



THE MONITOR

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

A Campus Collective

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photo by | Ed Jenkins

Ralph Nader speaks to 200 supporters in St. Louis.

Nader speaks outside debate

story by | Ed Jenkins

The last of three presidential debates between Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush captured the nation's attention Tuesday at Washington University.

The candidates tried to win voters in a tight race in which a recent Gallup poll places Bush at 47 percent and Gore at 42 percent, with a 4 percent margin of error. Not participating in the debate was Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, who had 4 percent in the polls.

Nader spoke to over 200 people in a small park around 6 p.m. down the street from the athletic complex where the debates were held later that night. One of the focuses of his speech was the absence from the debates.

Nader claimed that two-thirds of the American people wanted to see a four-way debate which included also Pat Buchanan, but the current debate commission, a private corporation run by the Democratic and Republican parties, refused.

"They made a mistake in '92, by their sight, they let Ross Perot in," Nader said. "And Ross Perot of course surged in the polls and the Republicans and Democrats never again were going to let a third party candidate in any of the debates."

At the University of Massachusetts Boston on Oct. 3, Nader had a ticket to attend the viewing room of the first debate, but was prevented from entering by a representative of the debate commission and three state troopers. Nader returned and was refused again, stating, "This time you have excluded the wrong guy."

On Oct. 5 Nader sent a letter to the co-chairmen of the Commission on Presidential Debates asking for a written apology and a \$25,000 contribution to the Appleseed Center for Elec-

toral Reform at Harvard Law School. He added that if those conditions were not met, he would pursue legal actions. The commission has not apologized, and Nader is going to see them in court after the elections.

"After the election is over we are going to start a people's debate commission and end the tyranny of this broken debate commission once and for all," Nader said.

In addition to his exclusion from the debates, Nader discussed his views on the influence of corporations on the candidates.

"It's extremism for corporations to corrupt, buy and rent our politicians," Nader said. "It's not extremism for a new political movement to demand public financing of all public elections."

Nader brought attention to similarities of the two candidates. "When it comes to corporate power, my friends, the only difference between Al Gore and George W. Bush is the velocity with which their knees hit the floor when corporations knock on their door," Nader said. In the second debate Gore and Bush brought attention to some of their agreements. "Jim Lehrer was begging them, saying please, tell the people watching the differences," Nader said.

He also targeted his arguments more specifically to the particular candidates and got tremendous cheers from the crowd every time.

"George W. Bush is really a giant corporation running for office disguised as a human being," he said.

He also felt that Gore was not upholding his environmental promises.

"He [Gore] has surrendered in one area after another for eight years," Nader said. "He's surrendered to the nuclear industry, to the biotech industry, to the pesticide industry."

See NADER, page 6

Adair County's poor cannot afford doctors, prescriptions

feature by | Derek Spellman

The landscape around the Christian Community Clinic can seem unspectacular and ordinary. Beyond the browsed pastures of the foreground, the shaded lawns lie still. In the neighboring homes, a tint of weathered brick rises out of the countryside, and in the distance one can see smoke rising away from the land like a hymn, remote in time and far away.

"We have helped about 1000 patients so far," Karen Carolan, director of Christian Community Clinic (CCC), said. In Adair County nearly 18 percent of the population lives in an underworld of poverty. The CCC relieves some of the burdens of that poverty by furnishing medical services for low-income families. Carolan has presided over the hectic outpost for eight years.

"Most of our clients are working poor," Carolan said. "Some people, when they get through paying their bills for the month, don't have enough money left over for medical care."

"We had one guy in his mid 60s come in here and his blood pressure was sky high," she said. "We told him to go to the emergency room. He looked at us and said, 'Nope. If you can't help me, then I'll go home and die. I don't want an emergency room bill that I can't pay for.'"

Carolan said many of Adair County's working poor "don't get medical care unless they go to a free clinic or to a clinic that charges on a sliding scale fee." For those without medical care, life can amount to a form of torment that is alien to everyday experience. While on the job, repetition, exhaustion and fatigue have to be endured cheerfully and continuously. Afterwards, sleep can be elusive. Some are in the depths of clinical depression. Others are afflicted with hypertension, asthma, colds, flu, diabetes, lower back pain and even cardiovascular disease or cancer.

Pat Selby, an officer at Retirement Services Volunteer Program (RSVP), expressed a growing alarm over the shortage of local insurance providers. Despite their towering stature in metropolitan areas, she said, corporations and insurance providers cast a dim shadow across rural communities.

"Look around," she said, "do you see any corporations here? How many companies give health insurance? Most [local] employers do not offer prescription drug benefits. And I don't think people with health insurance realize just how expensive prescription drugs can be."

Paul Walker, a Wal-Mart pharmacist, cast light on the quality and cost of prescription drugs.

"The big difference in the price of drugs today is in your choice of brand name or generic," he said. "There is no secret to the formula of the [name-brand] drug, so you can get the generic when it becomes available by the FDA for anywhere from 20 percent to 60 percent off the [name-brand] manufacturer's price."

Yet name-brand manufacturer's can still retain decisive power and influence over the market. Walker said "generic drugs come out about seven to eight years after the name brand." He said "some [name brand companies] will put out another product with a different name but with the exact same formula, so sometimes they [generic companies] can't copy it."

Walker conceded that while pharmaceuticals can be conceived as a commercial venture "they [drug companies] do put a lot of money into research. That's why the price is so high."

Restrictions on government disability benefits can also play a potent part in the cost of prescription drugs. Many laws shaped to govern the course of such benefits are strict. In terms of Social Security Disability Benefits, for instance, 48.7 percent of last year's applicants were turned back.

Lois Counts, a 52-year-old grandmother of two, is keenly aware of such a context.

"I've been trying to get benefits for two years," she said. "I've had cardiovascular disease, asthma, high blood pressure, arthritis in my knees and persistent anxiety disorder. I think they [government officials] try very hard to help out, but there are more disabled people out there than they know."

One argument put forth is that the system would buckle under expanded relief rolls.

Dr. Jan Corbett, a volunteer physician at the CCC, grimly warned, "for some, disability can become a way of life."

In speaking about Medicaid, she said the government "is very hesitant to unnecessarily label a person as disabled. I mean, it's a big responsibility to put someone in the care of the state."

Corbett recalled that "in the 1980s, practically all you needed was a note from your doctor to get disability benefits. The abuse was terrible." She said the government has tightened its grip over disability benefits so as to help eliminate this disproportion and excess.

"Unfortunately," she said, "a number of legitimate cases get turned down. It's a tough call, but it's part of the system."

Scary graves and ghosts, oh my!

Special Halloween features, page 9.



The Monitor debates the presidential candidates.

Opinions, page 6.

Radiohead explores paranoia, ambience.

Review, page 10.



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CAMPUS ADDRESS
CAOC, SUB
Truman State University
Kirksville, MO 63501
Fax (660) 785.7436

OFFICE ADDRESS
Monitor Tower
2107 S. Franklin Apt. A
Kirksville, MO 63501

E-MAIL ADDRESS
monitortrm@hotmail.com

WEB PAGE
http://www.trumanmonitor.org

MANAGING EDITORS
Kristen Crenshaw
Matthew Webber

ASSISTANT EDITORS
Tom Palmier
JJ Pionke

COPYEDITORS
Erin Huckle - Jerry Schirmer

STAFF WRITERS
Daniel Becker - John Bisges
Olivera Bratich - Dave Bush
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Jon Sanders - Jerry Schirmer
Rachel Schulz - Andrew Smithson
Derek Spellman - Leslee White
Aaron Wilson - Dean Yzon

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Ed Jenkins - Amanda Romine - Dean Yzon

ART PAGE
Kjell Hanh

MY BACK PAGES EDITOR
Shawn Gilmore

ADVERTISING ROYALTY
Daniel Becker
Tom Palmier

RESIDENT ARTISTS
Andy Dandino - Ed Jenkins
Sean O'Brien - Ryan Ruffatti

DISTRIBUTION
Ed Jenkins

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towners -- you just pay for postage. Send a
check or money order for \$10 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



Upcoming Events

To have your event listed here for FREE, submit your event to the *Monitor* mailbox, CAOC, SUB, or e-mail it to monitortrm@hotmail.com.

Windfall, the campus art/music/literary magazine, will be holding a Halloween poetry/costume party at the Aqua Dome, 121 N. Main on Fri., Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. Wear a costume. Bring stuff to read aloud. **Submissions deadline** for art/literature is Nov. 10 by 5 p.m. in the *Windfall* mailbox, CAOC office. For more info, contact Alice at x4712 or tsuwf@yahoo.com

The "Art of Power" is a three-week, six-credit course, July 10th through August 1st, that examines themes of power as expressed in art and architecture in Ancient Rome, Renaissance Florence, and modern Germany. Professors Julia DeLancey, Steven Reschly, and Martha Rose will teach the course. For more information, contact Martha Rose at mrose@truman.edu.

Do you remember all those papers you've written and then stuck in a drawer after you got the grades? Or what about all those files on your computer with titles you no longer recognize? Well, now it's

time to dig those puppies out and put them to good use! **Truman Writers in Process**, a published collection of student writing, is looking for papers for its upcoming edition from all levels, majors and fields to act as models for student writers in the freshman composition course, Writing as Critical Thinking. No matter what field you are in, being published at the undergraduate level is a great addition to grad school applications and resumes. You can be the envy of all your friends! So get to it and drop by the Division of Language and Literature for submission guidelines. Submissions are due by Jan. 19. For more information, contact Regina Cross at x7648.

