

The Monitor

A Campus Collective

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

Faculty Senate to vote on the "W" proposal this Thursday

story by | Jerry Schirmer

This Thursday, Faculty Senate has the infamous "W" on the transcript proposal on its agenda again. This is the second time this proposal has been on the agenda, after two votes to postpone the final decision on the issue.

This proposal began its life in the spring semester of last year, when the Social Science Division voted to send a proposal to place a "W" on students' transcripts after the end of the free add-drop period if they would drop a class. In theory, this policy was intended to reduce student's desire to "shop around" for courses and thereby increase course availability.

After passing the Social Science Division, the proposal arrived at Undergraduate Council (UGC), a necessary approval board for any major changes to University academic policy. The proposal easily passed UGC and continued to Faculty Senate.

After debating the issue somewhat, and partially in response to aggressive opposition from Student Senate, Faculty Senate voted to postpone the bill until this year. It also voted to form a committee to specifically investigate the feasibility of this bill and whether it would effectively solve the problem of course availability.

This committee, comprised of Vice President of Academic Affairs Garry Gordon, Debbie Caldwell of the Vice President's office, Head Registrar Nancy Weber-Hoffman, Tom Marshall of the Agriculture department, Student Senate President Stacey George and Student Senator Jessica Post, vigorously investigated the problem of course availability and its relationship to this

"W" proposal. The larger part of the committee concluded that the idea of adding a "W" on students' transcripts would do little, if anything, to end the problem of course availability.

Furthermore, the committee offered several alternatives to this proposal. These included creating an auto-drop policy, which would automatically drop students from a class if they did not attend or notify the professor in the first two class periods.

Another alternative offered would be to charge classes by hour, rather than simply having a fixed tuition for all students enrolling in 12-17 hours, and thereby discourage students from over-enrolling in the first place and thus reduce the need for the dropping of classes.

Finally, the committee suggested that creating an online registration system would allow students to add and drop courses more effectively, as well as to instantaneously indicate which seats were opened, and thus allow a much smoother registration process.



photo by Matthew Webber

Members of the Progressive Coalition, a new activist organization on campus, informed other students of the "W" issue in a small rally held on Monday.

After the committee gave its findings to Faculty Senate in December, Faculty Senate placed the proposal, bill 6198, on the agenda for its Jan. 20 meeting. On that same day, Student Senate held an emergency session and passed a resolution opposing bill 6198.

The stage was set for the 3 p.m. meeting of Faculty Senate. The meeting was extremely well attended for a Faculty Senate meeting (over 60 students appeared there) and finally the issue was brought forward. Student Senate President Stacey George gave a report vigorously opposing the "W" proposal, outlining the position of Student Senate.

In response, Business and Accountancy Division representative Bryce Jones asked for more time so that it would be possible for faculty senators to go back to their respective divisions and ask for their opinions in light of this new information. The motion to delay was passed unanimously and bill 6198 would be an action item at the Feb. 24 meeting.

This move gave the issue more time to circulate around campus. On Feb. 9, the Academic Affairs committee of Student Senate held an informative forum regarding the proposed policy. There, some students were made more aware of the full extent of the proposed policy.

Also, the Progressive Coalition, a newly formed group, organized around this issue and even held a sparsely-attended rally yesterday, in order to voice opposition to this policy. Furthermore, the Progressive Coalition has gone around to various organizations, particularly pre-professional ones, obtaining votes of support regarding this issue. These signatures will be presented by the Progressive Coalition to Faculty Senate on Thursday, to further indicate student opposition to the issue.

Faculty Senate meets this Thursday, at 3 p.m. in the Alumni Room of the SUB. Although there definitely will be a wide range of issues on the agenda, this certainly will be the centerpiece. One thing is clear, however: delay is probably no longer possible on the issue. All must hinge on the vote that the faculty makes.

Student-produced films to be featured in Indie Film Fest

story by | Erin Hucke

Truman's own Indie Film Fest takes place this Friday, Feb. 25 in Violette Hall 1000. This event sponsored by Film Club and SAB will feature approximately seven short films made by Truman students.

Film Club President Matt Arnold said SAB "used to do this in the past" but somewhere along the line, the event became irregular and then stopped altogether. Until this year.

Both Film Club and SAB had been

considering holding an indie film fest and this year, things came together.

Michael Heinz, a sophomore history major, has made two films for the festival one called *Last Man Alive* which deals with a "post-apocalyptic world and how the last man alive [adapts] to it." His other film, *Much To Do About Something* contains "revenge, kung-fu fighting, gun-slinging, sex and romance, drama and just a little bit of comedy for the kids."

Junior Jimmy Kuehnle made a two-minute 48-second film "Jimmy" named after himself. No surprise to those who know him, the main subject of the movie is Kuehnle himself.

"It's got me in it and I'm very pretty and I'm shirtless so everybody can ooh and aah about it," Kuehnle said.

The Indie Film Fest is at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 25 in VH 1000. Admission is free.

Indie Film Fest

Friday, Feb. 25

VH 1000

6:30 p.m.

Free

Sponsored by Film Club and SAB.

C O N T E N T S

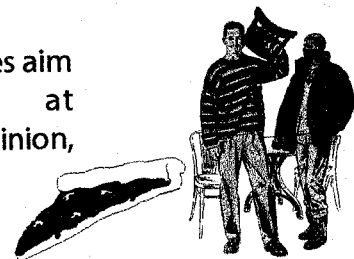


The Cure's new album takes awhile to get used to. Read the review, page 10.

**GLBT
Resource
Center**

The Monitor presents opposing viewpoints regarding the GLBT Resource Center. Read the story on pages 8-9.

Pizza companies aim their ads at stereotypes. Opinion, page 4.



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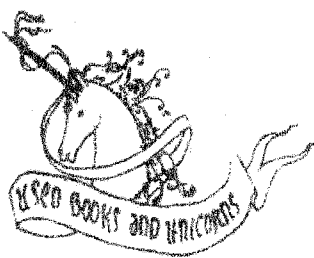
We meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 p.m. in OP 218.

Subscriptions are available to out of towners -- you just pay for postage. Send a check or money order for \$7 to the address above for a semester's worth of Monitors. That's really cheap, huh?

"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

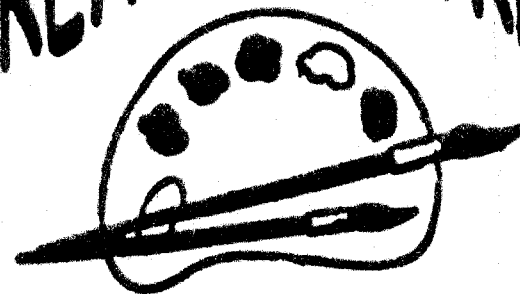


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Goddamn
the
pusherman.
S.W.

letters

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Got something to say? Write a letter to
The Monitor. Letters must be typed and
signed to be considered for publication.

Monitor takes a cheap shot at an independent scholar

Dear MONITOR LETTERS EDITORS,
I read Jesse Pasley's OPINIONS lead article
"ARROGANCE SUCKS A FAT ONE" today with
growing perturbation, turning into frank disgust.
At the risk of your own now considerable pow-
er of self-censorship and unpopularity-branding, I
would crave space as, another independent scholar,
critic, friend of the man defame-proceeded against
robustly answer Pasley's sheer diatribe, back.

By 3 sentences with which Pasley finishes
worthily of the article. I quote them not out of
my "context" as we, as your readers, were, hardly,
rationally given any in writing so poor. That it
would be lucky if it sentence-bunglingly got in an
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PUPILS' bulletin!
Pasley thus "AND I AM NOT IMPRESSED WITH
YOUR EXHAUSTIVE ACCOUNT OF PUB-
LISHED WORK IN VARIOUS JOURNALS IN IN-
DIANA ON THE EDUCATION IN AMISH COM-
MUNITIES... AND LASTLY TAKE THOSE
SUCKING ADS OUT OF THE INDEX WITH
YOUR POMPOUS PICTURE AND YOUR 'DESK-
TOP.' YES, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE."

CLEARLY, the academic being targeted is
identifiable, easily, to we public readers, of ALL
the local press as well as the named INDEX, as Dr.
Marlow Ediger. May I remind Jesse that Mr. Ediger
is not a member of your university; his connection
is tenuously purely affectionate as he is a retired,
all professor of Education of NMSU. Ediger is, in
short, everything Noam Chomsky has long sought
in an independent scholar. If he pays for adver-
tisements in both the INDEX AND THE
KIRKSVILLE EXPRESS updating us on his peer
group, voluntarily selected overseas journal pieces,
his own books, that is his free speech entitle-
ment! And basic self-waged freedom. Sirs, whether
capitalist or socialist hard-won right in court
is going back to James I of UK home! It is not
one Jesse Pasley to try and tear out the pages.
That monarch, veritably, did of printed speeches,
thought "arrogance-embodied." WHO DOES
ESSE PASLEY THINK "THEY" ARE TO
DREAM, OTHERWISE?

For the record, in sheer counter-vailing, non-
sist language, I am a lot more interested in Asian
scholarship and drama as practiced by Marlow
than I am in MONITOR sexual love poetry! I
am, greatly for Marlow's unpaid-for, Schuyler
family newspaper regular column on Middle East
ancient and current history. Because I know it re-
flects the unusual views, for an American liberal-
independent scholar, of some one whose not only
NO-ARAB but regularly visitingly teaches in their
poverty-stricken campuses. That have, barely, a
fraction of even Pasley's hard-earned Yankee
ONIES!!! I am, indeed, embarrassed, as a mem-
ber of our Kirksville community, that Ediger has to
look out on "ads." Simply because our reactionary
types won't print his generally anti-gun and
womans-choice positions, while they will print
old, self-serving, rubbish from TSU male aca-
demics with barely a quarter of his guts or publica-
tions!

Finally, if Jesse is trying to say something
abusive and valid, when he claims he can't
and "classroom fellow students and teachers,"
to put him down in "Latin" and "French," then,
heaven's sake, leave the totally innocent of
Ediger, logically blameless out of it! Either
grow up and learn enough of both languages to
sunder in real, educated style! Or we Monitor
realists should be spared such nasty, even imbe-
cile ravings in the future deeply offensive to we

foreigners and any Amish peaceful visitor; by the
rank, white nativist racism exasperatingly displayed,
by hopefully, just Pasley on a bad (good) day!?

Sincerely,
Lawrence Irvine Iles

Opinion dealt with something

Dear Monitor,
Wow. That's all I can say right now. Wow.
John Nguyen has actually written a piece that *deals*
with something. Deals with it, shoves it in your
face and down your throat. I felt my skin crawl
with disgust at the description of Genie's treatment
and wanted nothing more than to rip her father
from the grave and kill him again when I read that
he had the audacity to kill himself.

Wow. Where did writing like this come from.
Mr. Nguyen? Don't get me wrong, I'm one of
those people who usually find his articles enter-
taining to read. Still, I am nothing less than awed
by his most recent opinion piece and hope to con-
tinue reading articles with the same power and pur-
pose in the future.

Congratulations, John, on one of your best
pieces that I have had the pleasure to read.

Sincerely,
Lizzard Abram

Are you sure GDI is the way to go?

This letter is in response to the Opinion col-
umn by Joe Rothermich from the February 8, 2000
issue. The focus of the column was to question the
advantages of staying GDI. Early in the column
Mr. Rothermich warns that he is using the com-
mon stereotype that Greek organizations serve
the purpose of allowing someone to pay money to
instantly have friends. However, after acknowl-
edging the possible stereotype, he still agrees with
it, and he continues to use more stereotypes of
Greek organizations.

I would like to inform Mr. Rothermich, and
anyone else that has similar misconceptions, what
the benefits of Greek organizations really are. I
have made friendships that will last a lifetime. It is
true that I needed to join to make those friend-
ships, and that I probably could have made friends
without my fraternity. However, the bond would
not nearly be as tight. My brothers and I have gone
through so many good times and many bad times
together that quite often it really does feel like we
are family, and it all has revolved around the orga-
nization. If someone can achieve a bond like that
without the Greek organization, good for them. I
am not saying that it cannot be done, but merely
stating my experience.

As for the common, and unfortunate, mis-
conception that Mr. Rothermich has about us buy-
ing our friends, Greeks do not pay for their friends.
Greeks pay to ensure that the organization contin-
ues to function and pay bills that may come up. A
Greek organization needs to have funding to pay
for equipment, facilities, and a variety of other
services that are provided for the members. If some-
one thinks they are going to pay for the privilege
of having friends, they are missing the point.

With regard to service projects, Greeks donate
hundreds of dollars and hundreds of hours to theirs and
other philanthropies. One just needs to look around
campus at the posters and flyers circulating to see how
involved Greeks are in service.

I am not going to ignore the fact that Greeks
like to party and be involved in intramurals, but that is

LETTERS, continued on
page 12

Tweak Your Mind

Do you hunt Tatanka?



