



Smithsonian

# History of America in 101 Objects® and Then Some

## Part 1, Session 6

*the Atlantic*

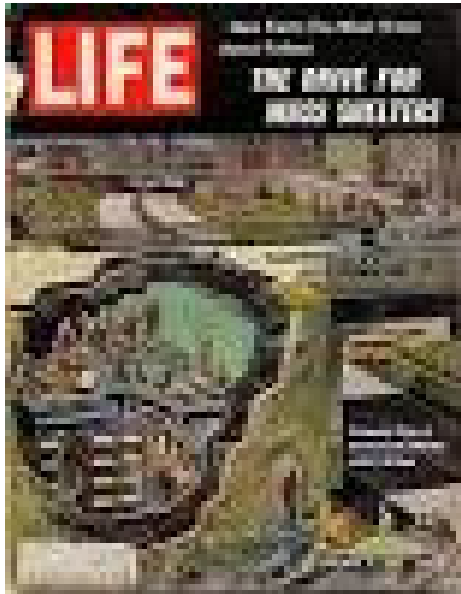


**Band 12**  
**Cold War**  
**(1945 to 1991)**

# **Cold War (1945 to 1991)**

- **68. Fallout Shelters**
- **69. Mercury *Friendship 7***
- **70. Huey Helicopter**
- **71. Pandas from China**
- **72. Berlin Wall Fragment**

# 68. Fallout Shelters



Americans try to cope with the uncertainty of the Cold War and the prospect of a nuclear attack.

- Once the Soviets detonated a nuclear weapon in Kazakhstan in 1949, the American populace realized that our nuclear monopoly was no more.
- We entered the MAD era - Mutual Assured Destruction.
- From 1945 through 1989 the US and Soviet Union sparred, but we were both rational enough not to press the button.
- Below ground
- Supports one family
- Door to keep others out
- Supplies for months
- What about lingering radiation?

# What happened to the Korean War?



**Unfortunately, truly a forgotten war, except for the families of the 36,516 who died and the 103,000 who were wounded and the 4759 who are still missing**

## 69. Mercury *Friendship 7*



**John Glenn's orbital flight launches the United States into the Space race and Buoy the Spirit of the American People.**

**The Mercury 7 Astronauts – can humans actually go into space and stay up for extended periods and do actual tasks?**



**John Glen's flight, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mercury flight, was the first US manned orbital flight.**

**It was scientific and it was political, the Soviets were in space ahead of us!**

# Cold War Space Olympics

- **USSR launches first earth orbiting satellite, Sputnik, in October 1957**
  - **Bronze Medal**
  - **Gurain, Titov, and Terishkova first orbit the Earth in 1961/1963**



- **Silver Medal**
- **The United States lands on the Moon on July 29, 1969**
- **Gold Medal**



# **70. Huey Helicopter**

## **The Most Recognizable Icon of the Vietnam War**



**Bell HU-1**

**The workhorse of the Vietnam War is remembered for its roll in battle, supply, rescue and healing.**

**This craft rekindled the Army's concept of "Air Cavalry."**



# **The Huey**

**Its rhythmic whump-whump-whump,  
the blades approaching supersonic speed**

- **The helicopter evolved from the WW II RX-4 to the jet powered nimble crafts that appeared in Vietnam.**
- **The Army and Marines used over 5,000 in Vietnam. They performed myriad tasks.**
- **Some soldiers saw it as the vehicle that took them into Hell and then provided Deliverance.**
- **The highly mobile Huey was well suited to the constant skirmish battlefields that was Vietnam.**
- **To the enemy Vietnamese, the Huey was seen as malevolent predatory birds coming to swoop in and attack.**
- **Large numbers of GI's owe their lives to rapid "dust-off" flights that sped them to field hospitals.**

# 71. Pandas from China



**Adorable mammals from China breed diplomacy with the united States and raise awareness of endangered species.**

**In 1972 President Nixon traveled to Communist China and ended a 22 year break in diplomacy between the two nations. This action redefined the Cold War in Asia.**

**Later in 1972, Ling - Ling and Hsing - Hsing were given to the National Zoo as a symbol of the thawing of Cold War relation between the US and Red China.**

# 72. Berlin Wall Fragment



A barrier to freedom that defined the Cold War also signals its end.