Learn how the brain processes language. Come to "The Lexical Brain," a lecture by Cheryl Engber, professor of linguistics, this Thurs., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. in OP 117. Sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta.

Find out how well you know your roommate. Compete against other roommate pairs to win awesome prizes. Come to the **Roommate Gameshow**, Thurs., Nov. 2,

7:30 p.m., in OP 218. Sponsored by Mediators Assisting Disputants (M.A.D.).

Yao's Halloween Bash! Come to the sweet on-campus Halloween bash. The Down Under DJs will be on hand to drop the phattest monster jams in Kirksville. Door prizes and prizes for the best costumes. Scary amounts of snack food, cookies and punch. Fri. Oct. 27, 9 p.m. in the SUB Down Under.

If you're looking for a night of ghost-chasing excitement, come to Sigma Tau Delta's **Midnight Ghost Stories**. On Oct. 30 (the day before Halloween), meet in the circle drive in front of McClain at 11:45 p.m. to walk to the cemetery. Bring a flashlight or a candle and your favorite ghost stories, poems, skits, jokes and other Halloween-related (or not) material.

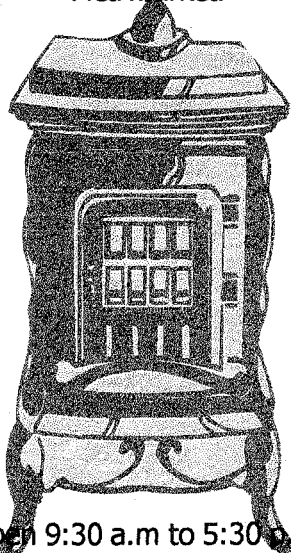
The Society of Professional Journalists is hosting a **diversity forum** Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. in VH 1010. Students will talk about the media in foreign countries. Refreshments will follow.

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monitor letters

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Hey, Monitor,
Your staff sure
does like to write
a lot, don't they?
K.C. and M.W.

Faculty Senate doesn't care about students

On Oct. 3, *The Monitor* published an opinion by Matthew Webber regarding the recently-passed "W" proposal.

Let me first say that despite the fact that I was involved in Student Senate's opposition to the "W" proposal, I'm not entirely upset by the fact that it was passed. I don't drop classes that often, so it won't affect me much.

What did upset me was the apparent disinterest of Faculty Senate in responding to the concerns lodged by the student body. I don't mean to imply that consideration wasn't given, because I don't know. What I am saying is that they didn't make it clear to the students that they heard us, or that what we said made any impact at all. I feel like we've spent the last month shouting at a brick wall.

What I want to know is, if the claims of the Student Senate were so off base and so full of "propaganda" as Webber called it, then why didn't Faculty Senate say anything about it? Why didn't they send out letters or hold forums that explained exactly what the proposal meant and why they wanted to do it? Shouldn't the University want to make sure that the students understand and have accurate information about policy changes that will directly affect them?

Webber wrote Student Senate was "damn smart" because they made sure their opinion was the only one heard. Rachel Schulz, a colleague of Webber's, wrote in her own opinion, "Sure, they [Student Senate] do not have any real power except for that of suggestion." What I'm wondering is, with only the power of suggestion at their disposal, how would Student Senate go about prohibiting the administration from offering an explanation?

The only conclusion I can reach is that Faculty Senate didn't care. They certainly didn't need our votes to pass it, so why bother listening to our opinions or explaining what it means? That's what disturbed me the most. Every month or so, I receive an invoice from McClain Hall telling me to send them money. I'm a paying customer here. I

give them money in exchange for an education. So why don't I have a say when the administration decides to change their policy, changes that directly affect me and my ability to get an education at this institution?

I'm not a member of Student Senate, but as president of Ryle Hall Senate, I work with a lot of people who are. I know how hard they work and how frustrating it is for them to try to be the voice of the students with an administration that seems unwilling to hear them. Webber's article made Student Senate sound like an organization that had nothing better to do than stir up trouble about nothing. Having spent a fair amount of time working on proposals and resolutions and discussions regarding this policy with members of Student Senate, I can tell you firsthand that the primary interest of those senators was to protect the interests of the students.

It seems to me that Faculty Senate and perhaps the University as a whole has forgotten the reason why they are here and what their purpose is. Faculty Senate, because it is comprised of professors, has a duty to serve the students who attend this school, to teach them and to act in their best interests in matters of policy and administration. When the faculty appears so indifferent to the opinion of the students, whatever that opinion may be, then Faculty Senate is failing to do its job. If the student body was unable to obtain complete and accurate information to form their own opinions, the fault lies in the lack of desire on the part of Faculty Senate and the administration, not Student Senate.

Lisa Schroeder

Abortion pill makes murder easier to swallow

Early one morning last month, over a piping hot cup of Sodexo coffee, I was dismayed to read in the newspaper that the FDA had approved the infamous RU-486 abortion pill.

Initially I was shocked, but I suppose that it is the next logical step for our society to take. Like any other abominable act, abortion is easiest to accept when we are not forced to confront its con-

sequences. This is why people recoil so violently at the image of an aborted child on a placard at a pro-life rally. This is why people are so repulsed by the idea of partial-birth abortion. This is why it is illegal to show a woman considering an abortion an ultrasound of her baby. This is why we have invented pathetic euphemisms like "the termination of a pregnancy" and "a non-vital mass of tissue." The less one considers the very real, very permanent consequences of abortion, the better, right?

Wrong. Abortion is murder, because life begins at conception. My religious convictions will not allow me to reach any other conclusion, and I am tired of seeing those agree with me constantly on the defense, making compromises and mincing words. "The termination of a pregnancy" is homicide and a "non-vital mass of tissue" is a baby, as we all once were. But aesthetics must take precedence over the truth, hence, the "morning-after pill."

So while for some the availability of RU-486 means a new level of civility for our society, to me it represents a new moral low, where our own poor decisions yield no immediate consequences and an inconvenient human life is disposed of neatly and quietly, lest someone's conscience be troubled. For that is exactly what RU-486 does: it makes murder easier to swallow.

John Hilton

Opinion says something

Finally, an article that says something! Peter Hough's article, "I sometimes wonder at how fragile life is," is not only the first thoughtful, meaningful and worthwhile article I've read in *The Monitor*, but may be the most moving article I've read in a newspaper to my memory. Like a breath of fresh air in a sludge factory, Peter's article proves that there are still caring people using their talents, skills and blessings to help the rest of us see the truth.

Finally, an article that says something! In a society that has forgotten what life is and how nurtured and protected it needs to be, it is so relieving to hear someone who has not lost the understanding of the precious gift that we have been blessed with. It seems that we are a minority, those of us who value the potential life of an unborn child more than a person's decision, too often made after the fact, motivated by fear and selfishness. Peter's article stands, to me, a member of this minority, as an inspiring light in a world that seems so devoid of any.

When I think of a dear friend of mine who

had a child at a very young age, I can't help but try to imagine where she might be if she had chosen an alternative route. She would not be the wonderful, loving, caring mother I know her as today. I can't help but try to imagine where I'd be if I didn't know that beautiful young child. She has the brightest smile that I can't help but take upon my face when I see her enter a room. When I think of the choice my dear friend made many years ago, I know there is no other acceptable choice.

Finally, an article that says something. That something is truth, a call to wake up and look around at where we are. Finally, an article that shows us that we have digressed from all that was once known as truth: grace, love and life.

Jeremy Haupt

Student chooses to live in "poverty"

I am writing regarding Derek Spellman's article concerning poverty in Kirksville. When I read this, I was sadly reminded how Americans take our material wealth for granted. Our country is *so much* richer than any other country. And we have the boldness to complain when our cable TV is out for the week! Rather, we should be grateful for the food we frivolously enjoy. Most of the world lives with *way* less stuff than us. Are we really any happier or more fulfilled than those who live in real poverty in third world countries? Who are we to be so selfish to think that we deserve so many CDs, money or name-brand clothing? Just because we were so blessed to be born into the wealthy country of America does not mean we are any better than anyone else.

Those described in Spellman's article as "poor" are still much richer than many others. They are surviving just fine, even though they may live literally from check to check. American society's construction of an unnecessarily high standard of living as the norm is the only thing that makes them feel as if they are lacking something. Those who are truly "poor" are lacking in their relationships with their friends, family and/or God. Unfortunately, this high material standard has become by which other countries also measure themselves.

Personally, I choose to live in "poverty" with no TV, no fancy furnishings, in a small apartment, eating the cheapest food possible and shopping at garage sales if I shop at all because I choose to reject these extremely high standards that society puts on us. I don't know why being "cheap," squeezing the last drop out of the toothpaste bottle,

See LETTERS on page 8

Don't Be Afraid...

by Ryan Ruffatti



monitor opinions

Proposition B solves corporate influence

opinion by | Jerry Schirmer

There's more to the ballot this year than party politics and candidates. This year, there is a ballot initiative that could have more effect upon the political system of the state of Missouri than any of the candidates on the ballot this year. I'm talking about Proposition B.

This ballot initiative would make it so that if a candidate for state office raised a fixed amount of money in contributions of \$5 or less (\$1,000 for state representative to \$2,500 from six U.S. congressional districts for governor), then the candidate may agree to a complete public financing of their campaign in exchange for forgoing any private spending toward their election. The state would then provide a line of credit as well as a fixed amount of money, determined by office sought.