"Yes, yes I do."

-Amanda Bunyard



"Yes, that's what I do on the
weekends."

-Molly Steidley



"Yes."

-Chris Vernon



"No I do not."

-Katie Bednarczyk



"Yes, I love Tonka."

-Adam Woodson



"Yes."

-Phil Kopf



opinions

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

Online pizza: for crazy college students only!

opinion by | Jesse Pasley

When I was a child, it was the Trix commercials telling children across the USA to make sure rabbits (possibly signifying Commies) weren't eating their sugary cereal. During high school, it was those stupid zit ads telling a classic, Horatio Alger-esque tale of one teen's battle with his own pizza-face. In the end, he got the girls AND his mom could take Polaroids of him. Yep, cool.

But now, as I type this very article on a computer in Violette Hall, I glance down at the mouse pad and take notice at what the Enemy now aims at me, forcing me into Capitalistic indoctrination. At the upper left-hand corner of the pad, an advertisement touts another ".com" business; this particular one helps a person with finding a new place to live. Of course, this would be fine and good, but then the ad kicks in the parts intending to associate itself with the average college student: the phrase "Why don't you get a life?" and a picture depicting one of those "wild-and-crazy" college kids. The kid sits there with a goofy look on his face and one of those stylish Hawaiian shirts on, while a person I assume is the father looms over the kid in his sleeveless undershirt (so-called "wife beater"), raving mad, with his finger pointing at the reader (or the door?).

This whole scene elicits only a puzzled look on my face. Apparently, this business only helps irresponsible youngsters who've been kicked out of their homes by psychotic parents. Also, the look on the young man's face makes him look like he's thinking of only two things: pizza and slacking off. These will be two items I'll be returning to later.

No, this ad doesn't really piss me off, though it may disturb me. Is this how corporate America thinks of the youth they're attempting to indoctrinate? Slacking off, no life, and pizza? I look at the other ads on the mouse pad: hip and wild youngsters, taking a stab at life, looking fresh, getting hooked, getting jacked-in, freeing their minds, dumbing down, books and hair and stylish jeans. Hey, what could I do on this computer?

I could look for a job in Web design, if that's hip enough. Or I could order a pizza online! Yeah, pizza!

Perhaps I am rambling on too much on just one mouse pad. Yes, I believe I am. But there are so many other ads out there. How about the four girls in the dorm room, ranting on how absolutely fabulous Triscuit crackers are if you top them with cheese and other goodies. And now, if you buy a pizza from Pizza Hut, you can get a free CD, but only from CDnow.com. To top it all off, an advertisement visible in Ophelia Parrish challenges students to send in for an "AWFUL" CD. Upon further inspection, the advertisement goes on to say that only your parents will think the music to be beautiful. Oh, how they have tricked me.

You're wondering by now what I have against pizza. Well, pizza goes back to the root of prob-

lem, that is, the heart of bad college-focused advertising: the pizza commercial. A Papa John's commercial shows a college student who eats so much pizza he makes furniture out of pizza boxes. Yet the worst offender is the commercial showing students, after a long night of partying, eating pizza for breakfast on a couch in the front yard. Around them, the party is still raging on. How many times have I partied until daylight? How many times have I eaten pizza for breakfast... on a couch... in the front yard? Does corporate America think this is the way it is? It is either that, or the commercial is trying to be funny, which it is not doing a good job at.

But perhaps we've been neglecting the combined effect of all these ads. Why not combine these things into one super-product: An Online Pizza that comes with a free CD and long distance phone card. No, I'm not talking about ordering pizza online. I'm talking about me, logging in, and having a pizza pie come straight through the screen and on to my face. While I'm eating the pizza, I could be listening to my free CD and using the phone card to call up my parents and ask for more money (because I'm a slacker). I would need to drink a can or two of Mountain Dew, because after an extreme experience like that, I would need an equally extreme drink to finish me off.

Yes, lots of talk about nothing, I know. But it is these advertisements that companies use to rake in the average college consumer. Yet where is this image on our own lovely campus? Am I not looking hard enough? Is this wild and crazy lifestyle, and lots of pizza, passing me by?

Lastly, I'd like to conclude with this thought: what happened to the big Kool-Aid man? Now there's a great marketing tool: a big, red man (possibly signifying Commies) telling kids to drink his sweet stuff. Who's going to say no to him? He's made of sugar water and glass. Perhaps if he was selling the pizza, then I'd buy more of it and stop worrying about the whole matter.

Only in America can a millionaire buy a bride

opinion by | John Nguyen

Everyday I'm a little more surprised.

(Usually I think it's good to start an article with a single line. See, this way people think it really has some important significance. And then later on I can tie my idea back to that one line and POOF! Somehow this makes me a thoughtful writer. Somehow this proves I put a lot of planning into my piece. Check my review of the Cure's new album, I do the same thing there.)

Everyday I'm a little more mystified.

(See now there's a second line that stands totally alone. This now repeats the stress put on the first line. Also the structure of the sentences are very similar. This is called parallelism. It's a commonly used technique to build interest.)

My mom thinks that if you don't become a priest then you have to get married and have children. My mom's a diehard Christian. So, I've given it some thought and I figure, hey, marriage could be pretty cool. You know, true love, house, car, bank accounts, compromise, it might not be so bad. I don't know about the kids though. I mean they wouldn't be terrible, it's just that if they were anything like me, I'd kill them. And if they weren't anything like me, I'd get depressed and then kill them.

The point is: marriage could be a good thing.

(Now what I've done is changed the subject entirely. By changing the subject, the reader is jolted away from thinking about the significance of the first two lines. That way, the author, namely me, is allowed to build up what appears to be a separate set of thoughts and then BLAMMO! You can reconnect the beginning with the ending and PAZOW! A good article.)

The thing is though, if I did get married to someone I'd probably want to get to know her. You know, there'd be a regular period of dating (two days) and then the consummation of our dating (another two (very long) days) and eventually (three days) we'd move in with each other. I mean, you don't want to rush anything. I mean, in total that's a whole week!

So basically, what I'm trying to say is, it'd take a long time before I'd be willing to say, "Hey, live here and let's pay less taxes." But, I suppose it could happen.

(I find that humor in the middle of an article is good. I mean, it comes after the beginning and yet is still far enough away from the end to still

technically be in the article. Plus, this shows the reader that you can relate to him/her. You say to the reader, "Hey, I'm just like you. I tell jokes." And HUUZAH! Instant credibility, you know.)

Do? Do you? Do you know? Do you know what I would do if I were a millionaire? Do you know what I would do if I were a single millionaire?

(This is called compounding sentences. It makes people think WOW! Not only does each part of the sentence mean something by itself, but all together there's something even deeper. You know the old saying, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. (Another good idea is to use terms like "you know" and "Hey." It makes people think that you're talking right to them. When you say "you know" a lot, it makes the reader feel good. The reader thinks to him/herself, "Hey I do know... I'm smart." It also ties back to a point made earlier that you want the reader to think that you're just like them. You're just some guy they could bump into in class or on the quad or at the bus stop with a cup of coffee and a pound of headcheese.))

I'll tell you what I'd do if I were a single millionaire. If I were a single millionaire I'd probably have a lot of fun, that's what. I'd buy an escalator and put Slinkies on it so that they could just slink forever. And then I'd get a dining room table built with elbow holders. And then I'd get a bed just like the ball pits at Chuck E Cheese's. And I'd probably buy some stuff. And basically, stuff.

(It's good to live out your dreams in articles. I mean after all, nobody who reads it actually knows you. You can just let them think, "Hey, this guy lives a pretty cool life.")

I'm a millionaire.

(SEE! Instant gratification.)

I turned on the TV the other day. You know, "Hey, the TV." (I'm just like you. I like TV.) And you know, I was trying to find a good show to watch, because, you know, "Hey there's never anything good on." And suddenly,

(Suddenly is a good word. It's what we in the writing business like to call a great word. It makes people think that something exciting is about to happen. KRAZAM! Excitement is just spit off the page.)

This is what I saw on the TV:

(This is the part where I tie everything up. Because the article is getting pretty long.)

A millionaire had the equivalent of a pageant for fifty strangers. These strangers were women who wanted to marry a millionaire. These were women who wanted to parade across a stage for a man whom they had never met just so that they could marry him and have millions of dollars. And during the show there were times when they were told to speak from their hearts. WHAT?! Yes, speak from your heart to a man you've never met before, that's plausible. "Hey, Millionaire Joe, you and your wife seem pretty happy together, you must be in love. How'd you meet her?"

And Millionaire Joe says, "Oh, you know (cause he's just like you too) I had a contest for her."

A fucking contest! For a wife! Only in America.

(This is the part where the article ends and we all recognize the fact that it's ridiculous. It's a ridiculous world where a millionaire buys a bride and a columnist can describe the writing process to the reader during his article. But hey, everyone seems to be a fan of cookie cutter articles now days, you know. What's the use of person style?)

WOW! Two points at once.



Vote in the presidential primary

opinion by | Dane Stangler

It is primary season again and candidates from both parties are crusading across the country in attempts to persuade voters to support their platforms. The big date for primaries is March 7, Super Tuesday. That is when California and New York hold their primaries. It is also when Missouri has its primary, a fact of which very few people, particularly students, are aware.

Missouri moved its primary date up this year so it would be a more important point for candidates along the campaign trail. The only problem is that Missouri's is being overshadowed by the more populous states. However, this is not to say you shouldn't go out and vote. Your vote will still count and make a difference.

The Missouri primary is not getting much press. For one thing, there are still a few more primaries, mainly Republican, between now and March 7. For another, California and New York have more delegates to be won and candidates are focusing on those states. Only one candidate, Bill Bradley, has bothered to come through Missouri. Bradley spoke in University City a couple weeks ago, talking up his education reform plan. He was born in Crystal City, Mo., but doesn't have any more planned stops in Missouri.

But don't let ignorance on the part of the candidates deter you from participating in our primary. It is not their fault we are competing with the big states. Voting is a right you gain when you turn 18; you should be eager for the chance to involve yourself in our system of government. It is a widely known fact that people between the ages of 18 and 25 have the lowest voter turnout of any demographic group. Why is this so? Complacency is not a good thing. Sure, we are secure in the longest economic boom in our history, but that doesn't mean all is well. While the stock market is booming, the gap between rich and poor is growing larger, 44 million people do not have health care and thousands of children are receiving inadequate education.

This election is especially crucial to people your age. Most of the students on this campus will come of age and enter the real world during the next presidency. The policy decisions the next president and the next Congress make will directly affect your lives. So why don't you

want to have a say in it?

The next president faces the pressures of sustaining this economic prosperity at the same time as paying off the national debt, reforming health care and education and keeping crime down. But there are two issues especially that have direct bearing on our lives as undergraduate students and, soon enough, former students.

The next president will have the opportunity to swing the balance of power on the Supreme Court. As it stands now, the Court is divided on the abortion issue. If the president elects to appoint a conservative justice, we just might see a reevaluation of the abortion laws in this country and perhaps a ban on abortion. Abortion is possibly in danger of being outlawed -- you can have a voice in this issue just by voting March 7.

The other big issue the next president will preside over is more of a gradual process. The wall between church and state is crumbling in this country and the decisions the next president makes regarding school vouchers and faith-based aid will determine just how far this destruction will go. Don't want to see the entwining of church and state? Vote March 7.

Foreign policy issues will also confront our next president. Civil wars are breaking out around the globe as more and more experiments in democracy face obstacles. The next president could very well have to face another genocide similar to that in Rwanda in last decade. The extent of America's overseas involvement and continued leadership in the world depends on who the next president is. Don't want to see America withdraw inside its borders? Vote March 7.

But don't stop at March 7, vote in November as well. Even if none of these issues make any difference to you (although I find it hard to believe that such issues as health care, abortion, drugs and religion don't affect students on this campus), you should still vote. The next leader of our country is being elected this fall, and in two weeks you have a chance to have your first voice in the democratic process. The primary is during our Spring Break; if you are registered to vote (and if you aren't, why aren't you?), go to the polls and vote. It doesn't take that long. It is time for the students and young people of this state and this country to start taking more of an interest in the world around them. We'll be out in it soon.

Hey, Sally Smartass, let other people say something

opinion by | Andy Roberts

Here at Truman classroom discussion is an integral part of many courses, especially in the Language and Literature Division. Discussing themes and ideas brought up in a class has taught me more during my tenure at Truman than any of the countless books I never opened. The fact is, I thoroughly enjoy times when a large group of students is able to share thoughts and attitudes on a certain subject.

In a perfect world these classroom powwows could take place without a hitch. It's just too bad all the classes I take contain a certain faction who wish to taint or destroy the flow of thoughts that can come from any diverse selection of students.

