

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

---

The Post Amerikan (1972-2004)

The Post Amerikan Project

---

2-1992

## Volume 20, Number 6

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

---

AN



# POST AMERICAN



BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

VOLUME 20

25¢

NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1992

# THE

# ZERO

THE FEMINIST PRIMER ON THE LETTER Z

# OUR

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
POST AMERICAN  
POST OFFICE BOX 3452  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702

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



# PAIGE

# 2



BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Volume 20 Number 6

February/March, 1992

## In this issue:

- Cover
- Page Two Stuff
- 3 Community News: Jesse Helms take note—new artists at ISU Galleries; McLean County Health Department takes on flue epidemic; AIDS Task Force gains recognition—it's about time; Great Amerikan Meatout March 20
- 4-5 Ms. Hippie reflects on the value of a college education; ACT-UP caught in the act! Exclusive pix!
- 6-7 Feminist Primer: Time to stock up the bunker with blankets, water and non-perishable food

- 8-9 Veterinarian speaks on animal rights. Well, who better? Especially now that the Spotted Owl may share the fate of American civil liberties?
- 10-11 Carol Moseley Braun—public servant rather career politician; *Post* resource list
- 12-13 Stay out of questionable bars: A Friendly Neighbor advises *Post* readers on media hygiene; We have come not to praise the Bill of Rights, but to bury it
- 14-15 What queer drawings: Peter Doubt lists the Top 10 things he'll miss about Bloomington
- 16-17 Lambda News: Lesbian penetrates UPI

18-19 Anti-choice women lining up at abortion clinics? And other strange but true social phenomena from Voice for Choice

20 Help celebrate the *Post Amerikan's* 20th birthday!



## 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 *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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Post sellers

### Bloomington

- The Back Porch, 402 N. Main
- Bakery Banc, 901 N. Main
- Biasi's Drug Store, Main St.
- Bloomington Public Library (front)
- Bus Depot, 533 N. East
- Common Ground, 516 N. Main
- Front and Center Building
- Law and Justice Center, W. Front
- Main and Miller Streets
- Medusa's, 420 N. Madison
- Mike's Market, 1013 N. Park
- Pantagraph, 301 W. Washington
- The Park Store, Wood and Allin
- Reliable Drugs, Oakland and Morrisey
- Red Fox, 918 W. Market
- Stars & Stripes Video, Main St.
- 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

### Normal

- Amtrak Station
- Avanti's, 407 S. Main
- Babbitts Book Store, North St.
- The Coffeehouse, 114 E. Beaufort
- Hovey Hall, ISU (Front)
- Manchester Hall, ISU
- Mother Murphy's, 111 North
- North and Broadway
- White Hen, 207 Broadway
- Subway, 115 E. Beaufort
- Zorba's, Main St.

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

Carolyn, Pete, Vince (coordinators); John, Lisa, Scott, Deborah, Tracy, Jane, Bumper, Ralph AND OUR MANY, MANY SUPPORTERS OF THE LAST 20 YEARS

## 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-AIDS
- 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 & 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
- Narcotics Anonymous ..... 827-3898
- 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

## Deadline

The next deadline for submitting *PAI* material is **March 30, 1992**  
Material submitted after the deadline will probably not get printed in the next issue.



# Community News

## Signs of Life at ISU Gallery

Signs of Life, an exhibition of artwork by Kiki Smith, Rebecca Howland, Cara Perlman, and Christy Rupp, opened at University Galleries of Illinois State University on January 21 and continues through March 1. These four artists, all from New York, create work that deals with ecological issues, the unsettling interface of biology and technology, and humanist rather than formalist sculptural concerns.

Smith, Howland, Perlman and Rupp began to exhibit in the late 1970s as members of Collaborative Projects (Colab) in New York City, a group that organized theme shows dealing with community and global issues. Smith has exhibited recently at the Museum of Modern Art, NYC, Center for Contemporary Art, Amsterdam, and Centre d'Arte Contemporaine, Geneva. Rupp's work is currently travelling throughout the U.S. in a one-person exhibition called Natural Selection. Howland's work has been featured in exhibitions at the P.S. 1 Museum, Museum of Modern Art, NYC, and Moderna Museet, Stockholm. Perlman has shown at Fawbush Gallery, NYC and the Hudson River Museum, and has done set designs for the Frankfurt Ballet, William Forsythe, and other European choreographers.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a 72-page color catalogue, with 16 "artists' projects" pages, 24 color reproductions, and an essay by curator Barry Blinderman. This exhibition, its catalogue and associated events have been generously funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council, a State agency.

For further information contact Barry Blinderman, Peter Spooner, or Debra Risberg at 309.438.5487.

## McLean County Health Department offers influenza vaccine

The McLean County Health Department still has a limited supply of vaccine available for McLean County residents 60 years of age or older, or who are younger than 60, but have a chronic medical condition. A note from a physician identifying the chronic medical condition is required for those under 60.

Certain individuals should consult with a physician before receiving the influenza vaccine. Consultation with a physician is recommended for the following individuals:

- who have a fever or feel ill
- who have received another type of vaccine in the past 30 days
- individuals who are allergic to eggs or thimerosal
- individuals with multiple sclerosis, previous attacks of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, or other recurring or persistent neurological illnesses

A donation of \$3.00 is requested. However, McLean County residents will not be denied the vaccine because of an inability to pay.

For an appointment, or more information, please call the McLean County Health Department at 888-5450.



## McLean Co. AIDS Task Force receives award

Each year at an annual meeting the Gay Community AIDS Project (GCAP) of Champaign, Illinois publically recognizes and awards special efforts to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS. This year, we are proud to announce that the McLean County AIDS Task Force will receive a 1991 Certificate of Merit from GCAP for, as they put it, "revitalizing a broad spectrum of HIV services in McLean County."

The McLean County AIDS Task Force is a tax exempt, not-for-profit volunteer organization dedicated to serving a diverse community with education, support and coordination of resources for all affected by HIV and AIDS. Programs and activities sponsored by MCATF include: a telephone hotline (309.827.AIDS) which operates Monday-Thursday between 7:00-10:00pm; a support group for Persons Living With AIDS run in conjunction with the Cancer Support Network; a quarterly newsletter featuring national and local news stories, editorials, public speakers for school and community groups; and monthly meetings open to all interested individuals.

Along with the public announcement of this award, MCATF would like to extend its appreciation to GCAP for its recognition of efforts to better inform and provide AIDS/HIV services for McLean County. GCAP has provided MCATF with much-needed support and information, along with a grant for the printing of the first issue of AIDS LIFELINE, the new quarterly newsletter of the McLean County AIDS Task Force.

For more information call MCATF at 309.827.AIDS.

## Life-Cil

LIFE-CIL is a non-profit, community-based organization that serves people with disabilities in McLean, Ford, Livingston and DeWitt counties.

LIFE-CIL offers a variety of free services to individuals with visual impairments including support groups, peer counselling, braille instruction, computer skills training, and much more.

For more information call kim at LIFE-CIL (309) 663-5433



## Great Amerikan Meatout

You've heard of the Great American Smokeout? Well, March 20 is the 8th annual observance of the Great American Meatout, coordinated by the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM). The Meatout's purpose is to "reduce the national consumption of meat, and, therefore, the raising of animals for food." Beginning March 1st people working on the Meatout campaign will be asking others to sign the Meatout Pledge agreeing to "kick the meat habit on March 20 (the first day of spring), at least for the day, and to explore a less violent diet."

Problems caused by the production and consumption of meat are chronic diseases, world hunger, environmental devastation and animal suffering. Each year nearly 1.5 million Americans suffer from heart failure, stroke, cancer and other chronic diseases caused by excess consumption of meat and animal fat. Grains and legumes fed to animals could be more effectively used to feed the 800 million people starving around the world. FARM reports that "millions of acres of forestland are devastated through the conversion to grazing land and cropland to feed farm animals, both in the U.S. and abroad." Animals have become tools of production in today's factory farming practices, suffering incredible pain and indignities until finally butchered.

Persons interested in receiving more information concerning the Great American Meatout can contact FARM at 10101 Ashburton Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817 (301) 530-1737. Anyone interested in working on a local Meatout campaign should contact Sherrin Fitzer at (309) 828-4473 as soon as possible.

## THE KOFFEE KUP

CLOSE - - BY THE NORMAL THEATRE  
OPEN DAILY 7A.M. -11P.M.

OPEN SUNDAY 9A.M - 7P.M.  
SUNDAY BREAKFAST 9A.M. - NOON

2 EGG SCRAMBLED WITH TOAST 99¢

- BURGERS & FRIES
- REAL ICE CREAM
- SHAKES & SUNDAES
- SOUPS, SALADS, & SUBS!
- DONUTS & FRENCH PASTRIES!
- ROOT BEER FLOATS
- SNACKS, CANDY & CHIPS
- BREAKFAST SPECIALS 7-11 A.M.
- PIZZA BURGER
- CHICAGO STYLE HOT DOGS

## GRAND OPENING

- REGULAR KOFFEE 47¢
- EGG & MUFFIN 79¢
- CHICAGO STYLE HOT DOG 79¢
- ESPRESSO 85¢
- DOUBLE BURGER \$1.99
- BURGERS \$1.29
- CAPPUCCINO 95¢
- EVERYDAY LOW PRICES



# Dear Ms. Hippie

Dear Ms. Hippie,

For the past couple of decades or so I've been a somewhat willing participant in the Amerikan educational system, including several years at the college level. In all honesty, I never had that much interest in college; it seemed more like "the thing to do" than anything I really put a lot of conscious thought into. Now at last I'm within a few months of completion.

Ironically, several of my classes and professors in the last year have introduced me to the concept of knowledge as commodity. I find that I no longer think of my college education in terms of time or diplomas; instead I consider myself the owner of several thousand dollars worth of knowledge (and maybe a few bucks worth of wisdom).

This realization, in combination with my own natural cynicism, has led me to think hard about my investment. This may sound crass, but I believe I have a right to some kind of return on it. Any advice on how to do that while maintaining some integrity?

sincerely,

Suffering from Big Chill Syndrome

Dear Suffering,

Ms. Hippie dares to point out that having almost completed college, you have already compromised your integrity significantly and need not worry about whatever vestiges remain. How many enervating and meaningless assignments

have you completed with docility? How many incorrect "facts" have you faithfully spewed back out on exam days? How many stupid and ill-mannered professors have you flattered?

Honey, you're ready for real life. College has prepared you.

Dear Ms. Hippie,

I've referred to my female friends as my "girl-friends" for at least 40 years and nobody's ever given me a moment's grief about it before now.

My 24 year old daughter moved in with her girl-friend about seven weeks ago. Ever since she began dating Maggie, the two of them have exchanged little glances or snickers if I say "girl-friend," meaning my bridge partner or the ladies in my carpool. Quite frankly, Ms. Hippie, I'm getting just a bit sick of it, and she knows it.

I surely could have kicked up a fuss when she and Maggie began "going steady," but I held my tongue out of respect for her. Well, I say she and Maggie can darn well show me the same respect for my relationships with my girlfriends. Talk to her, Ms. Hippie. You I know she'll listen to.

Mother with girlfriends

Dear girlfriend,

Who raised this brat, anyway? If a 24-year-old woman doesn't treat her mother with ordinary politeness, something has gone awry. (Ms. Hippie, in fact, even



believes that 13-year-olds should behave subserviently to their mothers, though the prevailing culture seems to disagree.)

As usual, Ms. Hippie believes this problem would be solved with a dose of traditional etiquette. A book on the subject would be entirely appropriate for your daughter's 25th birthday.

Dear Ms. Hippie,

Not to sound yeasty or nothin', but... blonde jokes. Harmless fun or rude oppression?

Love ya,

Peri Oxide

Dear Peri,

Rude oppression.



## Letters

Dear Friends,

Please enter my family's subscription and accept this small donation. The *Post* has been a source of information for me since I found it in my big brother's bedroom 15 years ago. It's invaluable. I sincerely appreciate all the hard work, exhaustive hours and love for humanity that graces its pages. Many times I've felt the frustration of thinking that there's no one out there who cares, and then the latest issue appears, and I work through those frustrations by reading, crying and finding ways to get involved.

Thank you all so much. Let's hope 1992 inspires us all to get a handle on our future.