Clearly, there are more details to the proposal, and they can be found at the Missouri Secretary of State's Web page, <http://mosl.sos.state.mo.us/>. The full legal document regarding this and all of the other ballot initiatives can be found here.

That is the initiative, and now is my time to explain why I wholeheartedly endorse this policy and have already voted for it via absentee ballot. First, this proposal can help to eliminate the ability of large campaign donors to influence the political motives of individuals. If a campaign was established wholly through small contributions which could be easily provided by individuals, and through a state law which applies equally to everyone, then there would be no incentive for candidates to cater to the interests of large donors.

Kids blindly follow Catholicism

opinion by | Joe Rothermich

I was raised Catholic. I attended a Catholic elementary and high school. During my younger years I loved going to church. During elementary school I was an altar boy, and loved doing that as well. Then in my junior high and high school years something happened; my thoughts about church and Catholicism were radically altered.

My schools required the students to attend church once a week, and my parents still made me go to church on Sundays with them. Church became a chore, something I was being forced to do, and I no longer enjoyed it. I would wake on Wednesday mornings and think, "Oh no, I have to go to church today." During my senior year of high school, my theology class discussed controversial issues and Catholic doctrine. My theology teacher wonderfully pointed out to us that Catholic doctrine states that you truly only have to attend church once a year: Easter Sunday.

I began to question issues about Catholicism, and not blindly follow what past theology teachers and priests had taught me. I explained to my parents that I wasn't getting anything out of going to church, and they said I didn't have to attend church if I didn't want to. By this time I realized I disagreed with the Catholic Church's stance on many issues.

Universalizing religions have it all wrong. Your specific church is not the one true church. I am not going to hell for having different beliefs than you. In fact, you are being more un-Christian than I am by not having an open mind.

Ideally, this proposal would allow individuals in office to seek their office not worrying about the interests of the rich donors lining their pockets. Therefore, they would not be held in check by these powerful interests to so great an extent.

Furthermore, this proposal would aid third parties in their quest to seek office. In leveling the playing field, on the level of finance at least, this proposal would enable third parties to gain their desperately needed funding simply by attaining the sufficient number of \$5 contributions.

Clearly, some extent of organization is necessary for the statewide elected offices, but it is undeniable that this proposal would help them greatly, since they would at least have a chance at getting access to a viable campaign war chest. Therefore, the political system would not be dominated by the two traditional parties, but would rather have a more inclusive debate that would be able to have a real debate over issues rather than a marginal debate between two catch-all parties.

Therefore, I place my wholehearted support behind Proposition B. For this, as well as the many other issues on the Nov. 7 ballot, I would just like to encourage all of my readers to show up and vote, or to turn in their absentee ballots.

Only through some sort of public financing system will it be possible to limit the incredible influence that pressure groups and corporations have over our politicians. The adoption of public financing would, finally, allow for a system where politics is dominated by ideas, rather than monetary advantage.

It doesn't really matter what you call the deity you believe in: God, Ali, Buddha or Yahweh. All the major world religions have the same basic beliefs: Treat others with kindness, follow domestic laws and help those of lesser fortune (this example is highly simplified).

Jesus taught us to accept those who are different than ourselves, but somehow Christians didn't take into account other religions. Always remember, Jesus was Jewish, yet for thousands of years Christians condemned Jews for their beliefs. Somehow I don't think condemning people for different religious beliefs is really following Christ's teachings. Can any Christian truly believe that Gandhi is not in heaven?

Many Catholics and Christians alike have this belief ingrained into their heads that if they go to church every Sunday and on all holy days that it is a ticket into heaven. What is even worse is that many churches in some manner preach this as well. I don't go to church, yet I still believe I am a good Christian.

I have nothing against organized religions on a whole; if I did then I would be contradicting myself. What I don't agree with about organized religions, especially Catholicism, is that they teach young people to blindly follow what they are told. You don't need to be told what to have faith in. You need to find it for yourself. The only way to truly find your own religion is to question everything, and think for yourself. Don't become a sheep by following what you are told to believe. Find your beliefs and live your life how Christ taught us to live, not how some organization tells you how Christ wants us to live.

The Cynic's Corner

Hey, Ass-Boy, you're not deep

opinion by | Andrew Smithson

Negative thought of the day: Amnesty International? No thanks, I'm pro-killing.

If You Stopped Trying to be Deep, You'd Probably Realize You Sound Like an Asshole

Once upon a hollow shell
A dreary night comes falling.
A life dependent on a race
But of the love so close to hate
Comes my own salvation.

That's a little poem I wrote. What does it mean? Well of the people I asked I received answers like "It represents the depression that follows betrayal," and "It shows how depression can consume everything but love." What did I, the author, intend it to mean? Nothing. I simply took words and put them together, then edited it a little so it would seem coherent. It's complete gibberish, and that's a perfect example of what people today deem "deep."

It really eats me up when I see people who insist on putting on the façade of being deep, intellectual, philosophical asses. Take, for example, a guy in one of my classes. To help retain his anonymity, we'll refer to him simply as "Ass-Boy." Ass-Boy is determined to let everybody know that he thinks he's deep. When he answers questions in a class discussion, he can never really answer them. He instead tries to beat around the question in a "philosophical" way. "Well, I'm not sure if the story is supposed to be taken literally. Could it possibly mean that the story is real and we are all but images and words in a story being read by them?" "Humm, how did the character of Henry Higgins create the character of Eliza Doolittle? I think that by him striving to create her, she really created him."

Comments such as these cause my blood to rise in temperature to a point at which it begins to boil, I can see nothing but red, and the voices in my head tell me to kill. By making

these types of quasi-intellectual comments, Ass-Boy is attempting to sound intelligent. What is he achieving? He doesn't appear intelligent at all, he simply sounds like a jackass.

This mockery of intellectualism isn't held in check by "authority figures" either. In fact, it is even exacerbated by the entertainment industry. Take the "Goo Goo Dolls" for example. The lyrics of one of their songs goes "I don't want the world to see me, 'cause I don't think that they'd understand. When everything's made to be broken, I just want you to know who I am." What the fuck does that mean? Try another of theirs, "Baby's black balloon makes him fly. I almost slipped into that hole in your life." It's goddamn gibberish.

Look to movies for more evidence. How about *Thin Red Line*? This is hours upon hours of "deep" thoughts from G.I.s in the Pacific Theater of World War II. All it really was were nonsensical thoughts that had nothing to do anything. You didn't even know who was thinking them. There was a voice that sounded like every other voice speaking words that didn't make sense while Americans and Japanese were shooting at each other. Who the fuck gets philosophical when someone's trying to kill you? My only thought process would be "Don't get killed. You like to live. Dying isn't quite as pleasant as living. Don't die."

I guess all I'm asking is don't try to be deep if you're not. Being intelligent doesn't necessarily mean that you know the meaning of life. Another thing, if you're trying to come off as intelligent, don't make comments like Ass-Boy's. That's a dead giveaway you're as dumb as George W. Bush. Nobody deserves to sound that dumb. As Mark Twain said: "It is better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than to open it and remove all doubt."

Anyone wishing to submit a "negative thought of the day" should send any ideas to drewski_81@hotmail.com. Send stuff. Make sure it's negative.



Truman students should suck more

opinion by | John Bisges

People should suck more.

No, I don't mean that in the literal sense, although that interpretation does have its possibilities. I'm talking about the other definition of the word. A large percentage of the campus population needs to learn how to screw up.

You know which percentage I'm talking about. Call them the academically-focused, call them the GPA-motivated, call them whatever you want. For the purposes of this article, call them the Overachievers.

Every year, Truman brings in one of the most impressive collections of Bright Flighters and 99th percentile inhabitants in the region. That's absolutely fantastic. It's great for the college, it's great for the student body and it's great for the levels of vocabulary used in everyday conversations.

Unfortunately, too many people enter Truman with the mindset that academics should be the focus of their lives, to the exclusion of everything else. These people are easy to spot. They answer all the professor's questions, they study for all the quizzes and when a professor decides not to curve a bad test because two people got 98s, you know exactly who those two people are. And while you are busy reading this

article, they are in their rooms making isomerized cyclohexane skeletons with their organic chemistry model kits.

The most frustrating part of all this is that you were once one of these people. Yes, back in your high school days, when you regularly began studying for tests fifteen minutes before class and still pulled A's, you were an Overachiever. Life was good.

Then you arrived at Truman and suddenly things became much less forgiving. Aside from the considerable challenges of meeting new people, establishing a social life and generally learning about your new independence, you found that everyone here is just as smart as you were in high school. Now, instead of dominating the bell curve, you are fighting just to stay on the happy side of the hump. Clearly, this situation is unacceptable.

This brings me to my solution: the Overachiever Outreach Program. The purpose of this program is simple. Grade transcripts in hand, the facilitators of this program will track down all the Overachievers enrolled at Truman. Once captured, these students will undergo a rigorous program of enforced lethargy and apathy, the main parts of which will be large amounts of alcohol drinking, *Super Mario Kart* playing and extended television viewing. All treatment will

be done in an apartment recently vacated by several incredibly messy guys whose greatest legacy, aside from the rather distinct marijuana smell embedded in the walls, is the life-sized statue of Jack Daniels that dominates the central foyer.

