

STREETALK LETTER

WHY IS THE PUBLIC SO FASCINATED BY MADONNA?

BY JEFF SLATE



Nena,
Atlanta:

She's forbidden. She took the forbidden and put it in your lap. She's everything your mother told you to stay away from and, therefore, it has a certain friction to it. It makes you want to be like her. After all, she made herself — she made Madonna — all in a very calculating manner. She made being risqué acceptable to a younger generation. Who wouldn't wish they couldn't map out their plans as successfully as she did. She represents a wildness that a lot of people are afraid to exhibit but want to. If I had the boobs and the talent like Madonna, I'd wear a steel bra and a "boy belt," too.



Bill,
Atlanta:

Sex, sex, sex. She's exploited it better than anyone, even better than Monroe. There is no way I would ever, ever buy anything of hers, yet I have no problem looking at nude photos of her, and her videos are the most risqué I've ever seen. They are really sexy. You have to like somebody who doesn't give a damn whether she does it with an older man.

There are 3 other caretachs that came forward. They videotaped what they ~~some~~ saw at Emory. Advise if you wish to view.

CREATIVE LOAFING

MAY 18, 1991

TORTURE TAXES

The Editors:

For nine months during '89 and '90, I was employed as a primate technician on the great ape wing at Yerkes Primate Research Center. Since reading Anne Corwin's article on the center [CL, April 6], I would like to share some specific experiences and try to refrain from ranting.

The "noninvasive" research I saw was nothing short of government-funded torture. Imagine overhearing a doctor say, "Oops!" during a spinal tap!) I have seen lit matches applied to the finger of an orangutan to make her release the bars of a cage. I have seen extreme cases of infant abuse and even cannibalism due to mothering instincts driven haywire.

Even animals who are kept only for breeding purposes undergo unacceptable trauma from overcrowding, filth, ear-damaging noise and fighting. For weeks on end during winter months they are confined to the indoor portions of their cages; flu epidemics affect the colony and its caretakers alike. Some of these apes were rejects from sign-language projects and signalled frantically as I passed. Others were former pets who made the mistake of growing to full maturity. Many chimps at Yerkes are short the usual number of digits and ears, not to mention the employees who lost fingers while I was there. Some apes have holes in their skulls where monitoring equipment was once implanted. Some are ex-addicts who shake around in their concrete boxes all day. I saw baboons strapped twice a day into immobilizing chairs to have their gums experimented upon. The list goes on....

I resigned from Yerkes when they built supposedly insect-proof screens around my wing for an African black fly sleeping sickness project. I am sorry to bother you with all this, but consider where your taxes are going.

Ian Cook
Atlanta