--Jane Chamberlain

HEALTH AND VEGETARIAN COOKBOOKS

GRAINS, FRUITS, VEGETABLES, BEANS & NUTS

LOWEST PRICE ON GOURMET COFFEE BEANS

**Common Ground**

Shop for a Cruelty-Free World

NATURAL FOODS

516 N. Main St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
(309) 829-2621

SOAP, SHAMPOO, VITAMINS & HEALTH PRODUCTS

LOW-PRICED FRESH HERBS AND SPICES



ACT UP/CI's World AIDS Day display at the Front & Center Building.

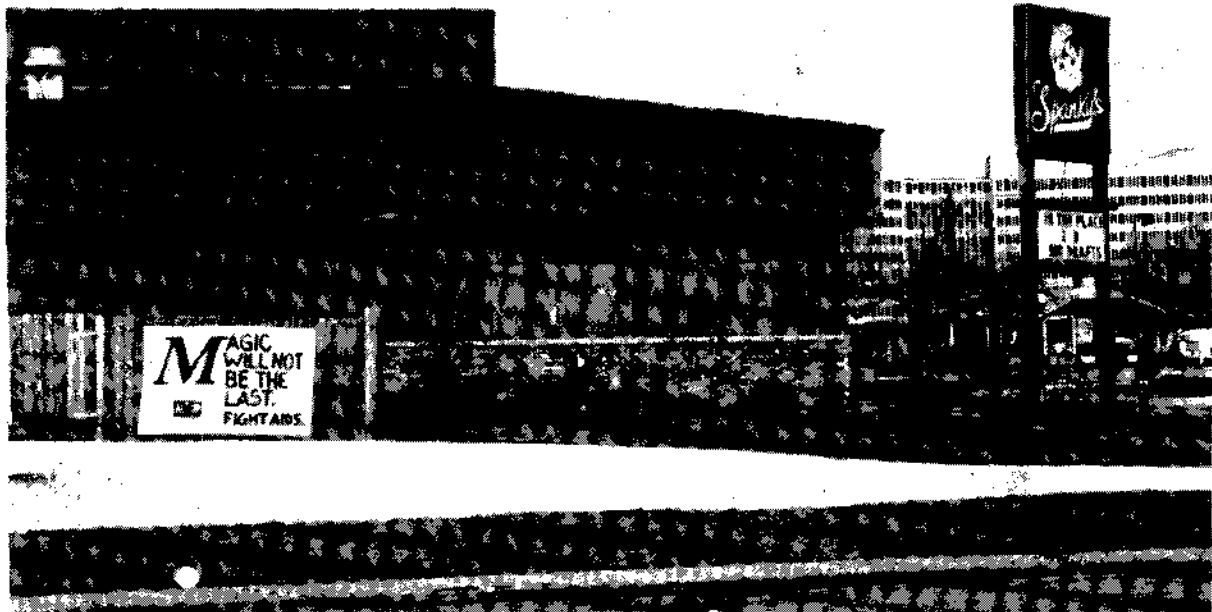
# ACT UP signs of the times

ACT UP Central Illinois marked World AIDS Day by hanging large banners and distributing hundreds of flyers around Bloomington-Normal. World AIDS Day, which is recognized annually on December 1, is designed to heighten awareness of AIDS issues world-wide. ACT UP/CI did its part by making a variety of colorful and provocative banners and flyers, displaying them at key locations in Bloomington-Normal.


The main display was held at Up Front Gallery in downtown Bloomington, where large banners were hung from the gallery's corner windows. A banner was also hung on the wall surrounding the beer garden of the now defunct Spanky's lounge, where it remained for several hours on that Sunday before it was removed. In addition to the banners, flyers were also posted locally, featuring sayings like "125,000 and counting. How many more Americans will die from AIDS."

The groups hoped that the provocative nature of many of the statements along with the design of the banner would grab the attention of many people who would not normally be interested in AIDS issues. As a matter of fact, a story on the banners was picked up by the Associated Press and The Pantagraph featured a picture of them on Page 2, a small miracle in itself.

If you are interested in joining ACT UP or want more information, you may contact them at Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61701.



One banner made its way onto the wall at Spanky's, where it remained for most of the day.



## DIESEL DICK'S

we specialize in  
GM diesel repair

complete automotive  
and truck service

foreign and domestic

508 N. Madison      9 am - 5:30 pm

828-1714



# Feminist Primer

## Z is for Zero Hour

*May you live in interesting times.  
—Chinese curse*

This is it for this edition of the *Post Amerikan's* Feminist Primer.

Z. Zed. Zero Hour.

I don't know about the rest of you, but quite frankly, I think we're all—women and men alike—in big, big trouble.

### Surveying the field

Demagoguery, insularity, protectionism, outright anti-semitism, sexism, homophobia and racism, not merely alive and well, but downright vigorous and cheerful, stump the country in the prominent persons of Pat Buchanan and David Duke. And both Republican contenders strike me as equally scary.

Buchanan's making Bush very nervous about the New Hampshire Primary, despite Buchanan's complete and total lack of experience in political office. This lack of experience may not be such a liability. After all, David Duke was the one who got caught selling Klan literature out of his office while serving as a Republican representative to the Louisiana State Legislature. Pat Buchanan may have made no such outrageous mistake simply because he has never held public office. However, in an age of negative campaigning that may be a considerable advantage.

And while there are plenty of Democratic presidential contenders in the field, they're all too busy slugging it out among themselves to organize so much as a hope of a liberating invasionary force, much less establishing a beachhead, in an increasingly reactionary United States.

Need I remind you all that the forces of the occupation oppress increasingly heavy? For those of you who think I wax a little too gloomy, let's just briefly assess the damage.

### Is it 1992 or 1932?

Polite people may say "recession," but they don't call me Dr. Attitude for nothing. We're in a Depression here, children, make no mistake, and I for one think it may be just getting started. A collapsing retail industry, closing factories, cuts in social programs, such as medicare and education, rising unemployment—9.34% in Illinois as of December 1991 and still rising—do not bode well.

We owe all those crises and more to a seriously damaged economy, an observation which will hardly strike any of you as profound. Our economic problems, like all significant problems, lose their origins in enormous complexity. Shifting international power grids. An increasingly global economy. A U.S. economy that's moved radically from product-based to service-based.

On the one hand, it would be extremely simplistic for me to say that our interlocking political and social problems can all be laid solely at the door of Reagan's economically disastrous deregulations of the banking industry and the airlines, or at Bush's feet for wanting to offer tax breaks to the wealthy.

On the other hand, I always make a point of giving credit where credit is due.

## Their policies fostered the rapacious, buccaneering values . . . that the economy was theirs to rape with impunity.

If they bring back debtors' prisons, God help us all

Bush's and Reagan's deregulatory policies, for example, encouraged banks to dump money into the lap of Donald Trump. Apparently, Trump saw no reason not to start up an airline, even though his own airline experience (up to the point at which he founded Trump Airlines) had been wholly limited to the passengers' cabin.

Their policies fostered the rapacious, buccaneering values of Ivan Boesky, Dennis Levine, Michael Milliken and Charles Keating. These guys seemed to think that both savings and loans, the stock market—the very trust of their investors—was theirs to plunder and pillage. That the economy was theirs to rape with impunity.



For instance, many of the depositors and investors in Keating's overextended S & Ls were folks with big bucks who might sustain their loss with relative ease. Perhaps. But many of those investors were also professionals with modest incomes. And more than a few more of those investors were the elderly, seeking to ensure for themselves a decently comfortable old age. One which wouldn't make them entirely dependent on Medicare and Social Security. But no matter who those investors were, it's no matter. Because we all of us must now sweat to pay the tab for the S & L bailout.

### No fiction could be stranger than truth

One night in late 80's—I think it may have been 1986 or 1987—while I was still living in California, a sleek Rolls Royce Ghost slid silently past me as I was driving on the 405 southbound. The rear license plate read simply: "Greed." I laughed then. Were I to see that Rolls again, I'd probably laugh now. But the memory of that drive, seeing that car, my own startled, ironic laugh remains clear and vivid before my mind's eye. No writer could invent so perfectly definitive an anecdote, accurately summing up a decade wretched in its excess.

However, Reagan's and now Bush's economic policies, in short, prompted too many of us to follow suit and to proclaim "Greed Is Good" from our expensive car bumpers. These policies encouraged too much name-brand nesting and too little investment in social and public services. These economic policies encouraged us to offer simplistic solutions to the increasingly entrenched problems of the growing underclass—poverty, illiteracy, early death. "Work harder" we said. "Support yourself and your family on minimum wage jobs. After all, we can do it."

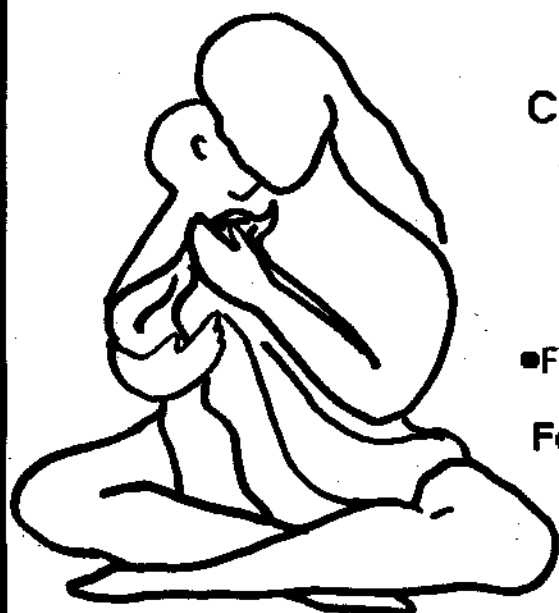
### The end of civilization as we know it

But we too often had the privilege of a white skin, no small thing in Reagan's and now Bush's America. We were too often male, and managed to evade paying child support while our ex-wives struggled along, supporting three kids on incomes where they earned 69 cents to every dollar we made, or \$20,000 a year to our \$60,000.

Some of us claim that women should "stay at home where they belong," as though keeping women barefoot and pregnant would provide a solution to our economic problems, or lower high divorce rates. However, we neglected to reckon that it now takes two incomes to maintain the same standard of living that our parents could have on only one income a generation ago.

We applauded smugly when George Bush, speaking as the "education president," exhorted high school students recently to "study harder" even as he cut public school funding at the Federal level and offered private school voucher programs for the privileged children of a shrinking upper-middle class. And then we wrote out a tuition check to our children's expensive private school.

*Taking responsibility is the perfect way to say "I love you" to your baby*



## Childbirth Education Classes

Small class sizes allow for individual attention and include

- Lending library
- Local resource listings
- Free book of supplementary readings

For more information contact Holly Foy  
(309) 827-6672



The poor can't send their children away from the problems that bedevil public schools. Overworked, burnt-out teachers. Poor equipment. Crime. Fat lot of good voucher programs will do them. But we didn't reckon those little numerals into the equation. Or maybe it's that we just plain didn't care.

## Reagan's and Bush's policies alike derived increasingly from symbol-making.

And all the while, we looked the other way as the national debt tripled while Ronald Reagan napped, an economic disaster which changed us from a creditor to a debtor nation for the first time in our history. All the while we winked conspiratorially as the government ran up a monstrous debt that not just we, but *all* our grandchildren's grandchildren will be repaying well into their dotage. That's like having a gold card and running up \$150,000 debt.

Reagan's and Bush's policies alike derived increasingly from symbol-making. And if you don't think symbols demand their own price, look at last year's victorious but disastrously expensive war in the Persian Gulf. A victory for American technology no doubt. An affirmation of our military superiority, that's true. But affirmation and victory at a moral and economic cost that literally seems incalculable.

Plundering and pillaging our way through the eighties, we shouted glibly: "Eat drink and be merry, for tomorrow we file for Chapter 11."

### People who aren't paranoid aren't paying attention

It seems to me that Bush threatens to do to the justice system what Reagan did to the economy. The U.S. Supreme Court currently engages itself in the systematic business of gutting the 4th, 5th and 6th amendments. You know, those expendable little afterthoughts. Those footnotes to the Constitution. Unreasonable searches and seizures? Search first, perhaps plant a little evidence. Then get a warrant. The right not to be beaten during a police interrogation? Just talk to Rodney King.

We very well might see *Roe v. Wade* overturned this summer, now that Clarence Thomas sits as an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. If abortion becomes illegal again, my friends, knitting needles and wire coat-hangers will no longer be the unpleasant relics of a bygone era.



LMS/opf



"I'M NOT A FEMINIST, BUT I STILL HATE MEN."