At the conclusion of a week of this treatment, the subjects will be given an exam similar to those Junior Aptitude Tests that the university is so fond of. Any participant who scores over a 90 on this exam will be sent to the emergency stage of the program, which is the uninterrupted viewing of every episode of *Hogan's Heroes* ever made. Anyone who still passes the exam after this will be beaten to death with wiffle ball bats.

I know this might seem somewhat extreme, but everyone needs to screw up occasionally. It makes things so much more interesting. To the Overachievers who have read this article, this is not an indictment of you, but merely a suggestion of how you can recover from an addiction that is consuming most of your time and the majority of your brain cells. You are addicted to success, but it's not too late. Let us help. Let us help you learn how to fail. You can do it. You need this, trust us.

Besides, I still haven't studied for my calculus exam, and I'll be damned if I'm going to let you ruin the curve.

Reclaim democracy; vote third party

opinion by | Phillip Kopf

As the presidential election approaches us, the disheartened mumbles of America echo the woes of the "democracy" that reigns in our two party system. Upon what basis are we to vote for a presidential candidate when our two options declare comparable, vague stances? Are we to simply vote for the most charismatic candidate? When forced to choose between the lesser of two evils, the outcome will always be evil.

But there is good news. We don't have to vote within the bipartisan system. Third party candidates exist, and they may more closely represent you and your stances on the political issues that you are concerned about.

The election results are not simply a tool for electing a president. They are a poll of the

people's opinions and desires. The vote you cast for a candidate is a statement declaring your agreement with the candidate's convictions.

So, what affect would a vote for Gore or Bush have on our present politics? It is true that such a vote may contribute to a victory for the candidate for whom you cast your vote, but there is a much more important aspect of such a vote. Such a vote would encourage the continuation of vague, centrist politics.

Is that what you stand for? Some of you may vote for Gore due to a strong dislike for Bush. Doing so would only result in a similar election four years from now. Isn't it about time to put an end to centrist politics?

Many people think that voting for a third party candidate wastes your chance to have an affect upon the election results. This simply is

not the case. First of all, if any candidate receives at least five percent of the popular vote, their political party will receive government subsidy and equal time on public broadcasts for their campaign in the next election. Such assistance would enable a third party candidate to inform the public of their existence and their convictions.

Also, such a percentage of the vote would capture the attention of the politicians that were elected, causing them to take notice of such popular concerns. They may then adopt some of these concerns because of their desire to be reelected.

The centrist politics reigning in our land gives us the impression that the power once inherent in our vote has been taken from us. And if we were limited to vote for only two candidates that express vague, similar expressions of their concerns, I would have such an impression as well.

Theater classes: spiritless, mindless wastes of time

opinion by | Lisa Magierowski and Erika Lorenz

Theater at Truman State University is the bastard stepchild of the Fine Arts Department. The discipline receives little respect from the "administration" compared to the devotion given to other fields in the Liberal Arts and Sciences program.

Case in point: recently it has come to the attention of both the students and faculty in the theater department (over a year after the decision was made) that five theater courses, THEA 276 Stage Makeup, THEA 391 Stagecraft, THEA 393 Stage Lighting, THEA 395 Basic Costuming, and THEA 399 Theater Practice are not to be counted toward the liberal arts and sciences, or LAS, requirements.

So why is this happening, and what's the big deal? Well, right now Truman is attempting to earn Phi Beta Kappa status. Phi Beta Kappa would make Truman State nationally recognized as a more elite liberal arts and sciences institution. To do this, Truman must submit all courses currently identified as LAS for evaluation according to Phi Beta Kappa standards. The problem is, no one can give us a straight answer to this question: "What the hell is LAS?"

We all know what our LSP is - it's the core, the classes in the middle of your degree worksheet that tell you what you need to take outside of your major. These LSP courses are usually considered LAS courses. You need 63 LAS credit hours to graduate. After fulfilling one of each Modes of Inquiry and your Essential Skills, you'll probably need about 15 more hours of LAS to graduate. In the past you could take any of the five theater courses listed above, and they would count as your LAS extra credits; at the moment, this is no longer an option.

But why? Isn't theater a liberal art? Aren't we cool? Obviously, not enough. Because the Liberal Arts and Sciences Identification Committee (LASIC), made up of some unidentified Truman faculty, does not consider these five courses as LAS according to Phi Beta Kappa standards such as the following four (taken from an Interoffice Memorandum sent to Theater faculty on September 1, 2000 from the "administration"):

1. "in acquiring a liberal education, the undergraduate will study primarily subjects which illuminate the human conditions, subjects which explore aspects of taste and feeling, of the reasoning process, of the physical and moral worlds, of individual and group responsibility, of the mean-

ing of life as a whole"

It's a good thing I'm learning the meaning of life at Truman University. Who would've thought that after years of searching for the ultimate answer to the human condition, we have now found what eluded Aristotle, Plato, Socrates and the Queen Mother! Thank God for liberal arts and sciences coursework!

2. "that a liberal education is not primarily vocational"

Oh, that's right. Construction, painting, sewing and electrical knowledge is not applicable to anything outside of theater.

3. "a liberal education seeks to quicken the mind and spirit by encouraging the full development of human capacities"

Let's clarify: Obviously, theater is a spiritless, mindless, useless waste of our time. The countless hours we spend pouring our hearts into the study of our art, does nothing to encourage the full development of our human capacities.

4. "It is true that often a liberal education may have a definitive market value and may in that sense be considered vocational. It is true also that vocational programs sometimes contain liberal content. Nonetheless, the main lines of cleavage can, in practice, be seen. It is not difficult to distinguish between broad cultivation and

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But our vote isn't limited to the Republicans and Democrats. There are many third party candidates with many differing viewpoints, and some of them are experienced politicians and social activists. A responsible citizen should be informed of all the choices presented to them and vote for the candidate that promises to fight for the concerns you possess. You must voice your concerns if you desire them to be addressed.

technical competence"

Cleavage aside, in the creation of a historically accurate play, research is not needed for costuming, makeup or set design. Mathematics is not used for designing sets to scale. Biology is not needed to understand how allergic reactions and bacterial infections are caused and prevented when applying makeup.

Well, I'm glad we cleared that up. So, what it comes down to is this: Truman wants to be a Phi Beta Kappa school, and the LASIC seems to think these classes will hinder Truman's chances of "getting in." Although an appeal is possible, the "administration" has made it abundantly clear that one cannot be submitted until Phi Beta Kappa has made their final decision. In other words, the "administration" believes that by appealing now we would be "muddying the waters."

To sum up: The decision was made a year ago, it's affecting us now and for the time being we're shit out of the luck. The only thing we, as students, can do is voice our opinions and hope someone is listening. Final thought: Are we misrepresenting our school by changing the LAS just for the Phi Beta Kappa standard, or would the "administration" argue we've been misrepresenting ourselves as a liberal arts institution all along?

Presidential Candidate Forum

Editors note: Supporters of other candidates failed to meet *The Monitor's* deadline

George W. Bush: Republican

opinion by | Greg Irwin

As college students, most of us wonder why in the world we should care about politics, especially in this Presidential race in which many journalists have painted it as the choice between two similar candidates: the lesser of two evils. This couldn't be any further from the truth. Texas Gov. George Bush has characterized the differences between Vice President Gore and I believe that their contrasting philosophical viewpoints on the role of the government very well: between wanting more government (Gore) and giving more money and responsibility back to us, the citizens of the United States (Bush).

So, why should you vote at all, much less for George Bush?

He is a tried and true reformer when reforms need to be made, although he is willing to maintain status quo when things are going well. Texas is obviously one of the most difficult states to govern socially, economically and environmentally -- pretty much in every way imaginable. Yet, he has given significant aid to the poor and downtrodden while allowing his millions of constituents their own American Dream. The next four to eight years may prove to be some of the most formative in the United States and around the world and George W. Bush has proven time after time that he can work past entrenched partisanship and get what needs to be done done. It's that simple.

Bush's central reforms during his presidency (should we elect him) lay mainly around education, health care, social security and taxes. Check out Bush's comprehensive plans at <http://www.georgewbush.com>.

In my opinion, George Bush has been unfairly characterized as Governor of a state (Texas) that is in shambles, and this is simply not the case. George Bush has worked to get strong and effective legislation through the Texas legislature with the approval of both Republicans and Democrats: that much, Gore cannot attack, and neither has he proven that he has done likewise on the same scale as Bush.

Here is an example of one of Gore's misrepresentations of Gov. Bush's history in Texas. The former Democratic Chairman of the Texas House Public Health Committee, Hugo Berlanga (D-Corpus Christi), issued this statement on Oct. 12, 2000: "Governor Bush inherited a children's health care system that was in utter disarray. This broken system actually required that parents get progressively poorer as their children got older or the children would lose their health coverage. Gov. Bush supported billions in funding and real reforms to fix this system and make sure more children gained access to quality health care. Gov. Bush's bipartisan leadership passed CHIP and other measures to get health coverage to more than 423,000 low income children -- those whose parents earn up to 200% of poverty. In Texas, we're leaving no child behind by quickly enrolling needy children in the CHIP program, and Texans now have some of the strongest patient protection laws in the nation."

CHIP Enrollment for first five months by comparable states:

CALIFORNIA - FLORIDA - MICHIGAN - ARIZONA - TEXAS

Number of children insured in first five months: 43,900 - 20,514 - 182 - 10,578 - 83,592

Estimated percentage of eligibles: 7.33% - 7.92% - 0.39% - 16.76% - 17.49%

Estimated number of children eligible: 599,000 - 259,000 - 47,000 - 63,100 - 478,000

Harry Browne: Libertarian

opinion by | Justin Kempf

Would you vote for a candidate who championed individual freedom, individual responsibility and government limited to protecting that freedom? Harry Browne is that champion.