- Berlin was a focal point of East – West divide. East Germans were taking advantage of Berlin’s unique location and three Western Occupying sectors and were fleeing.
- This had to stop!
- In 1961 West Berlin was ringed with a Communist wall.  
President Kennedy, 1963  
“Ish bin ein Berliner”  
President Reagan, 1987  
“Mr. Gorbachov tear down this Wall!”  
November 9, 1989 that wall opened!

**Band 13**  
**New Frontier**  
**(1950s to 1980s)**

# **New Frontier (1950s to 1980s)**

- **73. Jonas Salk's Polio Vaccine**
- **74. Jacqueline Kennedy's Inaugural Ball Gown**
- **22. Green Revolution**
- **75. Julia Child's Kitchen**
- **76/20. The Pill and Its Dispenser**
- **77. Neil Armstrong's Space Suit**
- **78. "Mr. Cycle" PCR Machine**
- **79. Space Shuttle *Discovery***

# 73. Jonas Salk's Polio Vaccine



FRD and Basil O'Connor, 1937



Iron Lungs 1952

Experimental drug treatments lead to the defeat of a horrible disease feared by the American people



1957



Dr. Salk



## **73. Jonas Salk's Polio Vaccine**

- In the 1950s there were 50,000 cases of Polio each year.**
- Younger Americans, often WW II veterans, with young families feared Polio more the nuclear war with the Soviet Union.**
- Do something! If we can win WW II we can concur this.**
- Extensive virology research and trials.**
- In 1955 six months before Salk's announcement, optimism and hope were so widespread that the Polio Fund in the U.S. had already contracted to purchase enough of the Salk vaccine to immunize 9,000,000 children and pregnant women the following year.**

## 74. Jacqueline Kennedy's Inaugural Ball Gown



Jacqueline Kennedy wore this off-white sleeveless gown of silk chiffon over peau d'ange to the 1961 inaugural balls.

Its strapless bodice under the chiffon covering is encrusted with brilliants and embroidered with silver thread.

Ethel Frankau of Bergdorf Custom Salon designed and made the dress based on sketches and suggestions from Mrs. Kennedy.



It was worn with a matching cape (not displayed). Along with a description of the inaugural wardrobe, the Washington Post reported that Mrs. Kennedy's "career as a major fashion influence was beginning impressively."



# Elegance Comes to the White House and Then to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Jacqueline Kennedy made it known that she would be focusing on the arts.

Shortly after the election, she announced her intentions to make the White House “a **showcase of American art and history**.” Newspapers reported her plans for the historic house and changes in White House entertaining (more intimate, more French), but spent a greater amount of time covering her style.

Stories about her influence on public taste and the fashion industry, her appointment of Oleg Cassini as her official designer, her plan to buy American fashion, and her inaugural wardrobe appeared in daily newspapers.

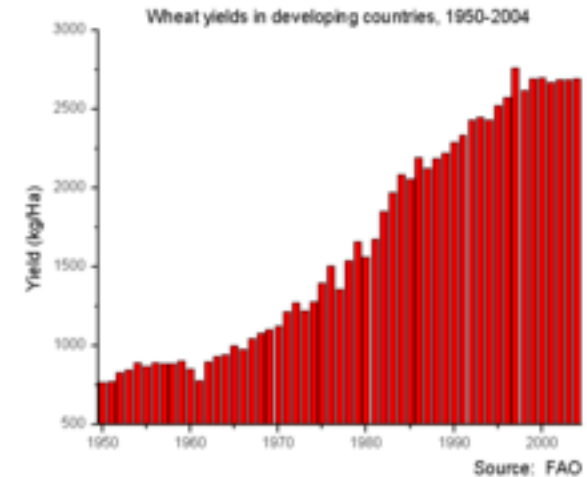
The scrutiny made her determined, she said in one interview, that once in office, the Kennedy administration wouldn’t “be plagued by fashion stories.”

“As the First Lady born in the Twentieth Century, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy will epitomize the modern American way of life.”

—Washington Post, November 13, 1961

## 22. Green Revolution

**The Crop yields that doubled in one generation have not doubled in a second generations – diminishing marginal returns**



Combining technologies with synthetic fertilizers and synthetic plant breeding hugely increased the World's food output. Norman Borlaug, the agricultural economist who devised this approach has been credited with saving more than a billion people from starvation.

More efficient farm machinery and more scientific use of water provided the yields. However, Borlaug's genius was applied to third world countries with minimal resources, drought, pestilence internal turmoil.