Once again, too many women will have a new repertoire of back-alley abortion horror stories to share. Abortion will once again become the privilege of the wealthy and connected. Poor, working-class and middle-class women alike will share the legal and medical risks of seeking out illicit abortions.

## I'm all for female-bonding, but I had once hoped that back-alley abortion horror stories would forever be told in the past perfect tense.

I'm all for female-bonding, but I had once hoped that back-alley abortion horror stories, which more than one woman friend has narrated to me, would be forever told in the past perfect tense, that verb tense which we use to talk of events forever a part of the past. Our historical past. Our personal past.

So here we are in 1992. Bearing hard up against the third millennium. Counting down from the number 8 to the year 2,000. Close to zero hour.

### Meanwhile, back at the center of the universe

Times seem to me more than a little grim in Bloomington-Normal, hub of the Midwest, the Heart of the Heartland, my personal center of the universe. Land of disappearing family farms, home of the most underfunded of Illinois' state universities, lousy with minimum wage jobs.

Local reproductive-rights organizations, such as *Voice for Choice*, can't afford to send out their newsletter anymore, so the *Post* has been printing many of their articles for them of late. But the *Post* itself might totter and fold soon, after 20 years of continuous publication. At least 3--and perhaps as many as 5--regular members of its collective will be leaving the Bloomington-Normal area by August.

### Rage, rage against the dying of the light

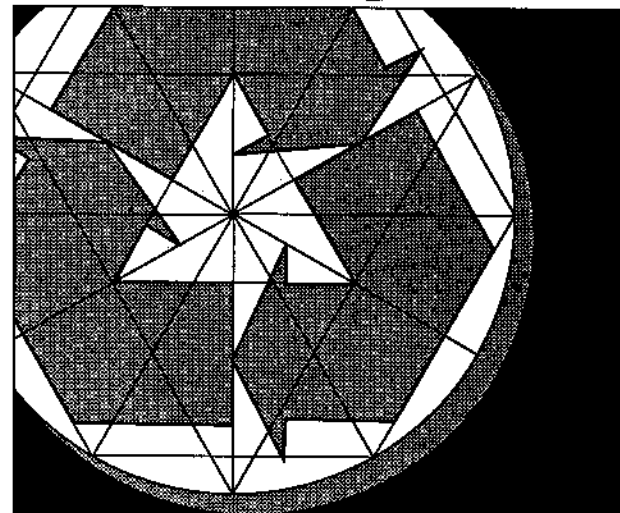
So help, already. Strike a match. Light a candle. Turn on the lamp. Hold out your flashlight a little farther against the growing darkness. Raise your lamp high against the falling night.

Donate some time and energy to your favorite trouble-making activity. Contact *Voice for Choice*. Talk to the folks at ACT-UP. Tutor in local literacy programs. Sign on with the *Post Amerikan* collective. Attend a few right-minded rallies or demonstrations. Start going to some local ACLU meetings. Look into the campaign of some politicians who strike you as potential public servants rather than just more careerists.

Resist. Expose George Bush's "Thousand Points of Light" campaign for the cynical political opportunism it is. Use your anger to jump start you activist impulses.

Do your bit to make our times just a little bit more boring for us all.

--Dr. Attitude



**OPERATION  
RECYCLE**

### WE RECYCLE:

Container Glass  
Beverage Cans  
Plastic Soda Bottles  
Plastic Milk Jugs  
Office Paper  
Cardboard and more

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

**829-0691**  
923 E. Grove  
Bloomington, IL

■ DROP OFFS  
■ RECYCLE DRIVES  
■ BUYBACK





# Action for spotted owl needed

This is a letter sent from the National Wildlife Federation to its members and those concerned with endangered species:

On March 16, our nation will reach a critical turning point in the history of wildlife protection. On that date, seven people decide the fate of the northern spotted owl and its forest home. Hanging in the balance is not only the unique and threatened ancient forest ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest, but the viability of endangered species protection in this country.

Let me explain.

Instead of adjusting logging plans to protect the owl's forest home, Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan has convened the Endangered Species Committee, commonly referred to as the "God Committee," to consider exempting timber sales on 4,570 acres in Oregon from the Endangered Species Act.

As you may have read recently, the so-called "God Committee" will determine whether the logging of these 4,570 acres of federally-owned timberland is more important than jeopardizing the continued existence of the threatened northern spotted owl.

These 4,570 acres are part of the last remnants of ancient forest habitat in western Oregon. The owls depend on these forests to hunt for food and raise their young. The ancient forests are also vitally important for over 100 other species, including salmon, flying squirrels, marbled murrelets and the Pacific yew tree.

The spotted owl's existence is fundamentally linked to the health of the ancient forest ecosystem. If a creature at the top of the food chain, like the owl, is in decline, it is a warning that the whole forest ecosystem is threatened.

Fifty years of excessive logging of the Pacific Northwest has forever changed these forests and the region's timber industry. Tens of thousands of timber jobs have vanished forever during the last 15 years and will continue to be lost as a result of drastic clear-cutting, automation, and the export of raw, unprocessed logs.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, which is charged with protecting endangered species, urged the delay of timber sales on the 4,570 acres until the Bureau of Land Management successfully implements a long-term conservation plan for the owl. But the BLM, within the Interior Department directed by Secretary Lujan, has refused to cooperate.

The BLM has not even performed an environmental impact statement, as required by law, to determine the effect of these timber sales on the spotted owl. Furthermore, by convening the "God Committee," Secretary Lujan is setting a dangerous precedent which could be repeated again and again to create exemptions from the law whenever protection of the species conflicts with private greed.

Although Secretary Lujan will prepare a report for the Committee on the proposed timber sales and their effect on the owl and the community, he has already stated that the Endangered Species Act is "too tough." I fear that if the Committee does not hear from those of us who believe that endangered species must be protected, Secretary Lujan may convince the Committee to let the logging begin.

## THE "GOD COMMITTEE" NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Please write directly to the Endangered Species Committee. Tell them to vote against the exemption. Let them know that you want the federal government to live up to its legal responsibility to actively protect spotted owls and other endangered species. Tell them that you do value the ancient forest and all its inhabitants.

Ask that your letter be made part of the official record on which the Committee will base its decision. Your letters will be most effective if they are received by March 1, 1992. Send letters to:

Endangered Species Committee  
1849 "C" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

I urge you to write immediately to the Endangered Species Committee and ask them to save the spotted owls and the ancient forest habitat in which they live. Let them know that the owl's ancient forest habitat is a national treasure comparable to the Grand Canyon or the Everglades and should be protected.

For local action on endangered species, contact Saad at 888-9809 or Elaine at 888-4613.



## Veterinarian to speak on animal rights

Dr. Nedim Buyukmihci will speak at the University of Illinois at 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 6, on animal rights.

Dr. Buyukmihci is a professor of veterinary medicine at the University of California, Davis. Last August, UCD agreed to a permanent injunction prohibiting the university from taking punitive action against Buyukmihci for refusing to have his students kill healthy animals to practice eye surgery.

Buyukmihci's legal fees are to be paid by the university. He is to receive \$75,000 in compensatory damages and faculty discipline charges filed against him in 1988 are to be dropped.

Buyukmihci, a co-founder of the Association of veterinarians for Animal Rights, sued the university in 1989 after he was denied merit pay raises for having criticized the veterinary curriculum and administration. The university has subsequently agreed to allow veterinary students to complete their studies without harming healthy animals.

The location for Dr. Buyukmihci's lecture is to be announced. Call Carolyn at 829-2224 for details.

## babbitt's bookstore

### RECENT ARRIVALS:

William Powell  
Anarchists Cookbook \$22.00  
Donald Meyer - list \$35.00... \$15.00  
Sex & Power - Rise of Women  
in America, Russia, Sweden & Italy  
Baruch & Jones  
The Vanguard - Photo Essay on the  
Black Panthers \$4.00

Books Bought And Sold  
Book Exchange  
Permanent Want List  
Book Search Service

104 North St. • Normal  
Mon. - Sat. 10-6 • 454-7393



# A shot in the arm for freedom

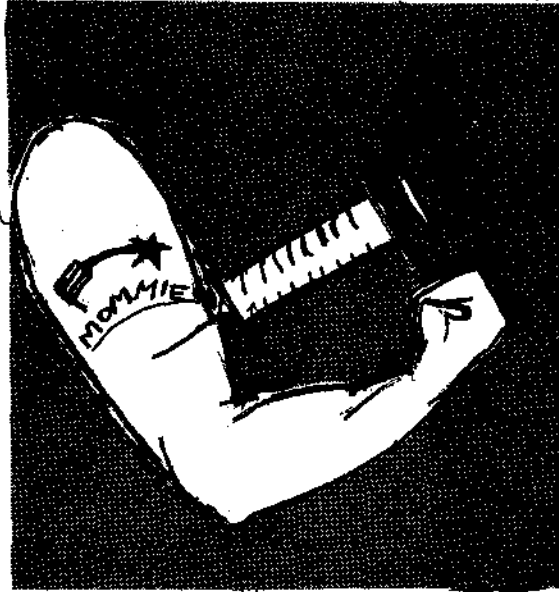
There is an Illinois State law, enacted in 1989, which requires college students to be immunized against measles, mumps and rubella, and it has been the thorn in my side for a couple of years now.

When I entered graduate school at the University of Illinois in 1989, I had been enrolled for one semester before I was served with the notification that my registration for the next semester would be cancelled unless I met the prescribed criterion. I obediently marched over to student health services to submit myself to their needles. However, before the needles were injected, the nurse asked if I was allergic to eggs. I said that I was not, but why did she need to know this. It was, of course, because the measles vaccine is created via an egg culture. I said, "Whoa! I'm a vegan. I don't eat eggs. Why should I let you inject me with them?" Basically the answer turned out to be TOO BAD. So I submitted to all the required shots but the one manufactured with eggs.

I researched the law and found that the only exemptions were for people born before 1957, allergic to the shots, objecting on religious grounds or registered in no more than one course. None of these exemptions applied to me exactly, but the objection based on religious reasons was the closest.

I proceeded to petition to the director of student affairs to get an exemption based on my spiritual beliefs which I explained were not really different than religious beliefs. They told me vegetarianism is not an organized religion. I

proceeded to the University's Ombudsman who decided maybe I should try another line of attack. That was to just go over my medical records, which were unavailable according to my childhood doctor, and see just how far off base I really was.



The Ombudsman called around to my old doctor and to my high school to see what records could be unearthed. He, amazingly, produced records where I had not. It turned out that as all good mothers do, my mom had submitted me to the inoculations before I had developed my objections to them. These records satisfied the requirements.

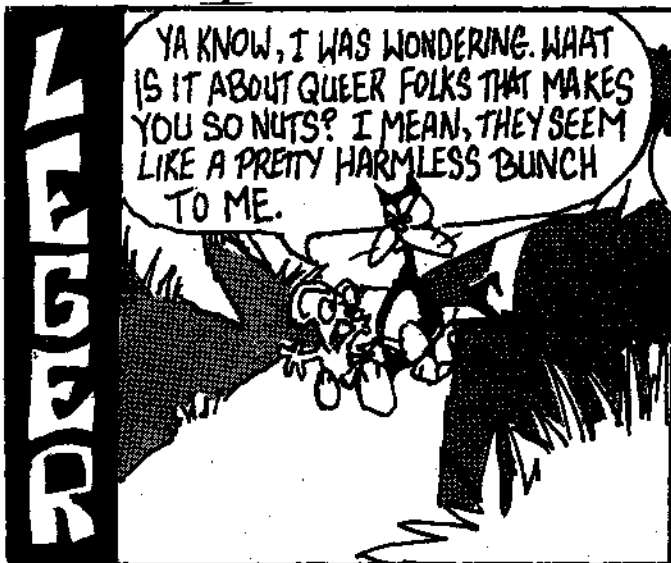
However, the story does not happily end there. Yes, I did finish grad school, but then I took a faculty position at ISU. When I enrolled to take an evening class, which to me is one of the primary benefits of working at a university, I was again served with the papers requiring me to prove my immunization to the above said diseases. My registration was blocked. I thought to myself: no problem, I'll just get those records from U of I and submit those. I did just that, but was then notified that in addition to the state law being modified last summer to require an additional measles shot, Illinois State University has decided to 'one-up' the state law by denying the exemption for persons taking only one course.

After corresponding with ISU's director of health services, I determined that was a dead-end and wrote directly to Jim Edgar. His office promptly forwarded my letter to the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. He, then, wrote to me explaining the necessity of immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases for college students which was not what I was debating.