As a Libertarian, Browne believes we deserve the freedom to pursue our own desires and aspirations without interference from the government. However, freedom comes with a responsibility to accept the consequences of our choices. When we refuse to accept the consequences of our actions, we limit our own freedom. Government's response to a lack of responsibility is to create paternalistic laws that limit our freedom as autonomous individuals. Browne has faith in our ability to make choices that are suitable for ourselves.

These principles are made real by the policies advocated by Browne. While Browne has many stances on a variety of issues, this article will focus on his proposals concerning the reduction of bureaucracy, homosexual rights, illegal drug reform, Social Security reform and educational reform. Libertarianism does not consist of esoteric language and abstract language, but rather issues that concern us as students and as participants in our American democracy.

Browne is committed to reducing Washington's bureaucracy. The era of "Big Government" is unfortunately not over and the Republicans have not proven that even they are

prepared to substantially reduce the inordinate size of government. Browne will fight to end corporate welfare, end wasteful government programs and substantially reduce programs that are necessary but overgrown. Browne is the true fiscal conservative in this election.

Browne's fiscal conservatism should not be mistaken as conservatism. Browne is a crusader of homosexual rights. Homosexuals deserve the right to marriage and protection from discrimination like all individuals. Browne's commitment to homosexual rights is merely a facet of his commitment to all our rights.

Browne is the only candidate that recognizes illegal drug reform as an issue of immeasurable importance. The issue is important for not only the next four years but elections beyond.

Browne upholds the right of patients to use marijuana for medical reasons. Browne supports the right of farmers to grow industrial hemp, a product with innumerable environmental and economically profitable purposes. Browne supports the rights of victims of asset forfeiture laws that seize property from those arrested in drug related crimes regardless if the person is ever convicted of the crime for which they were arrested.

Finally, Browne is opposed to the war on drugs. The war on drugs is by nature a war on our own citizens. Those arrested are those individuals that are harmed most by drugs through the consequences of addiction. A prison sentence

is not the remedy for victims of drug addiction. Rather this is an attack on our casualties of the drug war. Browne supports our rights in calling for true drug reform by ending the War on Drugs.

Browne is a supporter of real reform in Social Security as well. The Social Security Administration has already made the insolvency of the current system known. Temporary solutions will only forestall the inevitable structural problems.

Browne believes in using this opportunity to empower us by privatizing the Social Security system. A highly regulated privatized system would provide individual empowerment over our own savings for each individual of every class providing a stake in the economy of our nation.

Browne believes all functions operate best when most intimately tied between the individual and their community. In this spirit Browne wants to free our states from the current mandates of the federal government. Only by giving education back to our community leaders will any "education deficit" be remedied in our country.

Browne stands apart from all other candidates in both his solution and his principles. Make a difference in this election and support freedom. Do not waste your vote on Democrats or Republicans. Show America that Browne is providing solutions that concern you. Vote Libertarian. Vote Harry Browne.

Ralph Nader: Green

opinion by | Derek Spellman

The 2000 Presidential Election has been billed as a clash of titans -- Bush versus Gore, the shining prince versus the heir apparent. Ralph Nader is this drab unlovely little figure of a man who's spoiling Al Gore's prospects for victory. At least, that is the scheme most of us have evolved.

Yet the presence of Nader gives the American people their only honest choice in this election. Under the mask of outward differences, Bush and Gore are in substantial agreement over the issues of public policy. Putting school vouchers, social security and abortion aside, there isn't a damn bit of difference between those two.

Nader's campaign then is about trying to have a conversation with the American people, about presenting them with an honest choice rather than trading jabs with Gore and Bush.

At the top of the list are enlarged opportunities for minorities in this country. Nader would like anti-discrimination legislation established more firmly. In case you haven't noticed, minorities are still getting screwed over in this country. African-Americans, for instance, while constituting 12 percent of the national population nevertheless constitute 65 percent of the prison population. Racial profiling is alive and well.

Women, despite the gathering strength of feminist movements, still only earn 4/5 as much money as men do. Nader wants to eliminate this disproportion by strengthening affirmative action laws, programs, and enforcement.

He wants to enlarge the opportunities of immigrants in housing, health care and civil rights and do what neither candidate has even mentioned -- establish legal recognition of same sex marriages and honor treaty obligations with Native Americans.

Health care is another source of concern. On both sides, affordable health care has been

the bulk and staple of political oratory. Each of the two major candidates has, among other things, raised the suggestion of a patient's bill of rights. While this bill would cure some of the complaints about the medical industry, it does not cure the largest one of all -- greedy HMOs. The medical industry is the most lucrative industry in America right now because the insurance companies pull 27 cents out of every dollar spent. The government pulls 4 cents out of every dollar spent on Medicare. That is why nationalized health insurance is the centerpiece of Nader's legislative recommendations. Rather than a European delusion, nationalized health insurance would prevent ordinary Americans from being muscled aside by insurance companies' money and influence.

Nader also wants to renew the vitality of American education. Here, he has taken the ideas of both Democrats and Republicans and fused them into a single vision for the future. First, he would like to produce a policy of decentralized administration. That translates into site-based planning and management, enlisting local parents and teachers to manage their own school.

Second, he wants to implement a policy whereby the federal government would finance all education. This proposal, while vast in its scope, would eliminate the disproportion between "wealthy" school districts and "poor" school districts and assure an adequate education for every child. Also, he would like to reduce the current student-teacher ratio to 15-1 and broaden bilingual education.

Finally, Nader wants to restore public ownership to one of the most vital commodities today -- the airwaves. In this swiftly changing planet, the interchange of ideas is our most vital national interest. Despite the abundance of newspapers and television stations in this country, most of these stations retrieve their news from the

same sources like the Associated Press and CBS news, both of which are owned by a narrow and privileged class.

The growing concentration of the mass media constitutes a frontal challenge to democracy in this country. Nader wants to smash media conglomerates wide open by anti-trust regulation and enlarging the capacities of public broadcasting. Whatever else can be said in this election (if it is said by anyone else) the airwaves do not belong to corporate miscreants or to congress. They belong to the people of the United States.

NADER from page 1

Nader touched on most of his major political issues, the majority of which were related to corporate power. He spoke about the environment, racial profiling, medication and also the legalization of marijuana, which he supports.

"There are people now in Texas and Tennessee state prisons serving five, ten, fifteen, twenty years for possession and use of marijuana," he said. "Al Gore and George W. Bush had admitted repeatedly earlier that... they violated the drug laws. So why do they deserve to be president and these people deserve to rot in Tennessee and Texas prisons?"

The popular candidates were preparing to debate while Nader spoke to a small but enthusiastic crowd. Nader is this year's only candidate to have campaigned in all 50 states.

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Try not to mention your sexuality to strangers

Sex as an Adjective: Diamonds and Pride Rings
Part 3 of 3

Feature by I John Halski

Over this past summer, our Truman State University Bookstore was the scene of a discriminatory incident I happened to witness. Please remember before you read on that discrimination has a broader meaning beyond the politically loaded term we use most often. Choosing a cereal in the morning requires some kind of discrimination. (Personally, I say rabbits and the Irish need not apply, but then I'm not a fan of sugar in the morning.)

Anywho, as to the incident, on the morning of June 29, while I shopped for the best of the new pens released on a weekly basis, who should I see enter but a pack of Truman potentials on a guided tour. As the guide braced the audience for the magical ability of textbooks to decrease in value over the course of a semester, I heard a slip which would have spelled 10 less students this fall:

"My books cost about \$350 each semester. My boyfriend's cost about \$250."

Now, aside from the fact that the guide did not specify U.S. dollars, thus insulting all Canadians in the audience, this guide revealed a gender preference, suggesting sexual orientation. Luckily, we have no need for Canadians here (hey, we're no longer regional, but we must draw a line somewhere), but what a shock it must have been for

this hapless bunch to hear such a personal bit of information from someone they met only that day. Why must people in relationships rub everyone else's nose in their private lives? Do they have no decency?

To my amazement, nobody even flinched. Obviously, I concluded, these folks must be long desensitized by our immoral culture. The thought of a sexually active person announcing their lifestyle publicly went in one ear and out the other. Apparently, a girl declaring she finds boys attractive on some level, discriminating herself from a significant percentage of the population, no longer has the shock value it once had when we were a God-fearing people.

OK, my apologies if that was too abrasive, but my guess is a straight (no pun intended) rendering of the incident in question would have had as little impact on you, the reader, as it did on the group receiving the tour. The lesson here? Some of us receive a blank check to lower our barriers and reveal intimate details of our personal life without fear that it might offend. The rest must choose between an adverse reaction from those within earshot and carefully censoring everything we do and say to avoid offending anyone and everyone.

I have been involved in the Safe Zone program at this University, sponsored by Faculty Development with the support of University Counseling Services, Prism and Student Senate, and am delighted to say it has caught the attention of a fair number of faculty, staff and students in the course

of its first year. People come with a desire to learn and to replace stereotypes with understanding. As much as I would like to see everyone try the workshop out, I would like to recommend a little exercise in the meantime. Sign yourself up for a week of nondiscrimination. What does it entail? A few simple behavioral changes:

1. Remove all vestiges that indicate you belong in a relationship, e.g. pictures of your significant other and (if you're comfortable doing so) wedding rings, promise rings, etc.

