This exhibition includes a work depicting a glorious male nude dousing the flames of an American flag in the same manner Gulliver used to douse the flames of the Lilliputian Queen's palace apartments. Your reaction is to

- A) storm the administrative office and demand the resignation of the gallery's curators.
- B) attribute it all in a letter to the editor of the local paper to the work of the international Jewish art conspiracy.
- C) enjoy the diverse perspectives of artists in a free society utilizing their first amendment rights.
- D) dismiss the image as crude and tasteless, asserting vehemently that Cervantes never intended that anyway.

5) You're Christmas shopping for your significant other. Your idea of a gift that expresses your deepest feelings for him or her is

- A) a well-chosen, if modest, blue-chip stock portfolio.
- B) a mutual fund certificate for Acorn Trust.
- C) a beautiful fur coat.
- D) a Volvo sedan.

6) You're in charge of planning the menu for a benefit dinner-- at \$200 a plate-- for your favorite charity. Your menu is sure to include

- A) Beluga caviar.
- B) salmon mousse and kiwi tart.
- C) broccoli.
- D) escabeche.

7) As far as you're concerned, the single most important characteristic for a mate is

- A) earning potential.
- B) sexual prowess.
- C) family background.
- D) when s/he looks at you, you shiver all over.

8) You buy a building so you can have your own downtown loft. Why pick a loft over that cute little condo in the 'burbs?

- A) you got a hot tip that property values in downtown Bloomington are going to skyrocket in the 90's.
- B) so you can play improvisational jazz late at night without your troglodyte neighbor stomping upstairs yelling "Hey! Whut duh fuck?"
- C) you figure renting the street-level units to commercial enterprises will guarantee your mortgage payments.
- D) if it doesn't work out, you figure you can hire an arsonist and get the insurance money. After all, who's going to notice one more building?

9) Your sister asks you to give your 10 year old niece and/or nephew a "Just Say No To Drugs" Lecture. You tell him/her that

- A) you once knew a girl in grade school who took one toke on a joint. She has spent her days ever since in the locked ward of the State Asylum for the Criminally Insane.
- B) smoking marijuana can nix your shot at a Supreme Court appointment.
- C) there's a reason why they call it *dope*.
- D) they can't get good dope on what they get for an allowance. Better ask for a raise.

10) Where do you stand on sex education and birth control clinics in public schools?

- A) if we would tell children just to keep their hands out of their pants, problems like AIDS, the highest teenage pregnancy rate of any similarly industrialized nation, and overpopulation would magically disappear.
- B) we should tell *girls* that birth control should be outlawed because girls should pay for their fun.
- C) you think that they're an absolute necessity. In fact, you've launched a letter-writing campaign trying to convince General Foods/General Mills to include condoms and AIDS Prevention/Birth Control Pamphlets as premiums in cereal boxes.
- D) we should tell *boys* that if she's dumb enough to let you talk her into without getting that ring on her finger first, she deserves whatever she gets.

11) You're shopping for your very first new car. You ultimately choose

- A) a Saab convertible in gunmetal gray.
- B) a Toyota 4Runner.
- C) a Chrysler LeBaron convertible--red, with black roof and interiors.
- D) a Volvo station wagon.

Answers: Scores run from 1-4, 4 being the highest. The higher your score, the higher your right-wing potential.

1) (a) 4 This joke's so old it's got gray hairs, and using it would show a distinct lack of imagination. Therefore, it is an ideal conservative choice. (b) 1 A good conservative doesn't make fun of Republican presidents, past or present, no matter how much they may deserve it. A Carter mask maybe, but a Reagan mask? Never. (c) 3 You should be too busy reading the *Wall Street Journal* or *Liar's Poker* to be up on your literary figures. (d) 2 Right wingers are always trying to convince the rest of the world they have a sense of humor, which results in dull jokes and excessive drinking at parties, which in turn is followed by a series of regrettable acts, which then results in sober denials, renewed conservative fervor and more oppressive legislation.

2) (a) 2 Too eloquent, too erudite, too intelligent, too female, and above all, too black. (b) 3 Good choice, but remember--by her own admission a woman's proper place is in the home, though we're sure Ms. Schlafly would bring herself somehow to make that great sacrifice for the good of us all. (c) 1 Get real. She already had "Her Turn." (d) 4 A perfectly mediocre candidate who will endear herself to the American public by protecting our inalienable right to racist mascots.

3) (a) 4 Seems like a real slam, we know, but you wouldn't want all those fine old families to die out, would you? (b) 3 You ought to know, though, that there's no such thing as a gentleman anymore, southern or otherwise. (c) 2 Even though they're not willing to increase Medicaid budgets for impoverished women's prenatal care or for school enrichment programs. (d) 1 You try leaving *your* husband in your ninth month. Even simple things like going to the teller's window at the bank to take out your half from the joint accounts or loading up the station wagon would defeat you.

4) (a) 4 Truly reactionary. (b) 3 Equally reactionary, but just a little bit potty. (c) 1 Since when do rightwingers seek to protect first amendment rights? (d) 2 It was Swift, not Cervantes. Now you can add illiteracy to your list of shortcomings.