Classroom discussion does not mean that people talk and sound waves bounce around the room until they are absorbed into a wall or drowned out by Ophelia Parrish construction. Quality discussion requires active listening as well. This is almost always ruined by the dominator. Every class has one. It's Miss Sally Smartass who sits on the edge of her seat with her hand up yearning to hear herself talk some more. Not only does she not listen to others, but she forces others into a non-listening mode by putting out the vibe that she doesn't care what her peers have to say. Piece of advice, Sally, maybe you could add to your seemingly infinite wisdom by checking out what other students (and maybe even the Prof.) have to say.

Another crucial aspect of classroom discussion is focus. At a party conversations can roam to any topic under the sun, but classes need to find one topic and stick with it. While course instructors are not infallible, they choose discussion topics for a reason. Andy Activism has developed a brilliant scheme to take us away from the matter at hand. His ability stems from his beliefs. Andy can turn a discussion about post-Civil War Reconstruction into a debate on the ethics of abortion. He feels strongly about a cause, and it may be a good one, but he fails to realize that during class other topics need to be analyzed. Time and place, Andy, time and place.

When it is decided that a topic will be dis-

cussed in a class it is for one reason, so that everyone in the room can learn how different students perceive the same item. Once a question or topic has been tossed out one opinion or thought is just as valuable as the next. Discussion is quite a different case than when a question is directly asked to one person. In the latter the answer is either 42 or it isn't. In the former a response cannot be wrong. In other words it's not necessary to begin with "I kinda think" or "Maybe it means." What you say is your thought. Don't show that you are scared to stand behind what you say by leaving yourself a way out of your opinion. Another bad idea is to follow any statement with "I don't know" or "that's just a guess." You do know. You just said what was on your mind, no guessing involved.

The final group of discussion destroyers is by far the worst. It fills me with shame to admit being a member of this evil batch that contaminates the purity of any academic atmosphere. We are the apathetic losers who just

We are the apathetic losers who just exist in the back of class feeling we have nothing to take from or add to the class.

exist in the back of class feeling we have nothing to take from or add to the class. Not only do we forbid the class to learn and experience, but we are gluttons for silence.

We can sit and watch as expensive class-time seconds tick by without any knowledge being transferred. It is a sad state of affairs that so many of us pay so much to sit and wait for 20 after. We too can take something from a classroom discussion. We too can offer something to others in the class. What is wrong with us?

Why don't we all make an effort to make classroom discussion more worthwhile. It is time to start respecting our own thoughts and hopefully that will lead to more respect for the ideas of others. Let's look at each other when we talk instead of staring blankly at a professor who is expecting something from you. Let's push discussions to the last minute of class instead of hoping to get out early. Hopefully I can take my own advice. Hopefully we can make classroom discussions more worthwhile.

The "W" won't do what Faculty Senate intends it to do

opinion by | Jerry Schirmer

Faculty Senate's proposed change to the drop policy is inadvisable. Clearly, placing a "W" or a "WF" on my transcript after the end of one week would serve little, if any, purpose. It would harm students, and, in the end, would not solve the problem which the Faculty are seeking to solve with this policy change, course availability.

As a primary point, there is a reason the University abandoned a system almost identical to the proposed one ten years ago: Faculty senators of the past believed that students would be more contemplative regarding their choice of schedule, rather than simply sticking with an inappropriate class because they would receive a red mark on their transcript due to their dropping a course. This past Faculty Senate saw a long drop horizon as something which supported the furthering of the Liberal Arts culture on campus, not something which allowed students to be lazy regarding which courses to select. Now it seems that the faculty has re-

versed its opinion regarding this and decided that the latter is actually the case. This behavior needs to be curtailed.

The faculty makes their argument based upon the premise that students enroll in classes which they never intend to complete, overloading just so they can drop the class that seems the hardest. They argue that a strict policy regarding add/drop would stop this action, forcing students to be "accountable" for the courses which they sign up for.

This argument belies the fact that the real reason why most students who drop do so is the fact that classes don't turn out in the manner that they were thought to at the beginning of the semester: that 2-hour, 300-level class turned into more work than the two 3-hour 400-level courses that a person took, combined; the professor that another student really wanted left during interim and was replaced with another teacher who that student has personal problems with; and so on, the examples can continue. These situations are created not by

lazy students constantly searching for the easy class, but rather by outside circumstances, which can be ameliorated by a drop policy which is not punitive.

Also, this proposal unfairly affects students in a variety of special circumstances. For example, graduating seniors might need to overload until the seat in the class that they need to graduate fills up. A clearer way that this policy will affect everyone who comes to campus in the future is shown by the manner in which freshmen are placed in a conundrum by this policy. The University does not allow them to register for their own classes by any measure, and so, they may be forced into classes which they are not ready for, already have, or do not care about. Dropping is inevitable in such a circumstance. At times, however, freshmen are not acquainted enough with the manner in which the University runs to know exactly what a particular class here entails, or even how to seek out the registrar's office and their advisor in order to get the necessary paperwork done in

order to actually drop the classes which they want to. In essence, if this proposal passes, the University is telling freshmen that they want students to get completely familiar with not only professors, but classes and their major in the first two weeks, and if a mistake is made in a schedule which they did not ever decide upon, then they will have this punitive measure placed upon their transcript. This is simply ridiculous.

Finally, student opinion has been strongly against this policy since it began. Student Senate, to date, has passed two resolutions (one in special session) opposing this policy, and as can be seen by the rally held by the Progressive Coalition yesterday, opposition for the proposed policy has gone beyond the doors of the Student Union. So, if you are like me and are annoyed by this proposed drop policy, go talk to your students and faculty about it, and make it known -- Faculty Senate votes this Thursday!

Austria's Freedom Party angers other countries

story by | Dane Stangler

Last October, Austria held a general election. No political party won the election outright, but the Freedom Party won a quarter of the vote. Last week, a coalition government was formed in Austria between the Freedom Party and the People's Party.

Sounds OK doesn't it?

But the 14 other countries in the European Union have threatened to break off political contacts with Austria because of the involvement of the Freedom Party. Israel has pulled its ambassador out of Austria and is protesting. The United States is now reviewing its foreign policy toward Austria. Why the furor?

It is because the Freedom Party is an extreme right-wing nationalist party led by Jorg Haider, an extremely controversial figure in Europe right now. Haider has been under fire since last year when he made comments about the Nazis and immigrants. He called Winston Churchill "one of the 20th century's greatest criminals" and praised the "orderly" employment policies of Hitler's Third Reich. He called the Nazi death camps "punishment camps" and declared that "honor and respect" should be shown to veterans of the Nazi Waffen-SS. He does not think Austrians should accept the collective guilt for the part their country played in Hitler's atrocities. He wants to curtail immigration and protect Austria's identity.

Other countries in the EU went into a rage over these. Belgium's foreign minister said, "Europe can very well do without Austria." Other ministers also decried Haider and his party and condemned Austrian citizens for voting for him. This is the first time that any EU countries have tried to intervene in a member country's domestic politics.

On the surface, one can understand why such an outcry is going up all over Europe; there is widespread paranoia that Haider may become the next Hitler. However, a closer look at the situation reveals hypocrisy on the part of the EU and even the United States.

Last week, the prime minister of Hungary said that what EU countries have done "forces us all to think harder than usual about the deeper meaning of democracy." He is correct. Why are outsiders attempting to get involved? Haider is not a Nazi and has since apologized for his comments and has called Hitler's a "cruel and bloody dictatorship." Yes, he is a right-wing populist and a xenophobe, but he hasn't spouted any anti-Semitic remarks and doesn't call for violence against foreigners. His party is democratic and hasn't done anything illegal.

Before Haider took over the leadership of

the Freedom Party, it was a party with a libertarian bent that was trying to wrest power from the corrupt center parties that ruled Austria. *Proporz*, the system of government in Austria by which the two main center parties allocated top jobs and such is falling out of favor with many Austrians. Haider's main purpose is to break this up. The Freedom Party's manifesto calls for "Christian family values." The party is stiff on crime and supports protection for the ethnic minorities in Austria. It also supports joining NATO.

Other EU countries are afraid of the possibility of Haider running the country. But Haider is not going to sit in the coalition government recently formed; he is going to continue his duties as governor of the state of Carinthia. His past record in Carinthia shows no xenophobic laws being enacted.

If the other EU countries are opposed to Haider and his views, then public condemnation of Austria is not the way to go. The comments made by ministers from other countries may lead to anti-EU sentiment within Austria and more support for Haider. Austria hasn't broken any EU rules, the people are merely trying to construct a stable government backed by a majority of the voters.

It is hypocritical for the governments of European countries to criticize Austria. Several countries have extreme leftist and Communist parties in coalition governments. There are right-wing populists in Switzerland and Norway. Flemish nationalists in Belgium have spoken out against immigration. France is known for its dislike and distrust of foreigners, particularly Germans, Americans and, most recently, British.

Austria is a key country in bridging the gap to Eastern Europe for the EU -- it can't be ignored. Soon, talks are starting between the EU and Eastern European countries applying for membership. What will happen after this inevitable eastern expansion brings in countries with much political variance? Will the EU force them to comply as well?

As repugnant as some of Haider's ideas sound, he still deserves a fair chance at government. The other EU countries should not be trying to control what happens politically inside a member country if that country is not doing anything wrong. The United States, the supposed bastion of free speech and democracy, should not break anything off with Austria. What kind of message does it send if we refuse to deal with anyone else who doesn't agree with our views of democracy? We should not change our foreign policy toward Austria completely, merely alter it to accommodate Haider's ideas and give him and his party a fair shot.

The Dutchman, discussion explore multicultural issues

story by | Ben Braun

On Wednesday, Feb. 16, *The Dutchman* was performed in the Baldwin Hall Little Theatre by Truman State Alumni, Theatre department professors and members of the Multicultural Affairs Office. *The Dutchman*, by Leroi Jones (aka Amiri Baraka), is a vicious display of the power of racism in America and the consequences that fear and prejudice can have on society. Directed by Becky Becker, a theatre professor at Truman, *The Dutchman*, a Black History Month event, was sponsored by the Multicultural Affairs Center and hosted by NPHC.

Following the play itself was an open discussion with audience members and the cast regarding the play, race relations and the challenges that diversity brings to Truman as well as greater society.

The Dutchman starred Becky Becker, Darwin Harris (a 1995 TSU alumnus), Kip Taylor, Demond L Baine, and featured a group of TSU students. Becker played a white female named Lula who meets a black man, Clay, played by Harris, on a subway. Their interaction was immediately sparked with sexual tension, animosity and curiosity, all of which drove the script through the rest of the play. Becker and Harris were impressive stars, playing off each other well and adding some humor into what was, at its core, a horrible depiction of the power differences that exist between cultural groups in the US. However, the humor was appropriate, delivered in waves and most often at the beginning of the play rather than during the harsh closing sequence.

The other cast members functioned well as a backdrop to the battle between Lula and Clay and were powerful as a passive presence. Their casual indifference to the situation before them was well displayed and clearly well thought-out. *The Dutchman* was powerful throughout, never missing a beat, exhibiting a strong willingness to speak the unspeakable and portray the images of life which society attempts to casually ignore.

The discussion which occurred after the

performance, including the cast, Truman faculty, students and Kirksville residents, was as important as the performance itself. In the discussion, such issues were raised as to how relevant *The Dutchman*, first performed in 1964, was in a modern society and whether or not it felt in any way dated. The resounding response was that this play was a very vibrant and relative piece and was still powerful despite its age. The explorations of power and fear in the play are still a driving factor in today's world and thus have a great impact on an audience.

Quickly, however, the discussion moved from the play itself to the world of multicultural relations in general, specifically at Truman. Many of the participants in the debate felt that the core curriculum at Truman is extremely Euro-centric and does not provide a global view of our society. Darwin Harris, who graduated in 1995 with a theatre major from Truman, related some of the difficulties he experienced being in a program which had never had an African-American student before and which did not offer important roles for students of non-Caucasian cultures.

The group of students who were present, made up of a very diverse demographic, contributed thoughts regarding the importance of seeing past exterior features and getting to know the people around us for who they are. The discussion lasted longer than the performance itself and proved itself quite powerful.

The most stark fact that this particular *Monitor* staff member noted about the performance was that the Little Theatre was less than half full and not all of those in attendance remained for the discussion. One of the most important elements of recognizing the strengths that diversity brings to a community is to seek out diversity and encourage its growth. I encourage everyone reading this article to seek out as many celebrations of diversity as they can, for this will benefit us all.

Twenty-two points, plus triple-word-score, plus fifty points for using all my letters. Game's over. I'm outta here.

