

AGENDA

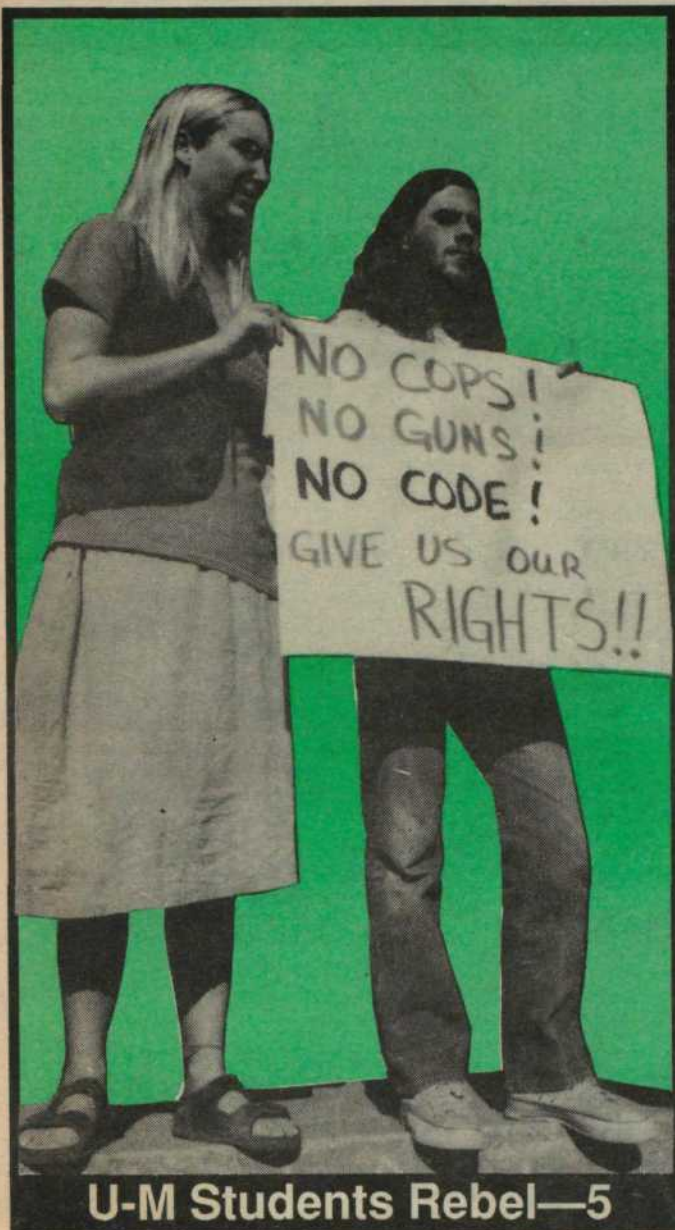
ANN ARBOR'S ALTERNATIVE NEWSMONTHLY

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Are Sanitary Napkins Truly Sanitary? What Every Girl (& Boy) Should Know

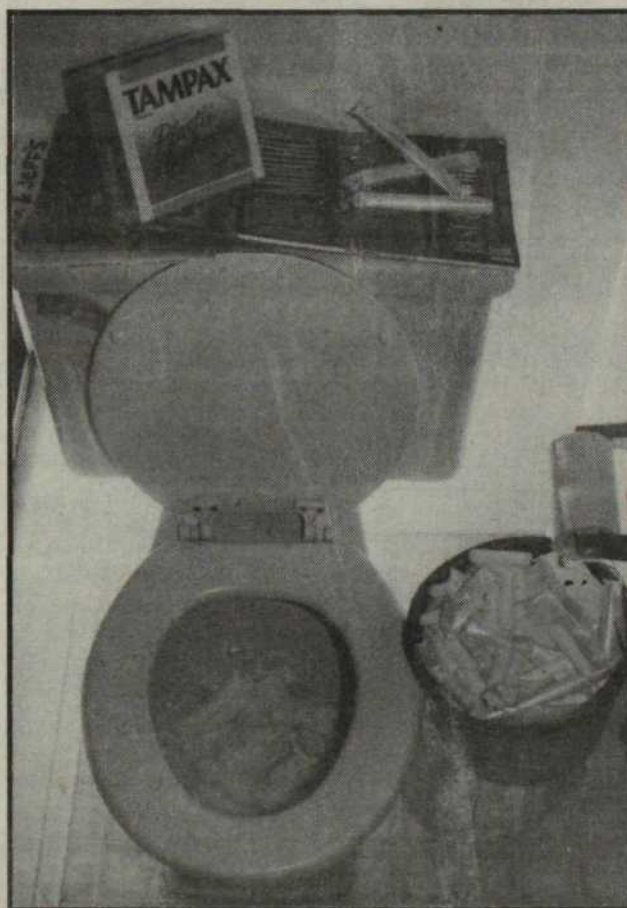
by Catherine Fischer

Let's talk about it. The tampons and "sanitary napkins" that women use monthly, for up to 45 years in a lifetime, are harmful to their health and to the environment. Tampons and pads are generally made from cotton and rayon, with ingredients varying according to absorbency and size. The pesticides used on the raw materials in these products, the bleaching process used in their manufacture, chemicals added to increase their absorbency, deodorant additives, and petroleum products used in applicators and adhesives all contribute to this threat.

In a culture which perpetuates the myth that women are dirty during menstruation, and that values the convenience of disposables over preservation of the environment, it is not surprising that little research has been carried out on the risks of "feminine hygiene" products. Much of the existing research has been done by the manufacturers themselves, and by concerned women's health advocates with limited resources. Some alternative products are marketed on a small scale, and some women use homemade pads, but the fact that they are cheaper and recyclable does not mean that they are safer than what is generally available.

It is crucial to keep in mind that the lack of convenient, safe products for menstruation is a political issue as well as a personal one. Determining the health and environmental risks of existing products, and working to change cultural assumptions and industry abuses, are not things women should have to do in private, alone. These issues need to be examined so that acceptable options will become available.

The education and discussion about these issues that has begun among women is one step toward the public discussion that is needed in order to make informed choices and acceptable options available.



Toxic Shock Syndrome

Tampons have been on the market since 1933. In 1980, tampon-related cases of Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) be-

came a public issue and generated much discussion about the safety of tampons. By 1983, more than 2200 cases of TSS were reported in the U.S., 90% of which were tampon related. Approximately 8% of reported cases resulted in death.

The exact cause of TSS has still not been determined, but some cases have been linked to the release of a toxin known as "TSS-toxin 1" by the bacterium *Staphylococcus Aureus*. Symptoms include a high temperature, vomiting and diarrhea, headache, sore throat, aching muscles, a peeling rash, and a drop in blood pressure.

Although any use of tampons is considered to be a risk factor in the development of toxic shock syndrome, the level of absorbency was found to be the critical factor ("The Relationship of Tampon Characteristics to Menstrual Toxic Shock Syndrome," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, August 1987). For this reason, women's health advocates suggest that tampon users choose the lowest absorbency tampon practical for their flow. It is also recommended that users alternate between tampons and pads, using tampons only during the heaviest part of the flow. Tampon manufacturers have recently been required to standardize absorbency across brands.

Dioxins

Although it was demonstrated in 1918 that the membranes of the vaginal passage are highly absorbent and very sensitive to toxic substances, studies have not been done to explore the possible effects from the absorption of chemicals or contaminants from tampons or pads on a woman's body.

Dioxins are an extremely toxic by-product produced by pulping and bleaching wood to form paper. While there are several stages at which dioxins may be produced or allowed to contaminate the wood, the primary source seems to be the chlorine used in bleaching the paper products.

(see MENSTRUAL SUPPLIES, page 11)

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LETTERS

AGENDA Too Easy on FBI

I'm glad that you ran the piece in the September issue detailing the FBI spying on LASC and CISPES. Unfortunately you were far too generous in your assessment of their spying, in that you act as though there could be some validity to their statements on the extent of this illegal spying. In fact, the FBI has repeatedly lied to conceal the extent to which it has spied on CISPES and other groups working against U.S. intervention in Central America, and has only admitted to its actions, after its denials had lost all credibility.

In particular, the testimony that FBI director William Sessions gave before Congress in the summer of 1988, in which he admitted widespread FBI spying, came six months after he had told the media that no such spying had occurred. He found it necessary to make this admission because Central American solidarity groups around the country seemed to have an extraordinary propensity to have their offices broken into (over 50 were subject to break-ins, according to The New York Times), without having anything of value removed. At least one member of Congress, Don Edwards, found this disturbing. Also Frank Varelli, a Salvadoran who had worked as an FBI informant and had infiltrated a solidarity group in Texas, had gone public and revealed the FBI operation. In addition to giving names and plans for political and religious actions to the FBI, he was also encouraged by his contact at the FBI to seduce a nun in order to discredit her. While the FBI repeatedly denied any association with Varelli, his account received some attention, as did the fact that he had passed a polygraph test.

Only when it was absolutely impossible for Sessions to credibly deny the FBI spying operation, did he finally admit to it in his testimony before Congress.

Even then it was obvious that he was still lying about the extent of the spying. In his sworn testimony, Sessions blamed the whole operation on misinformation passed on by Varelli, the one person who had gone public. (This action is reminiscent of police behavior, where it is standard practice to file charges against an individual that has been the victim of police brutality.) According to Sessions, it was only because of the lies from this one informant that every FBI field office in the country came to spy on Central America solidarity groups. This is a story that only idiots, mainstream reporters, and politicians could find credible.

