

The Monitor

A Campus Collective

Truman State University's only source for thorough coverage of community issues, student affairs, politics and culture

On-campus assault is a reminder to be safe

story by | Olivera Bratic

Campus safety is again in the spotlight after an attempted assault in the early morning of Saturday, Oct. 16. A female student was walking along the sidewalk near the southwest corner of Ophelia Parrish, near the construction area, at approximately 2:30 a.m. A man grabbed her and pulled her into nearby bushes, choking her. He stated he was an undercover police officer and wanted to know about the drug scene on campus. He also claimed to have a gun. The woman heard voices approaching and was able to scream twice and break free.

A group of people were walking on the quad, near the area of the attack. One of the witnesses reported hearing a scream and seeing the woman emerge from the bushes followed by a white male who began running north across Normal Street. The witness began to chase the suspect but lost sight of him near the tall, white apartment buildings on Normal.

The suspect is described as 6 feet 1 inch tall, heavy set, with short black hair and a bald spot in the center of the head. He was wearing a white T-shirt with a black design on the back and khaki shorts. The witness said the attacker ran with a distinctive rolling gait and bobbed his head. The age of the attacker could not be accurately stated.

The victim was escorted home by the group of witnesses. She did not wish to report the attack to the Department of Public Safety at the time. The witness who pursued the suspect reported the incident to a patrolling officer at 3:15 a.m. in the area between Stokes Stadium and Campbell Apartments. The victim came to DPS to make a full report Saturday afternoon at

3:30 p.m. The suspect has yet to be identified.

DPS has several safety tips for students. They advise students to travel in groups at all times. If walking alone is unavoidable, use the escort service provided by the University. On weekends, students can also rely upon the Sober Drivers Program to get home safely. Stay on the well lit parts of campus and know where the emergency phones are located. Lisa Sprague, director of DPS, said the response time on the blue phones varies according to the location of the patrolling officer on campus but is usually around one to two minutes. If being chased, she advises students to keep running and hit the emergency buttons along the way so you can be tracked.

Students also need to act alert and be very aware of their surroundings. Steer clear of anything remotely dangerous and trust your gut feelings. Please report any suspicious person to DPS. Take advantage of one of the several self-defense workshops that are available throughout the year. Wednesday, Oct. 20 is Part II of the SHARP (Sexual Harassment Assault Rape Prevention) program, held at 7:30 p.m. in the Ryle Main Lounge. Also, pepper spray is difficult to find in Kirksville, but may be worth picking up on the next trip home.

The investigation into this case is ongoing. DPS has increased security patrols and the Kirksville Police Department has also agreed to send officers to patrol campus on foot. Anyone with information in this case is strongly encouraged to contact either the Department of Public Safety or the Kirksville Police Department.

Prism still struggles to establish Resource Center

story by | Sarah Wienke

On National Coming Out Day, last Monday, Oct. 11, Prism had its table in front of McClain. Members sat out all day in the October sun, greeting the few students who came over to speak with them. But most students kept a good distance away from the table, as if there was an invisible shield repelling them as far away from the table as possible.

Though often treated as social pariahs by the Truman community, the Prism community has unrelentingly made its presence known on campus. Prism is "Truman State University's

Bisexual Lesbian Transgendered Gay and Friends Alliance," according to a pamphlet put out by Prism which addresses the issue of why a resource center is necessary. The pamphlet continues with Prism's mission statement: "We seek to better the academic, cultural, economic and political conditions of all people by altering perceptions of gender and sexuality."

Prism has been very successful in passing several programs which support the mission statement's goals.

Prism has provided health information spe-

See PRISM, page 7

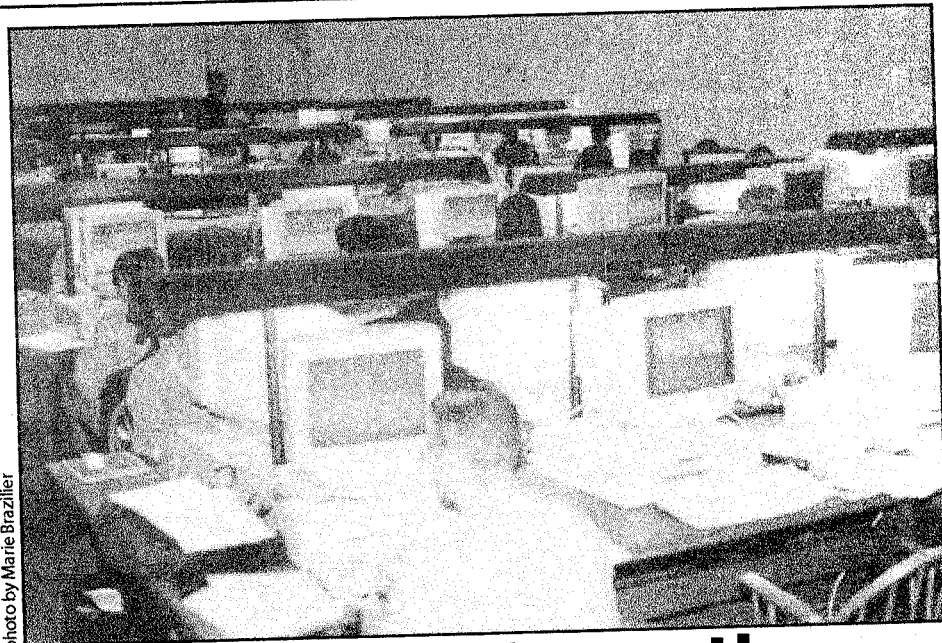


photo by Marie Braziller

Improvements on the horizon for Information Technology Services?

story by | Jesse Pasley

As most students and faculty here at Truman have found, the computing facilities and services available at this university are rather lacking in many ways. The most usual complaints from students and professors alike include the lack of working machines and printers in the labs, the implementation of a rather aggravating account password policy (where one must change the password several times throughout the year) and lack of helpful client services. There is also the fact that Truman has yet to implement online registration and degree auditing, things that many other universities have. Of course, the cause of all these problems can be traced to the fact that the campus Information Technology Services (formally Computer Services) has been run with interim directors for the past five years, lacking any real commitment from the university.

Because of ITS's apparent shortcomings, an audit of ITS's operations was commissioned by the university and in the August of this year, Collegis, a well-known information technology consulting firm, completed a preliminary report (which is strangely labeled "confidential") on the ITS. According to the report, ITS and the computing resources of Truman are in need of serious help. The report maintains that, even with the university's commitment to computer and network infrastructure, ITS is seriously lack-

ing in terms of trained staff, instructional and student support and precautionary procedures.

One of the more interesting problems the Collegis report mentioned is the fact that the University had yet to complete a formal Y2K compliance test on the computer network or make any plans for the millennial roll over. The Collegis report also mentioned that "Off-site data storage, regular back-ups and security monitoring are practices more honored in the breach than in the observance." Lastly, the report noted that over a year ago, the University had acquired a security firewall, but that this "firewall has yet to be installed." Remarks such as these lead one to wonder if students can indeed trust the computing facilities of Truman.

To most students, however, the most glaring deficiency in the computer labs is the lack of trained student workers. While it may seem very easy to throw the blame at the student workers themselves, it must be said that they are given training only once a year. On top of that, all student workers in ITS get paid institutional wages or are working for scholarship hours. In fact, nearly all the salaries offered in ITS are significantly lower than national standards.

This problem, though, could be traced to an even worse one: total lack of leadership and

See ITS, page 7

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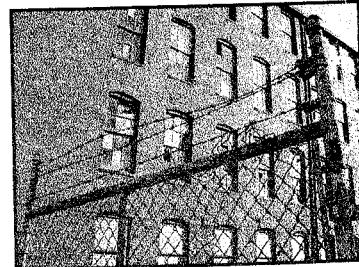


Ghosts haunt Centennial and Baldwin Halls. Story on page 12.



Booya! Booya! Kickin' it at the Kirksville Hoe-down. Story on page 9.

Certain places in Kirksville can really make your toes curl. Photo spread on page 13.



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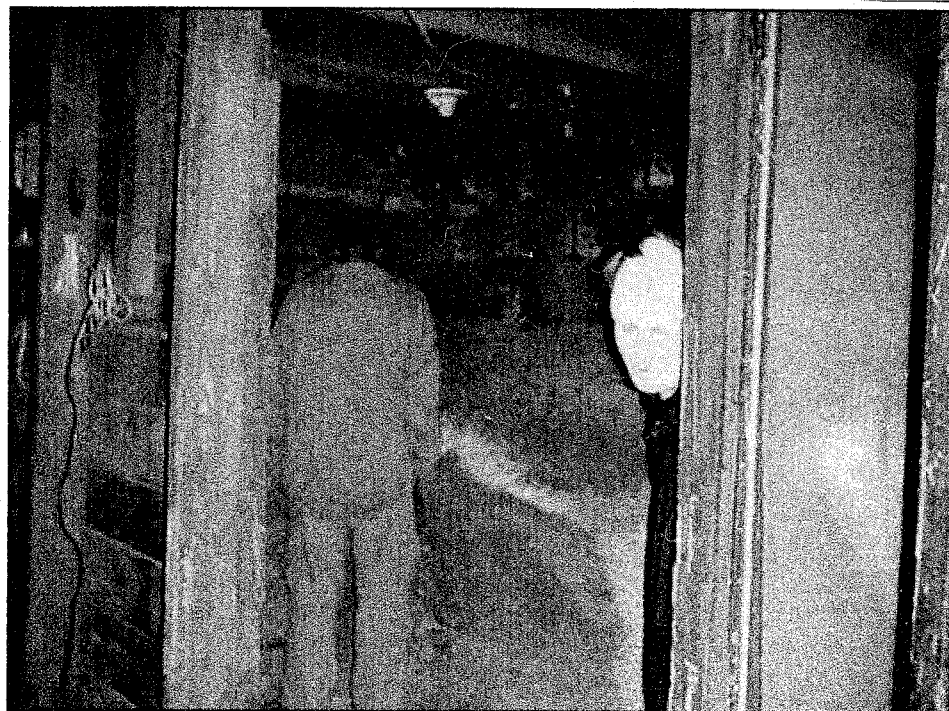
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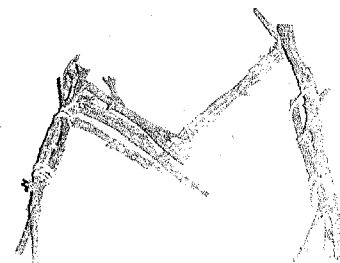
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"Among people who have learned something from the 18th century (say, Voltaire) it is a truism, hardly deserving discussion, that the defense of the right of free expression is not restricted to ideas one approves of, and that it is precisely in the case of ideas found most offensive that this right must be vigorously defended. Advocacy of the right to express ideas that are generally approved of is, quite obviously, a matter of no significance."

-- Noam Chomsky

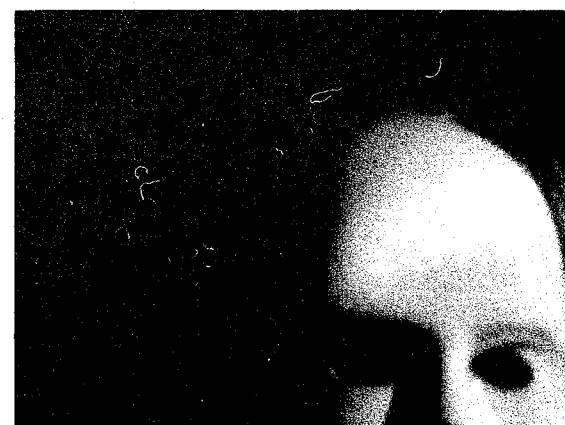


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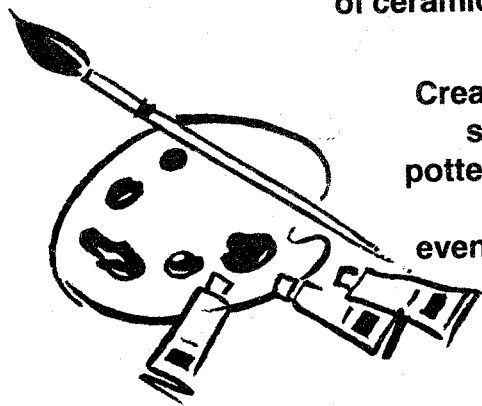
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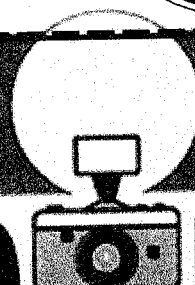
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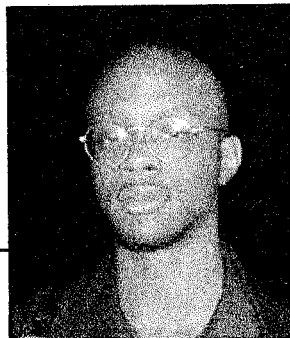


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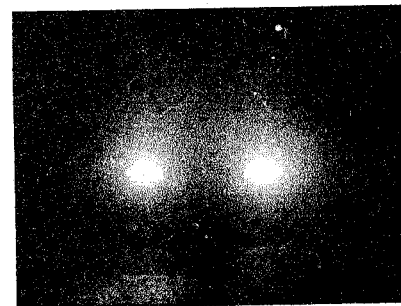
"Just...some guy...um"
-Jon Cannon



"A newspaper."
-Barb Perell



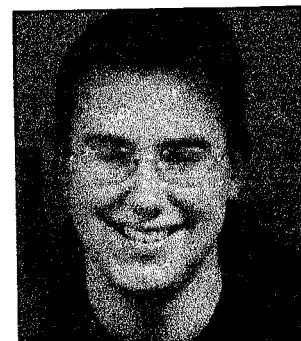
"Sexy and evil."
-Stacy Ferguson



"Honk, honk.
Vrooooooom!"
-Teal '97 Buick Skylark



"I wanna be an ATO."
-Josh Mersker



"Dirty scrub chicken."
-Brian Hayes



opinions

"If I've got something to say, sir, I'm gonna say it now."