5) (a) 3 You learned your lesson from Boesky, Trump and the Helmsley s--conspicuous greed is not good. But that doesn't mean you can overlook a sure thing. (b) 2 Since when do you care whether you're investing in South Africa, Nuclear Power Plants or the Defense Industry? It's the profit margin that matters. (c) 4 None of this silly PETA propaganda for you. (d) 1 Just can't shake those lefty sympathies, can you?

6) (a) 4 Doing your part to support Perestroika? (b) 2 It's tempting, but everyone who's anyone knows California Cuisine is *passee*. (c) 3 Shouldn't you show a little more respect for your President? (d) 1 That's it. Choose a dish that would make a Colombian drug lord feel right at home.

7) (a) 4 Your mama didn't raise no fool. (b) 2 Sex is for procreation, not recreation. Didn't Sister Pancrätius teach you *anything*? (c) 3 Good. A well-connected family can smooth over many an unfortunate youthful peccadillo. (d) 1 What's love got to do with it?

8) (a) 3 Your motivations are good, but you'd be wise to check out that tip. (b) 1 You should be looking to your stock portfolio, rather than wasting your time with improvisational jazz. (c) 2 Rent to solid commercial enterprises in downtown Bloomington? You're a dreamer, not a Republican. (d) 4 With ethics like yours, you'll go far.

9) (a) 2 Sure. And you believed Sister Anuncia's story about the girl who was so holy that God took away her periods, too. (b) 4 True. But if we use this sort of thing as a litmus test, we won't be able to get any qualified people under 70 for the job. (c) 3 Simplistic, evasive answers like this make for great political campaign sound-bytes. (d) 1 Now you know better than to meddle in your sister's family life.

10) (a) 4 And people say Phyllis Schlafly speaks before she thinks. (b) 3 A man's gotta know whether or not it's his, doesn't he? (c) 1 This could get your John Birch Society Card revoked. (d) 2 You're a member of the Louisiana State Legislature, aren't you?

11) 3 Good choice. They hold their value, but the temptation to break the law by speeding might prove to be too much. (b) 1 You should know better than that. The Japanese are buying us out as it is. Shame on you. (c) 4 Obviously, Lee Iacocca's autobiography is your nightly bedtime reading. (d) 2 Backsliding into liberalism, are we? Bet you did real well on the *Post Amerikan* Lefty Quiz, didn't you?

Scoring: 36-44: You've been outed. May as well admit to it and join the Rotarians. 32-36 If you're not subscribing to the *Post*, renew ASAP. There's hope for you yet. 28-32: We're all human. 1-10: Why did you bother to take this test? There's nothing wrong with you.

# Letters:

## Lynn Martin, taxes and the defense budget

Dear Editor:

Before Lynn Martin raises our taxes, she should take, a long, hard look at the bloated military budget. She could cut that in half, still have a more than adequate defense, eliminate the deficit, and give the hard-working middle-class a tax cut.

That's right, a tax cut! For you! You pay more taxes than many major corporations. You are the person paying for six new nuclear war heads a day when we already have over 20,000 megatons pointed at the other side of the world.

Thanks to Rep. Lynn Martin's voting record, we are paying for more weapons than [we used in] all of World Wars One and Two, the Civil War, Vietnam and Korea combined, and she is planning on spending over one trillion dollars within the next three years on stuff we won't ever need and couldn't possibly use even if every country in the world declared war on us.

And now she wants to be senator. Tax increase my foot, tell the woman to cut our taxes and take it from the Pentagon.

Sincerely,  
Stanley Campbell  
Rockford, Illinois

## A friend from Florida writes

Dear *Post-Amerikan*,

I have moved to West Palm Beach!

The weather is fine here.

After several years studying Trotskyist literature, I have come to hold the opinion that Trotskyism is revisionist and petty bourgeois. In my opinion, the Revolutionary Communist Party-U.S.A. has the correct ideology to succeed and win the world.

Though I would never try to blackmail other *Post Amerikan* supporters into converting Maoism!

Still I would like to urge young people to try a trial subscription to the *revolutionary Worker*, published in Chicago.

There are a few books published by the RCP that I would like to recommend, *A Horrible End*, or *An End to The Horror*; *Moi's Critique of Soviet Economics*; *Bullets*, a collection of Chairman Ovikan's speeches; and *World To Win* journal.  
Your comrade,  
Richard S. Mote

## Brutality in a Texas prison

Dear Editor,

I'm a prisoner here in Texas, and would like to have you print an article for me in your paper about prison brutality here in Texas prisons. I'm a prisoner up here in Amarillo in a unit called the Bill Clement's Unit. Well, here's the deal.

They got a team of officers that gets suited up in riot gear and runs in on inmates in their cells. Without warning, they just open up the door and run in on people. Protected by their riot gear, they use their plexiglass shields to hit prisoners. If the ranking officer doesn't like you, they'll use this team as a hit team. I myself have been a victim of this malicious act three times.

If you find it in your hearts to let the people out there in the world know what's happening to the boys in the joint, it would sure be mighty helpful.