As far as the documents the FBI has chosen to reveal, it's clear that they feel no obligation to comply with the law, and are only releasing what they care to make public. We can know this with certainty because the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York received documents referring to LASC as part of CISPES' file, which were not revealed to LASC in response to its own members' Freedom of Information Act request. Obviously the FBI feels no need to release the whole file as the law requires. They can freely ignore the law, because basically no one is going to do anything about it.

The FBI has always worked to stifle dissent and there is every reason to believe that it will continue to do so. Just to give one less than encouraging example, I recently filed for my own FBI file under the Freedom of Information Act. While they have not sent me my whole file yet, they did send me three articles from The Ann Arbor News and the Michigan Daily which reported on my political activity. The activity referred to in these articles was entirely legal in nature, and could have been of no interest to the FBI, except insofar as their motivations were political.

In short, one should assume that the FBI's admissions of illegal activity bear no relationship to the actual extent of that activity, and that it will continue to function as a political police force.

Dean Baker
WINFIELD, PA

Is Parke-Davis Hiding Something?

While traversing the sprawling premises of Parke-Davis on my way to a glass-fortified reception desk, I witnessed the brutal cage transfer of about 12 dogs from the cages of a nondescript, rusty delivery truck to the company's own delapidated ones.

Horrified to see the neck seizing and shaking of the confused, yelping creatures, I voiced a vigorous protest, which was answered with the silent grin of indifference by surrounding employees. After repeating my protests while delivering a package to a glass wall-secured receptionist, I was followed by

four upper-echelon company officials, and a policeman, who also denied the veracity of my statements and tried to frighten me with his gruff demeanor.

I am 71 years old, very hard of hearing, as well as suffering from advanced cardio-vascular diseases, rather slow, and never touched a lethal weapon.

Why is Parke-Davis so frightened and hostile to tender hearted outsiders, be they man or beast. What are they anxious to hide?

Wolfgang Hauer
ANN ARBOR, MI

Hussein's No Saint

Service to humanity, to the poor, the downtrodden, the oppressed, is half of any worthwhile religion. I have known some diehard atheists who lived this half of religion and I have known many persons who claimed to be "born again" Christians, Muslims, etc., who acted as though they could love and serve Allah while callously ignoring the plight of his earthly creatures.

Which brings me to the war that's looming in the Middle East. The Sabah family of Kuwait and the Saud family of Arabia are utterly corrupt and un-Islamic. The only king in Islam is Allah. The Prophet

Muhammad stated that the only nobility is that of the heart and that character and piety is the only suitable measure of a person, not birth in a so-called royal family.

Saddam Hussein is no saint. Now they're calling him Hitler. But as long as he was gassing Kurds (who have no oil) and the hated Iranians, then he was a good Hitler. He was the West's pet Hitler. As soon as he invaded Kuwait, then all of a sudden the White House sprouts principles against the violation of territorial integrity. This war will not be the cake-walk the American media wants the public to believe.

Ahmad Abdur-Rahman
JACKSON, MI

Ann Arbor New Jewish Agenda on Gulf Crisis

Ann Arbor New Jewish Agenda (NJA) opposes war as a means of resolving the Persian Gulf crisis. The crisis should be resolved by the use of diplomatic means, possibly supplemented by sanctions that do

not deprive innocent people of their basic needs. We believe that the U.S. should empower the UN, not just try to use it as a tool for its oil policies. The U.S. should not act as an imperial power in its relations with other states and peoples.

The Iraqi conquest and occupation threatens the security and integrity of all the states in the region. When faced with any aggressor or occupier, all peoples are both entitled and duty-bound to defend themselves. However, outside powers do not have the right to use such aggression as an excuse to intervene in pursuit of their own selfish economic and political interests. We condemn the hypocrisy of those governments, led by the Bush administration, which stand ready to wage a war for oil and for the private interests of western corporations.

We condemn the hyperbolic rhetoric that depicts this intervention as a principled stand against Saddam Hussein's aggression. As Jews, we are deeply troubled by George Bush's equation of Hussein with Hitler. George Bush distorts and debases the experiences of Jews and other peoples who suffered under the Nazi regime. Furthermore, Bush's extremist language demonizes Saddam Hussein and feeds the growing anti-Arab racism in our country.

In our view, an ideal solution to the immediate crisis would include the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the removal of all foreign troops from the area, the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty under

AGENDA

Ann Arbor's Alternative Newsmonthly

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Give Me A Break

Alan Wald's response to my article on "Reform and the Left" (AGENDA, July 1990) wrongly attributes a number of statements and ideas to me. For example, I did not say that "a typical leftist... contemptuously dismisses reforms." I did not say that "efforts to democratize and mobilize the labor unions are doomed." I did not "attempt to reduce a political strategy of participation in the labor movement to a function of Marx-Lenin idolatry." And so on.

I do not want to disparage Alan's own views, most of which I agree with. I just don't want to be associated with the bizarre caricature that he created for my argument.

Mark Weisbrot
CHARLESTON, IL

Fodder Against Neighbor

Thanks for the October issue of AGENDA and special thanks for Phillis Engelbert's piece on Ambassador Shlaudeman. It provided excellent, extra ammunition for my endless debate with a disagreeable neighbor. He is rich, arrogant, Republican, greedy, hawkish, and thinks Reagan is the greatest American since John Wayne.

Mike Bennett
YPSILANTI, MI

Prison AIDS Unattended

An aspect of my life that has been incredibly troubling is the AIDS crisis here in the DC Jail. The immensity of the problem, and the genocidal destruction of the Black community in general—represented by the conditions of women here—is truly overwhelming. Sometimes the unit I live on, 160 women mostly under 30, seems awash in tragedy. Underneath the surface are all of the ways that we struggle to cope with our situation and to survive.

About two months ago a woman well-known to folks here died a painful death, on a respirator, shackled hands and feet. She died of AIDS-related pneumocystic pneumonia and never received the medication—aerosolized pentamidine—that could have saved her life.

Women that knew her here grieved because of losing a friend, but also panicked because the AIDS relativity was upon them. Many of them had shared works or cookers, or had the same pimp. More and more women started coming to all of us [Resistance Conspiracy Defendants] confiding their positive HIV status to us, and asking for medical or legal help.

So we've been struggling to gather whatever outside resources we have here, to get some education/counseling programs started, to defuse the myths and stigma that permeate our environment (the worst curse on my unit is "AIDS-carrying bitch") and to help them fight for life and treatment in a system that is absolutely indifferent to their deaths. I feel that I could never know enough to really help them, nor do I have any real counseling skills.

It's unbearably sad to realize that 20% or more of these women I live with—some of them truly my friends—will probably be dead within two or three years. I think of their families and people who love them and need them on the outside. We fight together for testing, results, and minimal treatment (since that's all that's available) as their health deteriorates in front of my eyes.

We're trying to link up with AIDS activists and services on the outside, but prisoners—especially prisoners with AIDS—are a population everyone would like to ignore. The struggle continues.

Linda Evans
WASHINGTON, DC

Middle East is "Time Bomb"

I am not at all pleased with our policy regarding Iraq/Kuwait. I regard the presence of our troops dangerously provocative. Leaving questions of morality aside (morality in international politics is a real quagmire), a negotiated settlement is mandatory. I urge people to discuss this matter and inform, using methods they are comfortable with, the leaders of the necessity for a proper settlement.

After this is done, I think the following should take place: 1) It is necessary for Israel and Palestine to make a fair settlement. This will not be easy, but it is necessary. 2) I advocate arms control talks to conclude an arms reduction agreement for the Middle East. The region is seriously over-armed; outside parties bear primary responsibility for this situation. 3) Middle Eastern countries, including Israel, must start a process of democratization. 4) The oil-rich nations should share the wealth. The Middle Eastern countries, like many other countries, have a serious income distribution problem.

I feel if the above does not happen, the Middle Eastern "time bomb" will explode.

Howard Waldrop
ANN ARBOR, MI

(from previous page)

a democratic government, the establishment of a framework for the peaceful resolution of Iraq's legitimate grievances, the cessation of tyranny in Iraq, and the emergence of the UN as a strong organization, not dominated by any single state or bloc, with the power to adjudicate international conflicts. In the long run, we hope for the abolition of all anti-democratic monarchies and dictatorships and oppressive regimes and an end to western economic and political imperialism in the area.

The U.S. is culpable in creating this crisis. U.S. support of and arms sales to anti-democratic regimes throughout the Arab world—including, until recently, Iraq—supports tyranny and ignores the aspirations and needs of the Arab peoples. Our military interventions in Grenada, Panama and Lebanon and our underwriting of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza have contributed to an international climate that promotes aggression, even while we claim to be appalled by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The U.S. must not be allowed to plunge the world into a war in which scores of thousands will die merely on the premise that Hussein is a bad man and a conqueror. For the cost of this war, the children of the world could be given the tools of survival instead—clean water, schoolbooks, and immunization.

NJA continues to view the Israeli occupation and oppression of the Palestinians as the central issue in the Middle East. We agree with the Israeli Women and Peace Coalition that "the Persian Gulf crisis and the danger of war reinforce the immediate need for negotiations with the legal representative of the Palestinians, the PLO."

NJA supports the democratic peace forces in Israel and Palestine as they renew their campaign for peace and the termination of the occupation. NJA joins with the soldiers of Yesh G'vul in condemning the right-wing Shamir government for its hypocrisy, as with one hand it waves an admonishing finger against Iraq for occupying Kuwait, while the other hand exercises the "iron fist" of occupation and repression of the Palestinian's struggle for human and national rights.