- Phil Ochs

Arkansas passes another ridiculous concept into law

opinion by | Leslee White

A fairly new phenomenon in educational diversity recently caught my attention. Legislation was passed in my hometown in Arkansas, and in many other states, providing for the development of charter schools. Now, if you know everything about charter schools, skip to the paragraph about where my problem starts.

Charter schools, if you are not familiar with the concept, are sponsor-created, performance-based public schools that operate under a contract between the school and the local school board or the state. They are independent schools that are open to all and paid for by tax dollars. They are similar to home-schools with the exception that a fairly large group of students (from 10 students up to about 100 depending on the state regulation) attends charter schools. These schools are exempt from most state and local laws, but to gain charter renewal (which is sought at regular intervals) the school must prove their students have gained the educational skills that the school and its sponsor specified in the initial contract. Keep in mind the schools are public, government-funded and subject to the basic rules of a public school.

One interesting aspect of the charter schools in Arkansas is the funding. In addition to grants and tax-exempt status, the school receives money for each student. The amount of money is determined by calculating the amount of money spent per year in a certain public school, divided by the number of students attending the school. Or, for effect:

*One year spending of certain school
Number of students*

The resulting amount is the average money spent on one student. Therefore, the charter school gets that amount for however many students they have. Last year in Arkansas, it was almost \$2,000 per student -- didn't know you were worth that, did ya?

So, all this is well and good with me since I'm not involved in charter schools*, and all I hear about them are the admirable goals of specializing student education, forcing public schools to raise standards or lose students and expanding the options of un-

satisfied parents.

I do, however, find a problem in an additional aspect of the plan. The Arkansas Board of Education voted to allow the publicly funded schools to use church buildings to conduct classes as long as religious symbols and images are removed from students' sight.

Yeah. Good plan. That should take all of the religious influence away from the situation. According to the Board of Education's plan, most pesky religious things will be hidden. "What about stationary things in the building?" you ask. Well, objects such as the altar and the stained-glass windows must be covered by some kind of blanket or sheet.

The ACLU is waiting for a complaint before it jumps on this issue, so this is a potentially explosive situation. Hopefully, someone will desire a charter school education for their child and also question the effectiveness of the separation of church and state in church-held school sessions. There are several questions people need to consider. Though the more apparent symbols of religion are removed, does the fact that the students are in a church make it religious in nature? Will involved churches force custodians to climb to the roof and put a sheet over the huge crosses that adorn most church buildings? Will the students be able to ignore the echoing sounds of the organist practicing for Sunday? If "surely the presence of the Lord is in this place," will students be able to resist the religious influence?

The concept is ridiculous and should never have passed. But I guess I shouldn't be surprised, the way things are going, in regard to religion, in National Congress these days. This will only cause problems and make Arkansas look more like the backwater, shoeless, inbreeding, Southern Baptist State of its stereotype.

For more information on this topic, Ask Jeeves (or your favorite search engine) about charter schools.

*But I am willing to get involved if there are any Pre-MAE students out there who want in 50/50 on the deal!



Rest in peace, Dawson

opinion by | Leslee White

Well, I've made it through my first week sans the WB Network. It was tough, though. I was dying to know whether Dawson was going to sleep with Eve the slutty stripper, and I guess I'll never find out if Angel can redeem himself though helping others.

You may think I'm kidding, and to some extent, I am. But, I can't help it; I watched some of those shows. And it angers me it's not available to me anymore. I knew WGN would not carry it this year, but I somehow believed some station around here would pick it up.

Alas, it is not so. And I made sure. I called 1-888-474-WBWB, and the nice man on the recording told me I could still catch my favorite shows on a channel out of Columbia. But, when I tried to see which channel it was on one night, I couldn't find it. So, like any really pathetic devotee, I called Cable One. The evil people told me they were no longer going to carry any station that carried the WB. Bastards. I swear it is some kind of torturous trick the television producers and other bigwigs are playing on me and the pre-teen masses.

First of all, if you start watching one of the shows on the WB, you get addicted. You soon

begin to neglect family and friends for "one more episode." Near the end of last year, I stopped watching the shows cold turkey; it was the only way I could stop. Then, this year, my boyfriend was hanging out at the frat house during prime time, and I happened by the season premiere of *Dawson's Creek*. I swear, it was the old, touching, funny Dawson of the first episodes. I couldn't help myself. Then, the bombshell. No more WB on this station.

The second step in the bad guys' evil plot was to suddenly strip me of the shows on which they had made me dependent. I'm pretty sure I saw this happen on a *Twilight Zone* episode.

It is cruel and unusual punishment, and I propose we do something about it. Now, I don't exactly have any "ideas" about what we should do, but I definitely want the thought of rebellion out there. I just don't think it's fair that after a long day of hellish classes and mounds of homework and reading, I can't watch a childish, silly show and be attached to someone else's life for a while.

I just want all of you to remember, whether you are a WB fan or a fan of some other station -- this could happen to you any day. Appreciate your "stories" while you still have them.

America should commit to nuclear disarmament

opinion by | Jerry Schirmer

Last Wednesday, the U.S. Senate voted down the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by a vote of 48-51-1. This fact leads us to question what this means for atomic weapons in the modern day. The most obvious indication is that the United States is not committed to nuclear disarmament anymore. Also, it nullifies any appeal that our nation makes to India and Pakistan to deescalate their atomic weapons program.

In stark contrast, by rejecting this treaty, our country has turned itself into a rogue nation. One hundred and fifty countries have signed this treaty, leaving only a few nations, openly interested in attaining atomic weapons programs, (and the United States) out of the treaty. Looking back to the treaty of Versailles, one can see how ineffective international organizations can become when American leadership is withheld from these organizations. On the other hand, the only other option which our Congress has offered for arms deterrence is a series of promises to restart the anti-ballistic missile program which has been stalled since the 60s. Somehow, the leaders of Congress are convinced that reducing the number of missiles is not the best method to reducing the atomic threat. They are convinced that the only way to offer protection is through a system of missile defense which essentially shoots missiles at nuclear missiles in order to disable them. Never mind that the Patriot missiles hit between 10 and 25 percent of their targets during the

Gulf War, and that was when we knew the missiles were coming from Iraq and had a decent warning regarding when the bombardment would start.

Furthermore, in rejecting this crucial treaty, the Senate has managed to severely damage the negotiating power of the President. In the future, when the U.S. President is negotiating treaties, this incident will be another example that the American President need not be taken completely seriously. This damage comes from the fact that no matter how hard a President fights for an issue, the Senate could simply vote down the finalized treaty. And foreign dignitaries, who usually have the complete support of their Parliaments (due to the fact that executives from most European countries are elected by their legislatures, rather than directly), will not be able to take our President's and Secretaries of State voice as seriously. Clearly, this should not be an argument for the Senate to blindly ratify any treaty brought before them, but it should be an incredibly strong warning to deeply consider the matter before they attempt to turn it down. Logic, however, is on the side of banning the testing of atomic weapons, and there seems to be little reason to resist this treaty.

In conclusion, I would like to state again the Congress was wrong in blocking the CTBT, and I would like to urge the readers of *The Monitor* to find out how their individual Senators voted (www.vote-smart.org keeps track of this), and to please take this into account next year during the primaries and general elections.

The Monitor is always looking for new contributors. Come to our meetings every Tuesday and Thursday 9.00 p.m. in OP115A. Help us choke evil people.



9 October 1999

I belong to a world which doesn't make sense

opinion by | John Nguyen

It started with the Holocaust. Well, I guess with me it started a little later, but for all intents and purposes, it started with the Holocaust. Actually, I guess it may have started in 1979 when I was born. But really it started however many million years ago it was when light came out of the void and life followed. All I know is that some time it started and somehow it hasn't ended yet. And I know that in every language, in every part of the planet, in every race, in every age, and in every voice the same words have been emitted: "What's wrong with the world?" What is wrong with the world? What is wrong with the world? You wanna know?

I'll tell you about the Holocaust.

It was last Wednesday when this article began. I was sitting in my Film, Form and Sense class where we were watching an old French documentary called *Night and Fog*. So there I was. Now, I've seen *Schindler's List* and I've seen the footage all before, but there I was and there they were. But they weren't just images on a screen. They weren't just pieces of history. They were faces of the dead. They were the foreign minds and the foreign thoughts that would no longer manifest. They were the man-made mountains of Nazi concentration camps. And all those arguments. And all those footsteps. And all those papers. And all those tests. And all the troubles of my life evaporated. Like black ashes from a human pyre. I closed my eyes. I tugged on my hair. I didn't understand. "What's wrong with the world?" I said to myself, "What?"

There were no answers then. Only anger.

So, I had to write a mythology for my mythology class. I couldn't decide what to write about. So I sat down. I sat down in a chair in my apartment in Kirksville in the state of Missouri in the United States of America in North America in the Western Hemisphere of the globe in the year of our lord, nineteen hundred and ninety-nine and ninety-nine. I sat down. I sat down my frustration. I sat down, belonging to this world that didn't make any sense. I sat down in confusion and disbelief. And so I decided to try and make sense of it. And I wrote my mythology. And I wrote the mythology of Chaos.

I wrote about how Order and System and Time tried to destroy Chaos. But instead of eliminating it/him, Chaos imbued itself/himself into everything. Light and sound and energy belong to Chaos. Mammal and insect and fish belong to Chaos. Man and woman and child belong to Chaos. Humanity belonged to Chaos. And that made sense. It made sense for Chaos to exist and to rule because Chaos is creation. Unfortunately, along with Chaos and along with creation comes destruction. But I had to be okay with that. I had to understand that was the nature of things.

That was my answer. The anger was suppressed.

The following Monday rolled around. I read my myth to the class. They enjoyed it. I felt good about writing it. I felt good

about believing in Chaos. I felt good about understanding. And I sat down again. I sat down to my good old Film, Form and Sense class. I sat there and watched an American documentary called *The Times of Harvey Milk*. It was an 86-minute film and it destroyed the hours I had poured into my chaos theory.

Harvey Milk was a man. Harvey Milk was a gay man. Harvey Milk was a gay man elected to the San Francisco city council back in the 1970s and he was the first openly gay man to be elected to a major American city council. While in office he battled for the rights of not only gays but other minorities as well. I was pretty sure he was a good man. I was pretty sure he was a good man in the face of adversity. He was almost a cliché. But he was human. And he was real. And I'm pretty sure he was a hero. But just because I'm pretty sure about something doesn't make it a fact. The fact of the matter is Harvey was assassinated. He was assassinated by a self-deposed conservative politician. Another fact: Harvey Milk's assassin served only six years in prison despite the fact that he killed not only Harvey but the Mayor as well. What I found out later was that the assassin killed himself, a year after getting out of prison, after the documentary was made. But that's not justice. There is no justice. There is no right. There was only Chaos. Staring at me through that screen. Chaos of the dead. Chaos of the world. Just plain Chaos.

And there were no answers again. There was anger, though.

A raw, throbbing rage.

An anger that pulsed.

An anger of rage.

And I left that classroom. And I stomped down the stairwells. And I wanted to rant to my girlfriend about all the atrocities of the world. And I wanted to scream. And I wanted to explode. Dammit, what the hell is wrong with the world? What the fuck is going on? Why? For all that is good and pure in the world, why? I was so mad with anger that I was blind.