SWS

FAC Events

Feb. 21-25: Nursing Student Association and ØEK Health Awareness Week

Feb. 26: Phi Mu Alpha Jazz Fest (7:30 p.m. Baldwin Auditorium)

Feb. 28: Bulls Rugby game (time TBA)

Feb. 29: Phi Sigma Pi presents "Entangled Lives"

March 18-19: Bulls Rugby game (pending; time TBA)

March 20-24: Alpha Sigma Gamma and Bacchus and Gamma host Eating Disorder Awareness Week w/ "Act Out Ensemble" Monday, March 20



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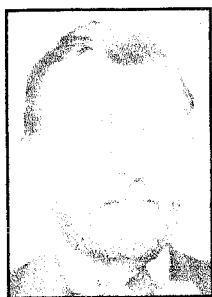
SERVE CENTER

Advice from the Afterlife

Deep in the catacombs of Monitor Tower, away from the prying eyes of morality and ethics, unholy Monitor scientists, bound in a pact with pure evil, have opened a supernatural gateway to the Elysian Fields. Through this most unwise action, The Monitor is most pleased to be able to commune with the great thinkers of old and to offer to you, the reader, their sage advice.

This week's supernatural and extremely dead guest is:

HIRAM ULYSSES GRANT



1822-1885

Okay, so he wasn't a great thinker, but he sure could tie one on. First among Grant's accomplishments was the erasure of "Hiram," replaced by a meaningless middle initial "S." Educated at West Point, Grant was thrust into the spotlight during the Civil War, during which he

managed to not get fired by Lincoln. He marshalled that achievement into a presidency, even though he didn't bother to campaign for the office. As the 18th chief executive, Grant was remarkable in his ability to avoid really screwing anything up.

Dear U.S.,

I'm having a serious problem with my car. Most of the time it turns over just fine, but about every ninth or 10th start-up, it makes a lot of clicking noises, then a sharp whine, and won't start for ten or 15 minutes. Any ideas?

I, too, had problems with hearing annoying clicking noises and whining in my ears. The whines usually came from my screaming children who were trying to show me some crap they made while I was busy beating the snot out of Rebs. I still haven't figured out where the clicks came from, but a straight shot of whiskey always seemed to stop them after about ten or 15 minutes.

Dear U.S.,

Who wins in an ultimate battle between Ted Nugent and Bob Seger?

That's a toughie. My first guess would be the Nuge, because he's got all sorts of guns and crossbows. But don't count out Seger: he does have a band of silver bullets, after all. In the long haul, I think Nugent comes out on top, because the de-

lirium caused by his catscratch fever would more than overwhelm Seger's cunning and stealthy night moves.

Dear U.S.,

I'm a big fan of yours, and I was quite offended by the way you were portrayed in the recent movie, Wild Wild West. How did you feel about it?

I didn't see it, actually; but if it stars Will Smith, I'm in.

Dear U.S.,

My company recently put me in charge of our Web site. Although I've had a lot of experience in Internet technology, the changes they want are close to breaking me. First, they want all of our products posted and cross-indexed with local sales reps and links to all their Web pages. Further, they want an internal search engine with a comprehensive index for store locations, products and personnel. Finally, they want it set up so that each individual in the corporate HQ with a tech clearance over 3-C2 can change the parts of the Web site dealing with their individual departments, and they want it all by next Friday. What do I do?

I'm terribly sorry, but I can't answer that question until somebody refills my brandy snifter, which, to my chagrin, has been empty for more than four minutes now.

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and the storm goes on

On Jan. 27, Faculty Senate failed to pass a resolution establishing a GLBT Resource Center. Silence from the Faculty Senators and noise from the Center's supporters have turned this issue into a "lightning rod" of controversy. Here, *The Monitor* presents all sides of the storm.

feature by | Matthew Webber

Lightning struck the Truman community on Jan. 27.

At the Faculty Senate meeting on Jan. 27, Faculty Senate failed to pass a resolution supporting a Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Resource Center on campus. Most members of the University community know this. Very few students, faculty and staff, however, know the reasons for the Center's defeat or the broader issues of diversity surrounding the proposed Center.

The supporters of the GLBT Resource Center, many of whom, but not all, are members of Prism, have been extremely vocal in expressing their disdain for Senate's decision.

The anonymous "Friends of Faculty Senate" posted flyers around campus urging students to call Vice President for Academic Affairs Garry Gordon "for more information on why the faculty cannot make up their minds on student issues." The flyer suggested the Faculty Senators displayed "ambivalence" and "cowardice" at the meeting. The advertisement also appeared in the Feb. 8 edition of *The Monitor*.

In contrast to the Center's supporters, those who oppose the Center have mostly remained silent. The majority of the Senators who abstained did not explain why they did not vote, neither at the Jan. 27 meeting nor in any campus media.

The Silence

This failure of certain Senators to articulate their reasons regarding their opposition to the Center is what distresses and perplexes the Center's supporters.

Jennifer Farris, a graduate student and a member of Prism, has been active in pushing for a GLBT Resource Center. She attended the Jan. 27 Faculty Senate meeting and was "definitely" bothered by the silence of the abstaining Senators.

"I think [the Faculty Senators'] spoke louder with their actions than their words with their abstentions," Farris said. "I do feel that the unexplained abstentions undoubtedly sent forth a negative message about diversity, regardless of what their intentions were."

The abstentions also frustrated senior John Halski, co-chair of the Diversity Task Force and a member of Prism. He does not know why certain Senators abstained and feels these abstentions are indicative of the lack of "honest dialogue" at Truman.

"I could accept ten no votes," Halski said, "because then you talk to them, you have a discussion with them. You say what you didn't like about [the proposed resolution] and if there is something we could change. When [Faculty Senators] abstain it's pure non-commitment."

Linda Seidel, the Department of Language and Literature's representative to Faculty Senate, voted yes to the resolution. She said most of the abstaining Senators did not explain why they abstained. She doesn't know what these Senators were thinking because they did not speak.

"But their silence was very powerful," she said.

David McKamie, who represented the Division of Fine Arts in place of Randy Smith at the Jan. 27 meeting, voted no to the resolution. He felt discussion at the meeting was "really good" but added that "not many faculty spoke out, so we heard more statements coming from the point of view of supporting the bill than we did the other points of view."

The Vote

There is much confusion on campus regarding what the vote count was and what, exactly, Faculty Senate was voting for, because *Index* and *Monitor* articles have published conflicting vote counts and neither publication has published the specific resolution. (Gordon said he and Dr. Heinz Woehlk were not approached for the *Monitor* article as was reported.)

The *Index* reported the vote as three yes, one no and the rest abstained. Farris said the vote was three

yes, three no and the rest abstained, which is consistent with the *Monitor* article.

The minutes of the Jan. 27 meeting (which need to be approved at the next Faculty Senate meeting) cannot confirm the vote count because such information is not recorded. Sturgis Parliamentary Procedure, which Faculty Senate uses, stipulates only that the result of a voice vote be recorded in the minutes. Any member of Senate may call for a roll call vote or for a count to be recorded, but no one called for either. Hence, there is no written record of how many Senators, nor which ones, voted for or against the resolution.

The final two paragraphs of the resolution read, in part: "Whereas the LL Division and Faculty Senate have always tried to foster a spirit of inclusion... Be it therefore resolved that the Dean of Student Affairs and the Vice President for Academic Affairs take the appropriate actions to implement the establishment of a GLBT Resource Center on the Truman Campus."

Fearing the resolution would not pass, Seidel tried to effect a compromise at the meeting. She suggested the center could be named something other than the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Resource Center or that perhaps a gender studies center would be more appropriate for the climate of this campus. She asked Faculty Senate to approve the resolution in principal, to recognize the need for such a thing on campus and then to investigate other possible options.

Seidel said no one would engage her in discussing such a compromise and that Senators did not discuss alternatives to the Center.

It is important to note that even if Faculty Senate had passed this resolution, it would not have led necessarily to the creation of a Resource Center. Faculty Senate serves only as an advisory to the administration on issues involving the budget. Purchasing resources and hiring staff for a GLBT Resource Center would have fallen into this category.

The Support

Halski and Farris both said the Resource Center was a way to disseminate factual information to all students and faculty -- gay, straight, or exploring their sexuality.

Halski said if Truman wants to be known as a national university that attracts many types of students from many different places, the University must "double the effort" to make every student feel welcome. It must provide a source of education regarding issues, such as sexuality, that students from smaller communities "who are being exposed to gay culture for the first time" may feel uncomfortable with.

"You can't want to bring people together and then put them in separate places. That's a physical division, and you can't expect people to become emotionally cohesive when they have physical divisions."

He said the Kirksville community is "unexposed" to homosexuality and other sexual issues and that the Resource Center would be a way to regulate their exposure.

"Gay culture's gonna be all around," Halski said. "You're gonna see posters, you're gonna see sidewalk chalkings, gay film festivals. So if the student sees those things and doesn't know how to understand them or take them, instead of going to their roommate or Joe Schmoe or whoever, there'd be a place that would focus specifically on how to communicate and understand gay culture."

He added that the Center would be the

"If you're a white, straight male, that doesn't mean you exist in a bubble of white, straight males."

headquarters for the Safe Zone program, lessening the burden on Prism, Student Senate and University Counseling Services, the groups that currently maintain the program. Halski said these groups do a "wonderful, welcome" job supporting the Safe Zone program.

Seidel said the establishment of a GLBT Resource Center would be similar to the already-existing Women's Studies Program and the Multicultural Affairs Center in that it would remind the administration that a particular minority exists on campus and cannot be ignored in the curriculum.

She said the University's "punitive deterrence system" has failed because "name-calling and other kinds of harassment" occur on campus.

Farris said it was important for gays to establish a "presence" on campus and to make other students aware that there are actually gay people on campus.

Halski wanted to emphasize that "a GLBT Resource Center helps straights" just as a "Women's Resource Center helps men and a Multicultural Affairs Center helps whites."

"If you're a white, straight male, that doesn't mean you exist in a bubble of white, straight males," Halski said. "You're gonna interact with all sorts of people. So if you can understand more about cultures other than your own, you understand more about yourself."

Halski said sexual issues are not only diversity issues but "campus issues" and "human issues."

The Opposition

Junior Grant Farmer, a member of Prism, believes gay-oriented resources should be included in Pickler Memorial Library along with all other resources, rather than in a separate office.

"A library represents diversity on campus," Farmer said. "So why take resources that really should belong in a library and move them somewhere else?"

Farmer said including gay-oriented materials in the University library would make them more accessible to everyone and much easier to get to. Although Farmer has done research on women's issues, the thought of going to the Women's Resource Center never occurred to him because it was situated "way over in Ryle."

Farmer said it was important to have more resources for gay people on campus and that "there is a shortage of that at the moment."

Farmer believes establishing a separate resource center for GLBT students will divide them rather than assimilate them into the campus community.

"You can't want to bring people together and then put them in separate places," Farmer said. "That's a physical division, and you can't expect people to become emotionally cohesive when they have physical divisions."

A common argument made by some faculty and students against a GLBT Center is that if these students obtain a center, many other campus groups will also want to obtain one.

Gordon and President Jack Magruder said no other groups have approached them about obtaining a resource center.

Some students oppose the Center for religious or moral reasons and they disagree with the University using their tuition to pay for such a Center. None of these to whom I spoke would state their opposition on record.

McKamie voted against the resolution because he was representing the majority view of his representative division. He also felt the University should remain neutral on issues involving a moral component.

Gordon abstained because he felt "discussion of a GLBT Resource Center, ahead of broader discussion of the task force report and its alternative plans, was premature and precluded consideration of some of the models presented in the Task Force report."

Bryce Jones, the Division of Business and Accountancy Representative to Faculty Senate, was said to have voiced his opposition to the Center at the Jan. 27 meeting and to have abstained. He did not return *The Monitor's* phone calls.

Gordon knew of one negative phone call from a parent to admissions regarding the Center. This phone call did not affect Gordon's views on the Center.

Gordon has not personally received any phone calls opposing the Center.

Magruder said some parents have telephoned him to voice their opposition, but also their support, of a Center.

What is a Resource Center?

Farris based the proposed version of a GLBT Resource Center on other Centers at other universities that seemed to be effective, especially the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

MU's Center was established in 1994. It contains fiction and non-fiction books, newspaper clippings, a file collection and magazines relating to gay issues. It sponsors outreach programs and viewings of documentary films. It is housed in a 10 by 25 foot room in Brady Commons and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Approximately 35 people visit the Center per day.

Truman's proposed Center differs from MU's Center in that, at MU, the student association funds the Center, not the institution.

Gordon assumed the MU Center to be an example -- and only an example -- of what Truman's Resource Center might be like. He also assumed other alternatives would be considered.

Halski and Farris emphasized what Truman's GLBT Resource Center would not do. They said the Resource Center would not recruit homosexuals or draw unnecessary attention to homosexuality.

Farris said the Center did not have to be named the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Resource Center but that it could be named something else, such as the Gender Studies Center, as long as the name "triggered identification with GLBT issues."

Homophobia?