So here I sit trying to decide what the next step of action should be. I have a letter in the works to respond back to the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health that kindly points out that he sidestepped my request for an exemption. I could try interfacing with my legislators in hopes that I could get an amendment to the law for exemptions based on ethical objections. I could even pursue the idea of finding a lawyer who would take this case pro bono.... or I could just take the damned shot to gain the freedom to enroll in university level courses.... but would this really be freedom if it was at the expenses of my personal beliefs? I don't think so.

-crs

## Leger the Cat by Jonathan McMillis



**VOTE**  
**March 18!**  
**okay?**

T-SHIRTS • BOOKS • CRYSTALS • STONES • INCENSE • JEWELRY • GIFTS

**INNER CONNECTION**

Hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 10-7  
Saturday 10-5

802 E. Grove  
Bloomington, IL  
PH: 309-82ROCKS

NEW AGE AND ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES



## Braun seeks democratic nomination

# An alternative on election day

... realistic educational reforms, the need of a universal health care system, bringing an end to increasing crime and supporting hand gun control, her commitment to fighting for personal choice and reproductive freedom, and "busting" the arms budget...

I was proud to cast my "None of the Above" vote against Tom Ewing and Gerald Bradley in the special July election for the 15th Congressional to replace Edward Madigan. (You may remember the McLean County Human Rights Coalition campaign that asked voters to cast "None of the Above" as the only real choice they had at the polls. The Coalition was able to mobilize over 450 voters in less than five days, and the campaign clearly resulted in a McLean County loss for Bradley.)

However, I wasn't happy that I had to vote "NOTA." I cast that vote because in this particular election, there was no one to represent me, no one who cared to answer questions that concerned me, no one who was saying anything that would bring about change in this sometimes messed up world that we live in.

But things are going to be different for the March 17th primary election. Enter Carol Moseley Braun, candidate for the Democratic nomination to the United States Senate.

On Sunday, 26 January 1992, McLean County Voice for Choice sponsored a gathering for local

community members so they would have the chance to hear the views of Braun. A native Chicago resident, Braun is running against incumbent Alan Dixon and Chicago millionaire lawyer Albert Hofeld for the Democratic nomination to the Senate.

### Running against The Big Lie

Braun has held nothing back in her criticism of Dixon (a recent poll suggests that Braun is only 5 points behind Dixon with Hofeld 30 points behind her). In her announcement speech for candidacy last November, she often referred to his politics as "The Big Lie." In her own words, Dixon has "faked left and gone right too many times." And she admits that it was Dixon's vote to confirm U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and his continued betrayal of the Democratic party that caused the people to push her to run for the Senate seat.

But there wasn't much Dixon-bashing at the Voice for Choice event. Truly, there was no need. Braun was there to talk about her politics.



Even when audience members asked questions about Dixon's past, she brilliantly avoided falling into the trap of focusing on what Dixon has done *wrong* in his career as Senator. Instead, we heard about what Braun is going to do **RIGHT**.

Braun outlined in general terms the opportunities that she and the voters have in the up-coming election. She discussed realistic educational reforms, the need of a universal health care system, bringing an end to increasing crime and supporting hand gun control, her commitment to fighting for personal choice and reproductive freedom, and "busting" the arms budget.

A common thread throughout her speech was "accountability," a theme that had audience members continuously nodding their heads and whispering to themselves, "Yes." Braun said, "It is the obligation of the elected officials to be accountable for their decisions, and it is the obligation of the citizens to hold them accountable."

## Voter registration: Do it!

Voter registration has been progressing full speed ahead in our community in the 1992 election year (it's easy enough to understand why after looking back at the last twelve years of political travesty). If you are interested in registering or up-dating your registration for the up-coming Primary Election, here is some information you may need:

1. The Primary Election is March 18, 1992. Therefore, you must be 18 years old on or before this date to be eligible to vote in this particular election.
2. In order to vote in the March 18 Primary Election, you must register by Tuesday, February 18, 1992.
3. You must be a citizen of the United States on the day that you register and you must be a resident of the precinct in which you wish to vote at least 30 days on or before the date of the next election.
4. If you live in McLean County, you can be registered by a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar who is certified in McLean County. Or you can register at:

Board of Election Commissioners  
Room 601  
Law and Justice Center  
Bloomington, Illinois  
309-888-5136.

5. You must present two (2) pieces of identification and prove place of residence at the time of registration (residence is where you actually live, not an office or place of business address).
6. If you were previously registered to vote and you have moved, you must up-date your registration. You may live in a new voting precinct and you may live in a new voting district. If you are registered at a different address, please bring your voter registration card. You need to at least be able to provide the address of where you were formerly registered.
7. Your voter registration is permanent as long as you remain at your address. However, if you fail to vote at least once within a four-year period (and of course no *Post* reader should fall into that category), you will receive a Cancellation Notice giving you 30 days to sign and return the Notice if you wish to remain registered.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the Board of Election Commissioners. They are very helpful people and would like to see voter registration increase in this community.

--Deputy Skeet





Her opening comments went right to the point, and she left most of the hour open for audience questions. Braun often apologized for "taking the long way around" answering questions, but the audience didn't mind. They heard well thought-out, well reasoned, and articulate responses to specific needs and concerns of the people in this community.

#### Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I was given a packet of materials about Braun to look over before she arrived in town. It included her candidacy announcement speech, a resume/biography, and a stack of xeroxed newspaper clippings, most written since her November announcement to run for the nomination.

Believe me—space limits me from offering it all. But allow me to scan the packet:

- Braun is the daughter of a Chicago police officer. She attended Chicago public schools and U of I/Chicago Circle, and received her law degree from the University of Chicago. After working three years as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's office, she was given the United States Attorney General's Special Achievement Award.

- In 1978, Braun was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives. She earned a reputation as a dynamic debater and an uncompromising advocate for more efficient and accountable government. Her hallmark continues to be the ability to build coalitions comprised of people of all races who are committed to the same principles of good government.

- For each of her 10 years in the legislature, Braun received the prestigious "Best Legislature" award given by the Independent Voters of Illinois—Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO).

- In 1987, Braun was nominated for the office of Recorder of Deeds as part of a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and gender-balanced "Dream Ticket." She made history when she was elected Cook County Recorder of Deeds with over 1 million cast in her favor. She is the first woman and the first African-American to hold executive office in Cook County government.

- In 1991, Braun was recognized by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Foundation of Illinois for being a long-standing and unwavering advocate of gay/lesbian/bisexual and basic human rights.

- The list of Braun's awards and recognitions is nearly unending. A diverse sampling includes: The National Council of Negro Women/Chicago/Midwest Community Service Award; State Board of Education Friends of Education Award; Minority and Female Business Enterprise Program; Chicago Teacher's Union; Illinois Pro-Choice Alliance Service Award; Chicago Bar Association Certificate of Appreciation; Central Council PTA; Illinois Nurses Association Legislator of the Year; Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund Government Service Award; Association of Human Services Providers Leadership Award; Illinois Department on Aging Legislator of the Year; ACLU Resolution for the Protection of Civil Liberties; Chicago Firefighter's Legislative Award; Illinois Sheriff's Association Recognition and Appreciation Award.

- If elected, Braun will increase representation of women in the Senate by 50% and representation of African-American people in the Senate by 100%.

#### Money in the bank

Braun is clearly speaking what the people haven't heard for a long time. As one audience member said at the gathering, "The public just needs to see you and Dixon side by side, and the

choice will be obvious." At this writing, Braun has challenged Dixon to five public debates. Dixon has accepted one of these challenges (Dismissing these challenges may be the smartest thing Dixon has done for his own campaign. I heard him speak last year when many of the local lefties attended one of his town meetings. We weren't pleased.) Braun continually encouraged the audience members to call for a debate between her and Dixon here in Central Illinois.

---

"It is the obligation of the elected officials to be accountable for their decisions, and it is the obligation of the citizens to hold them accountable."

---

There is one other difference between Braun and her opposition. Both Dixon and Hofeld have millions of dollars to spend on their campaigns. Braun, on the other hand, at this point is trying to raise money to continue her campaign, a campaign which consists mostly of public appearances throughout the state.

Braun's campaign is in need of funding if she is going to continue competing with the television

commercials and the slick, color posters of her opponents. And she is grateful for any financial contributions she receives. But as she said at the gathering in Bloomington, "[Dixon and Hofeld] have millions of dollars to buy this election. I'm going to work to earn it."

If you are interested in contributing your energies or donating money to Carol Moseley Braun's campaign, you can write:

**Citizens for Carol Moseley Braun**  
36 West Randolph  
5th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601

Braun will be making future appearances in the community. If you are interested in working on her campaign locally or hearing her speak, you can call (309) 828-3108.

Also, Braun will be speaking at the Urbana Civic Center on 9 February 1992. Call the above number for more information.

—S. Lloyd DeWitt

Note: *Although many from the Post Amerikan collective support the campaign and views of Carol Moseley Braun, the above article does not represent an endorsement on the part of the newspaper. The article expresses the views of the writer who submitted the piece for publication consideration.*

## The Post Resource

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

PO Box 3452  
Bloomington, IL 61702  
827-6841

Meetings: Alternating Thursdays,  
7 p.m. at Up Front Gallery,  
102 N. Center, 2nd floor, Bloomington.

#### Amnesty International/ISU

146 Braden  
Illinois State University  
Normal, IL 61761  
454-2902, ask for Scott

Meetings: Alternating Sundays,  
8 p.m., 112 Fairchild, ISU.

#### Bloomington/Normal Anti-War Coalition

829-3701

#### Gay And Lesbian Alliance (GALA)

146 Braden, ISU  
Normal, IL 61761  
438-2GAY (0429)

Meetings: Wednesdays, 8 p.m.  
ISU campus  
Fairchild Hall 112

#### ISU Feminist Alliance

146 Braden, ISU  
Normal, IL 61761  
436-0383, ask for Kate Eisenhour  
436-0134, ask for Jenny Melnick

Meetings: Check ISU *Vidette*  
for meeting time and location

#### Men Against Rape

146 Braden, ISU  
Normal, IL 61761

Meetings: Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Stevenson 352,  
ISU

#### McLean County AIDS Task Force

Phoneline: 827-2437 (827-AIDS)  
Monday-Thursday, 7-10 p.m.  
Info recording at other times.

Emergency/crisis: PATH, 827-4005  
Meetings: First Thursday of every month. Call  
for information.

#### McLean County Human Rights Coalition

c/o Voice for Choice  
PO Box 905  
Bloomington, IL 61702  
828-3108, ask for Linda

#### McLean County Voice for Choice

PO Box 905  
Bloomington, IL 61702  
828-3108, ask for Linda

Meetings: Alternating Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.  
Call for meeting info.  
Newsletter subscription: \$4.00 donation re-  
quested

#### Post Amerikan Newspaper

PO Box 3452  
Bloomington, IL 61702  
828-7232, leave a message  
827-6841, ask for Scott  
Meetings: Call for information  
Subscriptions: \$4.00 for one year (six issues)

#### Progressive Student Union (PSU)

146 Braden, ISU  
Normal, IL 61761  
452-3781, Angie  
452-7955, Michelle  
Meetings: Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., DeGarmo 551,  
ISU.

#### Rape Crisis Center

Use PATH phoneline  
827-4005

#### Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)

146 Braden, ISU  
Normal, IL 61761  
Meetings: Alternating Wednesdays,  
7 p.m., Schroeder 415, ISU.

#### Students for Choice

146 Braden, ISU  
Normal, IL 61761  
454-8587, ask for Lainie  
Meetings: Thursday evenings,  
8:30 p.m., Schroeder 114, ISU



# The Bill of Rights, 1791-1991

## R.I.P.

December, 1991, marked the bi-centennial of the Bill of Rights. Where were the parades? The fireworks celebrations? The television extravaganzas with floats, celebrities, and production numbers with chorus lines? It looks like the most that this historic and necessary document to our freedoms will rate is a paragraph in the obit section of your local paper. "Rights, Bill. Died from governmental abuse and popular neglect. It has not been survived by any other relatives with the capability of protecting individual freedoms."

What happened? The Bill of Rights is, to many Americans, a crucial, even sacred, document. It has, however, fallen prey to political expediency and fights over political power. With over a decade of Reagan/Bush, an ever-increasing conservative majority on the Supreme Court and many other factions who wish to take away rights for some "greater good," these rights have eroded. Look at what we have seen recently: Arts funding attacked for controversial ideas and images; a Museum Director put on trial; certain types of music outlawed; censorship of books, art, and other ideas at all levels; Doctors being prohibited from speaking the truth; people and their homes being searched without warrants; privacy being invaded in every arena and much more.