And in a second it all changed.

Outside of Ophelia Parrish. An old woman held the hand of a young child as they both walked in my direction. The woman smiled and spoke conversationally to the child. The little girl bounced, her arm fully extended. Her eyes alive and glowing. They walked passed me. The woman smiled and said hello. I smiled back. The little girl continued talking. And it was simple and plain and beautiful.

This was the nature of the world. This was the balance. "John," I said to myself, "it's just the way that stuff is." Beautiful things. Terrible things. Everything.

The feelings I felt were no longer feelings of anger. They were feelings of opposition. And with opposition there is change. And with change, well, hope, I suppose. I felt all right with that. Not good. Not bad. Not angry. Just all right. I felt possibility. I feel it still. I feel it without answers. I feel it without

sense. What is wrong with the world? I'll tell you: I am. You are. Everyone is. That's it. No secret. Just movement.

Marriage is not the end but the beginning

opinion by | Lori Vaughn

So marriage is a drag. As Greg Brenner pointed out in the last *Monitor* ("First comes love..."), matrimony ruins your social life and your free, fun-loving whims. You don't have the time to go out and spend a night on the town anymore, and even if you did, you couldn't muster up the energy to do it. You are dull and tired and a stick in the mud.

Hmmm. Well, if that is true, then why am I engaged? Why are young couples starting to do what they have always done at this time in their lives for generations before us, and what they will continue to do for generations after?

Perhaps it is because we know marriage is not what Greg says it is. Marriage, at least for my fiancé and me, is not the beginning of the end of our lives. It is the beginning of our life together, a life that is much greater than the sum of our lives apart. I realize I could certainly go to Europe on my own, but why would I want to do that when I could go and share that time with my best friend and husband? I could stay single for another couple of years, but why would I want to do that

when I have the man I know I want to be with for the rest of my life right in front of me?

Why should I want to enrich my life with the guy who complements me so perfectly, who helps me improve myself as I do the same for him, and who has one of the most definitive roles in my life? Because I don't want to deal with "mortgages, taxes, work and retirement" with him? Absolutely not! If anything, I would much rather have him there with me to help me through stressful times. Who says all those things have anything to do with marriage anyway? Trust me, almost everybody will have to deal with those things in their lives, whether or not they are married. A single life doesn't mean you get off scott-free from the rest of the world.

I know my marriage is going to kick ass, and I know I will be married soon. So why do so many other people think marrying young automatically make you a statistic on middle age monotony? These people are probably looking at the marriages that weren't done for the right reasons, like marriages done

just to get married, in a rush, before those couples really thought about what they wanted and what they were getting. Greg is right in some aspects about those: there is no reason to get married before you are ready for that different life you will have and if you aren't ready to leave behind your current life.

However, rather than pointing at the institution of marriage for this problem, look at the people who are giving marriage a bad name and don't do what they have done! Marriage isn't for everyone, and marriage right now isn't for everyone either. My point is, if you are ready for that, why shouldn't you make that a reality? There is no reason to wait if you are sure you are ready. A marriage that is started with maturity, knowledge, readiness and ambition will almost certainly bring you happier, more satisfying times and experiences than a single life spent avoiding marriage for what you think it will cast upon you. I could be wrong of course, because I am not married yet. But then again, neither is Greg.



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Freemasons: secret conspiring society or overrated fraternal club?

story by | **Katylín Mayhle**

Q: What do William Shakespeare, Duke Ellington and Harry S Truman have in common? A: They were all Freemasons!

Q: So what exactly IS a Freemason? A: According to a Web site posted by Freemasons, "Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest secular fraternal societies... a society of men concerned with moral and spiritual values. Its members are taught its precepts by a series of ritual dramas, which follow ancient forms and use stonemasons' customs and tools as allegorical guides." According to the same site, the only qualifications of membership are that a man believe in a Supreme Being and be of good repute. Freemasons follow the three principles of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Q: Is Freemasonry a secret society? A: It really depends on whom you ask. There are many conspiracy theories about the Freemasons; quite a few are posted on the web. Freemasons themselves are likely to give a reply similar to one found on The Freemasonry Network: "We are not [a secret society], but lodge meetings, like those of many other groups, are private and open only to members... Members are encouraged to speak openly about Freemasonry." Maybe the confusion surrounding this topic stems from some of the oaths new members must take. These oaths are called The Ancient Charges of a Freemason and were printed in 1723. Several passages read: "You are to salute one another in a courteous manner... without being overseen or overheard." "You shall be cautious in your words and carriage, that the most penetrating stranger shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated," and, "You are... particularly not to let your family, friends and neighbors know the concerns of the Lodge."

As for the violent oaths associated with Freemasonry, such as getting one's heart ripped out and body cut in two and entrails burned if one betrays the secrets of the society, these oaths have not been a part of the Masonic ritual since 1986. According to The Freemasonry Network, "the physical penalties were always symbolic and were never carried out." The real secrets of the Freemasons, according to this Web site, are the "modes of recognition," which have been published by Masons who "did not take their promises seriously."

Q: Why is the symbol of the Freemasons on the buildings around campus? A: The symbol of the Freemasons, a compass with a "G" in the middle, is on many of the buildings on this campus. One of the librarians who works in the Special Collections section of Pickler said she assumed this was because whoever laid the brickwork of the buildings was involved in the organization. Campus planning should probably have information on this.

Q: Where can I find more information about the Freemasons? (Of course everyone wants to!) A: Any major search engine should bring up quite a few sites. A couple that are actually run by Freemasons and have good stuff on them are www.msu.edu/~benyous/fmason3.html and web.mit.edu/dryfoo/www/Mason.

HEY FAC! THANKS A BUNCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT. WE REALLY APPRECIATE IT.



Troubles in India and Pakistan, if not resolved quickly, could lead to great tragedy

story by | **Jerry Schirmer**

India and Pakistan are two nations which have a deeply intertwined history. Often news stories overlook the 50 years of history which have led us up to the point at which we are today. Today, I'm hoping to fill the readership of *The Monitor* in on the history behind today's headlines.

The start comes during the British imperial period. Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, a mass protest movement against British rule developed, which culminated in the 1947 British withdrawal from India. Once the British left, however, there was large-scale disagreement over what, exactly, the new state would be. Due to the personalities in charge at the time, the former British colony quickly became subdivided into two new countries -- Pakistan, founded under Muhammad al-Jinnah's leadership, and India, under the leadership of Jawaharal Nehru. Already, Kashmir became a problem when the Maharaja of the province, a Hindu, decided to join the nation of India, despite the fact that the majority of his province was Muslim. The result was a war between the fledgling nations, resulting in a division of the province, ending in 1949.

The peace did not result in stability in the region, however. Neither side truly accepted the cease-fire agreement, desiring control of the entire province. Fur-

thermore, Pakistan soon found itself being taken over by the first of a series of military dictatorships, while India quickly came to be dominated by the personality of Nehru. Despite this, the two nations managed at least not to declare war until 1962, when India and China fought a war with each other over the control of a Himalayan mountain pass. Soon afterward, in 1965, India and Pakistan fought their second war over the possession of Kashmir, resulting in an adjustment of the line of control, or, more clearly, the line which determined the border between the two countries within Kashmir.

The second major phase of the history of the two countries began when Indira Gandhi, Nehru's daughter, came to be the Prime Minister of India. She began to pursue a somewhat tougher stance against Pakistan which culminated in 1971, when Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) declared independence from the rest of Pakistan. The result was a successful Indian intervention which led to the creation of the Bangladeshi state. In 1974, India released its first nuclear explosion, leading to a new period of unstable peace between the two countries.

The next 20 years were internally difficult for both nations. Pakistan went through several periods of dictatorship and democracy, while India saw both Mrs. Gandhi and her son, Rajiv assassinated. Internationally, though, the period was a

relatively calm one between the two countries.

This situation ended in the early 90s. A new political force developed within India to challenge the Indian National Congress Party that had been the platform of Nehru and both of the Gandhis. This force, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), organized around opposition to the mosque built at Ayodhya, built by the Muslims during the period immediately before British rule. Hindus in the area asserted that the mosque was built upon the birthplace of the Hindu god Ram, and desired a Hindu temple built upon the spot, while local Muslims argued that the mosque was amongst the oldest in the nation and should not be destroyed. The debate resulted in the forcible destruction of the mosque and its replacement with a Hindu temple, catapulting the BJP to a national position.

Gradually gaining in power throughout the 90s, the BJP finally achieved the Indian prime ministership in 1996, at which point Atal Behari Vajpayee took the reigns of leadership of the country. Although this coalition soon collapsed, by 1998, Vajpayee managed to rule for an extended period of time. One of the government's first actions was to authorize tests on India's atomic weapons program. These tests were conducted soon afterward, and within weeks, Pakistan followed suit. Under the backdrop of this

conflict, terrorist groups in Kashmir began to fight increasingly with the Indian military. India accused Pakistan of sending its army into the region, while Pakistan retorted that the Indian army was simply fighting Muslim "freedom fighters" seeking an end to rule by the Hindu-majority country. Although a cease-fire was signed earlier this year, tensions remain high between the two countries, and India has already authorized an atomic submarine program, and is threatening to test its long range missile program. Furthermore, this Tuesday, the military successfully removed Pakistan's Parliament and Prime Minister from power, in a conflict deriving from now ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's decision to withdraw from Kashmir under this cease fire.

From these developments, one can see that the potential for conflict between the two countries is increasing daily. The end result is that the world today may perhaps be closer to real atomic war than ever before. Given the population of the two countries, casualties could easily be in the hundreds of millions. It is also unclear how the Chinese government would react to the two nations launching missiles at each other. Therefore, it is extremely necessary that the world put serious pressure on the two countries to settle their differences before the world sees what probably will be the greatest tragedy in history.

Local online textbook trading service to start

story by | Erin Hucke

Most students know both the frustration and expense of purchasing textbooks. Some students feel short-changed with the traditional book buyback services.

"Several times I've felt like I've gotten really ripped off," senior Danielle Camarota said. "I got 50 cents back for a book at UMSL [University of Missouri - St. Louis] once."

Junior Jon Crosby decided to do something about the situation. Crosby is starting an online textbook buyback service called kvtrade.com. Kvtrade.com will allow Truman students to sell, buy and trade books online with other Truman students. Students will pay a flat fee to post their list of books for sale or trade plus five percent of the total selling price. The flat fee will be \$5 to sell one or two books, while selling more books than that will have a larger fee. No money will be charged if a book posted for sale doesn't sell. Crosby said further pricing information will be available on the site on Nov. 1. Students can browse and buy off kvtrade.com without any fee.

Kvtrade.com hopes to cut down on the amount of money lost during book buyback.

Students can even exchange books instead of buying and selling. Students can post their lists of book needs along with their selling list. Kvtrade.com is designed to match students up with the books they need.

"The software running the site will find matches and notify students of direct trading opportunities," Crosby said.

Crosby also said he is working to get the list of required books for each section of classes.

"The Missouri 'Sunshine' Law makes provisions for public access to this sort of information, so I will be doing what I can," he said.

Kvtrade.com is offering a fundraising service for organizations as well. Organizations who refer students to kvtrade.com will receive 20 percent of all flat fees for that student. Kvtrade.com also plans to set up online book auctions next semester as well as a service to publish "sublease ads, [ads for] CD's [and] class notes."

The service will be operational at <http://www.kvtrade.com>, starting Nov. 1. Students can then sign up for a free account to purchase books.

What's *Hot L Baltimore* about? It depends on whom you ask

story by | Kristen Crenshaw

The was performed in Baldwin Hall Little Theater Tuesday, Oct. 12, through Saturday, Oct. 16. This dark comedy about the residents and workers at the Hotel Baltimore centers on the lives of three prostitutes in the early 1970s.

The plot of the play changes from person to person, depending on whom is asked. Even different characters in the play had their own interpretation of what was going on.

"I think the play is about what happens when you get caught in the familiar and you do the day to day and you don't think about where you want to go and what's going to happen to you," Lisa Magierowski, (Girl) said. "Then they have to leave and have to go do something with themselves."

Another character thought differently. "I think it is about how America's values have greatly changed in a number of decades," Whitney Derendinger, (Mr. Katz) said.

The actors in the play were as strong, if not stronger, than the play itself. The parts were executed with clarity of whom they were and performed with such feelings it was as if they were no longer actors but the characters themselves.

I have to admit that sitting through the first act,

I didn't get it. I didn't see a plot to the play. But as the second and third acts unfolded, I found myself on the edge of my chair waiting for what was going to happen next. By the end of the play, I got the plot. I saw in each character there was a struggle of the unknown. What was going to happen next, none of them knew.