At the Jan. 27 meeting, Seidel sensed from other Senators an attitude of "I don't wanna talk about this, it's too threatening, why are you bringing this up, you have a lot of nerve?"

She perceived the group as "homophobic in the sense of being really fearful," but she differentiated between this definition of homophobia and the typical definition of homophobes as "haters" and "bigots," which the Senators were not.

She added that there were some people at the meeting who were fearful of discussing the issue, not because of their religion but because the issue made them uncomfortable.

Farris did not say the Senators were homophobic, but she thought there were a lot of people at the meeting who were misinformed or miseducated. She said the Senators did have a heterocentric point of view, however.

McKamie did not feel the Senators were uncomfortable with the sexual or moral components of the issue or that anyone felt uneasy talking about it.

Farmer said "it's very unfortunate" that if anyone says anything against the Center he/she is automatically branded a homophobe.

The Lightning Rod

President Magruder said this focus on the Resource Center sidetracks the University from its ultimate goal of improving diversity on campus.

"I think the Resource Center is a lightning rod for some real unhappiness on both sides of this issue," Magruder said. "[Faculty] Senate obviously made a decision after a lot of study" not to pursue the Center "at this time. And I think pursuing it at this time against that kind of a discussion is probably going to sidetrack us from doing some things that we probably can do and ought to be doing."

Gordon said it "is not a good idea, in my opinion," to focus attention on a GLBT Resource Center in the absence of discussion about other strategies.

"I think the Resource Center is a lightning rod for some real unhappiness on both sides of this issue. Pursuing it against that kind of a discussion is probably going to sidetrack us from doing some things that we probably can do."

"One of the things that I know some [Faculty] Senators were concerned with in the discussion of the GLBT Resource Center was that it took a piece of the broader diversity issue out and moved it ahead or aside from the other issues," Gordon said. "I think that some of [the Senators] were uncomfortable that happening without some broader contextual discussion. I know I would have liked to have had a broader discussion rather than just one particular incident."

Farmer believes the University is trying to address the findings of the Diversity Task Force report and increase diversity on campus, but "at the moment they've been bombarded with the Resource Center so much that it's like nobody wants to explore other alternatives."

The Alternatives

The Diversity Task Force report listed models to address the "current university infrastructure" regarding "appreciation for diversity and a sense of community at Truman"

"1. Expand the focus of the Women's Resource Center to include sexuality issues;

"2. Combine the WRC and Multicultural

What does Jack have to say?

An excerpt from an interview on diversity with President Jack Magruder

THE MONITOR: *In your own words, what were the findings of the Diversity Task Force regarding this resource center?*

MAGRUDER: I think the Task Force did not recommend that we establish a Resource Center. The Task Force, though, did indicate early-on that there was quite a difference of opinion among the Task Force, among the whole community. Not on the Resource Center but on the whole approach to diversity. And I think that the Faculty Senate is probably reflecting what the Task Force said about rather great differences of opinion, because there's one opinion out here that in order to be a good advocate for diversity — and that's defined in many different ways — one ought to support efforts to allow diverse groups to build their identity apart from the community. Okay, that's legitimate. There is another big group out there that says let's try to build the identity based on community and celebrating our similarities. Both are legitimate. And yet it's a tremendous difference in the way that you behave, if you're an advocate of the first one or an advocate of the second one.

But the thing that gives me the greatest hope is, to me, the desired outcome of both sides is the same. So why in the world are we gonna get so hung up on maybe a path here, one this way, one that way, when the outcome oughta be the same for both groups? And that's where I am. What I want is to make sure — I get kinda passionate about this — I want to make sure that every person on this campus is valued, respected, safe and encouraged to reach their potential. I mean, that's what we're about. Why in the world do we want to put up obstacles in front of anybody? And so what we have to do is use our resources, which are precious little, in the most effective way possible to get that desired outcome from both those viewpoints I just articulated.

What would you say the desired outcome is?

I think it's to make sure all of us have the opportunity to reach the potential that we've got in an environment that's encouraging and nurturing and where you love one another regardless of your opinion on all these issues. And we have conversations that are maybe heated from the differences of opinion, but somehow an enormous respect and affection for the people that don't agree as I do. I mean, that's what I want. And I feel rather strongly about it. Because, my gosh, people are so neat and yet we get so bent out of shape with one another because we express opposite views. As long as we have some enormous respect for one another the views that we express ought not to create anger and hostility.

You mentioned the Resource Center being a possible path towards this common outcome. What other possible paths do you think could be taken?

Affairs and redefine the scope... to include included ethnic, cultural, gender, and sexuality diversity issues;

"3. Create a diversity office combining... the International Student Office, Multicultural Affairs, WRC, and Services for Individuals with Disabilities under one office... for recruitment, support, and education programming for all diverse populations;

"4. Create a Diversity Division with the current offices dealing with diverse populations... and add new centers when necessary to accommodate the needs of emerging diverse student populations."

The Task Force supported the third model. Seidel said Faculty Senate did not discuss

We've got to make sure that every office on this campus is welcoming to every person on this campus. I don't know about the Safe Zone signs; I think every office on this campus oughta be a safe zone for every person. So I don't want to downplay anything like that but I'm just saying that we as individuals have got to get our acts together to where we're treating each other in a very respectable affectionate manner. And that has to permeate all the student organizations, all the offices on this campus, this office. It just has to be there. And I think that it doesn't deal with one faction of the whole issue it deals with the whole sense of community.

We have students here that have a marvelous potential. Every student here has a marvelous potential, and I'm talking about a potential for being well-fulfilled and have personal enjoyment based on their experiences and what they can do, and a potential for uplifting society in a big way. Every kid on this campus is that way. If we can just provide the kind of environment that nurtures that, then we're gonna see some real things happening out there ten years down the road with this current group of students that are here.

So I don't want to get hung up on fighting anybody on any issue. Now what can we do? We've got to get our act together on our liberal studies program. There's a piece of that that deals with intercultural interdisciplinary kinds of connections, we've got to get real serious about that and make sure that forces across the board in the liberal arts core have something that affirms community and affirms differences, and that sounds like you're talking on both sides I know, but that's what we've got to do. And all of it that's coming out now about how all of us, regardless of sexual orientation or your color, all of us have something much more in common. Genetically, we're almost identical. So why in the world are we trying to departmentalize everybody and put some label on somebody because of some miniscule difference in the genetics? I just don't see it... I was a lot smarter when I was 25 than I am now. So I could have had this interview 25-30 years ago and I could have told you how it ought to be. But now the more I experience the less I know in some ways...

Would you say you're accessible for students who perhaps don't feel that their diverse culture is being represented? Are you approachable?

How did you get in here?

I just walked in and made an appointment. It was pretty easy.

To my knowledge I've never turned down an appointment with anybody. Ever. Since I've been president. It's just been my practice that... how in the world can you participate and how can you try to support a community if you're not willing to listen?

these alternatives at the Jan. 27 meeting.

Farris said if Faculty Senate does not want a Resource Center, she wonders what they do want. She is open to other alternatives, but does not feel that Senate has discussed them.

"If they [Faculty Senate] think something else will work better, then I would like to know what it is," Farris said.

Faculty Senate is sponsoring a diversity forum on Tuesday, Feb. 29, in the Governors' Room of the SUB from 4 to 6 p.m., to discuss these alternatives and other issues of diversity.

Gordon urged members of the Task Force and other groups and individuals "who have a stake in the models and issues" to attend the forum.



reviews

music | film | literature

BR5-49: Country that's worth the hangover

BR5-49
Blueberry Hill

review by | John Halski

Country.

Okay, now what just came to mind? Garth Brooks? The Dixie Chicks? For those unexposed to real country music, let me explain that you might as well say that Phil Collins embodies rock or that Cher is the final word in club music. (Not that they're not both fine entertainers with distinguished backgrounds, yadda yadda yadda, but you know.)



With that said let me tell you what should have come to mind. If you want the Radiohead of country instead of the

Nelson, the NOFX instead of the Green Day, the NWA instead of the Hammer, head south for BR5-49. This country-swing-rockabilly band recently sent a crowd at the Blueberry Hill in St. Louis into a drunken hillbilly stupor. With guitarists/vocalists Chuck Mead and Gary Bennett, the insanely limber upright bassist "Smilin'" Jay McDowell, the solid drummer "Hawk" Shaw Wilson and the jack of all trades Don Herron on mandolin, violin AND slide guitar, BR5-49 takes heartbreak and occupational discontent to a whole new level.

Opening with the rousing Billy Joe Shaver track, "Georgia on a Fast Train," BR5-49 set a pace that an inebriated crowd could pace with just enough motor control to continue drinking. Their album tracks were surrounded by covers and new originals, with Mead and Bennett switching off lead vocals and the vir-

tuoso Herron seamlessly switching instruments, making the music of three performers in every song.

The night and the band provided something I've found strongly lacking in today's music across the genres: serious lyrics WITH-OUT melodramatic music. You have to know what I'm talking about, assuming you've turned on the radio once in the past decade. Take Pearl Jam: "I, ohhhhhhhh, I'm still alive." Isn't that a cheerful thing to say? What's with the doomsday guitar riffs and funeral march pace? Or worse yet, we often get absolutely meaningless lyrics sung by musicians who give it a serious fervor previously reserved only for Vietnam drill sergeants. I turn the mike to Limp Bizkit: "I give it up for the nookie, so you can take that cookie, and stick it up your AGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHH!" Right.

Now contrast BR5-49 who can sing serious lyrics like "Eighteen wheels and a crowbar, fate was at the dashboard looking right at me now," (from "18 Wheels and a Crowbar") and "How could anybody who's mean so much mean so much to me" (from "You are Never Nice to Me") to a swinging melody. It reminded me that, yeah, sometimes music isn't supposed to make you exaggerate and dwell on life's sore spots. Sometimes it's supposed to help you forget for awhile until you say, "Huh, it's not so bad after all."

So, if you want a good time and rowdy drinking without the urge to start fires or harass random passing women, drop the top forty country crap and find out why country legend Johnny Cash and the king of rock and roll Elvis Presley worked in the same studio in the fifties. Tap into a pulse of the American heartbeat untainted by Generation X cynicism and fatalism and maybe you'll follow Ramona from BR5-49's "Little Ramona's (Gone Hillbilly Nuts)." "Her punk rock records are gathering dust cause Little Ramona's gone hillbilly nuts." You too can go hillbilly nuts and still respect yourself in the morning. (Just be sure to drink lots of water before you go to bed.)

Get trapped in the world of Ascension

Ultima IX: Ascension
Origin

review by | Jerry Schirmer

Ultima IX might be the most immersive computer game ever produced to date. While other games have attempted to create depth through graphic detail or through a large number of characters, U9 has done both of these things, and more. By creating a world in a three dimensional environment in which EVERY character has a voice, and can communicate with you at least at some level, Origin has really surpassed itself in this game. Furthermore, Britannia, as always, is not simply a linear, here-to-there place, but essentially a world. Cities are populated with more characters than you can remember and each has their own role in the city. After playing for an hour or so, I nearly forgot I was playing a computer game.

For those of you who have never played the game's prequels before, the Ultima series focuses on an average person who gets trapped in a gateway to another world. Here, he isn't average by any



Cut Robert Smith and The Cure some slack

The Cure
Bloodflowers
WEA/Elektra

review by | John Nguyen

I guess if you have been cranking out CDs since 1979, you should be cut a little slack.

One of the most popular and enduring 80s New Wave bands, The Cure, is a band with a reputation. It's the band with that crazy-haired, makeup-wearing lead singer (with an incredibly tame name) Robert Smith. It's the band that glorifies dust, disintegration and pain. It's the band that was made in America for having a cheesy pop song, "Let's Go to Bed." But long before that song, The Cure was a natural depressant. An angst-filled whine baited with death.

But the 90s rolled around and The Cure released the single, "Friday I'm in Love" off of their album *Wish*. It was a cheery song about love and days of the week. The rest of the album, with the exception of a couple tracks was an incredibly well-arranged soundscape, full of the pain of loss. Full of the dream of being able to wish despite the horror of life.

And then to follow this up The Cure seemed to pop a Zolofit and write a half-sorrow, half-joy album, *Wild Mood Swings*. This album didn't go over too well with any Cure fan I knew. There was an excess in the cheese and the love (not that I want to deny the band happiness), but it just wasn't good. It didn't numb the way the music did before. It didn't even excite. It was just kind of like Robert Smith indulging in how high his voice could get. Technically, it was a pretty good CD, but otherwise, it just died in my stereo.

And then rolled around the big fat 2000, and the Cure has a new CD, *Bloodflowers*. At first listen I'm not sure what to think. It was basically a mediocre attempt at retrieving some former glory. The lyrics appeared to be downcast, but formulaic. The music was a nicely melted tapestry, but it was missing the force of *Wish*. In its place came an overproduced sound. It seemed as though The Cure had gone the route of all the other good bands in the world: they spent more time with the mixing board than in the studio. And the exchange of power for solidity was a bad exchange to make. The music didn't seem to crescendo, it just kind of stayed level. Hardly reflective of the mood the CD was trying to recreate.