ILLUSTRATION: WOLFGANG HAUER

I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas

by Lois Huff

At possibly no other time of the year does irresponsible and flagrant consumerism raise an uglier head than it does at the Christmas holiday. Influenced by a vague sense of tradition (or habit) and impelled by emotions ranging from euphoria to panic, otherwise sensible people are capable of embarking upon shopping sprees which at other times of the year would be disgraceful. What should be a peaceful celebration of brotherhood and good will is quickly lost in the shuffle as shoppers vie with one another for merchandise and parking space, and buy with few guidelines other than fulfillment of obligation.

The madness starts inconspicuously enough in early September (July in some parts) with a small but ominous trickle of bulk mail Christmas catalogs. The number of living trees lost to the process of generating junk mail to advertise everything from children's war toys to high-priced cheese wheels is unconscionable. In retail stores, synthetic evergreens (and evergolts, everpinks, etc.) sprout up as if by magic, decorated with plastic and nylon ornaments, and illuminated by truly weird and wasteful light displays. Paper products line the aisles, making a brief appearance on the continuum from tree to landfill as greeting cards, wrapping paper, and gift boxes.

As the season progresses, the pace becomes more frantic. Stores' halls are decked with flashy arrays of energy-consuming Christmas lights, while incongruous combinations of nativity scenes, Santas, angels, and elves glut the eye and befuddle the mind. Wreaths, garlands, arrangements of fruit, and other holiday decorations are set out for sale, some looking fairly natural from a distance, but immortalized in every type of plastic and synthetic substance known to the human race. Shopping is accompanied by bouncy Christmas tunes and an occasional sedate carol, with an underlying, but perceptible, mantra of "Buy. Spend. Charge It." Glitzy ads promising sales and values lure shoppers into areas where they otherwise would not dare tread. Sadly, the hype and pressure seem to work. The amount of common sense consumers employ during this time appears to be inversely proportional to the "Number of Shopping Days Left 'Til Christmas." Trips to the malls become more hurried and less planned, resulting in inefficient use of time and fuel, not to mention wear and tear on feet and nerves.

So what has become of the true spirit of Christmas? Of celebrating life and the love of family and friends? Of giving from the heart? As the contents of many dumpsters will attest to on the days immediately following Christmas, many gifts are purchased with little thought for the needs or preferences of the recipients. A gift is a token of shared feelings of friendship; its meaning lies in its simple statement of fondness and mutual regard. A gift's worth is not determined by the number of dollars

exchanged for it, but rather by the thought and feeling invested in it. Your gift might be something you could make yourself; a natural handmade wreath, a jar of jam made from last summer's berries, a carefully wrought piece of craftwork all make elegant gifts.

Consider the special interests and concerns of friends and family members. Send a contribution to a worthy organization in the recipient's name, or give a membership or subscription. This gift will help support the organization (there are literally hundreds of groups from which to choose, from political parties to nature preservation groups to alternative newspapers), and will benefit the recipient as well. Spend some time together cultivating a mutual interest, whether it's cross-country skiing, wine-making, or playing with finger paints.

If you sincerely enjoy the act of shopping, whether it's in-store or mail order, extract yourself from the mainstream and seek out socially and/or environmentally responsible businesses and shops. Farmers' markets and people's co-ops, for example, offer items made by local craftspeople, along with fresh, in-season, locally grown fixings for holiday meals and parties. Some mail-order co-ops offer green items such as greeting cards and gift wrap made of recycled paper, compact fluorescent light bulbs and other household essentials (not festive but extremely useful), and books with a conscience, as well as beautiful items handmade by people of Third-World countries. Dealing with businesses that are mindful of their obligations to a sustainable market is a refreshing experience in any case, and should not be overlooked.

In regard to Christmas trees, do not be hesitant to cut down and buy a real evergreen from a reputable tree farm. On these farms, evergreens are grown sustainably and harvested as a crop. Do not, however, buy from a tree lot if you suspect the trees have been harvested illegally from private or public land. Better yet, buy a living tree (with roots potted or burlapped) from a nursery, and plant it for Christmas. Trees indoors and out can be decorated with strings of popcorn and cranberries; add candy canes, cookies, and handmade paper ornaments to the tree kept inside. After Christmas, a cut tree can be set outside and used as welcome winter cover for birds and small mammals, or chipped up for next spring's mulch. Offer the strings of cranberries and popcorn to the backyard wildlife; they will judge whether or not they need the extra food.

This year, treat yourself to a serene and meaningful holiday season. Allow yourself the time to enjoy the get-togethers with people you care about. Permit yourself to feel reverence for our beautiful earth and the life it engenders, including your own. Be creative in making and choosing gifts; buy sensibly and with concern for our partners on this planet, human and otherwise. Peace on earth and good will to us all.

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Men's & Women's
Sizes

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Can you afford to be
without one?

SEE NEXT PAGE

The ABC's of the Draft

by Jessica Kearns

ANN ARBOR—Over 1500 people attended "A Teach-In on the Persian Gulf" at the University of Michigan on Nov. 18, sponsored by several campus and community organizations. If news of this teach-in evokes some feelings of déjà vu in long-time Ann Arbor residents, it may be because a pretty famous teach-in, the first in the country on the Vietnam War, was held in 1965 on U-M's campus.

With the build-up of troops in the Middle East, many other parallels to the Vietnam era, including the possibility of a draft, have drawn people's concern. One of the teach-in's seminars, entitled "Who Will Fight Our War? The Draft and How it Works," gave clear and factual information regarding the draft.

Currently, the Selective Service System, a government executive agency which issues draft regulations, collects the names and addresses of male U.S. citizens when they turn 18. Women do not have to register with the Selective Service and cannot be drafted.

Although it would require an Act of Congress for a draft to begin, the Selective Services has outlined a procedure that will be used if this should happen. The eligible age group for a draft is men who turn 20 years of age in the current calendar year. This means, men born in 1970 are eligible in 1990 until December 31st. Then starting January 1, 1991 men born in 1971 are eligible for the entire year. These 19- and 20-year-olds are the youngest men legally eligible for the draft.

To determine who is called-up first, a lottery system would be employed. Birthdates are chosen at random and numbered in order of pick from 1 to 365, so each draftee is part of a number group. The military determines how many new soldiers are needed and then the Selective Service decides how many groups to call up. For example, they may call up numbers 1 through 30 to report for induction and a physical examination. During Vietnam, this lottery system at its peak reached 195 of the 365 birthdates.

The current size of the active armed forces in the U.S. is 2.1 million, while the reserve force is another one million. Since almost two million men turn 18 every year, it would be difficult to induct everyone, so the Selective Service seeks to narrow the pool of possible soldiers. Men are eliminated first by being in an upper age group (21 or older) and then by being in the upper lottery numbers.

But if a man's number is chosen and he has received his notice, he has 10 days to request a reclassification of eligibility. Deferment is one form of reclassification, as well as exemption and conscientious objection (C.O.) status. The popular deferments from Vietnam—student, occupational and fatherhood—were eliminated towards the end of that era, and replaced by limiting the eligible age group.

Two other widely-used classifications—and causes for deferment—a failed physical examination and C.O. status,

are still in effect today. Many drafted men fail the physical, as it is a rigorous examination. However, it is suggested that men have documentation of medical history on hand if they wish to challenge the status of their fitness, as minor problems may not be detected.

Conscientious objection means that the potential soldier is conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form based on his personal ethics, morals or religious beliefs. It is everyone's legal right to apply for C.O. status, which is gained through an appeal process. This applies to those already in the military also. If granted, then a conscientious objector has the choice to serve either two years of alternative civilian service or non-combatant service in the military, depending on the type of C.O. status applied for.

Other classifications which affect fewer people are for: ministers or those in ministerial school; some elected officials, such as certain judges; certain aliens residing in the U.S. (depending on type of visa); and extreme hardship circumstances. Also, if a draftee is a "surviving son," meaning that any member of his family has been killed or is missing-in-action from military service, he is deferred, except when there is a declared war.

Local draft counselors, Mary Roth and Richard Cleaver, agree that a draft is unlikely in the event of a war in the Middle East. One reason for this is that the draft was so unpopular during the Vietnam era that it served as a focus for protests against the war. A larger reason for this may be that today, the reserve forces are being called up for combat. During the Vietnam War, being in the reserves was a way to avoid combat, a "draft dodger's haven," which meant many of the ranks were wealthy ballplayers, movie stars or future vice presidents. Objections and protest by these men and their well-placed friends and relatives helped keep the reserves out of active combat.

The ranks of the reserves today, however, is mostly working class people who never expected to be called to active duty. This is possibly because of the non-combatant precedent set by the Vietnam War and the military's hard-sell advertising of itself as glamorous and financially rewarding. Unlike soldiers in active duty, when those in the reserve are given five days to report, it is five days to leave a full-time job or a semester of school.

Military counseling is available for all military members, both active and reserve, regarding their rights to obtain a discharge. Draft counseling and information on conscientious objection is also available. Contact American Friends Service Committee, 761-8283; the Ann Arbor Draft, G.I. and Vets Counseling Center, 663-5378; or Guild House, 802 Monroe, 662-5189. Follow-up information regarding the U-M Teach-In is available at 763-3037.

A2 Remembers Murdered Salvadoran Priests

by Tanya Shaffer

ANN ARBOR—About 150 people, on November 16, gathered at the steps of Rackham Hall for a march and observance of the first anniversary of the murder of six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter at U-M's sister university in El Salvador.

The marchers carried coffins and torches for the murdered priests and for the 75,000 other Salvadorans who have died at the hands of their own government over the last 10 years. As the group marched down the streets of Ann Arbor, drivers honked at them and impatient passers-by shouted to the mourners to move along.