"It makes you think, but it makes you laugh too," Magierowski said.

At times when it seemed that every character was talking at the same time, it was hard to follow, but it showed quite well how busy a hotel could get. The only part of this play that I did not enjoy was when two characters were talking at the same time. Girl was talking to one person as Jackie (Holly Kerns) was talking to another. It was hard to follow both characters and what they were saying and in the end I had missed both parts.

I liked this play. Like *The Foreigner*, it deals with dark situations and mature material. But that was what made this play so good. It deals with the reality of what was going on in each person's life. No matter what their reality is. It made me laugh very hard, but on the serious parts, it made me stop and just watch the stage, and marvel at the talent that these actors have.

PRISM, from page 1

officially for bi/gay/trans/les individuals, has offered health information services otherwise unavailable in Adair County and has provided information to the Division of Human Potential and Performance, the Nursing Department, University Counseling Services, and the Health Center, which is specific to trans/les/gay/bi issues.

Prism has also collected resources for faculty, students and staff which pertain to gay/bi/trans/les issues. They have placed a listing of the resources on the Prism web site, which can be found through the Truman web site.

One of the next goals of Prism is to have a space in which they can have a library containing resources about gay/bi/trans/les issues.

Last semester, the Prism library was set up out of Dr. Bob Mielke's office. This library was in a corner of Mielke's office where students could go in and check out books on any topic they desired. Now that is no longer the case. What is happening with the Gay, Les, Bi Library? What progress has been made toward it?

Dr. Mielke explained that last semester it was possible to have the Prism library out of his office because he only taught three days a week. This semester, however, it is not possible for him to have the library because he is teaching five days a week.

Leo Kirsch, a senior sociology and visual communications double major and the meeting chair of Prism, said, "We've been at this three years."

He explained that the reason Prism is so adamant about getting a library is that the resources at the University library are very poor for a liberal arts university. Kirsch suggests a test to prove this point. He says to type in "gay" or "homosexual" into the library computer on LUIS and there are only about 50 books.

"Having an institutionalized body would help reassure students who have yet to come out of the closet," Kirsch said. He said about 80 percent of homosexuals do not come out until they are 18 years old (freshmen in college.)

The Prism library is currently being kept within three lockers in the CAOC office. J.J. Pionke, a senior English and history double major, said. But the funds for maintaining some sort of library are there. Pionke said Prism has "\$500

of FAC money [which Prism] has to allocate by the end of the semester."

Why can't space be given to Prism?

Mielke explained it's not that space won't be given to Prism but that the administration is trying to foresee exactly what will happen if space is given to Prism for a library. The main issue, Mielke pointed out, is whether there should be separate centers on campus for different cultural groups or if there should be a common space shared among all diverse cultural groups, each given a little "pod" from which to operate.

"At this point, I think it's not homophobia but what do we physically do?" Mielke said.

Mielke believes the gay/les/bi culture should be included within Multicultural Affairs. He explained that being homosexual is not the same as an ethnic group, but it is a culture. And cultures come about especially whenever that culture is oppressed.

Last week, the Language and Literature department faculty decided to put up pink triangles denoting safe zones on those offices of those who choose to be supportive.

Kirsch said other supportive faculty members within various other departments have put safe zone stickers on their office doors as well.

He thanks Residential Living as well. "Members of the Residential Living staff have been very helpful," Kirsch said.

Mielke explained that the safe zones are more symbolic than anything else. He said maybe only one or two homosexuals come in because he is a safe zone professor. But this is important. He compares the safe zone stickers to the emergency blue-light phones on campus. If someone needs to use it, it's there.

Hopefully a space will be provided for Prism so that the education of gay and straight alike on the issues of homosexuals can be possible.

If you are interested in being involved in this, informational meetings for the Interim Library are Sundays at 8:30 pm in the SUB Down Under. Also, feel free to call Prism at 785-7550, ext. 477476 (4PRISM), drop a letter into the Prism mailbox in the CAOC office, or visit the Prism web page at

www.geocities.com/westhollywood/stone-wall/5446.

ITS, from page 1

commitment from the University. The Collegis report indeed pointed this out as a problem and said that for "nearly five years Truman's information technology has been managed on an interim basis and in the context of a search for a permanent director." The report went on to say that without this managerial leadership, ITS would continue to have a "sense of informality" that would contribute "to perceived and real customer service problems."

While the University's continuing audit of ITS might point to improvements in the future, many remain skeptical of the University's commitment based on previous amount of concern. Gary Jones, an Associate Professor of Communications here at Truman, said "To those who have been following the state of instructional technology here at Truman, the contents of this report come as no surprise. Despite flowery language of support in the Master Plan, and commendable efforts on the part of some managers and staff, the overall level of university commitment in this area has been stopgap and unimaginative."

It has now been about two months since the release of the Collegis report. Now that the University has the problems identified, how has the University begun to work on these problems? Judging from the fact that the ITS web site (<http://www2.truman.edu/cs>) hasn't been updated since May of last semester, it seems things are still not as they should be at ITS.

However, the University has started work on a few key issues. Probably the biggest concerns are the search for a permanent director and/or management staff. A solution the University has been looking into has been the hiring of an outside vendor to run ITS. When asked what advantage such a set-up would provide the university, ITS interim director Richard Coughlin replied, "I think they would bring management and technology expertise." Coughlin also pointed out that the vendors the university is looking into have experience with other universities, which could also contribute to ITS's operations.

Hopefully, the soon-to-be management will lead to obtaining a permanent director for ITS.

However, all of this will be for naught if the university cannot commit itself to continued emphasis on informational and instructional technology. Only time will tell if, in fact, this damaging report will lead to improving computing services here at Truman.

The Monitor has placed the Collegis audit report of ITS on the Web for public knowledge. Find it at <http://members.xoom.com/monitortrm>.

London, England Summer Study and Internship Program



An informational meeting presented by Dr. Dennis Leavens (x4269), Dr. Sara Orel (x4419) and Dr. Cole Woodcox (x4119), Truman Faculty teaching in the Missouri - London Summer Program.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, October 27 from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the SUB Governors' Room





The Monitor

A Campus Collective

Truman State University's only source for thorough coverage of demons, zombies, pentagrams, vampire bats, the occult and other scary shit

The gum tree will be missed, exploited

story by | Peter Hough

I was alarmed when I heard that an icon of tradition here at Truman had been vandalized. "What had happened?" I wondered. Maybe the library had been spray-painted again, or maybe there was a *real* fire in Centennial, or perhaps another parking lot had fallen victim to "University expansion."

"Did you hear that someone felled the infamous gum tree?" a friend asked.

Boy, was I relieved: disaster had not visited campus after all.

But then I was confused. Rumors of a memorial service around the "Stump formerly known as Gum Tree" had me wondering if anyone really cared. I thought that maybe there was just some strange need for attention among those who attended the vigil. But it appears as if some students and staff feel a profound sense of loss. Why?

"The gum tree was like a second father to me," senior Brandon Smith said. "Whenever I was feeling down, I always knew I could get a big hug from it."

One student expressed concern about his looming financial crisis.

"Now I'm going to have to start buying my gum from the store," junior Jon Whitley said. "That's going to cost some money."

However, not everyone was so sad. In fact, many students are rejoicing over what they see as "an act of mercy."

"I've had people stick gum on me, and it's not fun," sophomore Meagan Lippincott said. "It just broke my little heart to hear the desperate sobs of an arboreal friend echoing across the Quad at night. I will sleep well tonight knowing that the gum tree cries no more."

Some students are using this event as an opportunity to make some money, selling bumper stickers and T-shirts.

"Our most popular T-shirt says, 'No one knows I cut down the gum tree,'" Andrew Plett, a junior business major, said. "We want to get Nike to do a sequel to the Tiger Woods commercial

where people will say, 'I'm the gum tree.'"

But who cut it down, and why? Many students want to thank the vandals, and others want them to pay back the \$800-\$1,000 the gum tree was "worth." (Incidentally, did anyone really want to buy the gum tree?)

The mystery is intriguing to many conspiracy theorists.

"I think

DPS cut

it down,"

said a

shifty

looking man

who preferred

to remain anony-

mous. "Now they can go and

shoot whoever did it. I wouldn't wear those

t-shirts if I

were you."

As the search for the heroes/vandals continues, some students have crowned a new gum tree. This fact has greatly disturbed many students.

"It's like the sequel to a really pooppy movie," senior Jen Chambers said. "No one liked the first one, so get the message. How many more trees have to be cut down before people stop defacing nature?"

The gum tree vandalism, sure to have an exhibit in the library before long, is shaking the very foundation of the University. As students grapple with such a great loss, I half expect University Counseling Services to be over-booked for the remainder of the semester. No doubt some will also try to take advantage of the little-known rule that a student will automatically get all A's in the event of a gum tree death.

The University community has been drastically changed. But is it for better or worse? Only time will tell. But now, as a tribute to the fallen warrior, please observe a moment of silence... Thank you

This Halloween,
be *The Monitor*
with your very own, free
MONITOR
HALLOWEEN MASK!

For this project you
will need: scissors, string,
tape and a grown-up to
supervise.

Directions: Cut out eyes. Attach
the ends of a piece of string with
tape to each side of the paper to
hold it to your head.
Voila! You are *The Monitor!*

Senate seeks student vote on Board of Governors

story by | Ken Noto

John Hilton, the sophomore representative to Student Senate, proposed a resolution to achieve a student vote on the Board of Governors.

"This resolution does not change anything yet," said Hilton. "But, it will certainly set a footstep for the future."

He said he assumes it will take a few years to actually see the change.

Kenneth Hussey, representative at large, said the current plan is to set up an ad hoc committee to study the resolution. Then, senators will decide the next steps.

Hussey is also one of the three candidates for the next student representatives for the Board of Governors.

He said the senate would explore the possibility of cooperation with the other state universities. He said the senate would contact state legislators about the student vote, and inquire the opinions of other universities' student senates.

"It's on so much bigger scales," said Stacy George, the president of Student Senate. "We have to go through the state legislature, the governor, and things like that."

As least one member of each standing committee and a senator of the president's choice will serve on the ad hoc committee.

Missouri Revised Statute forbids student representatives to vote in the board.

According to the statute, section 174.055, "Such student representative shall not have the right to vote on any matter before the board."

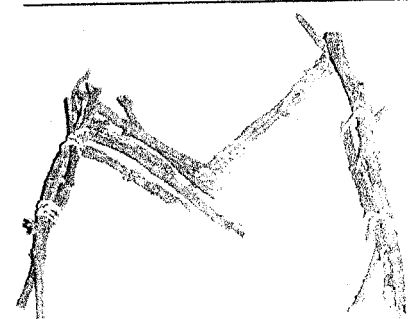
Though Hilton said the resolution is not connected to the recent arming of the DPS officers, he said it reinforced his belief on the student vote.

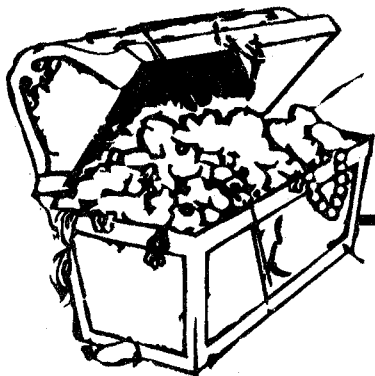
The recent student poll on the arming of DPS officers shows the majority of students do not support the decision. As a result, the occasion highlighted the students' weakness over the board decisions.

Aloha Trouble Cat



By J. and C.





Kirksville's Hidden Treasures

an on-going series devoted to discovering the wealth of Kirksville

Kirksville's Hidden Treasures

Part 2: "Kickin' it K-ville Style -- a community hoe-down"

feature by | Marie Montano and Olivera Bratich

Those of you lame-brains who went home for mid-term break on Thursday made the biggest mistake of your semester. On Thursday night, the city of Kirksville showed they know how to rock out by sponsoring a good ole fashioned hoe-down. The advertisement on Channel 3, the Kirksville City Hall Info Network, promised a "weenie roast & Pepsi, hay rides, and square dancin'" (Not square dancing, mind you, square dancin'!) So, we dusted off the overalls and headed to the Aquatic Center pavilion.

When we arrived, the hoe-down was already in full swing. The crowd of about 20 was mostly comprised of Kirksvillians with their children. We managed to catch the tail end of the square dancin' portion of the evening. Decked out in gingham print and poofy skirts, the connoisseurs of square dancin' put us younger folk to shame. We quickly learned that our fifth grade gym class' square dancing lessons couldn't hack it, so we headed straight for the free hot dogs and soda.