But then I sat down with it and listened to it on headphones, and boy did that make a differ-



ence. There are drums on the CD! I mean real drums. I mean drums that flare and pound and don't just fade into the electronic sound that The Cure seems to

love. At times, the drum beat even gets a little out of hand. And there's still the two chorused guitars that get laid on top of one another, but now the synth attempts to sound like a piano instead of just a synth. And the sound grows. The music is something else. Although it's not a sinking sound or an uplifting sound, it's a surreal sound. It's a sound that dives on different levels into your ears. And every once in a while you get a glimpse. You get a mirage of the power of The Cure. The outstanding, emotive, woven, burning sound.

I have to say the most lacking part of the album is the part that is generally the most heralded. Robert Smith is really cutting it short. He's one of the mixers of the album and it shows. His voice is very prominent and indulgent. It really hurts the melody sometimes actually.

And the lyrics seem to lose that personal glow he used to emanate. It saddens me. Another frontman losing track of where he is and what he should be doing. There is a slight glint of his humanity though, that isn't lost despite all the machining.

On the second-to-last track, "39," Smith sings about the fire that he's been burning within himself to keep the music alive. And there's a sour tinge of regret in his voice: "I used to feed the fire/ But the fire is almost out.../Half my life I've been here/Half my life in flames/Using all I ever had/To keep the fire ablaze.../But there's nothing left to burn."

I might be judging the album a little harshly. I am a huge Cure fan. And I've only had a day to listen to it. This album takes patience. It takes a little nurturing.

And that's when I get back to the first part of this review. He's been cranking out CDs since '79 and it's been a pretty tumultuous ride. So I cut him some slack. The album is good. It's even better on headphones. Actually it's infinitely better on headphones. But you know, deep inside I really don't want to cut him slack. I want to expect greatness.

means, but the hero of his world, and, in fact, the defender of this world's virtues, in what seems at times a quasi-religious manner. Seven of the previous eight installments of the game involved defending the world (Britannia) from various enemies and the quest to become the "avatar" of the nation's virtues. U8 involved the fight of the avatar to return home after the enemy from U7, the Guardian, sent him to yet another world.

In U9, he returns to find his world delighting in the corruption of virtues and he finds everything with the Guardian's fingerprints upon it. At the beginning of the game, the avatar is told that, if successful, he shall never see Earth or Britannia again, something that probably has to do with the game's title, *Ascension*.

Like any computer game, however, *Ascension* is not perfect. The two major problems with the game revolve around its interface and the heavy requirements needed for it. U9's controls are somewhat tricky to master at first. One doesn't know exactly where the Avatar is standing at times and, when swimming, it is hard to see exactly what is on the floor of the pool you are in. Also, the interface when fighting is not all that great and it is easy to get really beaten up by enemies in the game.

Also, U9 has steeper requirements than any game I have seen to date, including 64MB RAM minimum in order to run. Although, surprisingly enough, it doesn't run all that badly on my system, I have heard that has been a chronic problem a lot of people playing the game have had.

Despite its drawbacks, however, *Ultima IX* is an incredible game, and a fitting conclusion to this oldest adventure game series. Although I have yet to finish it, up to now, the visual effects I have seen have been spectacular and the world of Britannia incredible. If you can run it (and I run it with 48MB RAM, so it can be done), I highly recommend it, as long as you enjoy the adventure-type games.

Tony Hawk's Pro Skater is the best game ever made

Tony Hawk's Pro Skater
Developed by Neversoft
Published by Activision

review by | Cameron Moore

Outbreak: Mid-summer, 1999. *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater* hits stores in the form of a demo disk distributed by Playstation as a teaser for games to come. Infection immediately ensues. The world will never be the same...

The world changed for me the day I all played the demo for this game for the first time. I bought a Playstation for the sole purpose of purchasing this game when it was released. But this experience is not unique, as two of my friends did the same. As soon as the summer '99 edition of the Playstation Underground Jampack hits stores, there was a buzz amongst skateboarders everywhere. On the street, in skateparks, on the Internet... everywhere. Why all the hype for just a demo? The demo game only has one area and two skaters to choose from. Can a game with so much hype actually live up to its expectations and even surpass those which had never even been dreamt?

Last fall, after three agonizing months of waiting, we found out for sure that the answer is indeed in the affirmative. It has taken over a decade for game developers to combine a game with as much fun as *Skate or Die 2* for the NES or the even more classic *720°* in the arcade with infinite move combinations and professional skateboarders we all know and love. This game, in its most understated evaluation, is remarkable.

With ten possible characters to choose from, including Chad Muska, Geoff Rowley, Kareem Campbell and Elissa Steamer, special tricks and trick combos are endless. My personal favorite special trick is Muska's One-Foot 5-0 Thumpin' grind, in which he pulls the ghetto blaster off of his backpack and puts it on his shoulder. There are nine areas to thrash through and pull off anything you can think of. Skate through the real-life skatepark Burnside or a fictional mall area with a fountain and escalator. Just about everything you can see is there to grind, slide and kick ass. This is what makes this game so fun. Although a good deal of the tricks pulled off in this game are not within the realm of possibility, it adds a certain amount of creativity. Besides, who wouldn't have fun ramping through the rafters in a skatepark, only to do a backflip and land into a grind, followed by a kickflip or two and skating away without a

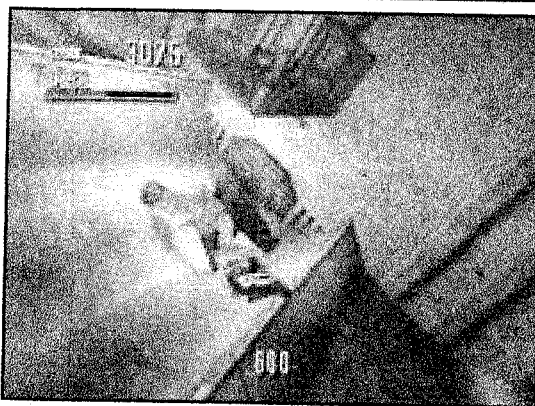
scratch?

Features included in this game are several modes of gameplay, such as a few two-player modes of competition, as well as a one-player career mode and a practice mode. The two-player modes are a lot of fun, especially the graffiti mode, where players "tag" obstacles by doing tricks on them and the player who tags the most things wins. It can get interesting because one can steal a tagged object by doing a trick worth more points than the trick the other player tagged it with. There is also a replay system so you can watch 3D replays of your sickest tricks.

One attribute that this game has that could stand to be improved upon is the soundtrack. It is cluttered with really bad songs by bad bands, with the only particularly good song being one by the Dead Kennedys. This situation is realized to be worse than once thought when one discovers the neglect to put any hip-hop into the game, a sound that has influenced skating over the years just as much as punk or any other music genre, especially in the last few years.

Another great part about this game is that you don't have to be a skateboarder or know anything about skateboarding to appreciate its greatness. Granted, being a skateboarder may lead one to appreciate the technicality of the moves and overall coolness of the game a bit more, but it is not limited to those who do skate. My roommate, some guys down the hall and some of my friends back home — none of whom have ever really touched a skateboard, much less been familiar with the terminology and finer aspects of skateboarding — can now pull off tricks on this game with ease and even know what they are called.

This is easily the best game ever made for any gaming system and no exaggeration could begin to do it justice. This standing may not last for long, however, as THPS 2 is already in the works and will likely be released for the Playstation 2.

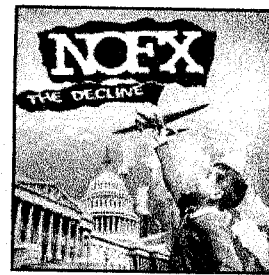


NOFX rocks balls

NOFX
The Decline
Fat Wreck Chords

review by | Will Worden

Sixteen years after their creation, NOFX are still doing what they do best: rockin' balls. Their latest EP, *The Decline*, does nothing less than prove this. Though the hard-hitting, fast-paced riffs and signature voice of Fat Mike give it the NOFX sound we know and love, this is not your typical NOFX record. When I bought this CD and found out it had only one song, I was at first a little disappointed. Upon playing it though, I discovered that this one song was over 18 minutes long and was well worth the 11 bucks or so that I paid for it. For the most part *The Decline* is very fast-paced punk rock, but incorporates enough variety to keep the listener entrapped to the last scream of El Hefe's guitar. They even slow the music down every few minutes to a more melodic pace to give your ears and speakers a break. (You should, of course, be listening to this with the volume on your stereo turned all the way up.)



NOFX also takes their music in a new direction lyrically. The usually comedic lyrics are temporarily abandoned to make room for more serious issues such as gun control, religion, conformity, capitalism and the American government as a whole.

With the words "I pledge a grievance to the flag..." on the back of the CD jacket, it seems clear that this album is largely a political statement and a little controversial.

NOFX said writing and recording this song was a "total nightmare." Well that nightmare paid off and they put out a helluva CD.

If you still think 11 bucks is too much to pay for an EP, you can use your parents credit card and buy it online for only eight bucks at www.nofxofficialwebsite.com. With "hella proceeds" from this album going to animal and human rights organizations, this CD is even more worth your money. I give it 20 stars. Out of how many? Buy it and find out.

Scream 3 pays homage to old school horror movies

review by | JJ Pionke

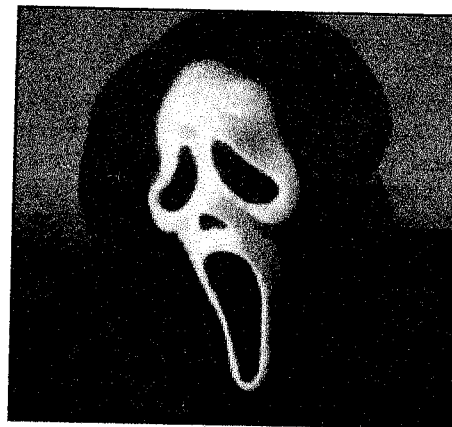
Scream 3 is one of those movies that makes more sense if you have seen the other two in the trilogy. It has elements from the previous two films but has a uniqueness all its own. Whereas the first two films paid homage to the slasher and teen horror flicks, this installment pays its respects to the old-school horror film. The kind of horror film that has a giant, old, scary house, plenty of skeletons in the proverbial closet and a killer that is both resourceful and killed by the end of the movie.

Without giving away major plot lines or any of that nonsense, there are several features of *Scream 3* that definitely make it worth seeing. Perhaps the most important of these features is that the movie was funny! I find that well done humor tends to make horror films all the better because you don't know if you should be laughing or clutching frantically onto your friend whom you dragged along with you. Having said that, the appearance of all those who survived from the last movie makes it somewhat more humorous because we know them. We know their personalities and what they are likely to do and say; it becomes even more interesting when they don't do and say what you expect them to. Perhaps that is the best part of this final installment in the *Scream* series. The fact that we know it is the last chapter and that we have all the experiences from the previous chapters to draw on, making this movie a bit more complex than the others.

There are several subplots and just like *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* we have several plays within plays going on here.

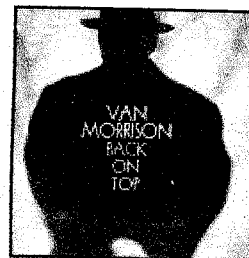
Not only is there the story arc of the main characters, but we have the plot of the *Stab* characters as well, and on top of that there is the overall theme of horror films that pervades the entire movie. In *Scream 1* and *2* the movies and horror movies in general were something that was part of the backdrop and not necessarily as in your face as it is in *3*. *Scream 3* takes place in the home of horror so to speak; it reaches back and brings forth all those wonderful horror flicks that everyone watched as kids when we were all supposed to be in bed. This movie pays homage to old school horror and in my minds eye, it does horror justice. It combines all those characters that survived from the last film and then adds in a few whom we did not see. The sister of the movie freak comes back with a message from the grave to give the characters and us a crash lesson in trilogies. I found this episode to be highly amusing and enlightening because it sets the stage for the end of the film. Since I am talking about the end of the film already, I did like the ending and I think that there is no doubt there will never be a *Scream 4*, though I am sure that many will disagree with me on that.

In the final analysis, I really liked this movie. In fact, it will be one of the few movies I buy. Consider that I don't own *Scream 1* or *2* and that is saying a lot in and of itself. As I said in the beginning of this review, I am not about to spoil it for you. When you do go to see this film or rent it when it comes out on DVD or video, enjoy the film and keep in mind that there is a lot more going on than just a killer running around killing people.