The six Jesuit priests, highly respected faculty members and administrators of Catholic University of San Salvador, and the woman they had hired to cook for them and her 16-year-old daughter, were mutilated and murdered by members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces in an attack many believe was revenge for an FMLN offensive.

The reasons these particular individuals were chosen as an example was one of the subjects addressed in "Testimony and Remembrance," a commemorative colloquium which followed the march.

Fr. Segundo Montes Mozo, one of the murdered priests, and one of the most respected sociologists in Central Amer-

ica, was a firm adherent of "science for the people," said Jeffrey Paige, who corresponded with Montes shortly before his death. According to Paige, Segundo Montes believed that "scientific inquiry should be first and foremost devoted to social justice," and that "only through unencumbered inquiry could the lives of the peasantry and oppressed people of El Salvador be changed."

For all these priests, U-M faculty member Rebecca Scott asserted, the pursuit of knowledge was "inseparable from moral witness and ethical convictions." In a country where the survival of the system depends on keeping the vast majority of the people subservient to a tiny minority, explained Scott, it then followed that "the pursuit of knowledge was equated with subversion."

The priests felt that the church "lives in a political world and it cannot be otherwise," said U-M faculty member Daniel Levine.

Fr. Otto Maduro, a Venezuelan priest who is currently a visiting faculty member at the Maryknoll School of Theology in New York, dedicated his speech to Elba Julia and Celina Maricet Ramos, the priests' cook and her daughter. If they had not been killed alongside the priests, he said, they would

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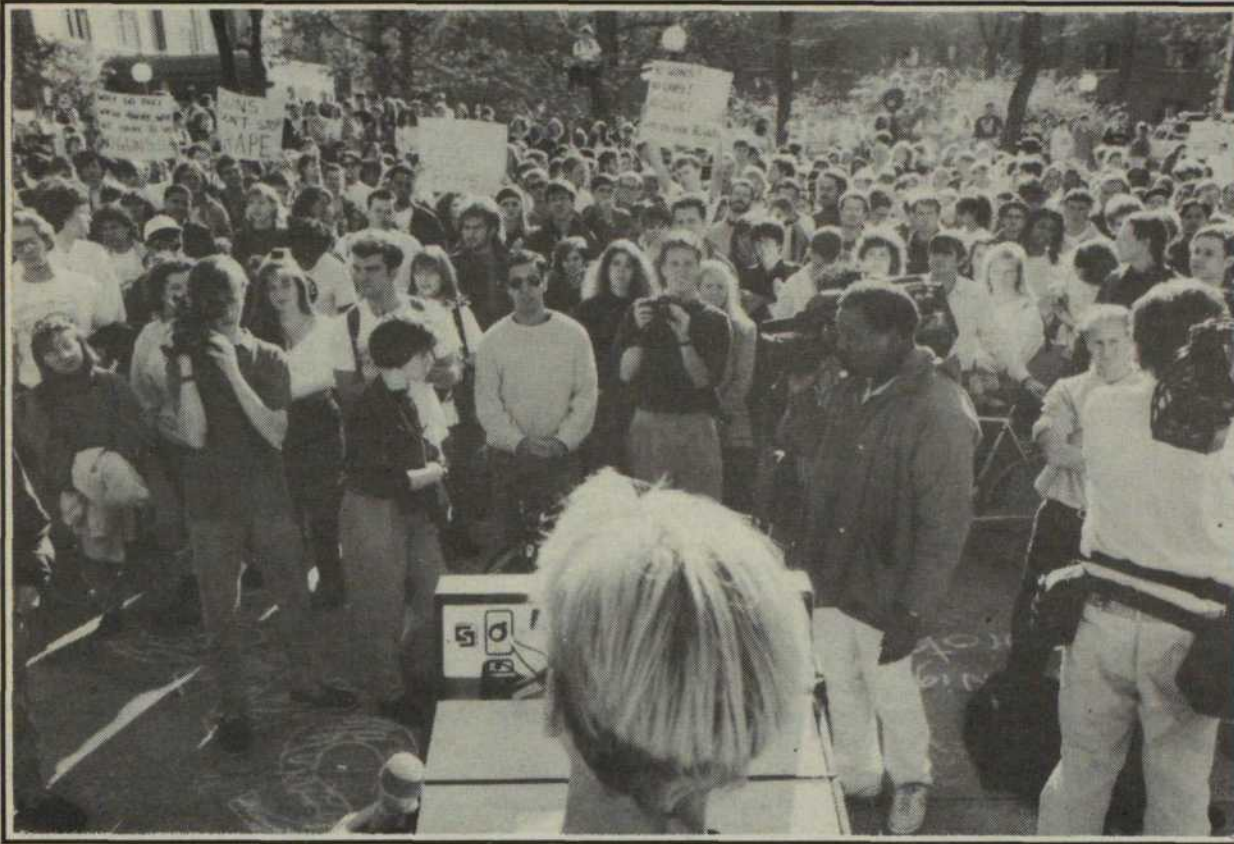


PHOTO: CASEY CAVANAUGH

U-M Regents Cause Big Stink

by Laurie Wechter

ANN ARBOR—November was a big month for the student rights movement on the the University of Michigan campus. Hundreds of students participated in protest activities which included sit-ins, rallies and a teach-in. The protesters rallied and around the slogan "No Guns, No Cops, No Code," and displayed a unity and organization rarely seen in U-M campus protests.

The actions began on Nov. 14 when 40 students occupied U-M President James Duderstadt's office in protest of last summer's unilateral decision by U-M Regents to deputize and arm a 24-officer campus police force. In the past, U-M has paid a yearly fee to the city of Ann Arbor for on-campus police services provided by the Ann Arbor Police Dept.

As news of the occupation spread, about 100 students gathered that night outside of the Fleming Administration Bldg. to show their support.

The 40 students occupying Duderstadt's office were from Students for a Safe Campus (SSC). They spent a long night in the President's office, kept awake by the sound of the security guards' radios at full volume, and a lack of ventilation which allowed the temperature in the room to rise above 80 degrees.

Students ended their occupation 27 hours later when police arrested 16 of the protesters, after reading them the Trespass Act.

The sit-in was provoked, say students, by their frustration over being left out of a decision-making process which will bring the armed security force to U-M's campus. The students demanded that the university develop a security oversight committee, student membership in the Campus Safety Task Force, and form a policy-making body that gives students a role in decisions that affect them.

The next day over 1500 supporters of the sit-in attended

a "No Guns, No Cops, No Code" rally outside the building, and another group of students occupied an office at the University News and Information Building, protesting what they called unfair and biased reportage of the deputization issue by the University Record, a monthly U-M publication. Both sit-ins ended in the evening hours. Protesters then took their case to the residence of President Duderstadt where about 70 people camped out on the lawn for the night.

The campus upheaval continued Nov. 16 with an open meeting on the steps of the Michigan Union attended by about 2000 students. Although the majority of students present voted against deputization, less than half voted to boycott classes as a form of protest.

"They have good instincts, but are not educated," said Corey Dolgon of the Student Rights Commission. To that end, leaders of the anti-deputization campaign organized a teach-in on the issue Nov. 19. About 400 people attended over 25 workshops.

The size of the campus protests on this issue reflects strong student opposition to the deputization process, said Mark Stank of the U-M Student Rights Commission (SRC). Buchan cited a Michigan Student Assembly election last winter, when 70% of students participating voted against deputization.

These results were ignored, Buchan claims, when the Regents voted in June to arm U-M's security force. At the time, the majority of students were away from campus on summer vacation. Students packed Regents meetings this fall, demanding during the public comments section, that they be allowed input on campus safety. But according to university officials, eight officers are already in training to begin work in January and the plan for a 24-member security force will go forward as scheduled.

(FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

be only two more nameless, faceless deaths.

Yet the death of the priests and other prominent martyrs, said Maduro, is only the tip of the iceberg. They represent many more victims of political repression, not those killed by machine guns, but those killed by salaries that cannot buy food, clothing, housing, or medicine, who live in daily terror of speaking up about the conditions of their lives.

The fundamental issue, he said, is not the repression, but the system which the repression exists to protect. The repression of the Salvadoran people protects the rights of private enterprises to carry out their business in any way that best serves their profit, regardless of human life. It protects a system, said Maduro, that "gives freedom to those who have the money to buy freedom, and takes freedom from those who

do not." The repression is an integral part of this system, because "you can't keep that many people quiet under those kind of conditions except by breaking, torturing, maiming and killing them."

A video of the speech "The Psychological Consequences of Political Terrorism," by Fr. Ignacio Martín Baró, one of the murdered Jesuits, was also shown. In Baró's video audience, a man spoke of his growing awareness that the murder in El Salvador, supported by our tax dollars, exists to protect the material interests of the United States—the "American way of life." "If there weren't a process of deadening here in the U.S. we wouldn't permit this to be done in our names," he said. "What is it in our lives," he asked, "that permits our levels of acquiescence?"



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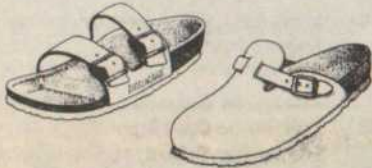
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Costa Rica

From Social Democracy to Banana Republic

by Jon Reed

"Costa Rica is in some ways still a tropical paradise, the most prosperous and peaceful country in Central America. But from the way things are going, we're going to lose this paradise within five years unless the people at the grassroots get organized and mobilized."

—A Costa Rican community organizer in Puerto Viejo, south of Limón.

Cruising in a Budget rent-a-car, under a glittering canopy of stars, a stone's throw from the pounding surf, along Costa Rican highway 36 between the Panama border and the Caribbean port of Limón, the social and economic decomposition of Central America and the wars in El Salvador and Guatemala seem far away.