Yours truly and sincerely,  
Dominic McConnell

# Community News

## Free El Salvador now!

It's business as usual in the land of government by death squad. Our Amerikan sponsor-state continues to pump the dough and equipment into a system that assassinates on the average of ten citizens per day (over three thousand in the last year) and is rapidly turning generals into some of the richest men in the country. The Social Provision Institute of the Armed Forces (IPSFA) has become one of Latin America's financial success stories. Enriched by the 20,000 new recruits that pass into the brigades each year, the fund has become a money tree, growing into more than \$100 million by the end of 1988.

"They're the biggest source of liquid capital in the country," says one Salvadoran businessman. "They've got so much money they don't know where to put it."

So the military has been buying property: estates once belonging to the old oligarchy; prime real estate in San Salvador's suburbs. Last year the military paid \$2 million for an oceanside resort, the Pacific Paradise, and is developing a 500-lot housing development in the suburbs.

Get this: a new capitalist class with its roots in a genocidal military ethic with its "original accumulation" gratis, thanks to the generosity of the sinister Amerikan state and the oblivious Amerikan taxpayer. This is why even parts of the old oligarchy want to negotiate. This is why Cristiani has no control over the military. This is why the military will never negotiate in good faith. This is why the only solution to the problem is probably a victory by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

A victory by the FMLN is no doubt unlikely as long as Amerikan hardware arrives on a daily basis. But that's where we come in. Next fall, the House and Senate will be taking up the question of aid to El Salvador again. As part of its Free El Salvador NOW campaign, CISPES is calling for nationwide local actions of protest focusing on the Congress on September 14. In these protests, we will call for an end to all aid.

So keep that date open on your calendar, and remember, if you want to know who pays for murder in El Salvador, ask your Congressman. In particular, ask Alan Dixon, 316 Hart Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510. The good senator can't seem to make up his mind about priest killers.

-Teddyboy

Information taken from "El Salvador Army: Ranks of Corruption," Joel Millman, special to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Dec. 13, 1987.

# News from McLean Co. AIDS Task Force

## AIDS Task Force Training Slated

The McLean County AIDS Task Force will hold its training for phoneline volunteers on Saturday, September 8, and Saturday September 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Fairchild Hall Lounge at Illinois State University. Persons interested in attending the training should phone the task force at 827-4005 or write to P.O. Box 304, Bloomington, IL 61702 to request an application.

The McLean County AIDS Task Force is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to answer questions about HIV infection and AIDS. Trained volunteers are on duty to offer information, support and referrals. All calls are completely confidential. For further information, call 827-4005 and ask for the McLean County AIDS Task Force.

## AIDS Awareness Week

The McLean County AIDS Task Force is once again planning AIDS Awareness Week for the first week in October. While not all events have been confirmed at this time, you can look forward to an art show featuring work by local artists at University Galleries of Illinois State University (110 Center for the Visual Arts), Gallery II. An opening reception will be held Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.

Also scheduled is a benefit concert at The Gallery, 111 E. Beaufort in Normal. The concert will be the evening of Thursday, October 4. Bands will be announced soon.

Keep your eyes open for more information as October draws near. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help with AIDS Awareness Week should call 827-4005 and ask for the McLean County AIDS Task Force.

In addition to the other activities slated for AIDS Awareness Week, PACT (Performance Actors Coalition Theatre) is seeking a director and actors interested in staging a production of one or more dramas concerned with the issue of AIDS. For more information, contact Sherrin Fitzer, 828-4473, and watch for posting calling for auditions.



## Fashion interviewees needed

Remember corsets, hobble skirts, cloche hats, pleated pants, wide ties, snoods, pedal pushers, bermuda shorts, pill box hats, Capezios, mini-skirts, bell bottoms, or dashikis?

Two writers wish to interview women and men for an oral history project about every day clothing and fashion before 1970. Pick your favorite period and tell us about the everyday clothes you wore—where you bought them, how much they cost, your favorite garments—any memories you associated with particular items of clothing. Photographs and original garments are helpful, but not necessary. For more information about the project, call Brian Simpson or Rochelle Hartman at 454-7393.

# 1990 Cultural fest/ Gospel fest

Join in the celebration of the eleventh annual Bloomington Cultural Festival! This year the Cultural Festival will be held on Saturday, August 25, and Sunday, August 26, 1990 at Miller Park. Saturday's entertainment will be a Talent Showcase including contemporary music and local singers and dancers from noon to 9:00 p.m., gospel groups from around the state will perform at the Bandstand.

The primary goal of Culture Fest, Inc., is to serve the community through education, art, music, forums and exhibits to establish better community relations. Community agencies, organizations and businesses are invited to set up a display or informational booth at the Cultural Festival. Sales of food are prohibited but free samples or giveaways such as coupons

or advertising materials are encouraged. This will provide an excellent opportunity for the community to become familiar with the services or products you have to offer. Last year, over two thousand people attended the two day festivities.

The 1990 Cultural Fest/Gospel Fest will be held on Saturday, August 25, from 12 noon to 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 26, 1990 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Both programs will be held at the Miller Park Bandstand, Bloomington, IL.

The featured group for the Gospel Fest will be "Rapture" of Carbondale, IL. Also performing will be the Twin City Mass Choir, A Puppet Ministry and Gospel Choirs from the Central Illinois area.



Rain Location: Bloomington High School Auditorium  
Rain Time: 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Admission is free.