But, is it only a stop gap as modern medicine and health care result in vast population growth.

# 75. Julia Child's Kitchen

**An Engaging Woman's Adventure with Cooking French Food  
Transforms the American Palate Via TV and Often Comedy**



Food acquisition, processing, and cooking are central to all humans and have gone through their own transformation in America from an act of subsistence to the product of an industrial economy.

By using her own kitchen as a classroom Julia turned food preparation into charming and entertaining TV (PBS WGBH Boston) performances for 11 years and demystified *haute cuisine* as a refined middle class pursuit.

**There is never too much Butter!**  
**"A memorable meal opens the soul and spirit"**

Photo by Lee Lockwood, Black Star, he is my wife's cousin  
Nancy's aunt, Ruth Lockwood produced the show.



**1966 Emmy® Award for  
The French Chef**

Contemporary food stars and food cable channels follow her example.

# 76/20. The Pill and Its Dispenser (1962)



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY  
BEHRING CENTER, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The popularity of “the Pill” created a new market for pharmaceutical companies. For the first time, healthy women would be taking a powerful medication for an extended period.

Pill manufacturers developed unique packaging in order to distinguish their product from those of their competitors and build brand loyalty.

Packaging design often incorporated a “memory aid” to assist women in tracking their daily pill regimen, as well as styled cases to allow pills to be discreetly carried in bags and purses.

# **The Pill**

## **Profound Impact on Society**

***Quote:*** It allowed men to have all the fun they want without the thought of a condom or possibly an increase in the family grocery bill. It allowed women to limit the number and timing of their children but they possibly may pollute their bodies with an excess of hormones with unknown future consequences. ***Unquote.***

**Social Philosopher— Nancy  
Weinstein**

# 77. Neil Armstrong's Space Suit



Fulfilling President Kennedy's challenge, the United States put a man on the Moon in July 1969. The Nation's most significant and complex effort since WW II.

**We also beat the Russians!**

This occurred simultaneously with the war in Vietnam which was a proxy war with the Russians.

**Six successful Moon landings: Apollo 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17  
and one successful recovery from Space: Apollo 13**



# **78. “Mr. Cycle” PCR Machine**

## **Polymerase Chain Reaction**



**The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the  
contrary of biology**

**First of all, what is it? Think of it  
as a genetic photocopier. It  
automated and thus  
revolutionized the study of our  
DNA.**

**DNA is the building block of life,  
a type of molecule found in the  
cells of every known living  
organism.**

**The beginning of the industrial  
revolution of Genetic research.**

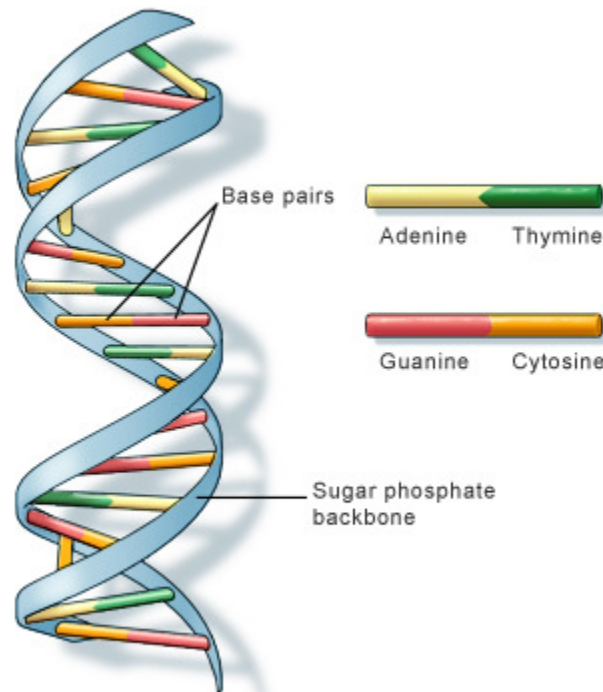


# What is DNA and How Does Mr. Cycle Fit ?

- DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms.
- Nearly every cell in a person's body has the same DNA.
- The information in DNA is stored as a code made up of four chemical bases: adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), and thymine (T).
- Human DNA consists of about 3 billion bases, and more than 99 percent of those bases are the same in all people.
- The order, or sequence, of these bases determines the information available for building and maintaining an organism, similar to the way in which letters of the alphabet appear in a certain order to form words and sentences.
- So we need a lot of material to run a DNA test, Mr. Cycle provides it.