The government's so-called "war on drugs" has made dealing in dangerous drugs profitable, turned ordinary individuals into criminals, escalated violent crime, caused an overloaded judicial system to turn violent criminals to the streets, limited victim and defendant rights, and in every way acted as a "war on individual rights" at the taxpayer's expense. Right-wing pressure groups have been able to influence lawmakers and public policy-makers toward limiting what individuals can see, say, read, and wear. This is just the tip of the iceberg and it continues to worsen.

I would hope that this year will see articles on every one of the important items in the Bill of Rights. I would like to challenge you now on one.

As readers of this newspaper, I have no doubt that you consider yourselves strong supporters of Freedom of Expression. You believe in free speech, you oppose censorship and you even sent letters to your political leaders when the National Endowment for the Arts was in trouble. You probably don't believe that the Bill of Rights is in danger from you. What you are doing is not enough. You must be a truer believer than that. Everyone believes in Freedom of Expression, or at least claims to.

But then the tough questions come, and it's "well, that kind of speech doesn't really count," or "everything except that kind of expression." By taking that approach, everyone is destroying the 1st Amendment, including many so-called "liberal" leaders. There are very few people who, if pressed, would not have some kind of expression which they would prefer was outlawed. Oh, they don't call it censorship — they call for it under names like "protecting family values," "protecting the self-worth of oppressed individuals," "preventing hateful speech," "protecting children," "preventing the sure-to-follow violence caused by such forms of expression" and so forth.



Each person would outlaw something different, and with these "justifications," left-wing liberals get in bed with right-wing conservatives with one thought in mind: preventing the free expression of certain individuals because of their beliefs conflicting with some imposed norm.

"Hateful expression or expression which denigrates or demeans the values or basis of existence of a group of people." Sounds like a bad thing. And it is. But whose point of view is followed? Such a judgement could be validly placed on all the following from the appropriate point of view:

- Doctor's counseling on abortion -to- people who believe abortion is murder.
- Andrew Dice Clay -to- women, homosexuals
- Nazis marching in Skokie -to- Jews
- Books "exposing the Holocaust myth" -to- Jews
- "The Satanic Verses" -to- Moslems
- 2 Live Crew -to- women, whites, suburban parents
- Pornography -to- feminists
- Pornography -to- conservative Christians
- Mapplethorpe's photos -to- Jesse Helms
- Jesse Helms -to- me
- David Wojnarowicz - to - the Catholic Church
- People who put up a sign saying "AIDS kills fags dead" -to- homosexuals
- Sex Education -to- conservative families
- "Huckleberry Finn" -to- African-Americans (use of word "nigger")
- "Huckleberry Finn" -to- white bigots (showing slaveowners as wrong, and idiots as well)
- Flag desecration -to- patriotic groups
- Nude beaches -to- people who believe the body is sinful
- Television evangelists -to- liberals
- The Post Amerikan -to- conservatives

If there isn't one listed above that makes steam come out of your ears, I bet there's others that would. But do we outlaw such forms of expression? If so, which ones, **and are you prepared to handle the results of putting that kind of power in someone else's hands?**

As Civil Libertarian Aryeh Neier said, "Those who call for censorship in the name of the oppressed ought to recognize it is never the oppressed who determine the bounds of censorship."

Take a look at your leaders and ask yourself who should decide what is unlawful expression. Justice Thomas? President Bush? Senators



Helms, Hatch, Dixon, Simpson? Will you open the door for politicians to determine your rights of legal expression?

Now comes the tough part. Anyone one can defend the right of expression for views with which they identify. **If you would truly support the 1st Amendment, look inside of yourself for that one form of expression which most offends the inner core of your being, and defend the right of that view to be expressed.**

Notice a very important distinction. You are not being asked to defend the view, only the right of the view to be expressed. Now that you have defended that right, you have the right, even the responsibility, to express your own view in response.

The best way to respond to speech is with more speech. If you want people to respect others, then talk about respect. Write plays, produce art, protest and write letters to the editor. Talk to your friends. Talk to your enemies. Educate and persuade them. This is the way true and lasting change in ideas and respect for others can happen. Outlawing expression will not solve problems — it will only create more — and it will take the entire ugly-beautiful, joyful-painful world of ideas away from the people and give it to the powerful.

Bring back the 1st Amendment. Bring back the Bill of Rights. Give it new life. Fight for it.

—Peter Guither

*Peter Guither is a member of Citizens Against Arts Censorship, which is in the process of creating a new performance event in celebration of the Bill of Rights in Kemp Auditorium on Feb. 22. If you would like to be involved in this event, contact Peter Guither at 827-2317.*

## UP FRONT GALLERY

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

East Gallery **David Stratton:**  
Until Feb. 20 **An Illustration**

Feb. 24- **Robert Metrick:**  
Mar 26 **Exhibition & Performance**

West Gallery **Group Member Exhibit**  
Until Mar. 7

Mar. 11- **Barb Bertsche**  
Apr. 14

UP FRONT gallery  
102 N. Center, 2nd Floor  
Downtown Bloomington

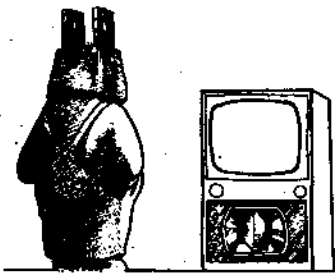
Phone 827-3457  
Gallery Hours:  
12 - 4, Wed. thru Sat.



# An enquiring mind speaks out

During the War that our country was celebrating last year at this time, I heard a lot of people express dismay with tv news coverage, saying, "I just feel so manipulated." Well, yes, I thought. Then there are those conversations I have with highly educated individuals who actually believe that everything they read in the *New York Times* is the truth. The idea that it is an incredibly biased and tightly controlled partisan instrument usually falls on deaf ears. It is high time that we admitted that the media is a fiction consumed by the masses which does not most of the time represent reality. It is a mind- and soul-altering phenomenon which must be used with care.

With these thoughts in mind, here is my approach to media hygiene in Bloomington-Normal. I read the *Vidette* every day during the school year, as it gives far superior coverage of international events than the daily town paper. Needless to say, I subscribe to the *Post-Amerikan* which is an indispensable antidote to the usual fascist media fodder. I also occasionally read the *Manchester Guardian*, a weekly which reprints news from the *Washington Post*, *Le Monde* and the *Guardian*.



This allows me to keep abreast of ferry disasters in the English channel, *contretemps* in the European political scene, and the cricket season. On Saturdays I buy the *Panty-Raid*. [Bloomington-Normal's daily newspaper, *The Pantagraph*] I read the "Good Neighbors" column which is entertaining and educational ("I have some used greeting cards if anyone can use them."). I also peruse the rescue runs and police column ("painted cow stolen"; "burnt toast: unit unplugged"). I do this mainly to see if anyone I know has had a distressing occurrence -- which would be more meaningful to them of course than other "news" such as the state of the stock market. The Religion page is often good value for money if read with an eye to detail. During the other days of the week a quick glance at the *Panty-Raid* headlines is all that's generally needed (although "Cat Eyes Plant Options" did have me puzzled for a bit).

I rarely watch more than five minutes at a time of any tv news coverage. Five minutes of the Anita Hill defamation hearings was all I needed to see. The only exception I make to this is coverage of natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and volcanos. I know of course that these are sensationalized as much as possible by careful editing, but at least they are not used as tools of political oppression.

Public radio can often be instructive. You hear about things like the nuclear rocket that never made it to the scientists' convention in Arizona. However, I must say that there is a limit to my tolerance for public radio and television. I can best explain why with my friend David's "white men in ties" theorem. Nine times out of ten when you turn on public television, you'll see a white man in a tie. He may be an Edwardian white man in a tie, but nonetheless. I have found this theorem often holds true, on an audial level, for public radio.

Lastly, women's magazines can provide a refreshing aspect of current reality which is signally absent from other media. *Glamour* has become outspokenly feminist, running articles on racism, sexism and other things which have generated a lot of controversy. For example, they recently published an article by a woman explaining why she dislikes women who take their husbands' names. This generated a letter from an outraged reader which began: "How dare that BITCH call me mentally ill???" This may be the kind of "news" that future social historians will find important in determining what really happened during the 1990s.

I feel confident in offering my ideas on media hygiene because I know they work. When last year my mother gave us a 6-month subscription to *Newsweek*, I found myself continually appalled by the sexist, racist and classist assumptions made by that supposedly "reasonable" publication. Realizing that I am not too brain-washed to notice these things did cheer me up. So I made a rule that any issue of *Newsweek* must be read within a time limit of 20 minutes. And of course I always started at the back!

A Friendly Neighbor



Before a set of tennis at the country club, Buffy freshens up. Upon emerging from the shower she finds that Martina has replaced her white tennis skirt/blouse combo with a *Post Amerikan* T-Shirt.

## 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 and male volunteers answer your calls and are available for crisis assistance, information and speaking engagements. You may request to speak only with female volunteers.

If you want to talk to one of us  
**Call PATH 827-4005**  
 and ask for the  
**RAPE CRISIS CENTER**

I, too, would like to play tennis with Martina in nothing more than a *Post Amerikan* T-Shirt. Please rush me one or more t-shirts at your special \$9.00 tennis wear special.

Circle Size L XL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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



# It's a top ten countdown!

## THE TOP

# 10

It's a taboo. I can only remember one instance of it being discussed before. Want to know what it is?

Have you ever noticed the recurring phenomena of members of our local radical community fighting on the one hand for change in our community, and on the other hand, trying to figure a way to get out of town?

The fact that many of us want to leave is taboo. I remember only one article submitted to *Post Amerikan* on the subject of lefties leaving town, but the story was deemed too confrontational and too personal (and too long) to be printed in its submitted form.

Let's face it. The subject of lefties wanting to leave Bloomington-Normal is one that we accept...quietly.

Now that I find myself booked on the next flight out, I want to address the taboo. This is the last issue of *Post Amerikan* that I will work on before I leave Central Illinois forever. Though I feel I have paid my dues (I grew up in Pontiac, Illinois before fate brought me to the big city, Bloomington), I still feel a sense of uneasiness about my eagerness to put this community behind me. After all, many of my friends will still be here for a long time, if not for the rest of their lives, and what gives me the right to bad mouth their community, even if it is only by saying that I want to leave?

Even so, I have developed somewhat of an affection for the Twin Cities, conservative though it is. Long ago I surrendered to the inevitability of my being here and told myself "If you are going to live here, you are going to have to like at least something about it." And eventually I found a place for myself.

### The final article

But when the time came for me to write my final article for *Post Amerikan*, my first reaction was to compose a satirical list of my top ten reasons to get away from here.

Then I thought of a friend of mine named Bernie who used to read the *Post* not because she was a liberal, but because she was my partner's and my friend. In fact she hated *Post Amerikan* because it continually trashed all of the cultural icons she held dear, including but not limited to the Pope, Christmas, and patriotism.

One criticism that she made, though, I still recall. "Don't you radicals have anything nice to say about anything?" she complained. "Can't you write something nice? Christmas is a source of joy and love in my life. I feel sorry for you because there doesn't seem to be anything in your life that you like."

I still reflect on the partial truth in her words and I have tried to think of an article celebrating *something*, but until now I have had little or no inspiration. Then, when the theme of this article was developing it occurred to me that composing a list of things I hate about Bloomington-Normal would be too easy (for instance: Corvette Weekend, Straight Farm and its legion of suit-wearers, *The Pantagraph* ...). A challenge would be to look upon the last few years and list the top ten qualities of Bloomington-Normal that have made life here bearable for me.

The list I composed does not necessarily reflect the attitudes of *Post Amerikan* staff or the members of the radical community at large, but is a list of things for which I hold a degree of affection and will probably miss when I move somewhere else.

Remember, this is a top ten countdown. No peeking ahead, or you'll miss the drama and suspense of finally reaching number one. So here it goes...

### Number 10

Trees - Starting at number ten may not be a dramatic entry but it brings up a point. Bloomington-Normal is still relatively rural. Urban blight, while affecting some local neighborhoods, is easily escaped by a few minutes' walk. Blocks with large scenic houses and huge gardens and trees, symbols of bourgeoisie greed, are often adjacent to blocks of tenement buildings.