Halfway through our hot dogs, the hay ride tractor pulled up and, like the small children, we hauled ass. The lack of any sort of protection on the sides of the tractor bed added an element of danger to the hay ride. According to the city of Kirksville, guard rails are for sissies. We could have fallen off our hay bale at any moment, but, clocked at 10 mph, the tractor driver was no lead foot. Taking us on a grand tour of Kirksville suburbia, the hay ride may have lost the whole "rural" aspect. But, oh the sing alongs. With half the crowd comprised of young children, many songs were youth-oriented, such as "B-i-n-g-o," "Old McDonald" and a round of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." But old school hits of Queen and Backstreet Boys got the tractor shaking. A crowd favorite was our rendition of DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince's "Parents Just Don't Understand." Teach the children well.

Upon our return, the square dancin' had ended and the atmosphere became more like a junior high dance. "I Want It That Way" filled the night air as we hit the dance floor. Junior



photo by Leslee White

high Romeos had their mojo going, as the Bubble Up continued to flow like wine. The only downfall of the evening was that the fun ended too soon. The whole hoe-down only lasted two hours, but within that short period of time we managed to get our fair share of free hot dogs and fun. Not wanting the evening to come to a close, we took one last roll in the hay and bid farewell to our newfound friends.

So, when you've got nothing to do, flip on the boob tube and see what's on the Kirksville City Hall Info Network. What you might find is interesting. There need not be this "college versus town" attitude. Some of the Kirksvillians we encountered were some fun-loving people. Much like us, they were just looking for a good time on a Thursday night.

Join us next time, for more ways to kick it K-Ville style.

The Monitor's favorite scary movies

Ben Braun – *Psycho*

Olivia Bratich – *Ice Cream Man*

Matt Cowan – *Monster Squad*

Kristen Crenshaw – *Evil Dead 2*

Andy Dandino – *Care Bears: The Movie & Angelheart*

Shawn Gilmore – *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*

Peter Hough – anything with Bette Midler

Erin Hucke – the video to Michael Jackson's "Thriller"

Paul Kingston – *Night of the Lepus*

Jimmy Kuehnle – *Them!*

Marie Montano – *Jack Frost* (not the one with Michael Keaton... well, yeah, maybe that one too)

Jeff Moore – anything with scary babies. Regular babies wouldn't hurt people, but you can't trust scary babies

Ken Noto – *The Blair Witch Project*

Paz – *Night of the Creeps*

Jerry Schirmer – *Exit to Eden*

Matthew Webber – *Chopping Mall*

Leslee "master of sarcasms" White – *Squirm*

An outbreak of "Rams fever" infects area

story by | Paul Kingston, Chris Vernon and Andy Garcia-Staggenborg

I've noticed that even though the weather's getting colder, everyone's getting hotter. They got the fever -- RAMS fever. The symptoms are unmistakable: sweaty palms, kneeling on the Niner's one yard line in the final minutes of a 42-20 rout, Sunday trips to Too Talls, severe turf-toe from 97 yard kickoff returns -- the list goes on without end.

The Chargers tried to inoculate us in the pre-season with a cheap shot to starting quarterback, Trent Green, taking him out for the season. It doesn't matter, the fever's still spreading faster than crabs on the beach. After intense study, the principal organisms causing Rams fever (also known as Ramsitus) have been discovered. They are Dick Vermeil, the veteran head coach, Kurt Warner, the best quarterback in the NFL, and the Warner brothers, the core of wide receivers who are climbing all over their opposing defenses.

The Rams are in the midst of the breakout to end all breakouts. These scrappy underdogs have more touchdown passes after four games than they had all last year, they've had at least

35 points in the last four games while keeping their opponents (or should I say victims) to no more than 20. Running back Marshall Faulk has already had a 100+ yard game. But the fever has spread more than ever after the Rams crushed San Fran to snap a 17-game losing streak against their arch-rivals.

If the Rams lose one game, I'll shake a baby like a British nanny.

The fever was brought to Kirksville by the RFC (Rams Fanatic Club), a small faction of folks who knew 1999 was the year of the Ram. The RFC had the fever from the start. Our local TV didn't cover Rams games, they still had the fever. They didn't jump on the Chiefs bandwagon. The same bandwagon that is now stuck on the shoulder of the road to success with three flat tires, while the Rams have taken their spare. The RFC is treating their fever with weekly meetings at Too Talls to watch the Rams on satellite TV.

It looks as if the fever is here to stay. Safety Keith Lyle said it best when he said, "We're hungry dogs. We don't just want to eat meat off the bone. We want the bone, too."

Rams Fever.
Catch it.

Special White Space

This SWS is reserved in the honor of the Britney Spears *BIOrhythm*



reviews

music | film | literature

Dan Rather revives a dying American tradition

Deadlines & Datelines:
Essays at the Turn of the Century

written by Dan Rather

review by | Matthew Webber

"If I'd been a better speller," writes Dan Rather in the Introduction to *Deadlines & Datelines*, "I probably would've spent life as a newspaperman." Thanks to "long years of study and practice, and thanks to spell-check programs on (his) computer," Dan Rather was able to resume the newspaper career he began in the early 60s, in the days before he was the near-perfect voice and face of CBS' evening news programs. *Deadlines & Datelines* is a collection of Rather's newspaper columns and radio reports from the 1990s, series which are both entitled *Dan Rather Reporting*.

Newspapers, that dying and once great American art form, have always been treasured by Rather and his family. In the Introduction, Rather writes how he grew up in a Texas household full of newspapers; his father subscribed to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the *Christian Science Monitor* along with whatever current Texas newspaper he hadn't gotten mad at yet and cancelled the subscription. This early exposure to great reporting has stayed with Rather his entire life, and it is a tradition he passed on to his own children and which he tries to renew with the articles in this book.

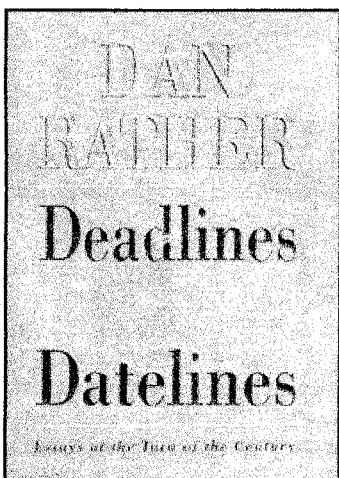
The book is divided into five sections: "In the News, Across America," "Foreign Policies, Global Perspectives," "The Washington Scene: Politics and Politicians," "Tributes," and "The

Lighter Side." If nothing else, the book serves as a refresher course on the personalities and current events that have shaped this last decade. There's Madeleine Albright, Fidel Castro, Saddam Hussein, Princess Diana, Boris Yeltsin and Susan Lucci. There's the Oklahoma City Bombing, the Jon-Benet Ramsey case, the W.N.B.A. and the appearance of modern day religious images such as the cinnamon bun which bore Mother Theresa's likeness.

Rather is by no means a perfect newspaper reporter and is probably a better news anchor than a writer. But what makes this collection special is that deep-rooted love of newsprint that seeps through every word. I couldn't help but compare Rather to other columnists I have read in the *Post-Dispatch* (which doesn't carry *Dan Rather Reporting*, of course) who are more enamored

with the flow of their own words or with hitting you over the head with their opinions than they are with telling stories — Rather's obvious but unstated goal in writing these columns.

Rather, for the most part, surpasses his contemporaries. He excels in an area the others often neglect, that of interesting, warm, and very human stories. Rather himself is often moved by the people about whom he writes, and a reader, in turn, is moved by his compassion.



CD Release Dates

OCTOBER 19

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy *This Beautiful Life* (Coolsville/Interscope)
Charlatans UK *Us and Us Only* (MCA)
DJ Spooky *Subliminal Minded* (Bar None)
Dr. Dre *The Chronic 2001* (Aftermath)
Eurythmics *Peace* (Arista)
Primus *Anti Pop* (Interscope)
Save Ferris *Modified* (Epic)
Smithereens *God Save the Smithereens* (Koch)
Sunny Day Real Estate *Live* (5/26/99) (Sub Pop)
VA *Woodstock '99* (Epic)

OCTOBER 26:

Bush *The Science of Things* (Trauma/Interscope)
Deep Forest *Made in Japan* (550 Music)
Dream Theatre *Metropolis Part 2: Scenes from a Memory* (EastWest)
High Llamas *Snowbug* (V2)
Incubus *Make Yourself* (Immortal/Epic)
Luna *The Days of Our Nights* (Jericho/Sire)
Robert Pollard (of Guided by Voices) *Speak Kindly of Your Local Volunteer Fire Department* (Rockathon)
Stone Temple Pilots *No. 4* (Atlantic)
Rob Zombie *American Made Music to Strip By* (Geffen)
OST *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me Volume 2* (Maverick)

Edgar Meyer's music is timeless

Edgar Meyer and
Joshua Bell
Short Trip Home
Sony Classical

review by | Ben Braun

Yet again, Edgar Meyer has shown his genius to the world. Meyer, one of the great unknowns in music, is a composer and double-bass player of the highest caliber whose individual style and experiments have made him legendary in the music community; yet, popular fame has eluded him.

Meyer's work is truly unclassifiable, a unique hybrid of bluegrass, jazz, classical and American folk music. With his newest release, he again proves that regardless of popular fame, his music will stand the test of time.

On *Short Trip Home*, Meyer teams up with Joshua Bell on violin. Bell, one of the most promising young musicians in the classical realm, has traveled world-wide in performance and won critical acclaim for his work on the soundtrack to last summer's movie *The Red Violin*. Also on the album are Mike Marshall on guitar and Sam Bush on mandolin; both of these players are legendary in the progressive bluegrass movement and have recorded with Meyer on prior collaborations.

Short Trip Home contains compositions by Meyer with the exception of "Hang Hang," which Meyer co-wrote with Marshall, and "Death By Triple Fiddle," co-written with Bush and Marshall with a violin solo written by Bell. The incredible aspect of Meyer's mu-

sic is the ease with which it can be listened to, yet the depth of complexity inherent in his pieces. Meyer's music is as good for dancing as it is for sitting and listening to repeatedly. All his pieces have the feel of American folk songs, but they are fit into a classical framework. Thus, the pieces are incredibly complex, yet they have a simple feel.

This is illustrated quite strongly by pieces such as "In The Nick Of Time," which starts out with a solo bass line accompanied by guitar; the arrangement has the feel of traditional western chamber music, yet the rhythmic feel and the tonal progression is pure Americana. This intro is followed by the entrance of the mandolin and the violin, each accenting the continuing bass line and contributing alternating solo lines. After building up in intensity to a roar, the music abruptly halts. This pause is followed by a gorgeous guitar melody which is slowly accented with mandolin, then violin, then bass, each instrument filling in the gaps left by the others, building up again to revisit the theme from the beginning of the piece twice, each time building further in tempo and attack. "In The Nick Of Time" concludes with a return to the bass and guitar intro, the music slowly lulling away. This is music composed by a master musician and played by some of the greatest instrumentalists of our time.

Short Trip Home is filled with beautiful pieces like "In The Nick Of Time" and not a single piece is irrelevant to or unworthy of its fellow selections. It is worth every penny spent to procure it, and whether you are a fan of pop, classical, bluegrass, rap, country or any other genre, there are elements of it all in this. Acquire a copy; you won't regret it.

More information on Edgar Meyer is available through www.sonyclassical.com.



Bardo Pond's obtuse sounds frighten

Bardo Pond
Set and Setting
Matador

review by | Erin Hucke

Bardo Pond is largely a jam band, using guitars, drums and often violin or flute to create soundscapes that often frighten as much as they entertain.

Set and Setting begins with the menacing sound of a helicopter flying overhead and dives right into a mess of electric guitars, thick and piled together and complex as hell to get through. This CD takes some listens to get used to, maybe even more than I'd like to admit. Bardo Pond constructs obtuse, lengthy guitar noise rock for the best of 'em. It takes a little bit of patience. (The first track is 10 minutes long). But after that, it's...more choppy water.

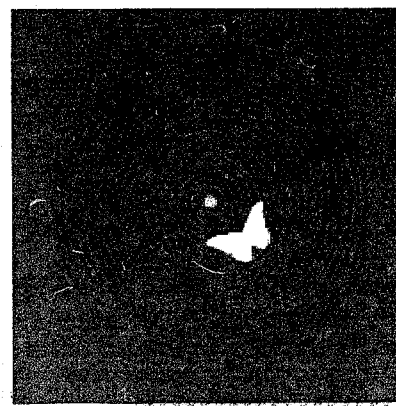
Most of the songs on *Set and Setting* sound like they are modified improvisations, recorded and revisited to pick out the best parts.