Van Morrison climbs Back On Top

Van Morrison
Back on Top
Virgin



review by | Jerry Schirmer

Van Morrison's latest album, *Back on Top*, does not live up to its quite cocky title. Not to say it doesn't have its moments, however. This disk is a typical Morrison album, with the same type of blues-rock style musicianship that made him famous in the first place. If you like Van Morrison, then you will like this album.

In particular, there are a few tracks that definitely stick out on the album. The title track

has a sound to it that has kept in my head the past few days and will probably be the biggest hit off of the album. (Though I haven't seen massive enough sales, yet again, to even talk about "hits" off of the album.) Also, "In the Midnight" and "Goin' Down Geneva" stand out as particularly good songs.

I would also like to give Morrison a lot of credit for not releasing an album filled with covers of "Wildnight" and "Brow-Eyed Girl." It has been pathetic watching aging musicians doing covers of songs they wrote 30 years ago for ex-hippies at overpriced concerts. Though *Back on Top* might not be quite as innovative as other albums, it is original music, made for the album, and not just simply remixed or rerecorded. In the end, it is about the music, and perhaps this is something that hasn't been forgotten by Van Morrison, unlike some of his peers.

Student Senate can speak loud, but sometimes they say nothing

story by | John Halski & Amanda Brink

On Sunday, Feb. 13, Student Senate voted approval of Resolution 001.001 to support an action taken by the Undergraduate Council concerning retroactivity on Writing Enhanced Courses in the new LSP. I have to admit I voted for the resolution when my time came around, and only in retrospect did I come to understand what tomfoolery the resolution represents. Worse yet, in retrospect the resolution dramatizes all of Student Senate's failures in acting on behalf of the students' interests.

First, let me begin by explaining something about Student Senate to those of you sensible enough to avoid it thus far: aside from the flashy photos and clever one-liners, Student Senate has one genuine weapon in the fight for the best interest of the students. Hokey as it sounds, we can make suggestions. Yes, you heard it here first. We do not control campus legislature (as seen painfully with the issue of arming DPS earlier this year); we only make suggestions that the Administration can listen to at its leisure.

Before I degenerate into pure self-deprecation, though, I must counter that confession by admitting that our suggestions CAN do a hell of a lot. I won't play apologetics and try to convince you. I'll only assure you we get attention when we speak loud enough.

But what happens when we don't? What happens when we wait till the Administration has already made up its mind, when we sit passively as issues flounder about, afraid to speak up lest we offend the powers that be? Then we get Resolution 001.001. It looks good, it seems to support student interest, but it says absolutely nothing.

Oddly enough, the Academic Affairs Committee had written the resolution long before. It sat collecting dust for several weeks for unexplained reasons. The fault is ours for not taking the initiative on the issues. If we truly believe the action is in the best interest of the students, we should have been willing to say so before the issue was a moot point. Instead, we held our ground. See no evil, hear no evil, support the good guys after the dust's all cleared.

Student Senate has limited power, but when we forfeit what we have for comfort and security, we devolve into pure resume building.

Baseball suspends Rocker for his remarks

story by | Joe Rothermich

During the 1999 NLCS involving the Braves and Mets, John Rocker became an icon in New York City. He became the subject that everyone in New York could agree on, and that is hating John Rocker with a passion. The Braves won the NLCS in 6 games and went on to be defeated by the Yankee's in the World Series.

After the baseball season ended the controversy surrounding Rocker seemed to calm down a bit. In the Dec. 27 issue of *Sports Illustrated* the controversy around Rocker once again exploded into the national spotlight. Rocker is very politically incorrect and really doesn't care who he offends, as it is seen in his remarks:

On ever playing for a New York team: "I would retire first. It's the most hectic, nerve-racking city. Imagine having to take the [Number] 7 train to the ballpark, looking like you're [riding through] Beirut next to some kid with purple hair next to some queer with AIDS right next to some dude who just got out of jail for the fourth time right next to some 20-year-old mom with four kids. It's depressing."

On New York City itself: "The biggest thing I don't like about New York are the foreigners. I'm not a very big fan of foreigners. You can walk an entire block in Times Square and not hear anybody speaking English. Asians and Koreans and Vietnamese and Indians and Russians and Spanish people and everything up there. How the hell did they get in this country?"

On Mets fans: "Nowhere else in the country do people spit at you, throw bottles at you, throw quarters at you, throw batteries at you and say, 'Hey, I did your mother last night -- she's a whore.' I talked about what degenerates they were, and they proved me right. Just by saying something, I could make them mad enough to go home and slap their moms."

These remarks enraged just about everybody in New York, and in the U.S. A few days after the *Sports Illustrated* article, Rocker held a press conference and publicly apologized for his remarks. On Jan. 31, 1999, baseballs commissioner Bud Selig suspended Rocker for the 45 days of spring training, the first 28 days of the regular season, fined him \$20,000, and ordered Rocker to seek a psychologist to receive sensitivity training.

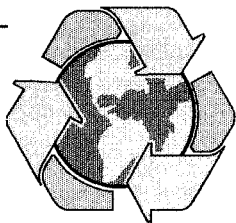
Some of Rocker's teammates seemed shocked about the suspension. Pitcher Rudy Seanez said he was surprised by the suspension, saying he felt it was pretty harsh. John Smoltz believed that Rocker will be accepted by the team when he returns to action. Smoltz said overcoming problems like this is what makes a team stronger. Other team members felt Rocker went too far. Outfielder Brian Jordan said he would find it hard to have any respect for Rocker whatsoever. First baseman Randell Simon said if those comments were made during the season, a fight in the locker room would have ensued.

"Major league baseball takes seriously its role as an American institution and the important social responsibility that goes with it. He offended every element of society," Selig said about the Suspension. The Players Union promptly filed an appeal to the suspension, stating that the suspension was "without cause," arguing that speech, even very offensive in manner, is not grounds for suspension.

The appeal hearing began on Feb. 9, ironically at Major League Baseball offices in New York, amid hundreds of protesters. The hearing opened with commissioner Selig testifying for about 6 hours on his reasoning and precedents for suspending Rocker. Rocker testified the following day, explaining his comments and trying to convince the arbitrator that his suspension is unjust. A decision is expected before spring training begins.

ECO Tip

Buy nickel-cadmium batteries and recharge



them. It will save you money in the long run and reduce waste.

This tip was brought to you by ECO, the Environmental Campus Organization. We meet Thursday evenings at 9 p.m. in Nason 104. Come join us!

LETTERS, from page 3

not why people join. If that is why someone joins, that is not why he or she stays. I am willing to bet that nine out of ten times, if I were to ask someone that was Greek one year, ten years, or 20 years after they're done with college what they remember most about Greek life, they may tell a story about a party. However, it is not the party that is so important, rather it is the memory of the people they were at the party with, their fraternity brothers or sorority sisters.

Yes, we all wear party shirts and pins and badges, and we have dress-up days. I am really not certain what the crime is in doing that. That only occurs for one reason, we are all very proud to be a part of such great organizations. We dress-up on occasion to show our pride. We wear letters to let everyone know that we are a part of an organization. It is not our sole identity, but it is merely a small part of it.

When anyone is thinking about going Greek, they must look at both sides of the issue, not just the common stereotypes. I will be the first to agree that going Greek is not for everyone. I have made many very good friends that have no Greek affiliation and never will, and that is perfectly fine. They enjoy other things. And Joe Rothermich, if GDI is the way to go for you, more power to you. At least now you can make an informed decision.

Erik Moore
President of Delta Chi Fraternity

Religious population is hateful

Dear Monitor and Truman Students,

I just picked up a copy of The Monitor (my favorite) and noticed that several printed pieces dealt with the topic of religion. What are the issues concerning religion these days? I'm certainly no theologian, nor are my opinions any less biased than anyone else's, but it seems that this university has a very conservatively religious population.

80% Christian. That's what I was told. 80% of this campus is Christian. There's nothing wrong with that. Nothing at all. In spite of some conservatism in personal views, this is a very happy and upbeat campus. Maybe it's because of the prevalence of faith on this campus.

Personally I'm glad to be here. But no group of people is without its problems.

Religion in general is versus homosexuality, evolution, and a secular world view. I want to avoid singling out one religion here, but that's impossible, and I think we all know the one I'm talking about. There's no diversity here. There's no tolerance. If there is diversity, then it's hiding from us.

I grew up in St. Louis. Not a big deal, right? I am told that most of this campus came from St. Louis and

other major cities. I don't think so. I know diversity. There's a distinct difference between St. Louis and its atmosphere, and Truman State and its atmosphere. As an agnostic atheist, I face the same problems as any other non-Christian on campus: friends secretly praying for my conversion behind my back, parents telling my friends to stay away from me, SA's telling my friends to stay away from me, various kinds of harassment, claims of my amorality and depravity.

I think that the issues of this campus and its beloved Christianity (which is not a problem, OK) go far beyond religion in public institutions. Christian students having minor qualms with homosexuality and a Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender Resource Center, and various Christian groups deciding to tear down posters for the Freethinkers Society.

What we're talking about is HATE. Why lie to ourselves? While this certainly does not apply to everyone, I'm going to make the generalization, anyway. The Christians here (as opposed to anywhere else) have a serious problem with REALITY. Homosexuality has always existed, and no culture has accepted it, but few cultures give good reasons, and we are NO exception. We learned in our first semester of biology EXACTLY what evolution really is, and also that it does occur.

If agnosticism and atheism are matters of philosophy, then so is theism in general (which includes Christianity).

Does God exist? Is it OK for me to love another man? How did the universe come into being? How did my fellow humans and myself come into being? Let's face the facts. No one here knows the absolute and unquestioned answers to humanity's eternal questions. We can argue until we are blue in the face, and we can claim our individual gods and supernatural deities as proof of our beliefs (though we fail to prove the existence of those beings), but we will never get anywhere.

And this HATRED isn't helping any! You think I haven't seen it? You think that maybe, just maybe, I misinterpreted something that someone said? Nope. It's pretty clear that non-Christians are not welcome here. Umpteen people have sent me the message, loud and clear.

There is one thing I want to say that's important, though. I want all of you -- all of Truman State University's campus -- to know that this little world we live in, the Truman version of the universe, is NOT the real world. And though this country is primarily Christian/Catholic, nobody likes a FASCIST believer.

Sincerely,
One perturbed agnostic atheist. Christopher Shanahan

Windfall the campus literary magazine
is seeking submissions -- deadline Feb. 28

Turn in your poetry,
prose, drama, music
scores and art to the
Windfall mailbox in the
CAOC.



Call Sarah at 785-5593
for more info.
Sponsored by FAC

Is Kurt Warner Jesus?

story by | Tom Palmier

For St. Louis football fans devoid of a hometown hero for so long, Kurt Warner emerges from obscurity to take his place among the great quarterbacks of all time. But is there more than meets the eye to this miracle man?

Needless to say, it was Warner's leadership and poise that was the saving grace for the St. Rams. Hoisting them up on his shoulders, he bore the weight of an entire city upon his shoulders. His arm the torch, his mind the guiding light, he sacrificed his time, body, mind and soul for the glory that would eventually be bestowed upon him.

Is this striking any chords yet?

For St. Louis, he is the messiah prophesized by the Bible to come to earth in the year 2000 to save us from a millennium of Superbowl no-shows. Rumor has it he's even a virgin. Ladies?

It is a little known fact that St. Louis hasn't lost a game in the Trans World Dome since the Pope came last summer. Is it a message from God? Could it be a coincidence or did the Pope leave in his wake a divine presence that found its way into the heart and soul of our beloved Kurt Warner? Ah, but we must look further.

No one can dispute the fact of the miracu-

lous act of healing he performed on Blaine Bishop during the second half of the Superbowl. Bishop, who sustained minor neck injuries from a headfirst tackle, was staring death straight in the face when the gates of heaven opened up and a healing light came shining down in the form of Kurt Warner. Warner, seeing the tragedy unfold, calmly made his way over to his slain enemy, took a knee, clasp his hands and prayed. Not that he needed to, being the son of God reincarnate and all, but the Gods answered and Blaine Bishop is alive enough today to kiss Kurt's ass.

So what does this all mean? Well all signs would point to the fact that Kurt Warner is truly whom he makes himself out to be. A humble, outspoken man, arising from obscurity to be written down in history books and worshiped for years to come. A man who was born to the public eye in a place deemed by the Gods to be a most holy place. A man who doesn't shy away from the stress of leadership or the sacrifice of his self. And a man, who took center stage in an arena of death, led his people to victory of good over evil and saved his own enemy from the liberating grip of death. You make the call.

Man of La Mancha pleases all, except for one little boy

story by | Peter Hough

The Theater Department's recent production of *Man of La Mancha* was a crowd-pleasing success. For those who got to sit on-stage, the "theater in the round" style added an intimate element to the musical that could not be afforded by the more "normal" approach. For one, the actors and actresses performed so close to the audience that even sitting in the third row I felt drawn into the action and mood of the play.