2. In any instance that you must mention your significant other, find a gender-neutral term, e.g. my significant other, my partner or even my roommate. Otherwise, avoid bringing it up.

3. Notice whenever others let on their own sexual preference in their appearance, their language, etc. Don't let them know you're observing their behavior (this will lead them to modify it), but don't avoid talking about it either. If this experiment demonstrates anything, it should reveal just a few of the aspects of personal identity our culture assumes while almost never directly discussing with the people in question.

I'm calling out to everyone to participate, not just the usual set of super-leftist liberals. If you do not agree with accepting non-heterosexuality, give this a whirl anyway. Personally, I don't get what possesses so many to eat dead animals, but I try to understand the carnies anyway. You could learn more about yourself and how much we all insert our sexuality into our behavior. (On the other hand,

you might just develop an equal distaste for all those hets and breeders flaunting their dirty business in your face as well.)

To me, the experiment raises a much more interesting question, though. If we can remove our sexuality from our behavior and still retain our identity, could we insert another one and still be ourselves? I am of course dancing around what may be the most difficult concept of sexual identity, the one that seems to trouble gays and straights alike: the possibility of bisexuality. Wedding rings can become pride rings, and I would bet we could all imagine jumping the fence, as it were, if really pressed to do so — life or death. But what about free floating with no absolute?

Maybe the labels we use, the jewelry we wear, in fact the bulk of all we do stems even more from the fear of the unincorporated than the different. Have you noticed we don't even have a slur for a bisexual? Faggots, dykes and breeders, but no ... what? Swingers? That sounds too cool. How about het-mos? Fence-straddlers? There's nothing in the common vocabulary. Perhaps it's the difficulty of creating a word to denote nondiscrimination.

Okay, we'll need one more challenge to make our week as meaningful as possible:

4. Next time you have sexual relations, tell yourself you are loving the person and not the gender. Say it and mean it. And the next morning, don't apologize for it with a ring, whether it be with a diamond or a rainbow.

Punk band to rock Ryle

story by I Morgan Peckosh

This Sunday, at 7:30 p.m., a very interesting group of bands will play in the Ryle Main Lounge. Citizen Fish, the U.K. punk/ska band that are also members of the Subhumans will headline a show sponsored by Campus Music Collective and paid for by the Funds Allotment Council.

Citizen Fish has been around for over 10 years and are probably a pretty major influence on any punk rock you may listen to. People who like less Than Jake will definitely like the music of Citizen Fish, as they are a big influence on such bands as LTJ that blend punk and ska.

Citizen Fish will be headlining and American Steel from San Francisco will be opening, along with local Thomas Knowlton.

People might be excited to know that American Steel comes from the same scene as such bands as Rancid, Operation Ivy, Green Day and Newbreaker. There is certainly a distinct sound that comes out of the bay punk scene and American Steel do not stray from it. They (along with Citizen Fish) even have the stamp of approval of the infamous Lookout! Records label, the label that nurtured the bay scene by putting out records by such pioneers as Avail, Green Day, The Donnas and The Mr. T Experience.

To make this show even more appealing it is completely free thanks to the Funds Allotment Council. Also accompanying Citizen Fish will be an AK Press (the anarchist book collective that puts out such political works like Noam Chomsky and others) distributor with lots of interesting literature.

Check it out. We in the Campus Music Collective are always eager for new people to come to our shows and this free show would be a perfect place to understand what we are all about.

University's plastic, glass go to dump

story by I W. Aaron Wilson

Recycling, once a foreign concept to many people, has now gotten to the point where it is taken for granted by many. Few people pause to think about tossing their empty pop can into one of the specially marked cans rather than the wastebasket.

However, the University has recently lost its ability to recycle plastic and glass, two extensively used and readily recyclable products. Truman's glass has been going to the landfill since the beginning of the year, but plastic recycling was only recently cut in early October.

Richard Barnes, head of Recycling and Surplus for Truman, said the decision came not from within the University, but from the company who takes the recyclables from Truman. He cited market pressures as the main cause behind the decision.

"The market has completely faded away at this point," Barnes said.

Robert Fletcher, head of Heartland Recycling, the local company that handles Truman's recycling, agreed, although he pointed out that his current contract does not involve either glass or plastic.

"Right now it costs more to recycle glass than

I can get out of it," he said. "People think that recycling always makes money. If it's done right, it costs money, based on present market conditions."

The market value is not the main cause behind the decision to stop recycling plastic, however.

"The main problem we are seeing on the Truman State campus, is students were putting in food containers with recyclable plastics," Fletcher said. "If food products go through the recycling process, they can clog machinery and result in a four thousand dollar fine. This can quickly make collecting plastic products from Truman economically unfeasible."

Fletcher also said there is a lack of government funding for recycling programs. While fledgling programs can receive funds for purchasing equipment, existing programs are not subsidized at all.

"All of our product we have to sell based off of market conditions, same as a farmer," Fletcher said. "But farmers get subsidized for droughts, crop shortages, overseas competition, and we don't."

Student environmental groups on campus are

not surprised by the change in the recycling policy.

People don't realize that one's duty isn't done by recycling cans and glass; we must also purchase recycled products in order for recycling products to work," Theresa Conley, president of the Environmental Community Organization (E.C.O.) said. "One of the reasons Kirksville's recycling program is failing is because the market is flooded with recyclables, but no one is willing to buy recycled products."

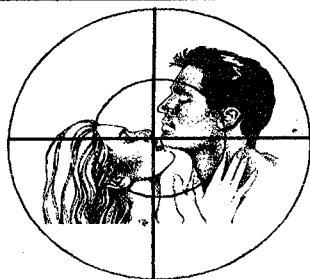
"E.C.O. plans to talk with administration about alternative recycling programs and the necessity of one on campus, as well as about practical ways to increase the use of already recycled paper and other products on campus," she said.

Richard Barnes and the University are also looking to other ways to provide plastic and glass recycling in the future.

"This is our last year on this contract," Barnes said. "We are going to look into the recycling plant in Milan and the new one that's supposed to be opening in Moberly."

Until then, the thousands of plastic and glass bottles used by Truman students are going to local landfills, turning their respective recycling bins into so many specially marked wastebaskets.





Chutes and Ladders

An on-going look at Truman State relationships

Part 4: The Race Factor

feature by Lisa Magierowski

African-American, Japanese, Hispanic. Race is a funny thing in our little bubble that is the Truman campus. Lately, I've been thinking (maybe obsessing is a better word) about how race affects my life. Wanna know what I realized? Too bad, here it is: I don't know jack about what it's like to be even mildly affected by my race.

I'm a white female in mainstream America. While I worry about how that mechanic on Baltimore might screw a little college girl over when I need a repair, I really don't have much else to complain about. Needless to say, I had to do a little more research for this article than for those I have written thus far.

I can already hear you asking, "If she hasn't been confronted by race issues, why is she writing this article?" It's called theater arts, baby. Let me explain. I'm a theater person, no ifs, ands or buts about it. So, when I found out the next audition this year is for a musical I've never heard of before called *Once on This Island*, I was intrigued. To satisfy my curiosity, I listened to

the soundtrack. Basically, the plot goes like this: Man and Woman meet. Man is from a light-skinned class of nobility; Woman is from a dark-skinned class of peasants. Man and Woman fall in love. Society is not okay with this.

After listening to the story, I began to wonder if, in today's world, societal stereotypes were still an issue in interracial relationships. It took me awhile to realize I had been involved in one last year with someone of Japanese ethnicity. This hit me really hard because I realized I associated "interracial" with only two terms, black and white.

In so doing, I was experiencing prejudices I didn't even know I had. And that scared me, because I realized I'm racist. I don't dress up in a white sheet for late-night cross burning sessions, and I don't use ethnic slurs when I refer to people of different ethnicities than my own -- in fact, I'm disgusted with people who do -- but I do have these little unconscious stereotypes puttering around in the back of my head. And that pisses me off. It also worries me because I feel like the world isn't changing, and I'm not helping.

So I decided to ask some questions and find out what's really going on here. I wanted to know if race issues make a relationship harder. So I interviewed an interracial couple, a Caucasian male and an African-American female, who've been together for about 25 years. I want to keep them anonymous because I want the focus of this article to lie on the issue and not a particular couple.

The husband told me he wasn't conscious of people treating his wife and him any differently than other couples. Initially, his family was worried about the race factor, but eventually, they got over it.

What was interesting about this interview was not what he said, but what he didn't say. He didn't notice the quiet that fell over a room when they walked in as a couple, but his wife did. And although they haven't been victims of any hate crimes in their time together, the wife told me that it's the "small annoyances... the initial surprise [when they enter a room] that is disconcerting." But she also told me that after 25 years, she's less aware of society's reactions to her husband and her, and the opinions of others are not really a personal issue anymore.

I wish everyone who reads this article could talk to the couple I interviewed, because you can tell they really love each other, and it's beautiful. And in the end, I'm extremely ashamed that I can't say, for sure, if someone pointed them out to me and mentioned that they were married, I wouldn't take a second look. And that scares me. And it leaves me with one question: How can I change it?

SIDENOTE: Auditions for *Once on this Island* are Nov. 11, at 2 p.m. and callbacks are the 12 at 6 p.m. Drop by the theater office by the Little Theater in Baldwin Hall if you are interested and have any questions. Newcomers are welcome.