The songs thrust you into a sleepy, creepy world where you can't depend on anything and are always looking over your shoulder to see who's walking behind you.

Lead vocalist Isobel Sollenberger mumbles more than she speaks clearly, making it hard to distinguish the lyrics and turning her voice more into an instrument than something laid on top of the music. Flat out, Bardo Pond make psychedelic drug music -- scary psychedelic drug music that keeps you on edge. The only reason *Set and Setting* isn't more paranoid is because it's lazy. But the slowness of the album both contradicts and contributes to the unsettling tone.

Yet, it doesn't go without exception.

"This Time (So Fucked)," is probably the most listener-friendly song on the album -- hey, it's even kind of catchy. The album ends with a noticeably calmer acoustic guitar-driven song accented by eerie feedback screeches of an electric guitar on "#3." For the most part, expect dark noise and moody mumbles with a tinge of galactic guitars.



A CD FROM THE BARGAIN BIN

**London Philharmonic
Orchestra**
Us and Them: Symphonic
Pink Floyd
Point Music

review by | Shawn Gilmore

Nothing is more impressive than hearing a group take a set of classic songs and make them their own. On *Us and Them*, the London Philharmonic Orchestra takes a sampling of songs from Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* and *The Wall*, and proves that just because the instrumentation has changed, and the sound is different, there are ways to make Pink Floyd sound even better than the original.

On the album, there is a certain cohesiveness that is a little unexpected, given that the

track listing features alternating tracks from *The Wall* and *Dark Side*. The individual songs are beautifully conducted by Peter Scholes with writing taken directly from the originals. And yet, when a violin replaces the lead vocals and the cellos enter, there is something magical that a symphony does for the music of Pink Floyd.

There are times in the album when it's hard to remember what the original song sounded like, (for example, the dramatic change that makes "Another Brick in the Wall" sound like something from Mozart) and almost makes you wonder if it matters. It's the liberties that have been taken with each track that make this album special. And yet, with all of the changes in harmonies, instruments, and overall sound, each song remains true to the mood of the original.

This is one of those albums that defines itself as uniquely different from the original, and still manages to fit. There is nothing more rewarding than listening to "Great Gig in the Sky" with an insane violin taking over the female voice part, knowing that the mood itself is retained, something that has always been crucial to Pink Floyd's music. Even though an album such as this must live up to a near impossibly high mark, *Us and Them* fulfills all of the expectations that are set for it.

Pink Floyd fans may love this album, even though it strays from the typical path, while classical music buffs may like it as a divergence from the normal works that they are used to. Either way, I love this one, and recommend it to all interested in the music of Pink Floyd. To me, it's always been interesting to hear what can be done with music that I'm already familiar with (re-mixes, covers, re-writes, live versions). *Us and Them* is a shining example of what can happen when an open mind connects with amazing versions of wonderful songs.



Superstar doesn't suck!!

Superstar
directed by Bruce
McCulloch, starring Molly
Shannon, Will Ferrell

review by | Leslee "master of sarcasms" White

This was originally going to be a review of *American Beauty*, but I figure since I've heard absolutely zero negative reviews, the movie doesn't really need my help at the box office. Besides, I'd just end up on a half-page rant about God (Kevin Spacey).

So, I'm reviewing the other movie I saw last weekend: *Superstar*. The film follows the hyperactive Catholic schoolgirl, Mary Katherine Gallagher, on her journey to be a superstar (thus, the title).

This movie does not suck. I laughed more than I'd ever expected. Molly Shannon plays Mary, and she's quite believable in the role. That woman must have amazing self-esteem. All Mary wants, wishes for, prays for is to be a superstar so she can have the Hollywood-style kiss of her dreams. Finally, her big break comes in the form of a talent competition.

However, there are some problems along the way. First, there is a vindictive popular girl who mocks Mary and dates the man of Mary's dreams, Sky Corrigan (Will Ferrell). Then there is Mary's grandmother who suspiciously forbids Mary to enter the talent show. Finally, there is the fact that Mary is in special education and her new friends are kind of strange.

You'll never guess what happens. Actually, you'll guess everything that happens, but the gags are pulled off so obviously that they are funny. I think the actors realize the plot is cliché and play it up as such.

This is not for everyone. If you want to ponder your existence, be wowed by acting and laugh and cry, go see *American Beauty*. But if you want to hang out, not have to pay very close attention and laugh at goofy stuff, go see *Superstar*. You're in college; you're allowed to laugh at things that are not so intellectually stimulating. Plus, there is an amazing performance in Mary's best friend from special ed. The girl is hilarious.

Do yourself a favor -- drop the ball, and go see *Superstar*.



Townshend gets better with age

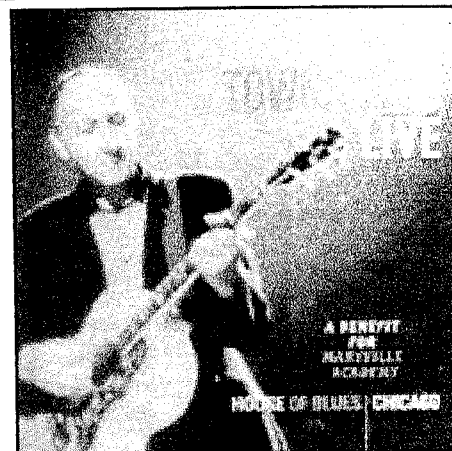
Pete Townshend
Pete Townshend Live
Platinum

review by | Kim Schultz

The latest effort from Pete Townshend, *Pete Townshend Live*, is a magnificent double disc release from the legendary member of The Who and includes classics such as "You Better You Bet," "Let My Love Open the Door," and "Won't Get Fooled Again." The album was recorded at the House of Blues in Chicago. The concert was also a benefit for the Maryville Academy, a leader in the treatment of physically, sexually and emotionally abused children.

Townshend's classic voice remains the heart of the album, with its half-speak, half-sing quality. At times, it soars and echoes; at others, it is barely audible as Townshend strives for a sharply contrasting tranquility. He seems to reach into the audience and grasp a piece of each member's soul, transfixing them with his throaty growl, and I can only imagine the intensity of the energy felt at the show.

Drum tracks and sequencers have been added to the instrumentation of a few songs, which is a pleasant surprise; however, the effect tends to sound a bit like Mannheim Steamroller at times... interpret that as you will. There are quite a few other unexpected twists and



turns here and there, including the addition of keyboards, a female backup singer and Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder as a guest vocalist on the two tracks of the second CD: "Magic Bus," and "Heart to Hang Onto."

The overall balance of the album is tremendous, and Townshend's diversity shines throughout. There are complex songs that obviously required quite a bit of extra thought for performance, but there are also the timeless pieces that require only voice and guitar for the perfect result. It is a powerful masterpiece created with the high-energy output of Townshend's early Who days; however, it is a different kind of energy. This is much more experimental, but with an impressive outcome. Townshend has proved he can still put on a good show and is only getting better with age.

CONCERTS TO GO TO...

COLUMBIA

10/22/99 311 - Blue Note
10/22/99 Widespread Panic -
Hearnes Center
10/24/99 Mr. Bungle - Blue Note
10/28/99 Old 97's - Blue Note
10/29/99 Cheap Trick - Blue Note
11/02/99 G. Love & Special Sauce
- Blue Note
11/04/99 George Winston - Jesse
Auditorium
11/04/99 Son Volt - Blue Note
11/05/99 Guided By Voices &
Superchunk - Blue Note

ST LOUIS

10/21/99 MxPx - Mississippi
Nights
10/23/99 311 - Mississippi Nights
10/23/99 George Clinton &
Parliament Funkadelic -
Firehouse
10/23/99 Pietasters - Karma
10/25/99 Godsmack - American
Theatre
10/25/99 Jim Rose Circus -
American Theatre
10/29/99 Old 97's - Mississippi
Nights
10/29/99 ZZ Top w/ Lynyrd
Skynyrd - Kiel Center
11/02/99 Get Up Kids - Creepy
Crawl

11/03/99 Buck-O-Nine - Karma
11/03/99 Cibo Matto - American
Theatre
11/03/99 Guster - Mississippi
Nights
11/03/99 Live - American Theatre
11/03/99 Moxy Fruvous - Side
Door

KANSAS CITY

10/21/99 311 - Uptown Theatre
10/28/99 ZZ Top w/ Lynyrd
Skynyrd - Kansas City Aud. Arena
10/29/99 Static-X - Kansas City
International Raceway
11/03/99 Wilco - Beaumont Club

CHICAGO

10/22/99 Kid Rock - Aragon
Theatre
10/22/99 Powerman 5000 -
Aragon Theatre
10/23/99 Elf Power - Schubas
10/23/99 Garbage - Mandell Hall

LAWRENCE

10/24/99 Snapcase - Bottleneck
10/27/99 GWAR - Granada
Theatre
10/27/99 Misfits - Granada
Theatre
10/31/99 Urge - Liberty Hall

campus ghost stories

"Truths and urban legends from Centennial and Baldwin" Part 1 in a two-part series

feature by | Matthew Webber

Late, late at night, in the attics and basements of certain buildings on campus, ghosts are said to pace the black halls. Sometimes they make contact with a student or a custodial worker, but for the most part, these ghosts, if they exist, stay silent. These quiet apparitions are peaceful and friendly, and they do not generally wish to cause trouble to anyone.

Because they are so hushed there are few who have seen or heard them, and thus, there are many non-believers on this campus. I would wager that the majority of Truman students have never experienced anything paranormal, anything that can't be explained by a power surge, a trick of the lights or the fact that it was late and dark and the mind was up to its old deluding tricks. You can count this reporter among this skeptical group of people, since I have never in my life made contact with a ghost.

But I want so desperately to believe! And at the same time these thoughts give me the willies. If being a skeptic means never encountering a ghost, then maybe it's safer to remain a skeptic.

I have heard my fair share of ghost stories, however, those ever-so creepy Tales of Spine-Tingling Terror, quite a few of which were told to me in my three years here at Truman. I have heard these tales often, and from rational people. Perhaps you have listened to some of them, too.

But what is fact and what is fiction? What is true and what is urban legend? I asked a few believers for their honest accounts. What follows are their tales and some historical background.

I'd like to take the time here to thank Laura Trump, Eileen Webber, and Sarah Wienke for

helping me find the believers.

Joan

I have never lived in Centennial Hall and I seldom set foot inside the place. But I have heard so much about that hall's ghost ever since my freshman year. I have heard of her from more people than I can remember; from people who would jump at the sight of a worm and from people not scared by the blackest of basements. But the details in all accounts were eerily similar: The female SA who was hit by a car. The rocking chair that she sits in up in the attic. The carcasses of birds which she keeps as her pets. The noises you can hear on the fifth floor at night.

My sister Eileen, who does live in Centennial Hall, directed me to Kevin Martin, her SA last year. She told me he knew a lot about the ghost. She was right.

Martin explained the story to me.

"Joan was an SA, fifth floor south, Centennial," Martin said. "She was maliciously run over while crossing the street in front of Centennial by a car driven by her present boyfriend's ex-girlfriend. She was killed, and since then, Joan has haunted Centennial."

At first, the above chain of events sounded like an urban legend to me. (You might be surprised, though, if you keep on reading.) But people who have lived in Centennial Hall over the years claim to have heard her walking around and making noise. Closet doors have repeatedly opened and closed for no apparent reason. Students have heard a rocking chair up rocking up in the attic. People have felt sudden drafts in the elevator. Many have also heard marbles rolling around over their heads.

"There's a whole lot of people who actually would swear in court that they have heard sounds like marbles rolling across what would be the floor above them," Martin said. "And in several cases the people (upstairs) have carpet and other cases it's the attic and no one can get up. There's like, two keys to get into it."

I wondered if there could be another explanation for these sounds than a ghost, something more concrete, something more scientific.

I didn't get the chance to ask, however, as Martin continued. "Those sounds no one's really explained. Since the water pipes don't run horizontally, they run vertically in the buildings, (the sounds) couldn't be explained that way. And there aren't really any ducts. I mean, it's solid concrete floor. The only thing going through them is wiring for lights. And nothing in there would make that kind of sound."

This particular story was being told long before Martin arrived at Truman in 1994, but Martin did admit to adding some special variations to Joan's story. Martin and other SAs have promulgated the story and its new variations to students at the Halloween program of the past few years, which was held in the very same attic that Joan is said to haunt.

Slightly before the densely-attended 1998 Halloween program, Martin and another SA found the bodies of dead birds in the attic. The birds had entered through an open window, could not fly out, and died. The window had since been caulked, so it was added to the story that Joan let the birds in as pets. She supposedly had kept birds when she lived at home and was sad she was not allowed to keep them with her in the dorms.