But perhaps not that far away. Down the road there's an abrupt gash in the rainforest, the site of a CIA radio installation, Radio Impacto, which until recently beamed U.S. propaganda into Nicaragua and Panama. Now that pro-U.S. regimes have been installed on both sides of Costa Rica's borders, the 24-hour-a-day armed guards have been relaxed; but the barbed wire fence and cinderblock sentry post, standing in front of three gigantic radio towers, are a graphic reminder that Costa Rica's bucolic social democracy and non-aligned foreign policy have become a thing of the past.

Some of the news highlights of the week in Costa Rica's right-wing dailies, La Nacion and La Republica, include: the war in the Middle East and the steep rise in domestic gasoline and diesel prices, IMF/AID-imposed consumer price hikes, more proposed cuts in social services, gunrunning and coke smuggling in Limón (carried out by a still-operational Nicaraguan contra network), and the erection of a \$20 million U.S. military radar station on the Nicoya Peninsula.

The Tico Times, the liberal San José English language weekly, has recently been running feature stories on Costa Rica's rampant deforestation, pesticide contamination, ecotourism and the post-invasion situation in Panama—this week covering the exhumation of a mass grave in Colón, filled with victims of the U.S. military invasion of last

December.

Last night, shortly after driving past a pesticide-reeking banana plantation, an armed Costa Rican Guardia stepped out into the road and forced me to stop. The Tico soldier pointed his U.S.-supplied M-1 carbine in my face and pawed through the van, ostensibly looking for contraband. The Guardia's attitude and camouflage outfit were a drastic change from the polite demeanor and boy scout uniforms that I remembered the mostly unarmed Tico police wearing during the reign of Oscar Arias (1986-90).

But this is the new White House-tailored Costa Rica, I told myself, fired up to fight the war on drugs and subversion, and determined to eliminate the "creeping socialism" of public welfare, consumer subsidies, and government control over banks, insurance companies and utilities. In the post-Esquipulas, International Monetary Fund administration of President Rafael Angel Calderon, what really matters are U.S. transnational profits; government austerity; regional security (no more left-wing revolution); and timely debt payments to the international bankers—not Nobel Peace Prizes.

I relaxed a bit as the Guardia asked me in slurred, drunken Spanish "Tiene usted una grabadora?" (Do you have a tape recorder?) I realized he was looking more for a bribe than for a surface-to-air missile. If this had been one of the more repressive neighboring Banana Republics, El Salvador, Panama, Honduras or Guatemala, it would not have been that humorous. Still, for a country that supposedly abolished its army 40 years ago, there seem to be a lot of guns and security forces around.

According to the left-wing weekly, Adelanta, the tourist paradise of Costa Rica (population 3 million) now has 25,000 police and Guardia,

counting the reserves and police auxiliary, with U.S.-prompted security expenditures increasing 30% in two years. These unnecessary and in fact unpopular increases in military spending are especially irrational given the fact that the country is essentially bankrupt, with the highest per capita debt in all of Central America.

Meanwhile consumer prices, as in all of Latin America, have risen sharply while social services are being cut back or privatized—leading some analysts to predict that Costa Rica will soon be experiencing mass political protest like its neighbors. A number of unions have recently gone on strike to protest the drastic price increases in public services, transportation and foodstuffs, while left-wing intellectuals have loudly complained about Costa Rica's transformation into just another U.S. client state.

Lately it seems like negotiations have been in the news a lot—between government officials and left-wing opposition movements in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua—as well as negotiations here between the international bankers and the Costa Rican government. Today's news focuses on the latest maneuvers between Calderon administration officials and the U.S. AID debt collectors, who are demanding that Costa Rica step up the required economic shock treatments that are being applied throughout Latin America. While already pauperized citizens have been sacking stores and supermarkets in the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Peru, and setting up street barricades in Managua, here people on the street are not doing much more than just complaining—at least for the moment.

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AGENDA's 1991 Publishing Schedule

The combined January/February issue of AGENDA will be on the streets January 2, 1990. The March issue will be out March 1.

Please send formatted January and February

event listings to 202 E. Washington, #512, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. The deadline for the CALENDAR and for the COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY is 5 pm December 15.

Get Down!

CALENDAR

To publicize January/February Calendar events, send formatted listings by December 15 to AGENDA, 202 E. Washington #512, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, (996-8018). Listings for more than five events must be sent to AGENDA on Macintosh disc. Send SASE if you want your disc returned.

FORMAT—Date, event, sponsor, time and place. One or two sentence description, fee, phone number.

Unless otherwise noted, all events listed in the CALENDAR are free and open to the public. All locations are in Ann Arbor unless otherwise noted.

1 Saturday

NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Panels Exhibition: Arts and Prog. 7 am to 2 pm, Mich. Union Art Lounge. Display of 7 panels. 764-6498

Frelighthouse Holiday Bazaar: Ypsilanti Farmer's Market 8 am to 3 pm, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Quality crafts, gifts and decorations for all ages. Sweet cider, baked goods, fresh produce, cheeses and more. 483-1480

Santa Paws: Humane Society of Huron Valley 9:30 am to 5 pm, Fountain Plaza, Washtenaw Ave. (near Builders Square), Ypsilanti. Get your pet's photo taken with Santa. All dogs must be on leash. Cats, guinea pigs, and rabbits must be in secure carrier. \$7-12. 662-5545

Quilting Bee: Arts and Prog. 10 am to 4 pm, Mich. Union Art Lounge. Help assemble individual names panels into one large panel to be sent to the Names Project for inclusion in the AIDS Memorial Quilt. 764-6498

Kids in the Farm Kitchen: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 10 am to noon (ages 5-7), 1 to 3 pm (ages 8-12) Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Children will bake gingerbread in a wood stove and create a surprise craft to take home, \$10. Register 994-2928

Planning Meeting for Anti-war Actions: The National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East 10:30 am to 4:30 pm, Riverside Church, 120th Street and Riverside Dr., NYC. Help plan actions under the theme "Home for the Holidays." (212) 727-3069

Cooking Encounters: Ypsilanti Food Co-op 11 am to 5 pm, 312 River St., Ypsilanti. Learn about food items you can make as holiday gifts. 483-1520

Holiday Parade for Creative Toys and TV for Children: The Campaign Against Violent Toys 11 am, William at S. State. Signs, costumes, and instruments welcome. 764-2547

Fear No Art: Performance Network 2 to 6 pm and 30-minutes prior to showtimes, thru 2 Sun, 408 W. Washington. Controversial text, found images, classical and contemporary art you are invited to contribute to. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. 764-6498

25th Anniversary Reunion: Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice 5:30 pm, Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Where are the places to witness now? How shall we support each other and others in the 1990s? Dinner by Pilar Celaya, speech by Rev. Dick Fernandez, dialogue, challenges and singing, \$7-\$15. 663-1870

Gene Loves Jezebel: Prism Productions 7 pm, Latin Quarter, 3067 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, \$16.50 advance. 665-4755

"The Public": Intersect Theater 8 pm, Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Lorca's first "impossible theater" work exposing humanity's superficiality, and uncontrolled passions, \$9/\$7 studs. & srs. 663-0681

"Washington's Accelerating War Drive and the Fight to Stop it": Pathfinder Books 8 pm, 231 Michigan Ave., The Mich. Room, Days Inn,

Detroit. Greg McCartan, editor of the socialist newsweekly, The Militant, will speak. Party to follow. 831-1178

2 Sunday

NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Panels Exhibition: Arts and Program. 9 am to 1 am (see 1 Sat)

Holiday Open House: Brookville Gardens Herb Farm 10 am to 5 pm, 7885 Brookville Rd., Plymouth. Craft demonstrations at noon and 3 pm. Gift ideas, refreshments. 455-8602

"The Perils & Pleasures of Writing for Theatre": Grads and Young Professionals 11:30 am, Lawyers' Club, Law Quad. Brunch with local playwright and errant theatre critic, Rachel Urist. Bagel brunch, \$3. Reserve 769-0500

Children's Storytime: Kaleidoscope Books and Collectibles 2 pm, 217 S. State. Jeff Pickell will read and weave holiday stories for 2 1/2 to 6 year olds. 995-9887

Alternative Gift Fair: Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice 3 to 7 pm, First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron (enter off Washington). Gifts sold by SERRV Self-Help Handicrafts and other local grassroots groups working for peace and justice. 663-0362

Selecting the Perfect Pet: How to Choose Your New Dog or Cat: Humane Society of Huron Valley 3:30 pm, Arborland Consumer Mall, Washtenaw Ave. Purebred vs. mixed breed, temperament, care, financial considerations and more, \$2/under 12 free. 662-5545

Meeting: Huron Valley Greens 6 pm, Guild House, 802 Monroe. Business/Details Committee and Working Group reports. 663-0003

"The Public": Intersect Theater 6:30 pm (see 1 Sat)

"Juliet of the Spirits": U-M Film & Video Studies 7 pm, Angell Hall, Aud. A. Fellini psychodrama. 764-0147

The Pixies: Prism Productions 7 pm, Latin Quarter, 3067 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, \$16.50 advance. 99-MUSIC.

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian AA 7:30 pm, First Congregational Church, 118 N. Adams, downstairs. Lighted parking, non-smoking area available. 484-0456

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian Alanon 7:30 pm, First Congregational Church, 118 N. Adams, upstairs. Lighted parking, non-smoking area available. 484-0456

Meeting: Ann Arbor Libertarian League 9 pm. Student Libertarian group unconnected to the Libertarian Party. For location: Jesse 761-8041

3 Monday

"Middle East Perspectives" 6:30 pm, 88.3 FM, WCBN. News and commentary on popular struggles for social change throughout the Middle East. 763-3501

Academy of Early Music: U-M Arts & Programming 8 pm, Mich. Union, Pendleton Rm. Seasonal baroque music for recorders, viols, harpsichord and sackbuts. 764-6498

Electric Hot Tuna: Prism Productions 8 & 11 pm, Blind Pig, 208 S. First, \$12.50 advance. 99-MUSIC.