For more information contact:  
Lee Otis Brewer  
828-8465 (evenings or leave message)

## Important stuff at ISU

GET TO KNOW THESE GROUPS!

American Civil Liberties Union  
1424 Kingsbridge Drive  
Normal, IL. 61761  
(309) 454-7223

Amnesty International  
Contact Person:  
Shelle Herman  
348 Walker Hall  
Illinois State University  
Normal, IL. 61761-6901

Black Student Union  
Illinois State University Multi-Cultural Center  
305 N. School Street  
(309) 438-5686

CISPES  
September 14-National Call to Action-Senate  
Aid Vote-Local Action-Chicago-Focus: Senator  
Dixon-Call to end all aid

October 13-Chicago/Midwest CISPES Walk-A-  
Thon to raise money for Health Care Project for  
FMLN and other projects, and to organize  
projects for popular movement.

for information contact  
ISU Student CISPES  
Contact Person: Gene Olson  
225 N. University, #2C  
Normal, IL. 61761

Progressive Student Union  
First Meeting: Wednesday, August 22, at 8:00  
p.m., 2nd West, Bone Student Center

Contact Person:  
Progressive Student Union  
G. Olson  
225 N. University, #2C  
Normal, IL. 61761



Almond  
Amaretto  
Chocolate  
Chocolate Almond  
Chocolate Mint  
Cinnamon  
Cinnarum  
Coconut  
Hazelnut  
Butter Pecan  
Chocolate Raspberry  
Cappuccino  
Irish Creme  
Apricot Creme  
Apricot Almond  
Orange  
Kahlua and Creme  
Macadamia Nut  
Vanilla  
Emerald Creme  
Vanilla Nut  
Chocolate Moose  
Decafs -  
Flavored &  
Regular

## WELCOME TO THE UNHURRIED ATMOSPHERE OF



### the Coffeehouse

114 E. Beaufort  
Normal, IL 61761

#### ESPRESSO BAR

Espresso  
Cappuccino  
Hot Chocolate

#### ICED DRINKS

Homemade Lemonade  
Iced Coffee  
Iced Cappuccino  
Earl Grey Ice Tea  
Mango Fruit Ice Tea

#### LITE FOODS

Sandwiches  
Omelette  
Homemade Soups

#### IN STORE BAKERY

Cinnamon Rolls  
Croissants  
Cookies  
Scones  
also carry many  
Cheesecakes

#### ACCESSORIES

Gift Packs  
Filter papers  
Espresso (Cappuccino)  
- Makers  
mugs  
Candies  
Postcards

Currently Featuring  
The Artwork of  
ANDRE LEAIA

Bali  
Columbian  
Costa Rica  
El Salvador  
Ethiopian Harrar  
Ethiopian Yrgacheffe  
Guatemala  
Indian Malabar  
Java Estate  
Celebes Kalosi  
Jamaican  
Hawaii Kona  
Mexican  
Kenya AA  
Kenya Teaberry  
Ethiopian Sidamo  
New Guinea  
Panama  
Sumatra  
Brazil  
Tanzania  
Yemen  
Zimbabwe

Roasts and Blends  
Espresso  
French Roast

**HOURS.** MONDAY-THURSDAY 7am-10pm.  
FRIDAY-SATURDAY 7am-10:30pm  
SUNDAY 9am-9pm. OR LATER

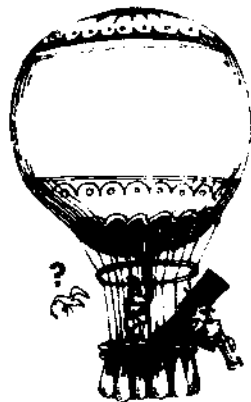
114 E Beaufort Normal 452-6774



# News and bits from Operation Recycle

Page 16

Post American Vol. 19, No. 2 August/September 1990



the people are eager to recycle, it's time to convince the local government that subsidizing a community recycling program is a "proper governmental function. It ought to be their responsibility," as Reitan said.

◆ At the present time, Operation Recycle is making a profit only off of recycling aluminum cans. And even then, aluminum has dropped 3 cents a pound. Although recycling all products is completely necessary for protecting our environment, the recycling of plastic, newspaper, glass, etc. is not turning a profit to aid in the operation costs of OR.

◆ Ryne Tharp, director of OR, is focusing a great deal of his attention toward education about recycling and environmental issues at the city and county level. Carol Reitan of Community Action also stresses the importance of education, hoping to get people to think about recycling beyond what has become the standard: recycling glass, aluminum, newspaper, plastic. For example, both Tharp and Reitan believe that consumers need to be educated about the toxicity of household products and their waste. There are environmentally friendly products that exist as alternatives to toxic household products that consumers need to be aware of.

◆ And what about a community's responsibility to what they use and the waste they produce? Tharp is interested in expanding OR's purpose into more general environmental concerns. For example, Tharp believes that each county should provide for its residents hazardous waste sights/plants where the people can bring their waste to be dealt with properly. The purpose of such a sight would be twofold. First, as Tharp said, "People need to be responsible for what they use instead of shipping it off for someone

else to deal with." And secondly, if people are aware that they have to deal with their own waste rather than sending it down the road to the next county, they may become more conscientious consumers of hazardous products.