A wooden cross was also added to the

story. Sometime during the 1997-98 school year, after the rocking chair had been removed, someone fashioned a wooden cross to hang in the window, the outline of which could be seen from the street if lights were on in the attic. It was added to the story that Joan was a devout Christian.

Near the end of our interview, I asked Martin if he would mind if I exposed certain parts of the story for the additions that they were. He hesitated a moment, and when he finally answered, I could tell he was slightly disappointed.

"I guess the majority of people know it's made up," he said. "It's fun and some of it's the tradition of what we've made into it."

Martin then added that if I could find some solid information to go with the story, some facts about Joan, that Joan's story would really "explode" among the residents.

"Because then everyone will go, 'She was really here and it really did happen,'" Martin said. "And that'll give a basis for, yeah, we made up a couple of things but the truth..."

Martin didn't finish the thought but I suggest this ending: But the truth is far stranger and more interesting than fiction.

Because there really was a Joan here who was hit by a car.

At 11:58 p.m., on June 9, 1976, 20-year-old, New York native Joan Escobar and two friends were sitting on a curb in front of her house in the 600 block of E. Jefferson when a white and green 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass drove up on the curb and hit them. Joan traveled 39 feet through the air after the impact and was pronounced dead at the Kirksville Osteopathic Hospital.

The driver of the Cutlass was Gale Sutton, an 18-year-old Kirksville native, who had been drinking that evening with her passenger, 21-year-old John Kelso, also a Kirksville native.

The articles from the *Kirksville Daily Express* from that week cover the accident but mention nothing about a stolen boyfriend.

I could never ascertain whether or not Joan lived in Centennial and was an SA (RA) there. In the 1976 edition of *Echo*, she is pictured as an RA. But there is nothing in the caption about what residence hall she served. When I asked, Residential Living could not find the 1972-76 records of who lived in what dorm.

Perhaps this Joan now haunts Centennial.

Regardless of what is true or not, Martin and I agreed people could still pass on the different versions of the story to each year's new freshmen. After all, they wouldn't know anything.

A violin and a blue light

Another ghost story I have often heard is that of a ghost or ghosts in the basement of Baldwin Hall. I was not as familiar with this tale as I was with the Centennial Hall story, since theatre students and custodial workers are the only people I know of with access to the basement. I still, to this day, have no idea where one enters it.

Ron Rybkowski has taught theatre at Truman and designed sets for its theatre productions for 12 years. If anybody would know about this particular paranormal activity it would be he.

Custodial workers have told Rybkowski of hearing violin music from somewhere in the building while working late at night. The workers are sure there is no one in the building during these times.

Custodial workers, and also some students, have told Rybkowski of seeing a blue light in the north end of the basement

hallway late at night. One such student, Jen Schlueter, who graduated two years ago, is said by Rybkowski to have seen the light and gotten out of the hallway "as quickly as she could." The light does not say or do anything other than shine.

Rybkowski himself has not experienced either of these phenomena. He has encountered a different ghost, however.

Rybkowski was up on the grid, the iron steelwork 60 feet above the theater, designing a set. Rybkowski said: "I was up there to drop a line down through one of the openings in the steel and very clearly, very distinctly, right over my right shoulder I heard a female voice say 'hi.' And I turned and obviously there was nobody there; there was nowhere to hide in the grid."

He finished up his work as quickly as possible and "got down out of there."

I asked him if there were other possible explanations for the voice other than supernatural phenomena.

"I was thinking it had something to do with acoustics," Rybkowski said. "because in a place like that you do have special shelves that are designed to push sound into the direction. However, up at the very top of the stage there aren't any shelves. The idea is the sound is staged to go out into the house and not up into the [grid]."

"And so I was trying to think is it possible that there was somebody actually down on that stage that was talking and it might have bounced somehow through and then gotten up to me? And I would believe that could happen if I had heard a conversation. I just heard a very nice woman saying 'hi.' So I cannot explain that."

Rybkowski did not feel threatened by the ghost, but did feel uncomfortable having someone he couldn't see say "hi" to him.

The violinist, the blue light, and Rybkowski's ghost are equally benign. The same cannot be said for the ghost that lives in the downstairs women's bathroom.

"There was the evening when a student had gone down into the women's dressing room bathroom to clean out brushes or whatever," Rybkowski said. "And a very loud, angry voice said 'get out!' [The student] came up pale as can be."

And just in case you doubt this account... "This was a big guy," Rybkowski said. "There was no reason for him to make anything up like that."

Rybkowski said there have been, he thinks, three occasions of the hostile ghost in the downstairs women's bathroom.

"But I've never come across that one," he said. "So I hope I don't because it doesn't sound like a fun thing to do."

Rybkowski was not sure who any of the ghosts could be. The stories, he said, have been passed down over time.

"I have no idea that there was a student who died or anything like that," he said.

Despite his one encounter with the spiritual realm, Rybkowski also wants to hear the violin music.

"I think it would be nice to hear the violin," he said.

I must say I agree with him. I'd wager the music would be bittersweet and pretty.

But I would want a boatload of people surrounding me when I heard it. I'm too much of a wuss to be down in that basement with the blue light alone.

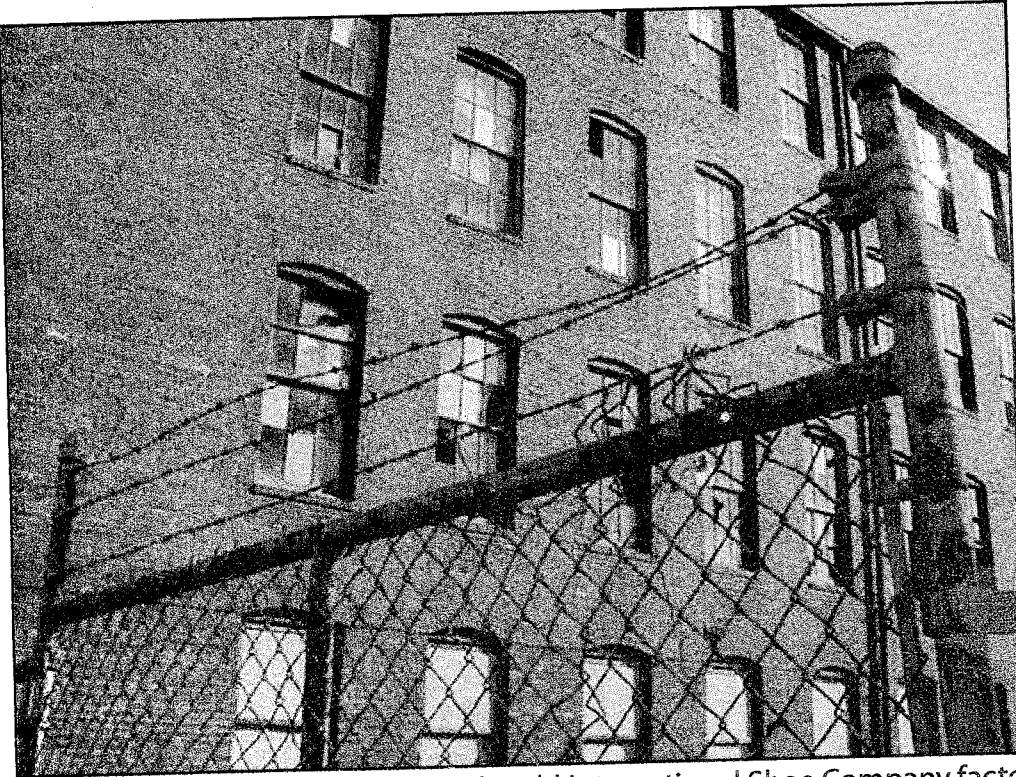
Part 2 of this series focuses on two poltergeists: Charlotte from Grim Hall and Wilbur from Ryle 455.

19 October 1999

To you get into the Halloween spirit, *The Monitor* presents...

THE SCARIEST PLACES IN KIRKSVILLE

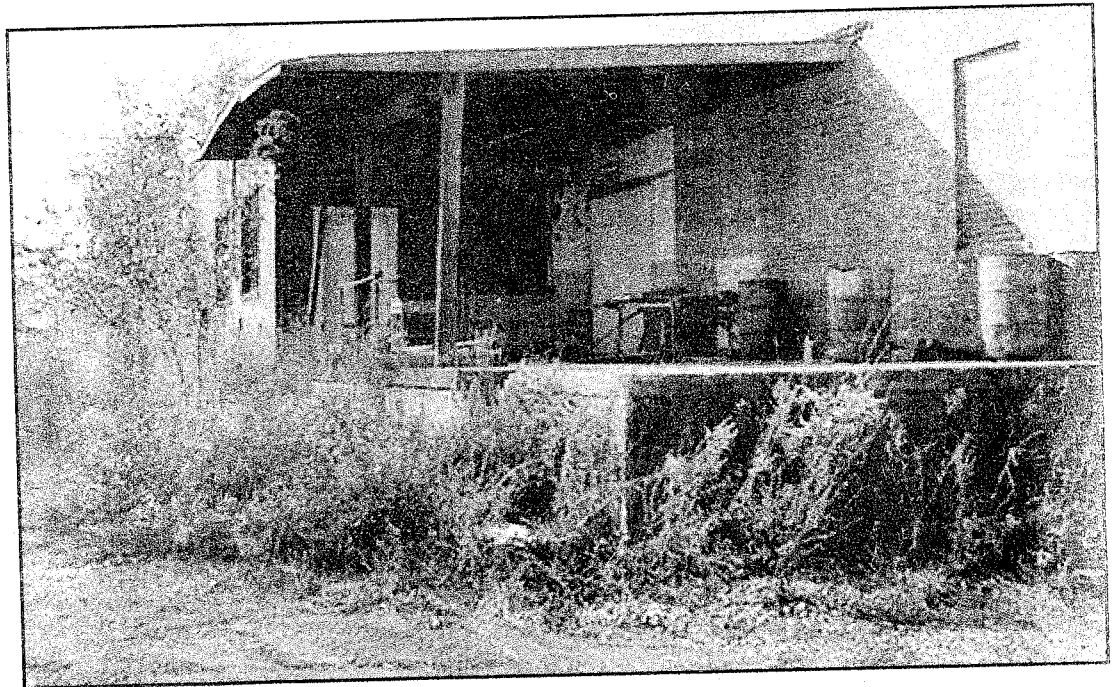
feature by | Jesse Pasley and Andy Dandino



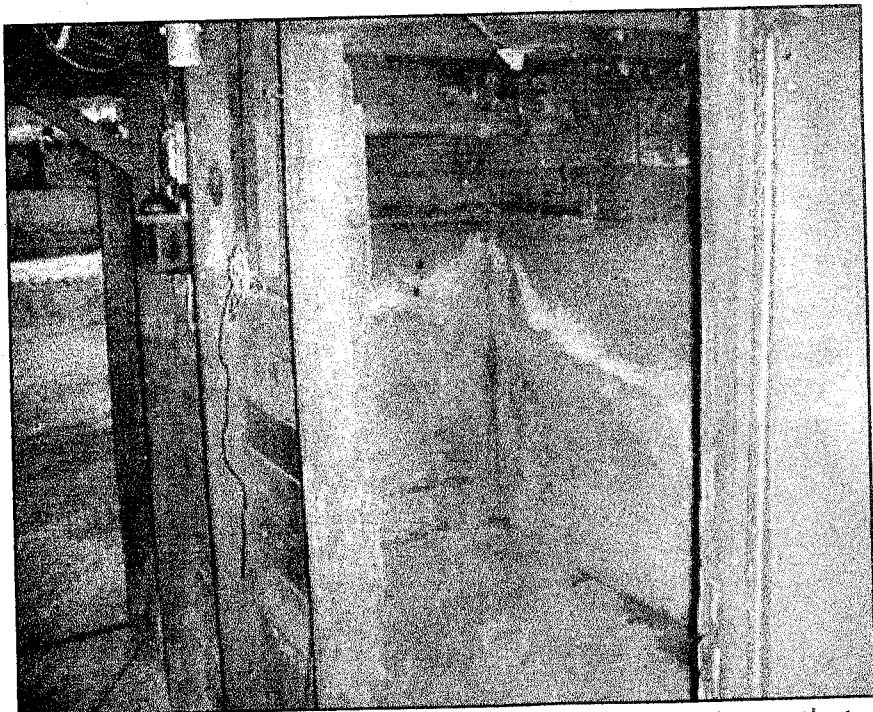
Also known as the "creepatorium," the old International Shoe Company factory is pretty damn menacing.