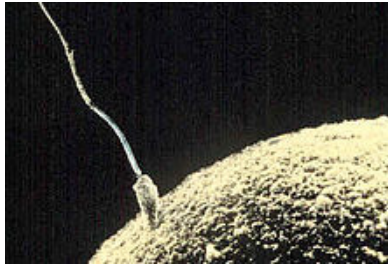
# Why Is This Important?

- An important property of DNA is that it can replicate, or make copies of itself.
- Each strand of DNA in the double helix can serve as a pattern for duplicating the sequence of bases.
- This is critical when cells divide because each new cell needs to have an exact copy of the DNA present in the old cell.



# Of the Thousand of Uses of DNA

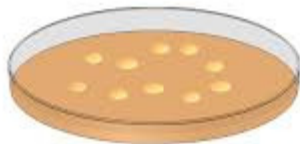
## Here are Two Profoundly Important Ones



Human fertilized egg.

**Why are there  
only miscarriages?**

**Try Invitro**



Several days of  
cell division in  
a petrie dish



Select the most viable.  
Expand the DNA sample



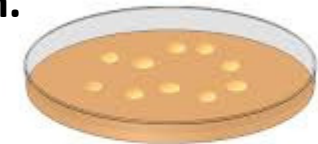
Jonathan



Sam



Examine the DNA.  
Identify the problem.  
**Select those most  
Likely to go to  
Term.**



# 79. Space Shuttle Discovery

## The Most Complex System We Humans Have Ever Built



- The Space Shuttle was a partially reusable manned spaceflight vehicle capable of reaching low Earth orbit.
- NASA operated it from 1981 to 2011.
- It resulted from shuttle design studies conducted by NASA and the Air Force in the 1960s and was first proposed for development as part of an ambitious second-generation Space Transportation System of space vehicles to **follow the Apollo program.**
- Post-Apollo NASA budgeting realities impelled President Nixon to withhold support of all system components except the Shuttle.
- **The Shuttle is a powered glider.**

# It Appeared Routine After 139 Missions



**Rollout in 1983**



**Flyover Washington in April 2013**



**Arrival at Dulles/Hazy**

**The Shuttle system comprised: [1] The Shuttle, [2] the massive industrial preparation and maintenance facility at Cape Kennedy, [3] reserve landing fields around the world, [4] a fleet of modified 747s and special cranes and slings for terrestrial transport, [5] terrestrial and space based communications to support the program, [6] a prime Contractor[North American/Boeing] still supporting the vehicle, [7] a rocket assembly facility in Mississippi and transportation barges, and [8] hundreds of supporting contractors and businesses.**

**Plus a large NASA force with thousands of employees.**

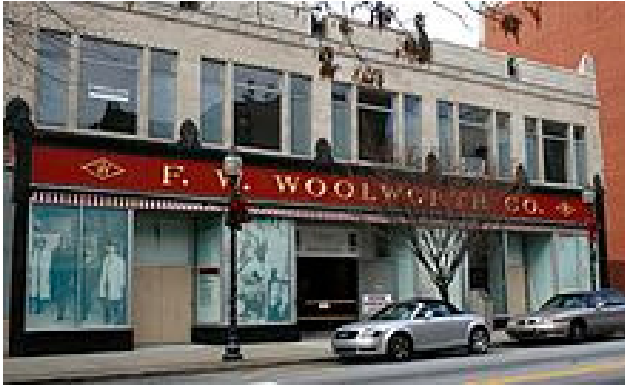
**Band 14**  
**Civil Rights**  
**(1947 to Now)**

# **Civil Rights (1947 to Now)**

- **80. Greensboro Lunch Counter**
- **81. Muhammad Ali's Boxing Glove**
- **82. Bob Dylan's Poster by Milton Glaser**
- **83. Cesar Chavez's Union Jacket**
- **84. Gay Civil Rights Picket Signs**
- **85. AIDS Memorial Quilt Panel**



## 80. Greensboro Lunch Counter



- The Greensboro sit-ins were a series of nonviolent protests in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1960 which led to the Woolworth department store chain reversing its policy of racial segregation in the Southern United States.
- While not the first sit-ins of the African-American Civil Rights Movement, the Greensboro sit-ins were an instrumental action, leading to increased national sentiment at a crucial period in US history.
- The primary event took place at the Greensboro, North Carolina Woolworth store, now the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.