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Gay Liberation 8:45 pm, Canterbury House, 218 N. Division. 763-4186

4 Tuesday

"Closets are for Clothes": Lesbian/Gay Radio Collective 6 pm, 88.3 FM, WCBN. Call-in talk show. 763-3501

"Faces of Women": U-M Film and Video Studies & Center for Afro-american and African Studies 7 pm, Angell Hall Aud. B. A female chorus spins together two stories—each

showing women successfully challenging the old-fashioned patriarchal system that undermines womans' role in society. 764-0147

"Sexuality and AIDS": U-M School of Public Health 7 pm, 3001 Henry Vaughn Bldg. (Public Health I). Panel led by Sylvia Hacker. 764-6498

5 Wednesday

"Where are We in the AIDS Epidemic?": U-M School of Public Health noon, auditorium, Thomas Francis Bldg. (Public Health II). With Dr. June Osborne. 764-6498

"Soviet Jews' Immigration to Israel and the Current Crisis in the Middle East": United Jewish Appeal 2 pm, Hillel, 1429 Hill. Freeda Keet is well-known for her unique style of broadcasting and as a keen observer of Israel's social, cultural, political and economic life. 769-0500

"Womyn's Rites & Rhythms" 6 pm, 88.3 FM, WCBN. Tune in to womyn's issues. 763-3501

Dhoruba Bin Wahad: Black Students Union 7 pm, U-M. For location, Syovata Edari 764-0077

"Hannukah in Our Day": Hillel Orthodox Minyan 7 pm, Hillel, 1429 Hill. Rabbi Reuben Drucker will discuss some of the philosophical underpinnings of a holiday that is too often considered based on gift giving and receiving and show how it has relevance to Jews and Jews' view of the world. 769-0500

Nine-Ball Tournament: U-M Arts & Programming 7:30 pm, Billiards and Games Room, 2nd floor, Mich Union, \$6. 763-5786

Meeting: Latin American Solidarity Committee (LASC) 8 pm, ask for rm. # at front desk, Mich. Union. 665-8438

Advanced Bulgarian Dance: U-M Folkdance Club 8 pm, Angell Elementary School, 1608 S. University. Learn two classic "hot shot" dances:

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6 Thursday

University Dancers: U-M Arts & Programming 12:15 pm, Mich. Union, Pendleton Rm. Choreographies from fall term presentations. 764-6498

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee (HAC) 5 pm, 219 Angell Hall. Meet to discuss actions to end homelessness. 936-3076

Meeting: Washtenaw County Libertarian Party 6:30 pm, Dominick's, 812 Monroe. Discussion and planning. 475-9792

Reading: Kaleidoscope Books and Collectibles 7 pm, 217 S. State. Annemarie Stoll will read from her writings for the stage, and her poetry and prose. 995-9887

Meeting: Lesbian and Gay Men's Rights Organizing Com. (LaGROC) 7:15 pm, 3100 Mich. Union. 761-2962

Princess Ida: The U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society 8 pm, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, \$7.50-\$10/\$5 stud. rear sections. 763-1085

Rolling in the Green II: Environmental Action-U-M 9:30 pm, The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Benefit with Frank Allison & the Odd Sox and Juice. 18 and up welcome, \$5. 930-0999

7 Friday

Juried Photography Exhibit: Precision Photographics Gallery thru Jan. 18, all day. 830 Phoenix Dr. Juried by Bill Pelletier. 971-9100

Coffeebreak for Lesbian and Bisexual Wimmin: U-M Lesbian/Gay Male Programs Office & Common Language Bookstore 4 pm, 214 S. Fourth Ave. Come socialize and network. 763-4186

Fourth Annual Raise the Roof Benefit: Performance Network 6:30 pm buffet reception, 8 pm variety showcase, 408 W. Washington. Mr. B, Malcolm Tulip, Elise Bryant, Chenille Sisters, Sat. night dance party, \$15/\$5 dance party only. Reserve 663-0681

Opening Reception: Precision Photographics Gallery 7 to 9 pm, 830 Phoenix Dr. Juried photography exhibit. 971-9100

Steve Somers: Friends Meeting House 8 pm, 1420 Hill. Terrega, Villa-Lobos, Gershwin, Thelonius Monk program \$6/5 stud. & srs. 668-6211

Princess Ida: The U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society 8 pm (see 6 Thur)

Gay Men's Coffee House: "Brothers" 9 pm, Guild House, 802 Monroe. 763-4186

The Connells: Prism Productions 9:30 pm, Blind Pig, 208 S. First, \$7 advance. 99-MUSIC.

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8 Saturday

Freighthouse Holiday Bazaar: Ypsilanti Farmer's Market 8 am (see 1 Sat)

Ann Arbor Record Show: Oran-gapoid Productions 9:30 am to 5 pm, Elks Lodge, 325 W. Eisenhower Pkwy, \$2. Dan 665-2926

Country Christmas: Dept. of Parks & Rec. noon to 4 pm, Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Traditional decorations, caroling, baked holiday treats and more, \$1.50/.75 youth & srs. 994-2928

Anti-war Demonstration: Emergency Coalition for Peace in the Middle East 12:30 pm, Daly Plaza, Chicago, IL. Regional action sponsored by 50 organizations. "No Blood for Oil."

Awards Ceremony: Beyond War 1:45 pm, 2011 Modern Languages Building. Live telecast honoring Gro Harlem Brundtland, Václav Havel and the people of Czechoslovakia and Earth Day International 1990. Then local honors go to Jenny Zimmer, The Ecology Center of Ann Arbor and The Huron Valley Greens. 995-2951

Princess Ida: The U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society 2 & 8 pm (see 6 Thur)

Raise the Roof: An Opus in 5 Acts: Performance Network 6:30 pm buffet, 8 pm showcase, 11 pm dance party (see 7 Fri)

Aztec Camera: Prism Productions 9 pm, Latin Quarter, 3067 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, \$10.50 advance. 99-MUSIC.

9 Sunday

Country Christmas: Dept. of Parks & Rec. noon (see 8 Sat)

Children's Storytime: Kaleidoscope Books and Collectibles 2 pm, 217 S. State. Tom Zieziul will read his book, "Sticky the Christmas Tree Nobody Wanted" accompanied by fiddle and art, to 4-9 year olds. 995-9887

Princess Ida: The U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society 2 pm (see 6 Thur)

Sherlock Jr.: U-M Film & Video Studies 7 pm, Michigan Theatre, 608 E. Liberty. Buster Keaton's silent comedy about a projectionist who projects himself into a movie of his own making. With live organ. 764-0147

Sixth Anniversary Party: Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament 7:30 pm, St. Aidan's/Northside Church, ground floor, 1679 Broadway (across from Baits Dr. entrance to U-M North Campus). All WAND members, former members, future members, friends and supporters are invited to share a potluck dessert. Have fun, catch up with friends and regroup for the coming

year. Bring a dish to share and a reusable plate and silverware. Accessible. 761-1718

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian AA 7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian Alanon 7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

Meeting: Ann Arbor Libertarian League 9 pm (see 2 Sun)

10 Monday

Meeting: Huron Regional Alliance 6:30 pm, room 3409 Mich. Union. The primary topic will be the Comprehensive Plan (see pg. 10). 663-0003

"Middle East Perspectives" 6:30 pm (see 3 Mon)

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Gay Liberation 8:45 pm (see 3 Mon)

The Special Beat: Prism Prod. 9 pm, Nectarine Ballroom, 510 E. Liberty. Ska spectacular with former members of The Specials and The English Beat, \$13.50 advance. 665-4755

11 Tuesday

"Closets are for Clothes": Lesbian/Gay Radio Collective 6 pm (see 4 Tue)

"Mumia Abu Jamal From Death Row": Ypsilanti City Councilmember James Brown 7:30 pm, Pine Grove Family Housing, Community Room, EMU, Ypsilanti. Video and discussion. 487-7017

Meeting: Amnesty International Group 61 7:30 pm, Mich. Union, check rm. # at desk. Activities to protect human rights and free prisoners of conscience around the world. 761-1628

12 Wednesday

Buhrrr Blast: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 4:15 pm, Buhr Park outdoor rink, 2751 Packard. Broomball—a version of hockey. Brooms and balls provided. Helmet req., \$2/1.50 youth & srs. 971-3228

Anti-War Rally: Coalition for a Peaceful Solution to the Gulf Crisis 5 pm, Federal Building, Detroit. Testimonials by Vietnam War veterans followed by indoor speakout at a nearby church. Jackie 548-3920

"Womyn's Rites and Rhythms" 6 pm (see 5 Wed)

International Folkdancing: U-M Folk-dance Club 7:30 to 10:30 pm, Anderson Rm., Mich. Union. One hour of instruction followed by requests. Line and circle dances from the Balkans, Europe and the Middle East. 663-3885

Nine-Ball Tournament: U-M Arts & Programming 7:30 pm (see 5 Wed)

Meeting: LASC 8 pm (see 3 Wed)

Third Annual UJA Bash: Hillel 9:30 pm, 1429 Hill. Let off steam before finals with a live band and lots of refreshments. Steve 662-3885

13 Thursday

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee (HAC) 5 pm (see 6 Thur)