LETTERS, from page 3

licking our plates of food clean or getting furniture out of the dumpster is considered weird. Instead, it is reducing the overconsumption and materialism that characterizes the United States today. I would challenge everyone to consider why anyone who lives with less is so much different than those who live with the "normal" American standard.

Amanda Bunyard

Professor dispels LSP, JINS, SWE rumors

Much has been said on this campus regarding the availability of courses in the Liberal Studies Program; some of the dialogue I have heard contains elements of truth, but many rumors are being spread as well. Today I would like to share a few facts with the students, faculty and staff readers of this newspaper.

One of the greatest areas of concern has been the LSP requirement that students must take two "writing-enhanced" courses in addition to their writing-enhanced Junior Interdisciplinary Seminar. To meet this requirement very many disciplines have identified one or more of their major courses as meeting this requirement, and many disciplines are also designating courses in the LSP itself as writing-enhanced. However, I do realize that some students continue to have difficulties meeting this

requirement because (1) their major program does not offer any writing-enhanced courses and (2) not enough LSP courses are currently designated as writing-enhanced.

Fortunately this situation has been improving lately, and starting with this semester the University began providing a surplus of seats in writing-enhanced courses. The University is also in the process of awarding retroactive credit for writing-enhanced courses: when faculty members identify a course they teach as meeting this requirement, they also let my office know when they had previously taught this course in the same manner. Soon students and advisors will be able to go to a Web site that identifies all courses that carry retroactive credit. Advisors will be supplied with this information as well. You will hear more about this project later this semester. As a result of these efforts, by the time the first class of students under the LSP reaches their graduation date in May, 2002, they will have had sufficient opportunities to fulfill the writing-enhanced requirement.

I have also heard students and faculty circulating rumors that the University will drop the JINS requirement because it is not able to provide enough seats. I wish to set the record straight in the public forum: the University will not waive the JINS requirement; every student using the 1998-99 university catalog (or a later year) is required to complete a JINS course in order to graduate. Students who choose to ignore this requirement

are endangering their progress toward graduation. Every semester the University has seen many seats in JINS courses go unfilled, and so course availability is not an issue. In the spring semester of 2001, the University will offer 30 sections of JINS classes; 29 faculty members from almost every division on campus are participating in the program.

In my capacity as Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, I meet on a regular basis with the Vice President for Academic Affairs; I meet occasionally with the division heads; I have spoken to most of the faculty members on campus: on not a single occasion have I heard anyone express a lack of support for the JINS element of the LSP. On the contrary, I have found the vast majority of faculty to be enthusiastic about this requirement, and most of the students who have taken a JINS course that I have talked with have also spoken highly of their experience.

As a final topic I wish to address stories surrounding the Sophomore Writing Experience (SWE). I am aware that students are having difficulties in completing the SWE because the University has not been providing enough faculty-student conferences. The Director of Writing Assessment, Sarah Mohler, has been working on this issue. Through her efforts and through the support offered by VPAA Gordon, the number of conferences offered for the SWE will soon increase dramatically and will take care of all student needs.

I appreciate this opportunity to talk with you.

If you have any questions you may contact me at dchristi@truman.edu.

David Christiansen,
Director of Interdisciplinary Studies

Professor questions Truman's United Way campaign

I am interested in how we might challenge outmoded institutional practices in order to bring about salutary change. A case in point: the United Way campaign now ongoing at Truman. The United Way supports the Boy Scouts of America, an organization now on record as openly anti-gay.

Should the Truman community continue to expend institutional resources in the service of the United Way? Or should we expect that all United Way agencies share our belief in tolerance and the acceptance of diversity, before we (in the words of Jack Magruder) "renew our commitment"?

You might think the local Boy Scouts should not be punished for the sins of the national organization -- and if the local troops are willing to disavow the anti-gay stance of the national group, we should support them in doing so.

Or you might say other United Way agencies should not be penalized for the misdeeds of only one of their members. I would agree, and it is a simple matter to write a check to the agency of your choice rather than to United Way.

Institutions like Truman keep other institutions like the Boy Scouts alive -- even in the absence of needed reforms -- by not expressing dissent, by recruiting faculty and staff to raise funds on their behalf and by pressuring all members of the community to contribute to a "good cause." Nonetheless, as individuals, we can express our dissent by withholding our time and our money from organizations that do not share our values -- values our own institution claims to endorse.

Linda Seidel, Ph.D.
Professor of English

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The Monitor

ECO Tip

Complete the cycle -- don't just recycle but buy recycled and natural products. Doing so will create a market for recycled goods and KEEP businesses like Heartland Recycling open for business. Compare labels to find the ones with the MOST post-consumer recycled content.

E.C.O. meets Monday nights, 8 p.m. in VH 1140

Sit in this chair and die!

feature by | Amanda Romine

At the end of Normal Street, a few miles east of campus, is one of Kirksville's oldest cemeteries, Highland Park Cemetery. This graveyard includes a wide variety of new and old, as well as our town's most famous gravestones, that of a man named John C. Baird. His gravestone is far from average, for it is an ornately carved chair.

The chair resembles a tree trunk at the base, but also has the shape of a cushion. The back of the chair is decorated with draping cloths and the bottom with ferns and flowers, but the entire chair is made of cement. The top of the back reads "BAIRD" but that is all.

Four main stories seem to be circulating around the Kirksville schools about the famous and mysterious chair and the person for whom it stands.

The first is that anyone who sits in the chair will die within seven years.

The second story builds on the first, in that in order to reverse the seven-year curse, it is necessary to sit on the chair at midnight on Halloween.

The third story is that anyone who sits in the chair at midnight will have good luck forever, but that anyone who does so at any other time will have bad luck.

In addition to these stories, there is a more realistic story. It is that an old lady's husband died and she wanted to continue spending time with him, but was unable to stand comfortably or sit on the ground. Hence, she had his grave marked with a chair so she could sit with him.

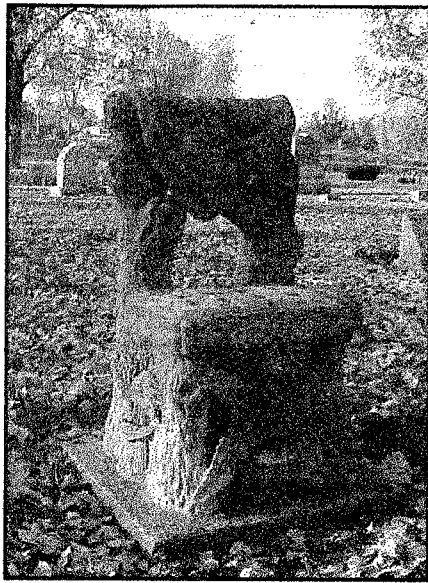


photo by | Amanda Romine

Baird chair in Highland Park Cemetery

In 1895 the Highland Park Cemetery Association was incorporated. John C Baird and three other people purchased 40 acres of land at the end of Normal Avenue and opened it for burial purposes. Baird became the cemetery superintendent.

The Baird name had rather recently become established in Kirksville when in 1882 William T. Baird opened the First National Bank in Kirksville, which is now Bank Midwest. The bank's name changed several times during the next few years, including two months in 1906 when it was Baird National Bank after William T. or David Baird, both of whom worked closely with the bank.

William H. Baird, who was seven years older than both William T. and David, had a son John in 1856 who would then grow up to be the man behind the famous chair, or rather, the man beneath the chair.

Ghost haunts ancient barn

feature by | Matthew Webber

If Kirksville, Mo. is the middle of nowhere, then the old barns to the east of town are the middle of this middle. Several miles east of the University, past Baltimore, past the high school, near the Adair County Health Department, Patterson Street turns to gravel and leads you deep into nothing.

The nowhere lacks noise, lights and other people. It's an ideal place to hide from the law, bury a murdered body or encounter an alien or a ghost. Although it's not as creepy as the shoe factory at night, it's just as dark, foreboding and full of the potential for danger.

At night, the old Imbler barn, a mile or two down this road less traveled, surely ranks in Kirksville's top ten creepy places. Its shape isn't scary, or its color, or its anything. It's scary because it seems to jump at your car. It's scary because it must be as ancient as it looks.

It's scary because it might house a ghost. Just ask President Magruder and Board of Governors President Maria Evans.

In the late 1970s, both saw a "whiteness" near this barn wearing some kind of dark blue uniform, perhaps from the Civil War. They both recognized that the ghost was a male and that it didn't seem to care about them.

Evans saw the ghost first. She was driving to the Magruder farm on Patterson when she saw "a human figure... walking around by the [Imbler] barn and the sheds like someone does when they are doing chores."

She saw that the figure was "a man, kind of glowing, outlined in white, with a kind of greenish cast to his face and hands."

Evans said she was "unafraid, more fascinated" as she watched the ghost. She was so unafraid she got out of her truck and watched him.

He wasn't trying to be "particularly scary or anything," she said. "He looked at me but it wasn't like he was looking at me. More like he was looking through me."

She wasn't scared until she returned to her car to go to the Magruder farm.

"That's when my heart started pounding," she said. "I kept thinking of every possible reason why I didn't, couldn't have seen him. [The ghost] made me shiver all the way to the Magruder farm."

She said she thought "if I told most folks about this, they'd

think I was drinking or doing drugs."