◆ Reitan says, "The people of this county are so far ahead of their governments in terms of recycling. The people are eager to recycle, and now the pressure is falling on us [OR]." And Reitan commends the local governments for their support of curbside recycling. However, the curbside recycling program is only good in theory. Without immediate community and financial support of OR, the curbside program creates significant problems. Materials collected from the curbside programs are taken to Midwest Paper Stock Company of Bloomington. However, because the community has become so aware of recycling, those who are NOT on a curbside program eagerly take their materials to OR (Midwest Paper Stock is located on Bunn street outside of the city limits. OR is much more accessible). And of course, this is great for the environment and our community--people want to recycle.

But how will all of these materials from our homes get recycled if OR doesn't have the support it needs to run its operation effectively? Now that OR has brought to the consciousness of the people that they can recycle, and now that

◆ Taking the caps and the small plastic rings off the tops of 2 liter soda bottles will save OR approximately \_\_\_\_\_ hours weekly. The caps and the rings are made of a different type of plastic from the bottle. Workers at OR have to take the time to take the caps and the rings off of these bottles.

◆ Tharp also said that part of OR's education will teach consumers the importance of buying recycled products--what they call in the recycling field, "closing the loop." Tharp stresses that it is important for people to find these recycled materials and to regularly use them. Of course, recycled materials cost a bit more. But if we don't use recycled products, there seems to be little use in recycling in the first place. And when people start buying recycled products, their price will go down.

◆ OR sells compost bins made of recycled wood pallets. OR will order recycled paper for individuals or groups. Last year OR recycled 385,880 pounds of glass, 50,004 pounds of aluminum.

◆ Operation Recycle is planning an open house in the fall to show off some of their new ideas and concepts for keeping our area on the cutting edge of recycling. Keep a look out for details.

◆ "We're going to give them all of the money that they asked for."  
--Jesse Smart's response to Post writer Skeet Floyd at the June 4 Operation Recycle open house when asked what he was planning to do to help Operation Recycle over the next year. Of course, this was an easy out since this money had already been allocated to OR for the year. But what about next year? Let Jesse Smart know that you are concerned about the environment. Let him know that it is the local government's responsibility to maintain funding to OR so that the people can continue to be environmentally responsible. Let Jesse Smart know that you appreciate Operation Recycle.



**OPERATION RECYCLE**

We recycle:

- Newspapers
- Corrugated cardboard
- Non-glossy office paper
- Container glass
- Beverage and food cans
- Plastic milk jugs

**Make a difference for  
our environment.  
Call 829-0691  
(Community Action)  
and find out how!**

McLean County's only  
not-for-profit community  
recycling center

**829-0691**

923 E. Grove  
Bloomington, IL

- Drop offs
- Buyback
- Recycle drives

## AIDS FACTS FOR LIFE

How to reduce your risk for HIV infection, the virus responsible for the development of AIDS

### Practice safer sex

- ☞ reduce the number of sex partners
- ☞ communicate with your sex partner about safer sex
- ☞ consider abstinence as an option
- ☞ use latex condoms properly during any sexual activity preferably with a spermicide containing non-oxynol 9
- ☞ learn which sexual practices are safer than others

### Avoid sharing needles

- ☞ avoid using IV drugs
- ☞ if you do use IV drugs, use you own set-up or cleanse needles between persons with household bleach and water



# Corporate



# fascism

Originally I was going to "rewrite" another version of the above article, allowing the reader to compare and contrast the "corporate" view with the *Post Amerikan's*. But the counter arguments were too easy. I think a "dumb" person is one who feels that it's dangerous to question what we've got in this country. The dumb ones are those who think there is no room for views other than their own. To say that nothing about Amerika can be "knocked," is stupid and dangerous. This kind of company propaganda does not make better employees. It promotes single mindedness and loyalty, while discouraging new ideas and healthy diversity.

— Peter Doubt

With the advent of personal computers and better software, many companies now publish their own in-house newsletters on a weekly basis. In turn, there are now written publications which provide these companies with printable material to fill in the gaps between the company cafeteria menu and pictures from the summer family corporate picnic. Quite often, these articles are geared toward motivating the employee to increase productivity and efficiency on the job.

One such publication, called *IDEAS Unlimited* also includes articles on safety, nutrition and lifestyles. These articles similarly aim to make the company workers better people and, therefore, better employees. The alarming part is that many of these articles are incredibly conservative, if not downright fascist in nature. Below is a particularly bizarre example.

HOW CAN YOU LET HIM SAY SUCH HORRID THINGS?



**The Dumbest Person in the World**  
*How dumb?*  
*Very dumb.*  
*It's the American who knocks what he's got. Here's what he's got:*  
*A country of unbounded beauty.*  
*Almost unlimited natural resources.*  
*A judicial system that is the envy of the rest of the world.*  
*Food so plentiful overeating is a major problem.*  
*A press nobody can dominate.*  
*A ballot box nobody can stuff.*  
*Churches of your choice.*  
*One hundred million jobs.*  
*Freedom to go anywhere you want, with the planes, cars and highways to get you there.*  
*Social Security.*  
*Medicare.*  
*Unemployment insurance.*  
*Public schools and plentiful scholarships.*  
*Opportunity to become a millionaire.*  
*O.K., Complainer, what's your second choice?*  
*Go.*  
 United Technologies Corporation

# Impure thoughts

Welcome to Impure Thoughts, a new and(I hope) regular feature here in the P/A. And what better way to kick off impure thoughts than to talk about homoerotic art?