# Sit-ins Grew

- On February 1, 1960, at 4:30 pm four students from the North Carolina A&T SU sat down at the lunch counter inside the in Greensboro Woolworth store. The men, later known as the Greensboro Four, went to Woolworth, bought toothpaste and other products from a desegregated counter in the store with no problems, and then were refused service at the segregated “White” lunch counter.
- Following store policy, the lunch counter staff refused to serve the African American men at the "whites only" counter and the store's manager asked them to leave.
- The four university freshmen – stayed until the store closed.

# Sit-ins Grew

- **Day 2:** More than 20 African American students who had been recruited from other campus groups came to the store to join the sit-in. Students from Bennett College, a college for African American women in Greensboro, joined the protest.
- White customers heckled the black students, who read books and studied to keep busy. The lunch counter staff, who ironically were black, continued to refuse service.
- Newspaper reporters and a TV videographer covered the continual peaceful demonstrations and others in the community learned of the protests.
- **Day 3:** More than 60 people came to the Woolworth store. A statement issued by Woolworth national headquarters said the company would "abide by local custom" and maintain its segregated policy.

# Day by Day

- Day 4: More than 300 people took part. Organizers agreed to spread the sit-in protests to include the lunch counter at Greensboro's Kress store.
- Following week: Students in other North Carolina towns launched their own sit-ins.
- As the sit-ins continued, tensions grew in Greensboro and students began a far-reaching boycott of stores that had segregated lunch counters. Sales at the boycotted stores dropped by a third, leading some store owners to abandon their segregation policies.
- The entire Woolworth Chain officially desegregated, although Woolworth lunch counters in some Tennessee cities, such as Jackson, continued to be segregated until around 1965, despite many protests.

# Greensboro Lunch Counter - Media Impact

- Despite sometimes violent reaction to the sit-ins, these demonstrations eventually led to positive results. The sit-ins received significant media and government attention. When the Woolworth sit-in began, the Greensboro newspaper published daily articles on the growth and impact of the demonstration. The sit-ins made headlines in other cities as well, as the demonstrations spread throughout the Southern states.
- A Charlotte newspaper published an article on February 9, 1960, describing the state-wide sit-ins and the resulting closures of dozens of lunch counters.

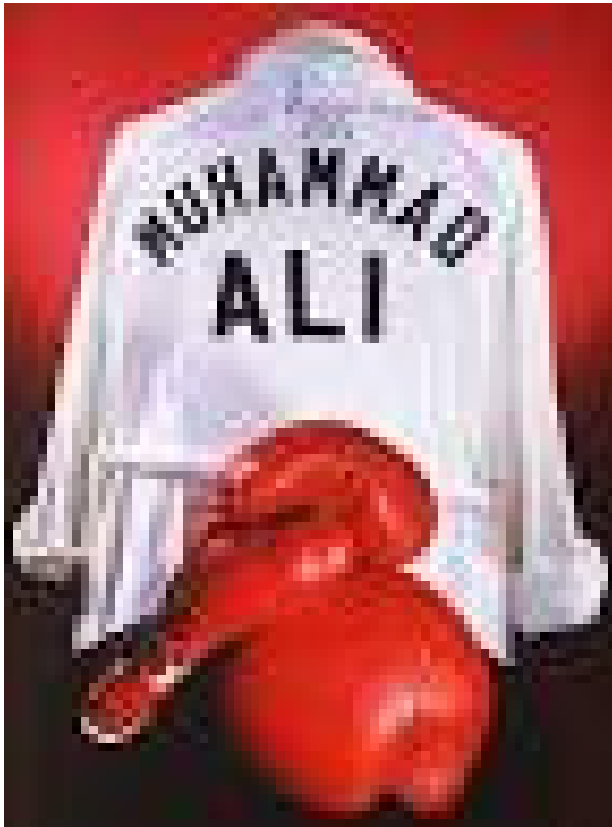
# **Media Prods Presidential Recognition**

- **On March 16, 1960, President Eisenhower expressed his sympathy for those who were fighting for their human and civil rights.**
- **“[I am] ...deeply sympathetic with the efforts of any group to enjoy the rights of equality that they are guaranteed by the Constitution.”**