The city can also be entirely escaped in about fifteen minutes on a bicycle. And the corn fields that surround us, while lacking much scenic diversity when seen from the interstate, do offer complete solitude when explored on a bike on a lonely country road.

### Number 9

Proximity - And our relative ruralness and isolation among corn fields means that everything in town is within a fifteen minute drive of everything else. Life ends at the end of town, and that means that anywhere you want to go is a short and resource-saving drive (or pedal) away, unless of course you want to go to a gay bar.

### Number 8

Hangouts - And there are places to go here in town for the leftily minded. Social places like The Gallery and Coffeehouse have a large clientele of radicals, brewing up their radical schemes at the same time they bad mouth the management, who, in these two cases, has at one time or another managed to alienate individuals and groups of people who comprise their most loyal clientele—us.

It is easy to forget in a community this size that we know everyone's business, and therefore realize that the people who run these places are often times more interested in making a buck and not so much interested in supporting our causes. But they do support us from time to time anyway, and we appreciate that.

### Number 7

Good "Capos" - There are businesses in town that fully support the left, and just coincidentally they happen to be advertisers in *Post Amerikan* and are number 7 on my list. The lefty on the loose in Bloomington can have his or her diesel engine fixed at Diesel Dick's, pick up some politically correct groceries at Common Ground, or buy some highly cultural used books at Babbitt's.

### Number 6

Life is Cheap - Bloomington-Normal is a relatively cheap place to live. I have really managed to get on my feet in this town, saving lots of money by renting a beautiful apartment that only costs \$260 a month and is within walking distance of work. I also have little or no opportunity to blow loads of money on pricey local entertainment, because there is none.

In a recession, as long as you still have a job, Bloomington is also a relatively decent place to weather the financial storm. The easy and cheap way of life comes in at number 6.

### Number 5

Safety - And our community is relatively safe, especially in a global context. While some local neighborhoods do have chronic crime problems, for the most part we do not suffer the scale of urban problems common in larger cities, at least not yet. Often, the biggest trouble makers are drunken frat boys (thankfully unarmed, unless it's an arm from *The Normal Family*) and our local police officers (armed and with a perverse interest in pulling over padiddles\*).

(\* Y'know? Cars with a headlight out.)

### Number 4

Garage Sales - Coming in at number four is a surprise entry, the Bloomington-Normal Garage Sale, a local happening with no equal (maybe). I swear I have not bought any furniture since I have been here in town. Between generous friends and a trip through the annual Dimmitt's Grove Flea Market, a garage sale extravaganza, I have fully furnished a four room apartment for about \$25.

### Number 3

Center for The Visual Arts and The ISU Theatre Department - Coming in at number 3 are the two local institutions who have done the most to bring high profile alternative arts to an otherwise cultural black hole. Highlights have included David Wojnarowicz's *Tongues of Flame* exhibit, the plays *White Boned Demon* and *Cloud Nine*, and other artsy fartsy events like a presentation on cutting edge visual technology, "virtual reality", which is unfortunately scheduled during this *Post Amerikan* layout weekend.

### Number 2

*Post Amerikan-Post Amerikan* is number 2 because its existence proves that the left is here and alive in this sleepy, conservative, corn field city. I can't tell you how many friends have commented that, upon first arriving in Bloomington-Normal, they thought they were the only lefty in town until they picked up a *Post Amerikan*.

The *Post* is a symbol for our entire lefty community. There is something about a publication that gives our causes validity and permanence. We need reassurance to keep up the good fight and *Post Amerikan* has continued to provide just that for me.

TOP TEN continues on page 15





# Queer drawings

## Donelan cartoons: Gay life or gay stereotypes

My first exposure to the gay and lesbian community at large was not through an issue of the *Windy City Times*, *The Prairie Press*, or some other gay and/or lesbian publication; it came from a book of Gerard P. Donelan's cartoons (you may recognize his cartoons from the back page of *The Advocate* entitled "It's A Gay Life").

Having recently emerged from a closeted high school existence, it was a thrill to see gay and lesbian issues that I was curious about portrayed in an open and humorous way. I became an instant fan.

Years later I was quickly flipping to the back of *The Advocate* and I expressed my eagerness to read the Donelan cartoons to my partner Pete. With a sigh of disinterest he told me he really didn't care for Donelan cartoons.

What do you mean you don't care for Donelan cartoons, I thought to myself. How could any gay person not be interested in Donelan cartoons—the iconic portrait of the gay and lesbian experience? How could Pete shrug off one of the few comics that kept me laughing during the times when I felt like crying? Everyone likes Donelan—don't they?

Apparently everyone did not. I demanded to know what was Pete's problem. Why was he unable to comprehend the humorous portrayals that Donelan provides in every issue of *The Advocate*. What kind of a defective funny bone did my partner possess that made him unable to appreciate such a magnificent gay comic wit as Donelan's.

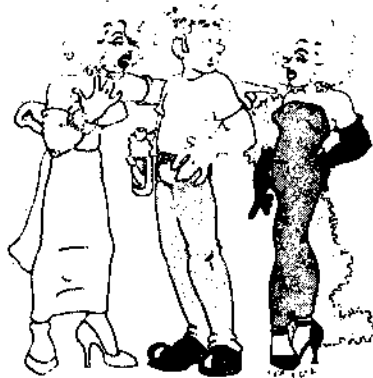
He simply answered that the cartoons fed on traditional gay and lesbian stereotypes.

Untrue, I thought to myself. I looked down at the cartoons in the magazine on my lap, less enthusiastically now.

I had the May 7, 1991 issue, the one with Madonna on the cover. In the lower right hand corner of the page was a cartoon that read "No, I'm Marilyn. He's Madonna." The picture was of a confused guy standing between two drag queens in similar costumes.

"Humph," was my only reply.

Pete had a point. Later that day I flipped through some old Donelan cartoons and discovered that there were more than a few drag queens and men using slang like "girlfriend" and "Mary." I guess when I had first started reading Donelan I was so excited to see gay and lesbian concerns being discussed humorously that I tuned out the stereotypical portrayals.



No, I'm Marilyn. He's Madonna.

At this point I started to wonder if I wasn't playing into a tinsy winsy bit of internalized homophobia. Was I embarrassed by the portrayal of drag queens—no, I assured myself that I was secure in my own self image. Was it because drag queens don't exist—no, I've been to a few drag shows. Well, what was the problem?

After looking through a book of Donelan cartoons with a critical eye, I discovered that I still enjoyed reading them. Perhaps my new found reservation was because I *did* enjoy the cartoons and wanted to identify with the characters yet I was not a part of the "gay life" that Donelan portrays.

I'm not saying that there aren't some main issues that many, if not all, gays and lesbians experience (i.e., coming out, dealing with stereotypes, choosing when to speak out for gay and lesbian rights, etc.), but the portrayals that Donelan draws are not my experiences as a gay man.



And what's even odder is... they're both named "Mary."

I then asked myself if Donelan's cartoons *should* relate only to my experiences. Was there not a wider audience to consider besides a gay, male, college student from central Illinois?

Furthermore, did I actually believe that the gay and lesbian experience was so narrow that I could have discovered all of its diversity and richness within the four years that I have been out?

I "came out" in this town and I became a well informed lefty in this town, and I can't forget that. It is reassuring to me that if a town like this can have a healthy, underground network of radicals, so can any.

I will miss Bloomington-Normal. I will miss the friends I have made here and I am disappointed that we could not have met somewhere where we all could have been happy together. But that's not the case.

Bloomington is no longer for me. To grow as a person, I have to move on. So I'm putting aside the taboo. I've convinced myself it's okay to leave, as long as I remember where I've come from and what I'm leaving behind.

Be good.

Peter Doubt (Pete Howells)

Donelan cartoons represent his experiences as a gay man—what he is exposed to and what he observes. Perhaps he even speaks for a generation of gay men. But his voice is not the voice of gays and lesbians everywhere, nor does Donelan pretend to be. In his own words, he simply wants to show that gays and lesbians "have a validity, a sense of humor and a sense of community."

Donelan does give his audiences a sense of community, from its sometimes seedy underside to its sensitive and vulnerable human side. Donelan's use of political issues make his cartoons all the more interesting. From cartoons about Parents and Friends of Lesbian And Gays (PFLAG), to pointing out the hypocritical nature of PC (politically correct) politics. There seem to be few issues that his pen shies away from. Even more serious issues such as homophobia and AIDS do not go unnoticed.



He didn't make his bed this morning, but I'm still proud of him.

I suppose my personal favorite in the Donelan genre (if you will) are the cartoons that have nothing to do with a person's sexual orientation. These cartoons deal with issues that people experience whether they are gay or straight (such as vegetarianism, being embarrassed by a parent, etc.). The difference in these cartoons is that the characters portrayed just happen to be gay or lesbian—just like real people.

--Vinnie the Queer

TOP TEN continued from page 14

## NUMBER 1

Friends - Oooooo, how sappy. Sentimental writing doesn't come so easily to a satirist. But the number one feature of Bloomington-Normal is that, despite everything about this place, I have made friends here.

So often it is easy to get discouraged in this town and think "What the hell am I doing. Nobody is listening." But people are listening. My friends have listened to me. And there is a network of people in this community who are very supportive, if not on a public level, than at least on a personal one.

# CLUB PEORIA IAN

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

**NEW HOURS:**  
Sunday thru Thursday 10:00 AM - 4:00 AM  
Friday thru Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 AM  
Present this ad at the bar for a drink.  
One per customer per night





# GALA News

## Queers in comic books

With the success of movies like *Batman* and *Dick Tracy*, the audience for comic books has changed markedly. One way the comics have changed in response is the increased inclusion of non-heterosexual characters in larger roles.

The first implications of homosexuality in the funny books was made by Dr. Frederick Wertham in the 1950's. He claimed that Batman and Robin (or "Bruce" and "Dick", as we like to call them) were a little bit closer than guardian and ward. No wonder Batman always made Robin wear those cute short pants!

In the 1980's, as comics targeted for "mature" audiences emerged, homosexuality began appearing in independently produced books. When the two giants in the field, Marvel and DC, realized that books with queer characters would still sell, they began adding minor characters to their mainstream books. One of the earliest was Arnie, a "nice young man" who lived downstairs from Captain America in his New York brownstone. It was never actually stated that Arnie was gay, but it was generally understood.

DC took an early lead in portraying queers, with an openly lesbian police captain appearing in the Superman titles, complete with a daughter whom she had lost custody of and a blackmail threat (which she did not give in to). Another title incorporated an openly gay airplane mechanic. Some of the Amazons in *Wonder Woman* came out, and another character had a gay brother. Most noteworthy is the creation by DC of the first two openly gay superheroes in mainstream comics, including one named Extranio (Spanish for "strange") who had a starring role in the title *The New Guardians*.

After Arnie moved to Florida, Marvel was slow to follow up with another character. In what was probably the greatest cop-out of their publishing history, Marvel took a character named Northstar, who had been designed from his creation in the late 70's to be gay, and made him heterosexual. At one point in his storyline, Northstar contracts a mysterious illness which causes his body to lose its ability to fight off infections. Initially, the illness was to have been AIDS, but at the last minute Marvel's editor-in-chief forced the book's writer to change the illness to "an allergic reaction to the Earth" and



Northstar vanished from the planet. To their credit, a later creative team brought Northstar back and declared the "allergy" story to be a lie. Finally, after some 13 years, Northstar finally came out in the most recent issue, which sold out instantly.

AIDS has provided a safe way for comics to introduce gay male characters because if the character has AIDS, he is perceived as non-threatening. They can also be killed off easily if the readership reacts negatively. The Incredible Hulk recently encountered gay PWAs at an AIDS hospice. Two of them were a couple, and the father of one blamed the other for his son's homosexuality and for his AIDS. The father hired a hit man to kill his son's lover, but the son ended up dead instead. It is unlikely that we will see the surviving partner again.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### February

#### 12: Master & Servant

Just in time for Valentine's Day, a guided tour through the worlds of S/M, bondage, and discipline.

#### 19: Bisexuality

Join us for a discussion of a segment of our community which is often misunderstood or ignored.

#### 26: Gay Spirituality

Thom Workinger from The Inner Connection talks on spiritual growth in a gay context.

### March

#### 4: Fun 'n' Games

Queer Scrabble, Win, Lose or Draw, Gay Jeopardy and more.

#### 11: ISU's Spring Break. No Meeting.

#### 16-21: Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Awareness Week

#### 16: Radical Faeries

Gay roles in traditional European and Native American religions.