Meeting: Washtenaw County Libertarian Party 6:30 pm (see 6 Thur)

Meeting: LaGROC 7:15 pm (see 6 Thur)

Reading: Kaleidoscope Books and Collectibles 8 pm, 217 S. State. Patricia Lesko will read from her fiction and non-fiction work. 995-9887

"The Caliban Motel": Prospero Theater Co. 8 pm, Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Inspired by Shakespeare's "The Tempest," a new play by Malcolm Tulip, formerly of Theatre Grottesco, \$10/\$8 studs. & srs. 663-0681

14 Friday

"The Caliban Motel": Prospero Theater Co. 8 pm (see 13 Thur)

15 Saturday

January/February Issue Deadline for Calendar & Community Resource Directory: AGENDA by 5 pm, 202 E. Washington #512, 48104. Please give a contact phone number. 996-8018

Freighthouse Holiday Bazaar: Ypsilanti Farmer's Market 8 am (see 1 Sat)

Skate With Santa: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 2:30 to 4:30 pm, Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. Holiday treats and skating with the jolly old elf, \$2/1.50 youth & srs. 971-3228

"The Caliban Motel": Prospero Theater Co. 8 pm (see 13 Thur)

16 Sunday

Holiday Open House: Brookville Gardens Herb Farm 10 am to 5 pm (see 2 Sun)

Granite Line Writers Poetry Reading: Freight House Cafe 2 pm, Cross at River, Ypsilanti. Pat Smith and David Gansz will read from new work, \$3. 663-0546

Big Circle Meeting: Huron Valley Greens 6:30 pm, Guild House, 802 Monroe. 663-0003

Banquet Dinner with Bishop Thomas Gumbleton: The Palestine Aid Society 6 pm, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium. Come enjoy an authentic Middle Eastern dinner. Proceeds to a mobile clinic to operate in remote villages in the West Bank, \$25/\$15 stud. 668-6430

"The Caliban Motel": Prospero Theater Co. 6:30 pm (see 13 Thur)

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian AA 7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian Alanon 7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

Meeting: Ann Arbor Libertarian League 9 pm (see 2 Sun)

17 Monday

"Middle East Perspectives" 6:30 pm (see 3 Mon)

Open House for Lesbians & Gay Men: Gay Liberation 8:45 pm (see 3 Mon)

18 Tuesday

Ice Rink Clinic: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 10:30 am, West Park Ice Rink, 313 Chapin. Demonstration and "how to" material on making your own rink. Gary 994-2769

"Closets are for Clothes": Lesbian/Gay Radio Collective 6 pm (see 4 Tue)

19 Wednesday

Buhrrr Blast: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 4:15 pm, Buhr Park outdoor rink, 2751 Packard. Big Wheels on Ice. Watch your little ones take a spin on their big wheels, \$2/1.50 youth & srs. 971-3228

"Womyn's Rites and Rhythms" 6 pm (see 5 Wed)

International Folkdancing: U-M Folkdance Club 7:30 to 10:30 pm, Angell Elementary School, 1608 S. University. Review session followed by requests. Mostly line and circle dances from the Balkans, Europe and the Middle East. 663-3885

Meeting: LASC 8 pm (see 5 Wed)

20 Thursday

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee (HAC) 5 pm (see 6 Thur)

Meeting: Washtenaw Cty Libertarian Party 6:30 pm (see 6 Thur)

Meeting: LAGROC 7:15 pm (see 6 Thur)

Reading: Kaleidoscope Books and Collectibles 7 pm, 217 S. State. Tom Holden will read Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales," and more. 995-9887

21 Friday

Coffeebreak for Lesbians and Bisexual Wimmin: Common Language Bookstore 4 pm (see 7 Fri)

Gay Men's Coffee House: "Brothers" 9 pm (see 7 Fri)

Dance Jam: People Dancing 10 pm (see 7 Fri)

23 Sunday

Santa on Ice: Dept. of Parks & Rec. 1 to 3 pm, Veteran's Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd.. Skating, candy canes, music, and Santa, \$3/2.50 youth & srs (skate rental \$1.50). 761-7240

Children's Storytime: Kaleidoscope Books and Collectibles 2 pm, 217 S. State. Jeff Pickell will read and weave Christmas stories. 995-9887

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian AA 7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

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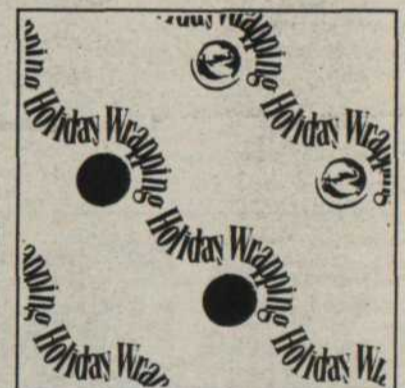


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CALENDAR

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian
Alanon 7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

Meeting: Ann Arbor Libertarian League
9 pm (see 2 Sun)

24 Monday

"Middle East Perspectives" 6:30 pm
(see 3 Mon)



26 Wednesday

Buhrrr Blast: Dept. of Parks & Rec.
4:15 pm, Buhr Park outdoor rink, 2751
Packard. Nerf Ball Hockey—a silly version of
hockey with brooms and a nerf ball. Helmet
required, \$2/1.50 youth & srs. 971-3228

"Womyn's Rites and Rhythms" 6 pm
(see 5 Wed)

27 Thursday

Meeting: Homeless Action Committee
(HAC) 5 pm (see 6 Thur)

Meeting: Washtenaw County Libertarian
Party 6:30 pm (see 6 Thur)

30 Sunday

Children's Storytime: Kaleidoscope Books
and Collectibles 2 pm, 217 S. State. The
Woods family will tell stories of Kwanza, a
mid-winter African American celebration.
995-9887

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian AA
7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

Meeting: Ypsilanti Gay Male/Lesbian
Alanon 7:30 pm (see 2 Sun)

Meeting: Ann Arbor Libertarian League
9 pm (see 2 Sun)

31 Monday

Marathon Skate: Dept. of Parks & Rec.
11 am to 1 pm adults, 1 to 5 pm children, Vet-
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"Middle East Perspectives" 6:30 pm
(see 3 Mon)

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Holidays Can be Stressful for Lesbians & Gay Men

As we enter into "the holiday season," we need to be especially aware of the stress experienced at this time by many lesbians and gay men. How many families welcome the "significant others" of their lesbian and gay male children to their holiday festivities? How many families deny this example of loving support to their children? How many families have told their children "You are no longer a part of us"? How many families refuse to acknowledge the orientation of their lesbian daughters and gay sons? Silencing is to render invisible and non-existent. In a word, silence = death.

Most fortunately, support groups for families with lesbian and gay male children have for many years addressed family concerns with care and compassion. The local group, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG/Ann Arbor) meets on the third Sunday of the month at 2 pm at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 2685 Packard just west of Eisenhower. For more information, call 663-1867, 769-1684 or 763-4186. Write the Detroit area P-FLAG c/o P.O. Box 145, Farmington MI 48024 or call (313) 478-8408.

Please support the Ann Arbor P-FLAG in their attempt to educate public school administrators, faculty, and staff about the concerns of lesbian and gay male children and their families. To what degree do our local school boards carry out a resolution passed by the National Educators Association at its 1988 convention, which stated that "Every school district should provide counseling for students who are struggling with their sexual/gender orientation?" And when counseling is provided, to what degree is it compassionate, informed, and unbiased?

All good wishes to everyone for the holidays!

Gay Liberation's Purpose is to provide infor-

mation, counseling, and related social services for people concerned about sexual orientation. We maintain a hotline for crisis intervention, peer counseling and referral. We help provide factual information to offset prejudice and misinformation about lesbians and gay men. We work to obtain human and civil rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation. We help lesbian and gay men's groups organize. And we are a link to other community groups.

Community Services include: a **Hotline** for crisis intervention, peer counseling, referral. **Education:** workshops and conferences on lesbian and gay male concerns, with an emphasis on how people in the "helping professions" and "teaching professions" can work positively with lesbian and gay male clients, patients, & students. **Speakers Bureau:** phone for information. **Human & Civil Rights:** information and referral to help people who are being discriminated against because of their actual or presumed sexual orientation or because of their presumed "cross-gender" characteristics; lobbying for human and civil rights. **Community Organizing:** information and assistance in organizing groups, setting goals, addressing conflict, linking with other groups and resources.

Gay Liberation Meetings vary according to purpose; we do most of our work in subcommittees (counseling, groupwork, education, civil rights). Call for time and place. Gay Liberation includes U-M students, staff, and faculty, and people from the larger community. We have a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. We're a registered non-profit organization.

Gay Liberation, c/o 4117 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, MI 48109; 763-4186.

Developing a Comprehensive Plan for the Area

The Huron Regional Alliance is a new group dedicated to improving the climate for grassroots social change by emphasizing the interconnectedness of social movements and facilitating cooperation among groups. We believe there is far too much duplication, fragmentation, and isolation on the part of activist groups in the area. We urge groups to give the Alliance a try—one member attending our monthly meeting is a small investment that could yield greater support for your group's actions and effectiveness.

The Huron Regional Alliance was born at the Earth Day Regional Town Meeting on April 7 in Ann Arbor when 26 environmental, peace, democracy,

and social justice groups convened a long-overdue dialogue. The Alliance has been meeting the last Monday of the month since May. We are proud of the diversity of some of our more active groups: Huron Valley Greens, Homeless Action Committee, Augusta Environmental Strategy Committee, Gray Panthers, Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, Earth First!, Rainbow Organizing Committee, Habitat for Humanity, and the Rainforest Action Movement. To emphasize the regional nature of the group, meetings are rotated. So far we have met in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Augusta Township and this month we meet in Dexter.