For the most part, the close proximity of the audience did not seem to bother the cast members. However, there was a rumored incident in which a little boy, unabashedly displeased with the performance (those were his words, anyway), decided to let everyone know just how dissatisfied he was. The exact wording of his bold interjection is unknown, with reports ranging from, "When is this thing going to end?" to slanderous comments too obscene to be printed even here in *The Monitor*. Those around him confessed, "He was such a nice, quiet boy before... the interruption." In truth, the inci-

dent was at most a slight distraction, unable to distract from the production.

The acting in the musical was very good. Though I knew several of the cast members quite well, I quickly forgot this fact and was drawn into the world in which their characters existed, much the same way Don Quixote captured the hearts of his captive audience.

The choreography and blocking were exceptional, including a few fight scenes. The music and singing added greatly to the overall impact of the message.

In general, I was very happy to have had the opportunity to sit on-stage and watch the sacrifices and hard work of dozens of our peers turn an ordinary evening into an inspiring event. Indeed, many may criticize Quixote for being too romantic and idealistic. But an admonition to "run where the brave dare not go" and to see through the appearances of the things around us to their true beauty is, I think, a welcome message. Why should we ever give up on our dreams or on ourselves?

FAC applications for Fall 2000

available in the FAC office, located on the ground floor of the SUB.

Any CAOC chartered organization may apply for funding for sponsoring an event on campus next semester. Your group can receive \$2000 per organization and up to \$4000 for the event.

Applications are due to the CAOC no later than Feb. 25 at 5 p.m.

Any questions? Contact FAC at 785-7674.

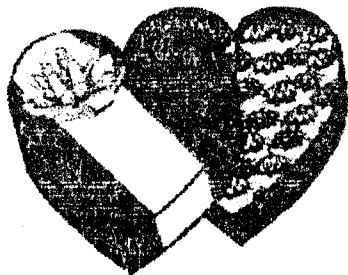


A Time for Chocolate Lovers

Saturday, February 26, 2000

7-10 p.m.

Kirksville National Guard Armory
500 S. Elson, Kirksville, MO 63501

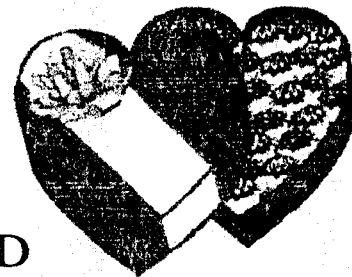


*An evening of unique chocolate desserts, beverages and dancing.
There will be a silent auction too! Childcare provided.*

Proceeds will benefit the
Tri-Rivers Planned Parenthood

\$7 per person \$5 with a Student ID

For tickets call 660-665-5672 or purchase them at the door.



UNBELIEVABLY TRUE

actual news from around the world

feature by | Joe Rothermich

The Golden Raspberry Award Foundation released their nominations for worst actor, actress, and film of the year. Also, the Foundation has made nominations for worst film of the decade along with worst actor and actress of the decade. Nominees for the worst actor of 1999 are Kevin Costner for *Message in a Bottle* and *For Love of the Game*, Kevin Kline for *Wild Wild West*, Arnold Schwarzenegger for *End of Days* and Robin Williams for *Bicentennial Man* and *Jakob The Liar*.

Worst actress of 1999 Nominees are, Heather Donahue, *The Blair Witch Project*, Melanie Griffith, *Crazy in Alabama*, Milla Jovovich, *The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc*, Sharon Stone, *Gloria* and Catherine Zeta-Jones for *Entrapment* and *The Haunting*.

Worst movie of 1999 nominations goes to *Wild Wild West*, *The Blair Witch Project*, *Star Wars, Episode I*, *Big Daddy* and *The Haunting*. Worst actress of the decade nominations goes to Bo Derek, Brooke Shields, Elizabeth Berkley, Madonna, and Pia Zadora. Worst actor of the decade nominations have been given too Kevin Costner, Sylvester Stallone, and Pauly Shore.

And finally, worst film of the decade nominations go to *An Alan Smithee film: Burn, Hollywood, Burn!* Hudson

Hawk, The Postman, Striptease, and Showgirls.

Alexander Loschke, a 35 year old German businessman has claimed finding a cure for the common cold -- a copper wire pushed up each nostril. Loschke said he found the healing power of copper while growing tomatoes. He placed copper rings on the tomato canes to help the plants grow. The next time Loschke caught a cold he placed a small copper ring in each nostril, and was rid of his cold in 36 hours. After consulting medical experts, Loschke found that the copper rings help get more air into the nostrils, and fight microorganisms. The rings can be purchased for about \$10.

Daniel Caine and Wendell Smith have launched a new web-site, www.Split-up.com. The site is a package of advice and software products to help smooth the breakup of couples whose marriages are falling apart. The site offers emotional support, and visitors can buy products such as child support guideline calculator (estimates how much you pay in child support), or five different kinds of divorce calculators. "This is the kind of thing that people won't know they need until they see it," Caine said.

THE DORGE CHRONICLES BY ANDY SPANDINO



Queen Astra

Let the stars be your guide!



Aries (March 21-April 20): Hey, Aries. You know what I'm asking for. Your money. If you want to listen to me play, you've got to pay.

Taurus (April 21-May 22): In the midst of life, we are in death. You're living proof of that.

Gemini (May 23-June 21): Looking for answers? You too can be saved by rock 'n' roll.

Cancer (June 22-July 24): Pere Ubu. Listen to them. Seriously, their music just does something to me.

Leo (July 25-August 23): Live life. Try junk.

Virgo (August 24-September 23): Feeling nostalgic lately? Play a round of "Spit on the Fat Kid." That was always a fun game.

Libra (September 24-October 23): Have you caught

a dreaded case of the High Arms? Don't worry, it's nothing a good serving of buttermilk pancakes can't solve.

Scorpio (October 24-November 22): Times are rough. Next time you're feeling down just remember: You can fly higher than an eagle.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 21): Lately you've been taking yourself way too seriously. Take some time to find a relaxing hobby. Accordion, anyone?

Capricorn (December 22-January 20): Bored? Walk to Salt Lake City.

Aquarius (January 21-February 19): Find the 24-hour M&M diner. The truth lies within.

Pisces (February 20-March 20): Why college? Two words: Mercedes Benz.

Faculty Senate sponsored Forum on Diversity

Tuesday, Feb. 29
Governors' Room of the SUB
4 to 6 p.m.

Discuss alternatives to the GLBT Resource Center and other issues of diversity.

ART PAGE

This issue's art page features works from the 12th Annual National Art Competition Juried by Donald Kuspit. The show is in the University Art Gallery until March 3.



Kip Deeds
"Kip and Ralph"
oil
1999



Jerry Schutte
Self Portrait
oil
1998



Bob Carey
"Wrapped Ham"
silver gelatin print
1999



Ramird A. Rodriguez
"Natura"
oil
1999



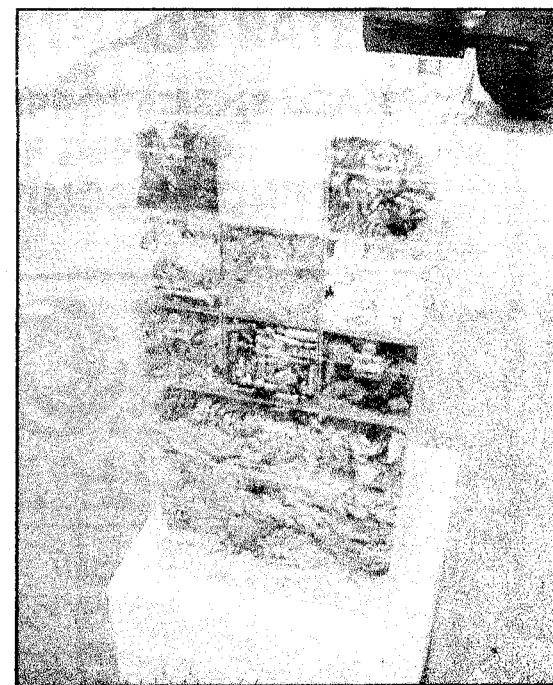
Mikhail Gubin
"Stone Legend" Part 2
pastel on paper
1999



Irinia Kruk
"K-222"
silver gelatin
1997



Sophie Touze Wagnies
"Trophies"
mixed media with fabrics
1999



Jeffery Allen Price
"Purgatory"
found objects in plexiglass
1999

My Back Pages...

Tin Man

My eyes want to retire for the evening
But the thoughts of you have just gotten started
My face is drowning in memories never to be made
Cheeks burn with mistakes unforgivable
Mouth gasping for the trails of your laughter
Hands, trembling, searching for your soul so filling

Some people say this heals, poetry
Tonight I call it suicide
For I am the Tin Man at the moment
Rusty and empty
I only know
My body is a temple
Not a resting place for emotions
They come by anew every few minutes
Killing the previous
My body I know
Is a temple
Rusty and empty
But mostly
Rusty

—MelisYaaj

battle of attrition

touching your lips—
(intensity,
shivering intensity)
—touching your lips was primal
like being back in the womb
your hair falling to my stomach umbilically
the smooth heat of finger-to-cheek
the lunging heat of eyecontact at point blank
the desperate heat of colliding breaths
sweetness.

all this time i felt his presence behind you
watching you, watching us
i wonder what he was thinking
staring into the black folds of your costume
his eyes following my hands
until they were lost to the darkness of you
strange sweetness

—Neil Brown

I walked through the park today.
My thoughts kept me company for a while, but
I find that even those are hard to depend on lately.
Life is so beautiful, but it can be so empty.
Sometimes the emptiness drives me into a mad and
passionate rage.
Today I simply walk, with the weight of twenty men
on my shoulder (or is it thirty?).
The leaves are in a dry and curled up state as they lay
on the concrete. The crunch can be heard to the rhythm of my step.
I thought about your friends and the non-existence of mine.
I thought about like, questioning the priority of death.
I sat down in the grass with my head buried tight in my lap.
I then thought of your kindness and beauty, smiled for a moment, and was abruptly
reminded of my ugliness.
Just as it began to rain, my heart overflowed with pain and I cried.
The rain did not cease that night.
No one mentioned my absence when I returned home.
I guess they were scared of getting wet.

—Melissa Kershaw

Don't forget to drop submissions in
the Monitor mailbox in the CAOC.

The Woman Who Sat in the Car

Did you hear about the guy, this young guy, well, okay, maybe not so young, he was thirty-three, who walked out to his car one night...
Oh forgive me, I'm getting ahead of myself.

One night this not-so-young guy kissed his new wife (his second, actually) before he went to a Springsteen concert (his second wife didn't want to go, his first wife wouldn't have let *him* go either, so he thought he was making progress). So anyway, this guy walked out to his car after the concert, downtown Cleveland, parked in the same spot he uses for work, and when he opened his car to get inside, there was a strange woman in the passenger seat, actually sitting in the passenger seat of his car! The guy who was not so young and not so newly married felt angry, scared, excited by the woman in his car who was neither young nor old, and apparently not doing anything in the car besides sitting, so he asked her, and he felt his hand trembling around his tightly clenched keys, What the hell are you doing in my car? And she did not look at him, did not answer, so he told her to Get the hell out of my car! And she did it so quietly he couldn't remember hearing the door of the car click open. Now lock the door and close it, the guy told this woman, late at night in the parking garage, where they were the only two people in the world. And she did. So the not-so-young guy got into his car, locked his door, turned on his lights, and drove away from the strange woman who had occupied his car, who remained standing in the darkness as quietly as she had sat.

As you can imagine, there was great excitement when the guy told his second wife about the woman sitting in the passenger seat, which is usually the wife's seat in that car, which used to be the first wife's seat in the car, and his now wife told him he should not have gone to that concert (progress takes a step back) and she was glad she had not gone to that concert, and wait a minute,

why didn't he call the police?

The guy and his wife are talking about this in bed now (after all, they have to get up early for work tomorrow), they are in their pajamas, they have brushed their teeth, and all the while his wife has been talking about The Woman Who Sat in the Car (and who now seems to sit in the space between them). How did she get into the car? Had he locked it? Was he sure? Maybe he shouldn't use that parking space anymore. And he lies on his side of the marital bed and hears his wife, his new wife, his second wife, his current wife, say that maybe the woman was crazy, maybe she was dangerous, maybe she was waiting for a boyfriend who would have killed him or cut him or maimed him, and maybe he was lucky,

he could have been changed for life.

The not-so-young guy lies in his bed next to his second wife, whom he has newly married, one arm folded behind his head in the dark, staring at the ceiling, and he sees the strange woman sitting in the car, the exquisite stillness of her hands folded on her lap, the way her hair dipped forward so he couldn't see her face, the way she was sitting so quietly maybe she was waiting for someone.

And the last thought he has before he lies awake all night is that
maybe,
maybe,
maybe
she was waiting there for him.

—Jen Hatala