#### 17: Gays and the Parties

Find out where the major parties stand on issues that affect you.

#### 18: Semi-annual Gay/Straight Rap

#### 19: Queer Activism

A roundtable with members of the Illinois Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Queer Nation, ACT UP and others.

#### 20: Romanovsky & Phillips in concert \*

#### 25: Play—"One in Ten" \*

### April

#### 1: Native Americans

Learn about the positions of power we held and the roles we played in America before Columbus.

#### 8: Substance Abuse

A workshop on one of the biggest dangers to our community today.

#### 15: Carole Maso & Jim Elledge \*

Readings by two openly lesbian/gay members of ISU's faculty.

#### 16: Mediated Session

GALA has been trying for several years to address the special needs and concerns of the lesbian community. We have apparently not been successful. Please join us at this session, mediated by Jovita Baber of the Illinois Gay & Lesbian Task Force, to help us understand how we may better serve the needs of our entire community.

#### 22: Internal Rap

This meeting will give us a chance to continue discussion on the issues raised at the mediated session.

#### 29: Fall Planning

A brainstorming session to plan programming for the fall semester. This is the time to make your voice heard.

### May

#### 6: Elections and Social/Talent Show

Take a break from finals and show us your stuff! Elections for next semester's officers will be followed up by a shameless display of singing, dancing and comedy. No talent too big, no talent too small.

All meetings, unless marked with an asterisk, are at 8:00 pm in 112 Fairchild Hall on ISU's campus. Call the Phonenumber at 438-2429 for other times and locations.

## New groups forming

Two new social groups, loosely affiliated with GALA will begin meeting in the near future. The first, "Gay and Grey," is designed for members of our community over 25. The other, "The Purple Pen", is a reading group focusing on G/L/B literature. Contact either the Phonenumber or Pat Walsh for more information.

## Looking us up

How many of us, as we were growing up and discovering our sexual identity, looked in the telephone directory under G or H or L, searching for some kind of queer group? Most of us probably didn't have much success. Did you know that GALA is listed in the GTE North Yellow Pages? In the most recent phone book, we are listed under "Clubs." This listing also encompasses fraternities and folks like the Elks Lodge.

Beginning in March 1992, GALA will be listed under a new heading, "Gay and Lesbian Organizations." GALA will be the only organization under the new heading, and this is probably the first time such a listing has been seen in central Illinois. So the next time someone lets their fingers do the walking, we'll be there.

**YOU CAN BE MY  
VALENTINE  
IF YOU PROMISE  
TO VOTE ON  
MARCH 18**



# Lambda

# News



## Former UPI reporter charges right with conspiracy

November 20, 1991—Former United Press International reporter Julie Brienza charged that a group of right-wing religious broadcasters, including Paul Cameron and Vic Eliason, orchestrated a smear campaign against her designed to compel UPI to fire her because she is a lesbian and because she was freelancing for a gay and lesbian newspaper.

In April 1990, Eliason, a religious talk show host in Milwaukee, discovered that Brienza was both working for UPI and writing a freelance article for Washington D.C.'s weekly gay newspaper. Eliason contacted a number of other "Christian broadcasters" and together they broadcast a continuous series of reports about Brienza, calling her a "mole" and a "double agent" and referring to her employment at UPI as a case of "lesbian penetration of United Press International."

Brienza's attorneys discovered facts supporting the contention of a right-wing religious conspiracy, including the fact that Eliason, Cameron, Accuracy in Media, and other right-wing broadcasters suggested to their listeners that Brienza should be fired. Further, some urged their audiences to block UPI telephone lines with their demands, which led to UPI receiving hundreds of calls from listeners complaining about Brienza and demanding she be fired.

Calling UPI officials directly, fundamentalist broadcasters argued that Brienza could not be an objective journalist and threatened to cancel their contracts with the financially troubled news service if she were not fired. Family Stations, Inc., a group of about 32 religious radio stations based in Oakland, CA, also called UPI to complain about Brienza after Eliason started his campaign.

On April 26, 1990, UPI fired Brienza on the ground that she used UPI facilities to write a freelance story. Cameron and Eliason claimed credit for her termination and congratulated their audiences on their efforts.

"The true values of groups such as Eliason's are revealed by their hate campaigns against people like Julie Brienza," said attorney Lynne Bernabei of the Washington D.C. law firm Bernabei and Katz, which is representing Brienza.

In Brienza's \$12.3 million suit, filed in U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia in November 1990, she charged Eliason with malicious interference with her UPI contract, unlawful invasion of her privacy for outing her, and violation of the District of Columbia's Human Rights Act and Wisconsin's Hate Crimes statute. Brienza has moved to amend her complaint to include charges that Eliason orchestrated the conspiracy which ultimately led to her firing, and defamed her through their public statements impugning her journalistic integrity based on her sexual orientation.

Lambda Legal Director Paula Ettelbrick, acting as co-counsel, added, "Eliason's witchhunt tactics against this one reporter are a tragic reminder of the power of homophobia and the sheep-like response of some right-wing fanatics. The effect of their actions will be to chill any reporter, gay or straight, from addressing homosexuality in a positive light."

## Lesbian Deputy Marshal sues Sheriff's Academy

January 9, 1992—Lambda and the ACLU Foundation of San Diego and Imperial Counties in California announced the filing of a lawsuit against the Sheriff's Academy of San Diego County—a training school for law enforcement officers to enhance their skills—because of sexual orientation discrimination and harassment. Laura Shands, a Deputy Marshal employed by the County of San Diego, attended the Sheriff's Academy in the fall of 1990 and experienced daily exposure to disparaging and demeaning remarks about lesbians and gay men. Shands, a lesbian, found the environment so hostile that she considered terminating her 15-year career in law enforcement.

The lawsuit, brought under the Unruh Civil Rights Act, the California Constitution and a San Diego ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, will seek to assure that the prevalent institutional attitudes revealed by the anti-gay and lesbian statements will end. Shands stated, "I have worked in the law enforcement profession for 15 years and have never witnessed such widespread hostility towards gay men and lesbians. As a lesbian, I was hurt and offended. As a law enforcement officer, I was appalled.

"My hopes are that knowledge of my experiences will assist the San Diego Sheriff's Department in adopting the same policy for lesbians and gay men as they have for all other minority groups—which is, basically, that everyone is treated fairly and equally."


## California court rebuffs anti-gay initiative

December 18, 1991—In a landmark decision by the Fourth District Court of Appeal in California, a proposed right-wing initiative targeting the lesbian and gay community and people with HIV disease has been declared unconstitutional as a denial of the right to equal protection of the law. Upholding a superior court decision handed down in August, the Fourth District affirmed the action of the Riverside City Council in refusing to place on the ballot a proposed measure that would have fostered discrimination against lesbians, gay men and people battling HIV.

The initiative had been circulated in Riverside churches by "Riverside Citizens for Responsible Behavior," a group believed to be associated with the rabidly homophobic Traditional Values Coalition, headed by Lou Sheldon. The initiative would have repealed the city's anti-AIDS discrimination law and would have prohibited the city from taking any action or spending any funds which would "promote," "legitimize" or "justify" homosexuality. A number of similar initiatives have appeared around the country, including in the cities of Irvine and Concord [CA], and the states of Oregon and Colorado, demonstrating a concerted strategy by right-wing organizations to assault the rights of lesbians and gay men.

The Court of Appeal expressly held that the federal and state constitutions forbid "any effort to discriminate against a discrete group," including homosexual individuals, and ruled that the proposed measure actively encouraged discrimination against gay men and lesbians, saying, "[the measure] purports to solve perceived problems by driving away the perceived perpetrators as a class, 'guilty' and 'innocent' alike. All that is lacking is a sack of stones for throwing."

# Romanovsky & Phillips



return to normal

Tickets Now On Sale

Illinois, that is...

for an evening of fun and music.

Friday, March 20, 1992 8:00 PM Tickets \$10

Bone Student Center Ballroom

Charge By Phone: BSC Box Office (309) 438-5444

Order By Mail: GALA, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61761 (include SASE)

ASL INTERP

Also Available At

Common Ground  
516 N. Main Street  
Bloomington

Apple Tree Records  
129 E. Beaufort  
Normal

Inner Connections  
802 E. Grove  
Bloomington



# News from Voice For Choice

## 3RD ANNUAL

### "IF I CAN'T DANCE, I DON'T WANT TO BE PART OF YOUR REVOLUTION PROM"

Don't miss it, February 29, 1992, 8:00 p.m. til midnight at the Unitarian Church, Bloomington. Tickets are \$5.00 per person, available in advance or at the door. All proceeds go to benefit Rape Crisis Center of Mid-Central Illinois and McLean County Voice for Choice.

## Lefty Follies

Big thanks to all those who helped make the first annual "Lefty Follies Variety Show" a success. The evening was a lot of fun and was our most successful fund-raiser ever. Special thanks to Sherrin, Melissa, Jim, Lainie & David, Dave R., Mark S. and all of the folks who performed. There is a video tape available of the event if anyone is interested.

## Carol Moseley Braun

Carol Moseley Braun, Democratic Candidate for U.S. Senate is currently the Cook County Recorder of Deeds. She is the first woman and first black to hold Executive Office in Cook County. As a member of the legislature she was also the first woman and first black to serve as Assistant Majority Leader. Braun co-sponsored legislation protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination each of her ten years in the legislature, she is firmly pro-choice, and in her words feels betrayed by Alan Dixon who "has faked left and then run right too many times." (see article on Braun on pages 10-11).

If you would like to be involved in Carol Moseley Braun's campaign contact VFC at 828-3108. If you are able to, the campaign could really use your financial support (they don't have nearly the millions that Alan Dixon and Al Hofeld have). The address is: Citizens for Carol Moseley Braun, P.O. Box 64564, Chicago, IL 60664-0564.

## Mark Weisbrot

Mark Weisbrot, Democratic Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, is running in the primary against another democrat, Mattis. Mattis is, to be blunt, a pig. Weisbrot on the other hand is a lefty. Weisbrot is strongly pro-choice (his opponent is not), he opposes discrimination against gays and lesbians (his opponent does not), and favors national healthcare.

Please get out to vote. We know that it's frustrating but the reality is that someone will be elected. Maybe we can get someone who will better represent the left.

## Illinois and Roe vs. Wade

According to the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), if *Roe vs. Wade* is overturned, Illinois' abortion law could be deemed invalid. There is, according to NARAL, a clause in the Illinois law legalizing abortion and that abortion will be legal in this state so long as *Roe* is the law of the land. Look for anti-choice forces to introduce more anti-choice legislation.

## Alan Dixon and healthcare

Don't let Alan Dixon's proposed national healthcare reform bill fool you. The bill which establishes a government insurance program like Medicare (and you know how well that works), would offer the plan to employers who could not otherwise afford to offer insurance to their employees. There are three major problems with the bill: 1. it does nothing to control costs—any effective national plan will have to have a cost containment component, 2. the bill sets the government in direct competition with the private sector—the focus will still not be on the individual, and 3. the bill will not help rural or inner-city areas nor attract or keep medical services in their communities.

Please call Paul Simon and Alan Dixon. Ask them to accept the Russo plan which would establish a real national healthcare program ensuring coverage for every person in Amerika.

## NOW March

The National Organization for Women is inviting concerned organizations/groups to co-sponsor a mass demonstration for reproductive freedom. The event will be held in Washington D.C. on April 5, 1992. The theme is "WE WON'T GO BACK... MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES." If you are interested and would like to organize a delegation for the March contact Alice Cohan, March Director, at (202) 331-0066.

## Abortion Initiative

On Nov. 5, Washington state voters faced a number of controversial initiatives, including Initiative 120, which codifies *Roe vs. Wade* into Washington state law and requires state funding for abortions for income eligible women. The state election was a squeaker, winning finally by a narrow margin of 4299 votes out of a total of more than 1,509,000 votes cast.

The various Catholic churches in Washington and elsewhere around the country are reported to have contributed more than \$717,000 to defeat the initiatives. A major voter registration drive took place in churches, and the issues of choice and physician-assisted suicide were linked and labeled radical. The local anti-abortion organization's Roman Catholic leadership mounted an extensive and effective media campaign full of lies and distortions, which the pro-choice campaign had neither the time nor the funds to counter. During the last week they ran three new ads extensively. One spot claimed that under Initiative 120, children could be taken out of school without parental knowledge and given an abortion.

