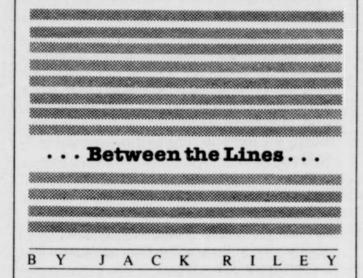
# Get patriotic, but don't get too patriotic

The best part about the Fourth of July is that it reminds me that the United States is a country born of vocal dissent and revolution. Enduring things are forged in fiery furnaces.

But in 1988, one of the most corrupt and oppressive U.S. governments in history continues a vicious attack on freedom of speech and expression. In recent weeks, the press reported what many of us have taken for granted: the FBI has been vigorously investigating opponents of the administration's Central American policies.

Remember, if you can, back to 1970 when then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover employed U.S. Army agents and local police forces to



photograph, harass, infiltrate and intimidate those who peacefully took to the streets to call for an end to fighting in Indochina.

I remember a local police photographer crouched on the roof of our town library with a camera and a 200mm lens. He was quietly snapping mug shots of every person attending a peaceful anti-war rally on the town square lawn below. I wonder what happened to those photos, and what evil use they served in later years.

The battle to keep this government from silencing its critics will go on a long time. Despite the celebrations and hoopla, the freedoms we rejoice are under constant threat from those who disagree with our personal beliefs and lifestyles.

#### Gay bar gets new "leash" on life

R lossies. The very name conjures images of a tacky tourist bar with phony South Seas decor, if you want to use that word in its most liberal sense.

For a while it was a fun bar where parties often featured free food and good times. But all that gave way in recent years to increasingly seedy outsiders who dealt in drugs, littered restroom floors with spent syringes, and picked pockets with considerable skill.

But the new proprietors, with the blessings of Mayor Clark, changed the decor to tacky Western, cranked up some boot scootin' music and are attempting to mellow the clientele.

But not without a price.

One of the conditions which will allow the Silverado ("Silver Dildo" or "Dildorado" as some local wags now call it) to keep its liquor license calls for periodic checks from OLCC enforcement agents, police and "other agencies."

I'm not so certain I wouldn't rather have a drug dealer occupying the bar stool next to me on Saturday night.

#### It's time to recruit a gay cop

he Portland Police Bureau is opening up a number of new positions this summer and officials have promised to actively recruit and train women and minorities.

Given this city's large gay and lesbian population, why shouldn't we press the city into actively recruiting and training gay police officers?

Gay cops would give the city a very visible and accessible liaison between local government and one of the largest gay populations on the West Coast. In San Francisco, openly gay cops who are regular members of the police force have made significant contributions to the entire community, gay and straight.

## Publisher fired for rejecting gay ads

he publisher of the *Dayton* (Ohio) *Daily News* was fired on June 8 for refusing to run classified ads placed by local gay and lesbian groups.

Publisher Dennis Shere cited his "Christian principles" as his reason for turning down the ads which promoted legal and political services for the gay community.

A spokesman for Cox Newspapers, which owns the *Daily News*, was quoted as saying, "Personal feelings, religious or otherwise, cannot be allowed to override our obligation to treat people fairly. . . . As newspaper people, it's our job to defend freedom of expression for all people, even when we do not condone their lifestyle or philosophy."

The issue had been inflamed by Shere's insistence that his rejection of the ads was based on the same reasoning for disallowing advertisements for escort services and massage parlors.

One of the ads Shere rejected read:
"Serenity, Inc., legal and political advocates to
the gay and lesbian community. For more information . . . " and the Serenity phone number
was included.

Gay activists picketed the newspaper building and called for a boycott by subscribers and advertisers. Shere said there were only a handful of circulation cancellations and no advertising repercussions.

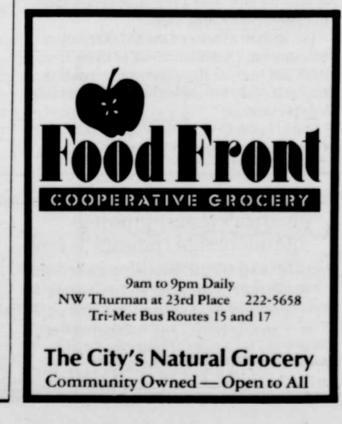
### Sad commentary on the times

ears ago when I edited a weekly newspaper in a small coastal city in Washington, I suggested to the publisher that we increase the type size in our obituary column so our elderly readers could follow the passings of their friends without using a magnifying glass.

Now, many years and major situations later, I find myself reading the obituaries. But I'm still young and my eyesight is still pretty good.

AIDS has changed my daily newspaper menu, sadly enough. People I know are dying of AIDS, but regrettably I haven't gotten to know them well enough to recognize their obits.

Fear keeps many of us from revealing our real names and occupations. So we read the obits looking for clues to someone we may have known, but didn't really know.







SUSAN J. WILL Sales Associate 635-6211

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