Something has bothered me about the raging debate over so-called "homoerotic" art. In the Robert Mapplethorpe exhibit, several photographs have been tagged as "homoerotic," including a shot of the artist with a whip protruding from his rectum and one of a man urinating into another man's mouth. I know some people are into that sort of thing, and you won't find any condemnation from me(except for a warning on potential health risks), but speaking as a homo, I don't find it erotic. In a society that classifies(and dismisses) us solely on the basis of who we fuck, it's too bad we've allowed them to pigeonhole all of us into a single category. By the way, have you noticed that things are either "erotic" or "homoerotic"? Why is nothing "heteroerotic"?



COLLECTION THE ESTATE OF ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE  
 Eye of the storm: Self-portrait, 1980

Back to "homoerotic" art. How exactly will the homoerotic content of a work be judged? I envision a new government office-- the Bureau of Homoerotic Weights and Measures. Can't you just see the rejection form for that office? "Dear Sir or Madam, We're sorry, but the erection on your model exceeds government standards by 23 degrees. Please take a cold shower and try again next year." The Helms Amendment makes it illegal to use government money for the production or distribution of "homoerotic" material. But as part of his campaign material, Helms is making copies of several of the Mapplethorpe photos and sending them to his constituents using his Congressional mailing privileges. Who do you suppose is paying for that?

Former CIA director and Republican William Casey died shortly after the Iran-contra scandal broke, of a brain tumor. Republican National Committee Chairman Lee Atwater has recently undergone radiation therapy to treat a brain tumor. Republican former president Ronald Reagan underwent surgery a while ago to drain a fluid buildup on his brain. Does anyone else see a pattern forming here? Do you think the brain damage makes them Republican or does Republicanism cause brain damage?

In the wake of Earth Day and all its festivities (and how many of you have kept up with your pledges to recycle?) it is distressing to see so many companies introducing products which aren't environmentally sound. Such products as Lysol Touch-ups, S.O.S. miniature pads and Pine-Sol Spruce-ups are the latest products with which our throwaway culture is clogging up the landfills. What ever happened to soap and water? My favorite new products are the new varieties of disposable diapers. They have blue pinstripes for boys and pink flowers for girls. Get those stereotyped sex-roles ingrained early!

And finally, we seem to be at the crest of the latest wave of language reform to make the English language less sexist. In principle, I think that's a good idea. But if the women(wimmin? womyn?) want to take "man" out of the language, they have to take the bad with the good. The boys are willing to concede manpower, chairman, and man-hours, but the girls have to take m. hole, manhandle, and manslaughter.

Bye!

—Horny Dilemma

Hey, Folks! It's

# A Creole Feast

benefit dinner for the Post Amerikan

**Saturday, August 18, 7:00 p.m.**  
and  
**Sunday, August 19, 2:00 p.m.**

Host residence: 915 W. Grove, Bloomington

*"every morsel a masterpiece!"*

The *Post's* "Soirée Française" dinner in 1988 is now legendary in the culinary circles of Bloomington-Normal. Well, we're back by popular demand, offering you this rare opportunity to savour the finest creole and cajun cuisine this side of Lake Ponchartrain. Of course, the pleasures of your dining experience will not be limited to the exhilaration of your palate, no! While partaking of *A Creole Feast*, you will find yourself in the stimulating company of other *Post* supporters--perhaps old friends, or possibly new ones! So say "oui, cher!" to robust dining, riveting ideological discussions and rich desserts while you support the local alternative newspaper.

Donation: \$25 per plate--great cause, great food  
Choice of Two Five-Course Meals. Please feel free to bring your own alcoholic beverage, if you wish.

Reservations limited to twelve seats per meal.  
Call now for tickets: 829-9349 or (309) 963-4010.

## Uppers 'n' Downers

**UPPERS** . . . to the Normal Department of Public Works, for its "sign recycling" program. Instead of trashing old street signs, the department reshapes the sign and paints a new sign on the other side, saving money and resources.

**UPPERS** . . . to the PBS series "P.O.V." (Point of View) for its documentary "Metamorphosis: Man into Woman". The film follows a male-to-female transsexual through the sex-reassignment process. **DOWNERS**-- to WTVP in Peoria for choosing not to air it.

**UPPERS** . . . to the show *In Living Color*. Fox takes the lead in progressive network programming, (an oxymoron, I must say). The show puts sitcoms like *The Cosbys* to shame. In case you haven't seen it, *In Living Color* is a half hour, multiple skit comedy show following *The Simpsons* and *Married with Children* on Sunday nights. The cast is predominantly black and most of the skits are satirical commentary on the treatment of blacks in our culture.

The show has done take offs on everything from the now infamously arty Obsession perfume commercials "Oppression...for black men..." to a take off on the Smothers Brothers called *The Brothers Brothers*, a black duo so white, people don't notice they're black. The show is aggressive in its commentary about the treatment of blacks in our culture and seems unafraid to expose the truth about racial

inequality, unlike shows like *Cosby*, which deny reality with a cast of "oreos."