Source: Insider

## Gag rule put on hold

On Dec. 4, Thomas Foley (D-Wash.), speaker of the House of Representatives sent a letter to President Bush requesting delay in the implementation of the Title X regulations.

It is reported that because there are still many questions regarding implementation of the gag rule, it is unlikely that the rule will be enforced in the near future.

## RU 486 studies continue

Dr. Ariel Mouttet, director of marketing for Roussel-Uclaf, the manufacturer of RU 486, the French abortion pill, announced in December that the company plans to study the potential of RU 486 as a breast cancer treatment in cooperation with Canada's National Cancer Institute.



Dr. Mouttet admitted that Roussel-Uclaf did not consider working with the famous cancer research institutes in Amerika because public opinion in this country is too divided on the abortion issue. On Dec. 3, Mayor David Dinkins and 29 other U.S. mayors released a statement supporting the importation of RU 486 to the U.S.

Rep. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) criticized the anti-abortion movement for its role in deterring RU 486 research in the U.S. "The drug's antagonists have a lot to answer for," he said. "They have helped to spike life-saving medical research in this country in order to service their own political ends."

## Joe Slovenac is a "slob" enac

Joe Slovenec, an Operation Rescue leader based in Cleveland, heads a limited partnership that owns a run-down apartment building in Cleveland Heights. Recently released from jail in Wichita, Kansas, Mr. Slovenec returned home to a strike by tenants who were protesting electrical problems, leaking ceilings, and lack of heat.

On the same day that Slovenec was released from jail in Wichita, Acting Municipal Judge Mark Hoffman approved the tenants' temporary move out of the apartment building, Overlook Manor, at their landlord's expense. Judge Hoffman gave the tenants permission to use part of the \$9,630 rent held in escrow to find temporary housing until heat is restored.

According to a limited partner, only Slovenec, as general partner, has the authority to spend money on maintenance. The commissioner of the Cleveland Heights Inspection Dept. says some repairs have been made since a January 1990 inspection uncovered 402 code violations but that many breaches remain.

Joe Slovenec is the associate pastor of Church of the Kind in Cleveland Heights.

Source: Insider

## Faye Wattleton resigns

We at Voice for Choice are deeply saddened by the resignation of Faye Wattleton as Director of the Planned Parenthood Federation. Faye will become the host of a syndicated talk show through the Tribune Corp. We only hope that Faye will use this show to address civil rights, discrimination and reproductive rights.



# Inside the anti-choice movement: A survivor's story

I knew it was going to be bad. But how bad — how despicably awful rotten bad — I could have never imagined. Though some time has passed, the mere thought of it still brings a string of gruesome bile to the back of my throat. I want to gag and cough and spit until this revulsion is purged from my system, but it won't work... Doug Scott and his anti-choice crusade is in my head, and They won't go away.

The much-heralded bearer of the anti-choice flag descended upon our miniature Gotham on Jan. 19 to enlighten us all about his blow-the-lid-off-the-pro-choice-movement bible, "Inside Planned Parenthood." His blessed arrival was trumpeted through gut-wrenchingly mutated ads in *The Daily Vidette* and *The Pantagraph* (for some reason they skipped this illustrious publication). The ads — I'm sure combined with fire and brimstone threats at churches throughout Central Illinois — brought a wide assortment of lunatics to Braden Auditorium on Sanctity of Life Day, which ironically fell almost a year to the day after the start of the Persian Gulf Slaughter. Sanctity of Life indeed.

They filled the Bone Student Center parking lot with their middle-class mobiles, including a dazzling array of vans that would've made any car dealer proud. Mini-vans. Astro vans. Custom vans with frilly curtains in the windows. These people were obviously into reproducing in a serious way, and they had the transportation to prove it.

They filed dutifully into Braden Auditorium, dragging their well-groomed offspring along behind them. There were about 2,500 of them by my best estimate, including myself and a handful of other spies in the House of Love. We were a motley coalition of anomalies in a sea of white middle-class America, all drawn by an unexplainable urge to experience the madness of the anti-choice movement.

Early on I could tell this was no ordinary orgy of self-righteous Christian fury. I grew up a "Good Catholic" in a town of 350 in downstate Illinois. I've been dragged to my share of prayer services and celebrations of this or that, but nothing could approach this in terms of sheer blind zealotry. It was dogmatic lunacy come-to-life.

## What's that smell?

The atmosphere was stifling, the air a volatile mix of Old Spice and Zest. The crowd, a vast sea of polyester and goofy smiles, consisted of hundreds of Quayle-family wanna-bes, perfectly dressed, perfectly groomed, and perfectly sure God was on their side.

The children, who made up a good percentage of the audience, were truly frightening. They were virtually inhuman... wide-eyed zombies taking in what was said like it was God Almighty speaking to them from on high. They giggled anytime sex was even mentioned, their suppressed, puberty-riddled hormones zooming through their bodies at high speeds. These kids were brainwashed, the chastity belts of Christianity wrapped tightly around their minds.

## Live, from Normal, Illinois...

The "God on Tour, '92" show got underway 15 minutes after its appointed time. And what a show it was. It opened, of course, with an invocation, delivered by a strange-looking man in a brown baggy suit who told us — and I'm not sure where he got his information — that God wanted us to "represent life and stop abortion."

He then introduced the opening act, a barbershop quartet straight from the heavens, four frumpy middle-aged white men with barely a head full of hair between them. But Gosh Almighty could they sing. They even did a dazzling, extended dance-mix version of "Amazing Grace." ("Sing along with us on the first verse," the big bass man told us, "cause you all know the words. But we've jazzed up the rest and we might lose you. So just sit back and enjoy the songs of the Lord.")

One of two women involved in God's Variety Show made her appearance during this segment of the program. She sat on the side and played the synthesizer as the four men sang. She then stood dutifully (there was a lot of dutiful standing going on that night) next to the big bass man at the end as the crowd threw down their applause. The crowd didn't ask for an encore, though — these people were pumped up for the appearance of Doug Scott... Teller of the Truth... Protector of Patriarchy... The Man on a Mission From God...

## And now, the host of Star Search...

Then Our Hero appeared, bouncing onto the stage from behind the "abortion kills a beating heart" banner, a corpulent little human being who bore a weird resemblance to both Harvey Korman and William Hurt. It was at this point that I realized this was rapidly turning into a really weird scene, and I was right in the middle of it.

Not wasting any time, Our Hero opened the show with a couple of terrible jokes before quickly proceeding to a discussion of "the liberal local newspaper" (I think He was referring to either *The Pantagraph* or *The Normalite*) which had "trashed Him even before He got to town." That one rocked me so hard that I was in a daze the rest of the show.

For the next 65 minutes I was a top that couldn't right itself, bouncing from one atrocious statement to the next as the evening spun out of control. I have vague recollections of his speech, mere stitches and clips of the non-stop stream of empty bible-babble that flowed from his throat like a bad case of dry heaves. It sounded like the Christian version of a supermarket tabloid:

"Margaret Sanger had sex with a lot of people, not all of whom were men"... "Polls about teenage sex are wrong because they include those kids in the intercities"... "Margaret Sanger was Hitler in a skirt"... "Planned Parenthood is telling your family to have sex whenever, wherever and however it wants, even encouraging brothers and sisters to practice on each other"... "Faye Wattleton uses her star quality to kill our children"... "60 percent of kids don't engage in casual sex; most of these kids are virgins saying what their friends want to hear"... "It's easier to catch AIDS than to get pregnant because AIDS cells are smaller"... etc., etc.

## Let's turn up the lights...

The next thing I know, Our Hero was asking for questions from the audience. The first person called on was a crusty old man on the far side of the Auditorium who stood up and bellowed "Mr. Scott, praise God you could be here today. But could you tell us more about how the ACLU, the liberal media and Planned Parenthood are conspiring to kill our children?" I think he wanted to include Anita Hill, The Communists, and Jeffrey Dahmner in the mix but was afraid Our Hero wouldn't have time to answer the whole question. That one threw me for so much of a loop that I missed His answer and the rest of the question-and-answer session.



I recovered in time for Our Hero to challenge "the baby-killers at Planned Parenthood" to stop using euphemisms in their rhetoric. He then thanked us for coming and asked us to be generous in the "love offering" that was being collected. I think that means they were about to hit us up for cash. While that occurred, a Whitney Houston rip-off (she was white, of course — this was a Christian Action Council sponsored event) did a funky up ultra-Christian dance tune to keep us distracted. That was too much, and I scrambled to the exit just as people arose for the closing prayer.

Once back "outside," I gulped in the fresh air and pinched myself to make sure I was still alive. Sure enough, I had gone inside the anti-choice movement and survived. But, quite frankly, I think I'm worse for the wear. The things I witnessed that evening sent shockwaves of horror through my body that still resonate through my body every time I think about it.

The goofy, happy feeling in that auditorium was almost too much to comprehend. These people are truly mesmerized by this Contemporary Crusade they've undertaken. It wasn't anger like I've seen and felt in other gatherings. Somehow it was different, like comparing an angry tequila drinking spree to a real pleasant joint. These people were sincerely high on God. They were, and I think always will be, beyond reason.

And then there was the demographic make-up of the crowd. Of the 2,500 people at "God on Tour '92," I could not find a single person of color. And this was a strictly middle-class bunch — some serious bucks had been spent on the Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes these folks were wearing. How these people thought they could make a sweeping statement about the reproductive rights of all society when they weren't even demographically representative of the small Midwestern town in which they were meeting is beyond me...

If one piece of good came out of this brief foray into the heart of the anti-choice movement, it is a realization that there is only one way to deal with the real zealots of the anti-choice movement — at the ballot box. Facts make no difference; neither does reason or logic. As destructive as this Doug Scott fiasco was, it is useless unless they can muster the political power to oppress the rest of society with their warped morality. We must see that this does not happen, which means mobilizing our forces at election time and sending every anti-choice politician back to the self-righteous holes from which they came. Amen!

--s.t. schutte



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

**P**ost Amerikan is twenty years old. First published in March of 1972, our next issue will mark our twentieth anniversary, and we have something special planned.

## We need your help

If you have been reading the *Post*, now it's your turn to write (this is mandatory, so listen up). We want every one of you to write to us and let us know what the *Post* means to you, what some of the highlights of our twenty years have been, or, if you have just bought your first issue, what made you pick us up.

Our anniversary issue will also feature articles from the past as well as reprises of some of our favorite and most controversial icon-bashing covers. If you used to work for the *Post*, send us your ideas or old photos or memorabilia or whatever else you think may be appropriate, as long as you don't want it back. If you want to write a short article (250-500 words), we would like that, too.

Our circulation is over 1,000 so we expect at least as many letters. This is not a joke. You wouldn't want to hurt our feelings, would you?

**Mail To:**  
Post Amerikan - Anniversary Issue  
P.O. Box 3452  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Dear Post Amerikan,

20 YEARS

Sincerely,

P.S. Yes, I put this in the mail so it will arrive before the deadline of March 30. X0X0

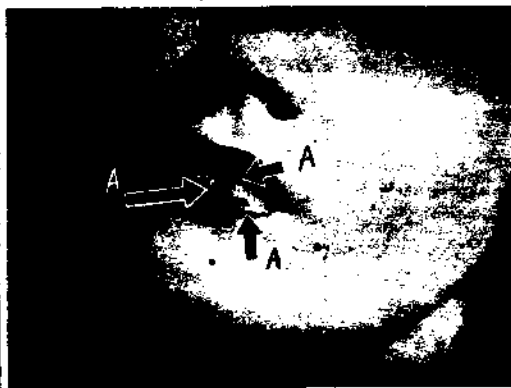
Please let us know if you are running from the law or for any other reason you do not wish your name printed.

### IT WHITENS



Try swishing a little bleach in your mouth just before breakfast (ingestion may cause death).

### IT MOISTENS



Use rubberbands to strap a damp sponge to your lips while you sleep (improper application may cause suffocation or drowning).

### IT BRIGHTENS



Try staring at the sun for twenty minutes each day (may cause retinal damage).

### MAKES LIPS FULLER



Try pinching each lip 25 times before bedtime (may cause undue swelling and/or loss of color).

## Are you an alluring beauty?

### You could be with Post Amerikan beauty tips.

Post Amerikan

It brightens, it whitens,

and it's dirt cheap!

for further beauty tips subscribe

Yes, I want to enhance my beauty! I have enclosed \$4.00 for a year's subscription (6 issues). Post Amerikan, P O Box 3452, Bloomington, IL 61702

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_