One Virgin Mary: Comforting.
Four Virgin Marys in a graveyard: Creepy.



This unsuspecting building directly behind the Salvation Army Command Post houses creepy noises, satanists (see below), and possibly spooky ghosts!



Basements in Kirksville are pretty scary. Pictured here is one that exhibits all the signs of a Kirksville basement: dirty, dark, and reeking of dead bodies. Yikes!



Kirksville: Home of Stephen King and other scary stuff.



Inverted pentagram! Told you there were satanists here! Run while you still can!

Create your own set of TSU magnetic poetry!!

story by | Jennifer Wrightam

Every decade has its trends. Remember slap bracelets, tight-rolled jeans, Swatches and Walkmans? One day people will look back at the nineties (OK -- officially this will start in a few months) and remember how all the "cool" people had beepers, baggy pants, bottled water and magnetic poetry. Chances are, you could get up right now, trying not to trip on your baggy pants, walk over to your fridge (covered in magnetic poetry) and grab some Bulldogua.

If you're one of the many people who have magnetic poetry, you may have already noticed it has the same kitschy, hypnotic appeal as a lava lamp (another decade's trend). In fact, magnetic poetry has gotten so popular that companies have started making all kinds of topic-specific magnetic poetry: sports, Shakespeare, even college.

The problem with this genre of college words is that they don't apply 100 percent to Truman State University. Truman has its own ever-popular lingo. I've decided, as a service, to tell you how to supplement your generic college set of magnetic poetry to make a TSU buzzword set of magnetic poetry.

Step 1: Cut out the words below.

Step 2: Glue them to magnets. *

Liberal	Studies	Program	Night	Monitor	Quiet	Scholarship	Office
Hours	Add	Drop	Sacred	Potato	Pancake	City	Super-Senior

These next ones will help you write papers. Just drop these words into any paper randomly (magnetic poetry style), and your grades will actually improve. You may have noticed some professors make their lectures this way.

Inter-disciplinary	Pre-writing	Epiphany	Patriarchy	Paradigm
Intergenerational	Metaphorically	Critical Thinking	Triangulation	

* Many of the words in the generic set of magnets don't work for Truman. Therefore, you can recycle these magnets. For example, you can glue over "dormitory" with "Residence hall." You can also remove terms such as "core," "cafeteria," and if you've already got your own home-made set, "gum tree."



Queen Astra



The Queen

Let the
stars be
your guide!

Aries (March 21-April 20):

You're always accused of being presumptuous. Remember: Don't count your chickens because your omelet just hit the fan.

Taurus (April 21-May 22):

Someone close to you will say "Hold on, I'm coming!" Take them very, very seriously. Sagittarius featured.

Gemini (May 23-June 21):

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth. Instead, kick it in the ass. You can do it!

Cancer (June 22-July 24):

Try to be a little more Martha Stewart-esque this week. Bake cookies, tend the garden, make napkin holders. You know she sees a lot of booty.

Leo (July 25-August 23):

You were always a disappointment to your parents. Prove them right. Keep up the horse hockey, sucka!

Virgo (August 24-September 23): Hey, in case you didn't notice, it's the 90s.

Trade in that ascot for a tech vest. Then hit the meat markets this week and pick up a nice, fat steak.

Libra (September 24-October 23): As the mercury drops, drop your pants. After all 60 percent of your body heat is lost through your head, not your rear.

Scorpio (October 24-November 22): Screw that homework bull, focus on fun this week as the third moon of Jupiter enters the house of Aries.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 21): Lock yourself in a closet with two buckets. One for fried chicken and the other one for... well, we all know what bucket number two is for. Pisces plays a key role.

Capricorn (December 22-January 20): Thank god for the end of summer. The grueling reign of the Capri pants is over!

Aquarius (January 21-February 19): This weekend, lay on the floor and pretend you're an amoeba. It's a great party trick. Then watch a lot of pornography this week, after all, it always stays for breakfast.

Pisces (February 20-March 20): Send a postcard to a stranger. It may be interpreted as a random act of kindness or the actions of a psychopath. Either way, you're a winner.

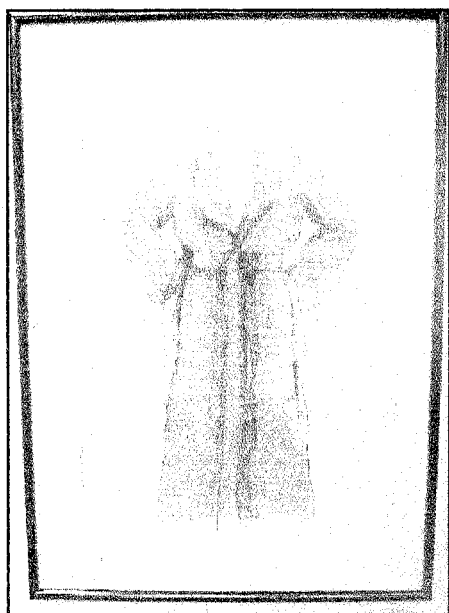
Queen Astra is working her way to a three-person Marlboro tent. She has proposed the QUEEN ASTRA MARLBORO MILES CHALLENGE EXTRAVAGANZA! Please send any extra miles in exchange for helpful advice to Queen Astra c/o the Monitor mailbox, CAOC.

Art Page

The Faculty Presents show in the Truman Gallery ran the last two weeks. The works displayed were of the private collections of current faculty. Art submitted ranged from a \$5 photograph of Iggy Pop to 16th century prints.



Brian Reedy
"Suck"
Collection of Ruth Adams



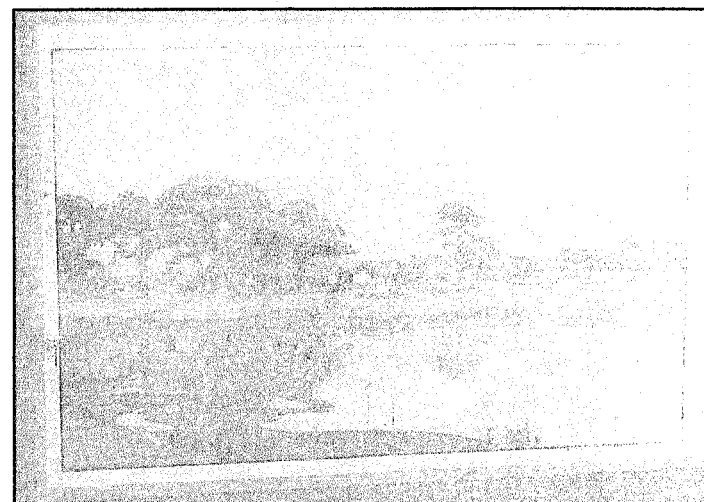
Jim Dine
"Bathrobe"
Collection of Jim Jereb



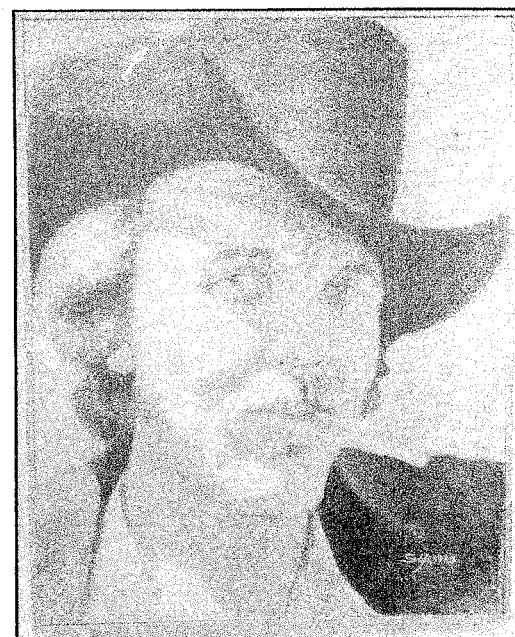
Goya
"Without commending himself
to either God or the devil"
Collection of Jim Jereb



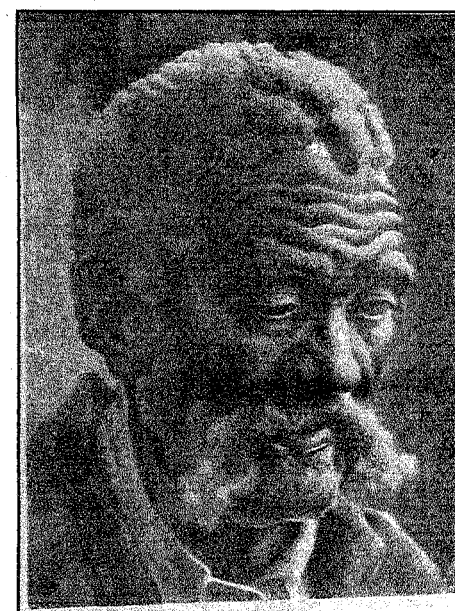
Andy Warhol
"Mick Jagger"
Collection of Jim Jereb



Hiroshige
"Fuji from Suzukawa"
Collection of Ed McEndarfer



Sam Yeates
"Bob"
Collection of Bob Jones



Thomas Heart Benton
"Aaron"
Collection of Jim Jereb

My Back Pages...

I can't sleep anymore
 Ideas run through my head
 like water
 my mind a filter
 isolating each drop
 to be consciously examined
 and evaluated
 I look down at this paper
 soaked through
 my hand and pen dripping
 until the overflow has subsided
 and I am able to contain
 the things that tug at my lapels
 errors and crises of my existence

—Nikolaus McClain

Pondering down the red brick pathway
 staring up
 the clouds are all magic tricks
 their brilliant colors of white and grey smoke
 dancing amongst each other
 The clouds are all illusions
 the movement is behind them

Maybe you're here beside my mind
 again and again, the clouds
 play off each other
 hide from seek
 like you and i and
 the casual slip of the tongue
 it's hard to hear your head
 or why you're hear

Your cloud breathing beside my own
 intertwining like the tricks above the ground
 The clouds we build to hide our own
 your cloud breathing beside my own

All our little tricks end up like
 the clouds drifting away
 Reveal the blue sky, the gentle sun
 burning away those casual slips of the tongue
 The movement revealed, inside us,
 of why we're here
 why we're here is
 behind the clouds that blow away

—B²

Do I imagine that it has been years
 since we have spoken, or has it really?
 Did I ever meet you?
 Are you real?
 Do you dream of angels or of despair
 or of a shark that you once saw
 on Sesame Street who has become
 your symbol and your protector?
 Can I reach out and touch you through the internet,
 can I enter the net, become
 entangled, enangled, in miles and whiles?
 (Can I avoid my desire to make pathetic rhyme,
 that which is contrived when all I do is hasty?)
 Can I forget red fur and look to the present,
 like the stick on the zen monk's finger
 that will fall with the weight of the past and the future?
 All that matters is the fulcrum,
 and I the round fulcrum
 struggle to balance my stick,
 to stop letting the past hit the ground with a thud
 and remember that the heavy and
 cumbersome weight of the past is balanced
 by the welcomed lightness of the future.

—SD

My Piano

**Your melodic
 Methodic tunes call to me
 Hinting at truth
 But never balance
 I rest my fingers
 Hesitantly
 On the ivory
 Keys from memory
 Float through my mind
 I will play again
 Place my foot on the brass pedal
 Press my heart
 My hurt into the music
 Dance my hands across
 The all knowing instrument
 Of my soul
 Black and white.**

—Ann Teresa Miller

in time

when i grow up
 i want to live under a park bench
 and wear all the clothes i own
 at once,
 and be consumed by the
 question of how i will
 get my next bottle of
 cheap liquor,
 and write on paper napkins
 from the corner coffee shop
 with a pen i stole from
 the gas station,
 and feed my hunger
 with my words,
 and be satisfied with
 nothing.

—Leena Phadke

seussie

spell it backwards
 and that's
 what i have

—Laura Trump

A. The Horse

a blue outline, eight hands high
 in the wheatfield by my house,
 it ran to me
 made a screaming sound within its neck
 its white teeth were a hard, bone box
 its sides rattling, lungs breathing atmosphere
 it circled me,
 and I fell backwards, clawed earth,
 knowing it was a demon.

B. The Bit

He had a hard place
 fueled with oil the color of tigerfish,
 it wasn't rape, but it wasn't kind,
 it was a trespass that left
 my heart—packed in ice—
 [remembered]
 the whites of his eyes
 (two moons in the darkness)
 the sound of his teeth
 (gnashing the bit)

—Megan Wampler

Hey poetry kids! In the spirit of Halloween, My Back Pages is accepting both tricks and treats. Drop submissions of either kind in the *Monitor* mailbox in the CAOC.