One current project is to begin to scope out a

MENSTRUAL SUPPLIES

(from page one)

No safe level of exposure to dioxins has been established. The Environmental Protection Agency lists soil as hazardous waste if it is contaminated with dioxins at a level of one part per billion. The authors of "The Sanitary Protection Scandal" report that "scientists are concerned about the health risks of exposure to very small amounts of dioxins over a long period of time. These risks include changes to the immune system, birth defects, reproductive effects, organ damage and the production of cancers."

Tampons containing rayon, which is derived from the wood-product cellulose, and the absorbent material in napkins, made primarily from wood pulp, are likely to be contaminated with dioxins. The white color of tampons and pads is achieved through the bleaching process mentioned above, and is purely cosmetic. While these products look sterile, the white color only indicates that they have

been bleached with chlorine and probably contain dioxins.

Unbleached tampons are not currently available. However, disposable pads bleached with hydrogen peroxide can be found.

Other Risks

Have you ever checked a box of tampons for the list of ingredients? The Food and Drug Administration does not require tampon manufacturers to list ingredients because it considers the tampon an external product. Asking the manufacturers will not yield much information either. Tampon producers claim that releasing such information puts them at a "competitive disadvantage" with other producers.

In 1980, Woman Health International checked the Official Gazette of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and found that "tampon manufacturers were apparently using substances such as acetic acid, phenol, polyvinyl alcohol and methylcellulose." Phenol and acetic acid are listed as possibly toxic substances by the Toxic Substances Control

Handbook. Polyvinyl alcohol and methylcellulose have caused arteriosclerosis, hypertension and cardiac enlargement when injected into rats.

Other possible contaminants are numerous. Traces of chemicals, from the de-inking of recycled material, remain in sanitary napkins. Additives used to improve absorbency and wet-strength often include polysorbate and urea formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is a suspected carcinogen.

Because the sterilization of tampons and pads would impede their absorbency, they are instead chemically treated to eliminate the organisms present in raw cotton. Each batch is then checked for contamination. Chemicals, in the form of pesticides, used on cotton crops present another concern. Because cotton is not a food crop, it can be much more intensely sprayed with chemicals than other crops.

Medical research has documented some health problems specifically associated with tampon use. Plastic applicators have caused

(see MENSTRUAL SUPPLIES, next page)

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MENSTRUAL SUPPLIES

from previous page

vaginal lacerations. Drying of the vaginal mucous membranes can result from tampon use, and extended use of tampons throughout the month, to absorb spotting for example, has been found to lead to vaginal and cervical ulcerations. These ulcerations have cleared up by themselves when tampon use was discontinued. Also, fibers from tampons have been found lodged in the vagina leading to questions about the long-term effects of tampon use and possible connections to increased rates of cervical cancer.

Deodorant products, marketed on the cultural bias that women's bodies smell bad, cause allergic reactions in some women. Women's health advocates argue that deodorant tampons and pads are unnecessary, and suggest that women avoid them.

Environmental Impact

If consumers worry about exposure to chemicals and pesticides, questions then arise about their effects on the workers who grow or manufacture these products, as well as their environmental effects. With more information, women can then include these broader health and environmental issues in their decision-making.

In addition to possibly contaminating tampon users, dioxins are an environmental threat. The processing of the wood pulp releases dioxins into the environment. According to one source, both waste and paper products from Canadian paper mills attempting to reduce dioxin pollution were still found to contain high levels of the toxins, which travel into air, water and food supplies.

The environmental soundness of disposable products is another question. Disposable pads, with their petroleum-based plastic adhesive strips, end up in the landfill when they are thrown away. There, they do not biodegrade, and become lost assets because the resources that went into making them will not be reused.

Flushing tampons and applicators down the toilet in Ann Arbor sends them to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. There, they may be screened or skimmed out during the first two stages of processing, and sent to the landfill. In the third stage of processing, everything that is left is dehydrated and then burned. Because the plant does not keep track of what makes it to the third stage, it is likely that tampons as well as plastic applicators are present in the sludge when it is burned, according to one worker. The ash from the burned sludge also ends up in the landfill.

Another problem with disposal is the clogged sewer pipes which often result from flushing tampons down the toilet. The sheer number of tampons and applicators entering the Waste Water Treatment Plant cause problems, because their accumulation causes blockages in the machinery. Resources used to process tampons after disposal, and our overload of solid waste must be factored into manufacturers claims that products are "flushable" or "biodegradable."

Alternatives

Just as the risks and questions regarding usage of tampons and disposable pads are not generally topics of public discus-

Flushing tampons and applicators down the toilet in Ann Arbor sends them to the Waste Water Treatment Plant [where] the sheer number entering the Plant cause problems [due to] blockages in the machinery....Our overload of solid waste must be factored into manufacturers claims that products are "flushable" or "biodegradable."

sion, information about alternatives is not widely available. Women have used many things to absorb their menstrual flow, including moss, cloth and sponges.

Information on how to use sponges is important because it is not included in the packaging. The type of sponge to purchase is a silk cosmetic sponge. If it is too large, you can cut it to size. Rinse it to remove any sand in the sponge, and boil it for 10 minutes. You can insert and remove the sponge with your fingers. Bearing down will push it down. (Though attaching a string to the sponge can make for easier removal, it can act as a wick for bacteria to enter the vagina.) Some women rinse and reinsert the same sponge through their whole period, while others keep several. The sponge can be removed as often as you wish. You can carry an extra sponge if you are in a situation where you do not feel comfortable rinsing it out.

If you soak it overnight after your period in a mild solution of white vinegar water, this will keep it at a healthy acidic pH. Don't use apple cider vinegar because it contains too much sugar, which may change your vaginal flora. After soaking, store the sponge so it can completely air dry. Do not store the sponge in an airtight container. You can boil the sponge again if you wish to kill organisms, but this will reduce the life of the sponge.

All-cotton reusable pads are available at stores and from small businesses which distribute directly to the consumer. The pads may be pinned to undergarments or worn with a belt through the loops at either end.

Some women produce their own menstrual products. Somewhat worn out diapers can be purchased from diaper services. These diapers can be folded into thirds or quarters and held in place by pinning them to undergarments. Users describe them as much more absorbent than disposable pads.

Other options include purchasing unbleached muslin at a fabric store and folding or sewing layers of it together, or using washcloths or bandanas. A strip of fabric can be folded to the appropriate thickness and width to absorb the flow. One woman says that if she will not be doing a lot of walking, her cloth stays in place without pins.

Soiled cloths can soak throughout the day and be rinsed out at night. If the cloths soak for too long in the same water, the blood may decompose and create an unpleasant odor. Cloths can either be washed separately, or with other laundry, depending on your preference. Becoming used to handling bloody cloths can take a little time. However, some women are very comfortable with it and even feed the soak water to their plants. The nitrogen makes a good fertilizer.

While it is important to have information about alternative

products, women should not embrace them with the idea that because they are natural, they are without risk. The FDA has banned the sale of sea sponges labeled for menstrual use, based on results of a study which found traces of sand, bacteria, fungi, and chemical pollutants. Boiling a sponge will remove risks posed by sand, bacteria and fungi, but will not remove chemical pollutants. Studies have not been done to determine the quantity of chemicals absorbed by a growing sponge. The few studies to determine what the risks are from these pollutants have been very small, and the results have been contradictory.

Risks posed by exposure to pesticides, dyes, bleaches and other chemical treatments are unknown quantities with home-made products unless a woman knows exactly how the cotton has been treated.

What Every Tampon (and Pad) Maker Should Know

Considering the various products for menstruation can seem rather hopeless. The choices are intolerable. Some women use political action to pressure the industry to change. Woman Health International (WHI), a volunteer organization that researches and publicizes the risks of mainstream products for menstruation, advocates labeling the contents of tampons, further research of health concerns beyond Toxic Shock Syndrome, and government testing to establish and maintain standards for commercial tampons. WHI suggests policies similar to those regulating tampon use in Japan, where deodorant, super-absorbency chemicals and rayon may not be used.

The authors of "The Sanitary Protection Scandal" advocate, among other things, forcing manufacturers to use unbleached rayon and cotton for tampons and chlorine-free paper pulp in all sanitary napkins. They also call on consumers to educate themselves and others in order to put these personal choices in a political context.

Where You Can Buy Alternative Products

Unbleached muslin and flannel pads with fabric covered belts: People's Food Coop, 740 Packard, Ann Arbor MI 48104. **Sterilized used diapers:** Cottonsoft/Diapers Unlimited, 2255 S. Industrial Highway, Ann Arbor MI 48104. (Cottonsoft has a special on worn diapers through Dec. 31.) **Unbleached disposable pads:** Seventh Generation 10 Farrell St., South Burlington VT 05403. **Menstrual pads in three sizes:** Arco Iris, H.C. 70 Box 17, Ponca, AR 72670. **Cosmetic sponges:** Sisterly Works, no address available, 512-893-5252.

Major Sources

•Alison Costelo, Bernadette Vallely, Josa Young, "The Sanitary Protection Scandal," Women's Environmental Network, 287 City Road, London EC1V 1LA. •Boston Women's Health Book Collective, "Our Bodies Ourselves," WHBC. •Woman Health International "Forty-Seven Years Later: Are Tampons Really Safe?," WHI. Debby Earthdaughter (Stephens) "Tampons: In Search of Alternatives," Cambridge Food Co-op Newsletter, June 1990.

Thank you to all of the women whose research, writing, stories and ideas made this article possible.



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