**DOWNERS** . . . unfortunately, *In Living Color* fails in other respects. While the show attempts to seek out and destroy some stereotypes from a black perspective, the show treats people who are overweight and gay issues in a very stereotypical and predictable manner.

One skit was based on a "fat farm" for people who chose to give up perpetual diets and weight-loss programs. In the skit, the spa indulges the over-eaters with emergency food boxes and rewards for putting on weight. One scene actually showed the attendants rolling guests to their cabins. The skit ridiculed people who are overweight. We are once again laughing at people not because they are funny, but because they are fat.

The show's running skit, "Men on..." portrays two stereotypical, effeminate, flamboyant queers camping it up on camera while they review their favorite films, books, etc... The skits are riddled with homosexual innuendo. My main objection to this sort of "Eddie Murphy, isn't he being super-queeny funny" skit is that almost always, this is the only portrayal ever seen on TV of gays (never mind lesbians). The skit is not empowering, as many of the black-theme skits are, and quite frankly, we're tired of stereotypes.



While *In Living Color* makes biting satire of the treatment of blacks in our culture, two other groups who suffer from prejudice don't receive the same treatment. The joke is once again on people who are overweight and gays instead of the culture which continues to promote bigoted hatred and disrespect.

**DOWNERS** . . . to *Post Amerikan* for not printing our rag on recycled paper. What's our excuse? We have none. In our struggle to change to world, we seem to have forgotten about saving the world. But don't despair--don't lose faith. We are looking into "closing the loop" here at the *Post* and should be more environmentally sound that ever for the next issue. Heck, you might even be able to eat the next issue.

**Downers** . . .

The *Nation* reports that while U. S. Attorney Jay Stephens was busy setting up elaborate plans to nail Mayor Marion Barry with a coke misdemeanor, other cases stretched beyond their statutes of limitations:

"*The Capitol Spotlight* reported that while Stephens was busy pursuing Barry on drug possession and perjury charges, between January 1988 and March 1990 his office was forced to dismiss first-degree murder charges against sixty-two defendants because they hadn't been indicted within the proper period of time."

--*The Nation*, July 30/Aug. 6, 1990: 121.

---

**P O S T  
A M E R I K A N  
B E N E F I T  
T H U R S D A Y  
S E P T E M B E R 13th, 8PM**

---

at

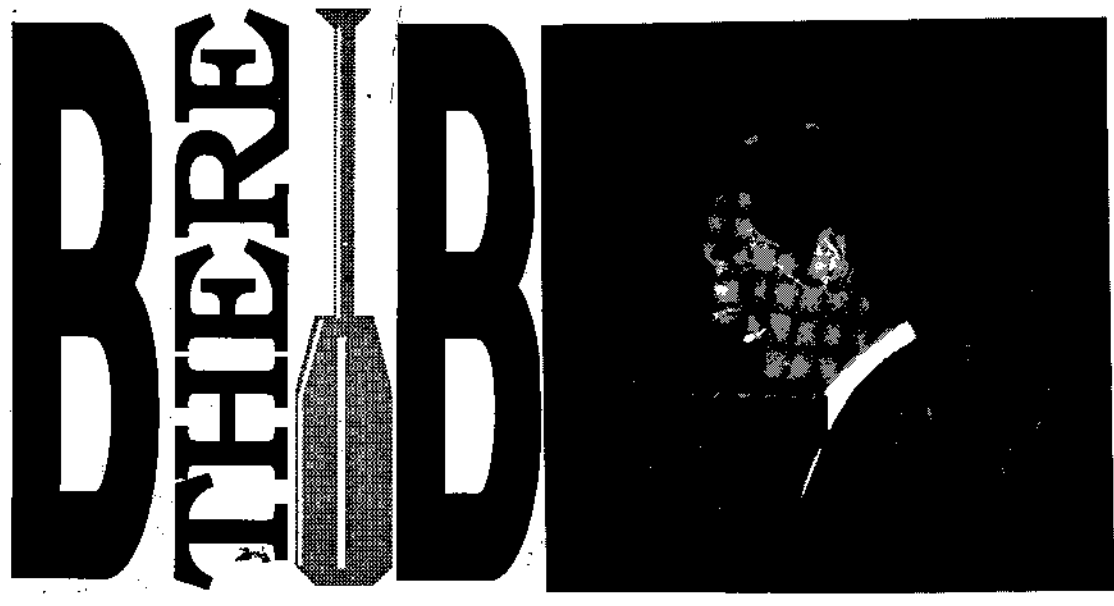
---

**The Gallery  
111 E. Beaufort  
Downtown Normal**

---

**WAY HIP BANDS TO BE ANNOUNCED**

---



Earn gobs of money! Meet fabulous, loose moraled guy and gals!\*

# Join the Post Amerikan

## \*Join the army

Fall is here again, and what better way to stave off those approaching winter blues than to take on another commitment that will sap your energies from what you're supposed to be doing—like concentrating on your studies or your job? And while you may not have realized it, a fascinating and challenging career could await you as a writer for the *Post Amerikan*. To see if you might be suited to this unique profession, ask yourself these simple questions:

1. Can I think?
2. Can I write?
3. Do I have a pulse?

If you answered "yes" to all these questions, you may have just the *je ne sais quoi* to join the leagues of distinguished *Post Amerikan* writers that have gone before you. But first, ask yourself these additional questions:

1. Do my political views fall left of center?
2. Do I oppose sexism, racism, homophobia, ageism, and all those other nasty "isms" that have mired our civilization in the sinkholes of fear, distrust, cruelty and misunderstanding?
3. Do I know how to use pretentious foreign phrases like *je ne sais quoi*?
4. Do I enjoy working without pay, knowing the feeling of satisfaction one gets from one's own accomplishments is worth more than diamonds or gold (and doesn't come from South Africa)?
5. Do I like to knock Republicans at every opportunity?

If you answered "yes" to all these questions, then chances are you might fit into that quirky pizza pie we like to call the *Post Amerikan*. To be a writer for the *Post* isn't really as complicated as you may think, but you should read a couple of issues to get a good idea of the kind of stuff we print before you submit an article. Ideally, we would like to represent diverse cultural viewpoints, with the goal of putting out a paper that goes beyond mainstream issues and biases. We have biases of our own, of course, but when you get your own paper, you can run it the way you want.

Speaking of management, the paper is run by a collective on the principle that every member has an equal voice, but usually it turns out that the people who do the most work earn a margin



of control. This doesn't really seem to be a problem, however, because control at the *Post Amerikan* generally means you get to decide how many rolls of toilet paper we should buy for the office. But don't get scared off at this "member" stuff. Writers don't need to come to meetings if they don't want to. Of course, we would like to encourage involvement in all aspects of the paper's production (more on that in a minute), but if you just want to submit articles, you can send them in the mail or drop them off if you prefer. Writers do best when they already know what issues they want to cover and are capable of working independently. If you want suggestions for articles, we can make them, but chances are you'll do what you want, anyway. One request: we could really use more investigative journalists.

In addition to having something to say, it's a great help if writers can use basic grammar principles like "A complete sentence contains 1) a noun and 2) a verb." We do have a very good editing squad to clean up problems of clarity and grace, and we reserve the right to cut the length of your article, if we need space. That doesn't happen very often, and we like to think we're sensitive to the egos of new writers. Old writers are not so lucky. Submissions are most appreciated when they are presented typed.

If you're not interested in writing but would still like to help out on the paper, there are lots of things you can do. Coming to meetings is great, but we have to warn you about one of our little problems. We're not very good at nurturing new members, in spite of the fact that many of us have spent long years in women's groups. This means that if you decide you want to really get involved in the paper, you have to take responsibility for finding out (and remembering!) where and when the meetings are, because for some funny reason, we're all

rather shy about telephoning people. Perhaps it's just a manifestation of our healthy dislike for the utility companies.

So you come to a meeting or two and decide you like us and vice versa. (This isn't always the case, but that's the breaks. If you're overbearing and bossy, we might not get along, unless you have some redeeming quality like you're a relentless, resilient, riveting investigative reporter who doesn't mind being told that you're overbearing and bossy.) If you stick around for a few meetings, you'll find we have lots of things for people to do, like keeping track of subscriptions, organizing benefits, selling ads, helping organize mailings, contributing photographs and artwork, and building the morale of the group just by attending meetings.

When it comes time to lay out the paper, we really know how to put you to work. This is the fun part, when we all get together on a weekend in a little dingy basement to physically produce the paper. It is a time of much laughter and consuming of junk food and making of trashy comments about each other's sexual practices. The paper is currently on a flexible six-to-eight week schedule, and we take turns coordinating

For all its problems and inconveniences, we think the end result is worth the effort. If, after reading this eloquent pitch, you are not completely convinced that you would like to contribute your talents, input and enthusiasm to the one of the longest-running underground papers in the country (18 years and counting), try reading an issue of the *Pantagraph* or *Vidette* and then make the obvious decision to give us a call. Wait—if you call to volunteer, you'll get the answering machine, which means we'll probably never get your message. So maybe you should write to us.

Post Amerikan  
P.O. Box 3452  
Bloomington, IL 61702

If you insist on tempting fate, you can try calling us at 309/828-7232. The best time to catch us in the office is on layout weekends, which are typically one week after the deadline.

Remember, that's the *Post Amerikan*.  
Disgustin,' yet somehow fascinatin.'

-LVD

hypersensitive cerebral cortex partying in peace and harmony with medula oblongata

atrophy of optic nerve leading to sporadic social blindness

brain cells dying of loneliness

bone in head

brain of Post Amerikan reader

brain of average Republican

hip hypothalamus

permanent damage to nasal cavity due to excessive probing

20/20 vision sees social injustice

### SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING:

READING THE *POSTAMERIKAN* CAUSES:

- \* heightened awareness
- \* dissatisfaction with status quo
- \* allergic reaction to pigs
- \* increased appreciation of obscure humor

Yes, I want to enhance my motor skills and frontal lobe chemical/electrical impulses by 40%. I'm enclosing \$4.00 for a subscription (6 issues) to the *Post Amerikan*, P.O. Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702.

I understand individual results may vary.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_