# **Greensboro Lunch Counter - Media Impact**

- **In many towns, the sit-ins were successful in achieving desegregated lunch counters and other public places. Nashville's students attained citywide desegregation in May, 1960.**
- **The media picked up this issue and covered it nationwide, beginning with lunch counters and spreading to other forms of public accommodation, including transport facilities, art galleries, beaches, parks, swimming pools, libraries, and even museums around the South.**
- **Outcome: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 mandated desegregation in public accommodations.**

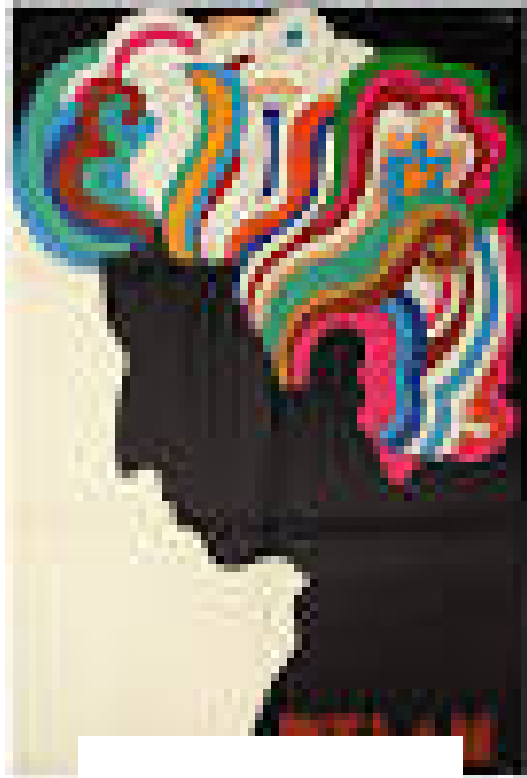
# 81. Muhammad Ali's Boxing Glove



**A heavy weight champion becomes a voice of anti-war conscience and a national hero to some and a traitor to others.**

**The Smithsonian treads lightly but is intellectually honest and strives to be historically accurate.**

## 82. Bob Dylan's Poster by Milton Glaser

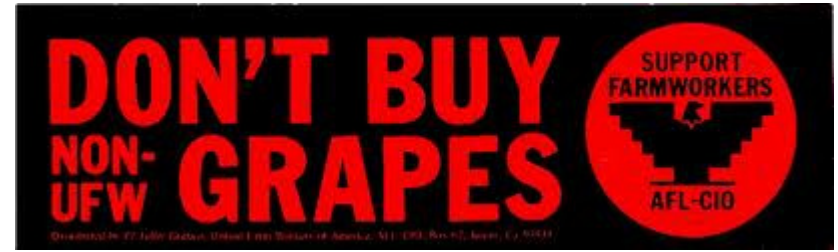


**A portrait of the counter-culture's Bard Illustrates that the "Times they are a changing"**

**He is representative of the large number of performers who supported civil right efforts, anti war efforts, gay rights and Immigration reform efforts.**



## 83. Cesar Chavez's Union Jacket



**A labor Activist Wears an Emblem for Humanitarian Treatment and Economic justice.**

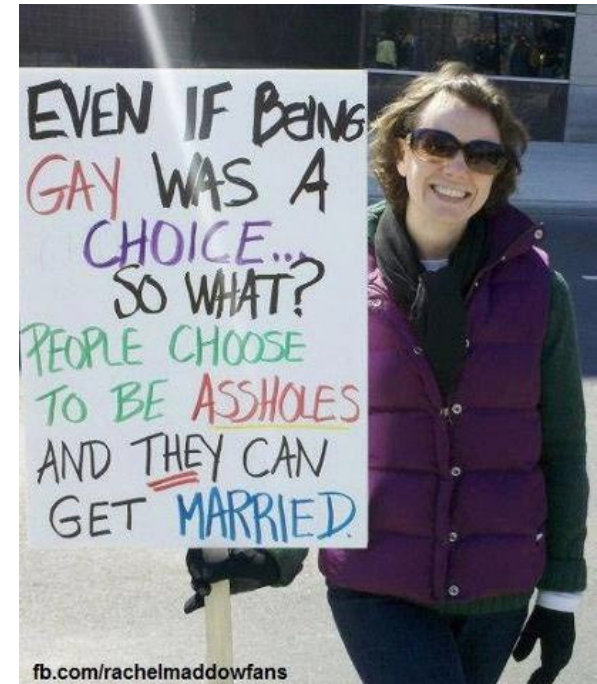
- A symbol -Short handled hoe. Many elderly farm workers can remember the harsh working conditions in the fields before Cesar E. Chavez and the United Farm Workers of America brought about many improvements, including dignity and respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, humane living conditions, and countless other rights and protections.



- One of the worst experiences for farm workers was the use of the “short handle hoe.”
- Many disabilities and pains can still be directly connected to constantly bending over and down to weed the fields with the short handle hoe.

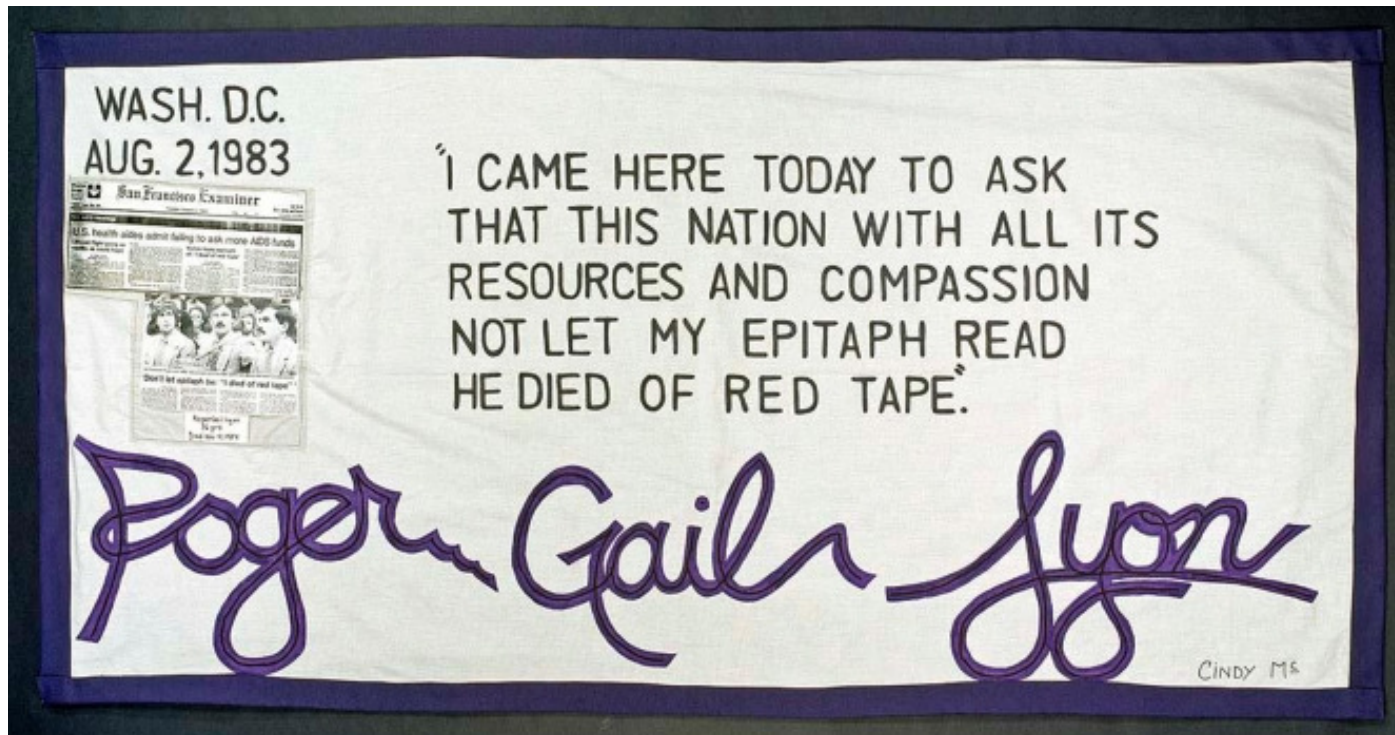
# 84. Gay Civil Rights Picket Signs

## The Evolving Issue



When I prepared this slide in June 2014, I was wondering if the Supreme Court has this case. There were a lot of signs to choose from, some were benign and many were worse. This is a subject for an other OLLI course by someone who has a greater grasp of the full issue.

## 85. AIDS Memorial Quilt Panel



One cloth panel of the largest work of folk art ever created personalizes the impact of a tragic epidemic