Magruder didn't think Evans was drinking or doing drugs, but he didn't believe she (or his daughter, Julie, who also had said she had seen the ghost) had actually seen anything. In fact, he "scoffed" at Evans... until he himself saw the ghost.

Magruder was driving past the Imbler barn way after dark when he "saw a glimpse of something" approximately eight feet off the north side of the road, beyond the ditch and near the barn.

The something's head and face were white and he wore "maybe a uniform that was navy blue... maybe either a Confederate or Union soldier uniform... but really hazy." Magruder also saw "a long, gray beard."

"I just about turned white," Magruder said. "When I got to the house, I was really shaken up because I thought I had really seen something. [My family] just laughed at me because they had seen it and I had not believed what they said. That was several years ago, and when I pass that spot, I remember it every single time."

Neither Evans nor Magruder knew the history of the house, its inhabitants or any Civil War soldiers from

the area. Neither knew who the ghost was or why he was there.

Magruder couldn't explain the whiteness he saw by the Imbler barn. He said he doesn't believe he really saw anything and that he doesn't believe in ghosts.

Evans, a "skeptical by nature," was more willing to believe. Although she admitted the ghost might have been a trick of the

moonlight, a piezoelectric current or a hallucination, she still believes she saw a ghost.

"I think anytime we see something we can't explain, we choose to either explain it away or accept it as something we don't understand but is very real," she said. "Whatever 'ghosts' are, I've chosen to accept that he could be one."

For last year's stories on the ghosts of Centennial, Baldwin, Grim and Ryle Halls, visit <http://www.trumanmonitor.org>.

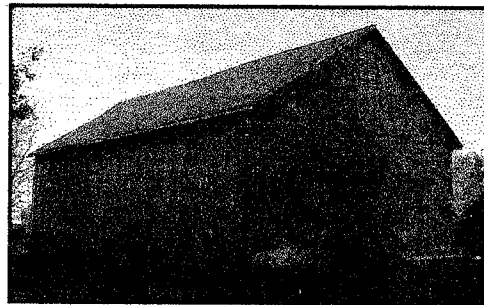


photo by | Amanda Romine

The old Imbler Barn on Patterson

The halls are alive with the pound of music

The Truman Epidemics
Episode 1

opinion by | Jon Sanders

Colleges, in general, are widely known in the Viral Community as bustling cultural centers, especially in Texas, where certain industrial strength viruses can grow to the size of small foreign cars, or sometimes even Rush Limbaugh. If unabated, these economy-size viruses could wipe out the entire nation of Canada, or, if we're lucky, the Dallas Cowboys, who through years of needle sharing, are immune to most Earth viruses and all federal crimes.

But that's not what today's commentary is about. A much more pressing issue has been brought to my attention: Truman State is spawning its own viral collections! That's right! Here in sanitized Missouri, in glamorous Kirksville, the Armpit of America, new diseases are attacking the unwary students of Truman State University!

Now before you resort to the traditional college way of handling adversity (frantically drinking carbonated malt beverages and having sex with something), let's try and deal with this like the rational, sensible adults that our poor misguided parents and teachers insist we can be.

There are two main offenders in the viruses' arsenal. (Author's note: From now on, the plural of "virus" shall be "viri," because I think the word "viruses" sounds stupid. This is a Liberal Arts school. I can do that.) So, there are two main offenders in the viri's arsenal, but because I am lazy, today's column will focus only on the first. The second virus will be discussed in a later column.

The first virus is known in prestigious medical circles (by this I mean my roommate and I) as "Streisanditis." This horrendous disease attacks the eardrums and spreads to the creative side of the brain, or the "starboard lobe." Symptoms of Streisanditis include irrational behavior (such as playing children's nursery rhymes on a guitar), loss of friends, the illusion that punk groups (Green Day, Blink 182, Lit) can actually sing and occasionally instantaneous death due to brain hemorrhaging, usually caused by the cramming of the instrument that the victim was playing at the time into some bodily cavity. This last symptom would be much more common except that it is now classified as "aggravated sexual misconduct" at TSU.

The tragic result of this degenerative disease is the victim's loss of musical tastes and/or skills. For example, I was procrastinating diligently on a speech in my dorm when I heard the strains of the timeless classic "Mary Had a Little Lamb" wait-

ing into my open room. Crazed, the strains slammed the door and wafted in a frightened frenzy to the corner and curled up in a musical fetal position (I think it was *F major*) on top of the Ramen Noodle collection, whimpering in pain.

I poked my head out the door to see where the terrified strains originated. There, sitting in the hall, was a college boy strumming an acoustic guitar, playing "Mary Had a Little Lamb" in the key of C, and singing, with great fervor, in A minor. The result was one of those morbid atrocities, like a head-on collision, where you want to turn away, but can't drag yourself to do it. This particular monstrosity ranked somewhere just above the Hindenburg explosion. Our conversation went something like this:

GUY: (noticing my prolonged stare) Well, what did you think?

ME: (passing out from hysterical laughter)

He wasn't much of a conversationalist. However, this illustrates the brutal nature of "Streisanditis," and how it can affect even the most unsuspecting student. My advice? If you see anyone with a "boy band" CD, or you hear someone say "Barbara Streisand" and not mean it as an expletive, avoid them at the cost of your good taste.

If you yourself are exhibiting some of the symptoms mentioned in this essay, don't give up

hope! There is something you can do: Call the Truman Medical Center and ask for Marian. When she answers the phone, yell, "Jon still hates you, you cheating skank!" and slam the phone down hard enough to make her ear bleed. Then throw yourself out of the highest window in your hall. Or at least move to Texas.

[Author's Note II: The Disclaimer: This is an opinion and a work of satire. It in no way expresses the feelings of *The Monitor* or Truman State University. The author uses creative license and literary devices (by which I mean "lies") to make a point.... well, at least to inform.... OK, to create a humor column... all right, to entertain himself. It can be hard to distinguish between sarcasm and straightforwardness, so follow this rule: if what I say makes you hate me, I was just kidding. Hahaha!]

What would a *Monitor* double live album be without the special concert verse of Special White Space?

monitor reviews

Radiohead reinvents with *Kid A*

Radiohead
Kid A
Capitol



review by I Erin Huckle

Imagine you're Radiohead. You had two solid albums, *Pablo Honey* and *The Bends*, under your belt. You goofed and made a third album, *OK Computer*, that was not only wildly popular, but also received a bevy of praise from the fickle music press and won a GRAMMY® for Best Alternative Music Performance.

Suddenly, the world's eyes were keenly focused on your every move. It has come time for you to record the follow up to your unintentional opus, *OK Computer*.

You are up against a wall. You don't want to fall into an artistic rut of repetition. Alternatively, you don't want to lose your fans by creating a new sound that might be too weird. You've worked hard to make it this far.

The people are waiting. They want your album. What do you do?

a) Make a new album that sounds relatively identical to the last one, as not to alienate fans and to allow you to pull in a vast amount of money.

b) Create an album you as a band can artistically be proud of, regardless if it has the appeal to fit into the standard format of today's music.

c) Close shop, hide under your bed and cry. After 30 seconds of *Kid A*, there is no mistaking that Radiohead chose answer b.

No one could really have predicted the direction Radiohead were heading, or how well they would be able to pull it off. No one suspected such a radical change, yet given that they are progressive folks, no one should have expected anything but a drastic turn.

On *Kid A*, the band creates synthetic, jagged, polar landscapes (akin to those in the CD

artwork) replacing those stripped from the environment. *Kid A* is more in line with the work of ambient artists like Aphex Twin and Boards of Canada than with any other Radiohead album. As has become almost signature with the band's music, there is an underlying paranoia, a perpetual uneasiness.

There is a noticeable lack of traditional rock instruments (drums, bass, guitar) on *Kid A*, instead the band leans toward distorted voice loops and disfigured organs. Radiohead utilizes more ambient and electronic elements, perverted, distorted and chopped into a mixture far less definable even than the sounds found on *OK Computer*.

The fear of a technological, modern life that was so prevalent on *OK Computer* has developed into an exposé on technology's failed attempt to gel with our natural world.

Kid A focuses on the scientific mishaps. It chronicles the instances where scientists failed to see the effects of their actions beyond the current moment. The technological screw ups: the disintegrating ozone layer, the melted icecaps, the first human clone aptly dubbed Kid A.

In "Idioteque," Radiohead repeatedly warn of an "ice age coming" and assure us that they're "not scaremongering/this is really happening."

But *Kid A* also takes a stab at the fat cats of the world, the wealthy elite who cannot see beyond their greed, preferring money and assets to mountains and trees. It tells how big business keeps the middle class appeased with cell phones, computers and a bull market, how most people would prefer to ignore the problems of the world and just "take the money and run." The band even goes so far as to reference the pigs that exploited their power in George Orwell's *Animal Farm* in "Optimistic."

Even though the sound of *Kid A* is quite a change, it's handled tactfully. The new sound might alienate some of the bandwagon fans of '97, but the band members truly are following their artistic path. Radiohead might have a tough time getting out of the spotlight with this one.

Björk glows in *Dark*

Dancer in the Dark

written and directed by Lars von Trier

starring Björk

review by I Ed Jenkins

"You don't need eyes to see," according to the tagline of the film *Dancer in the Dark*, which becomes evident through the transcendental means of Icelandic pop singer Björk (rhymes with lurk, not fork) and the writing of Lars von Trier.

In *Dancer in the Dark*, Selma (Björk) is a 1960s factory worker from Czechoslovakia working to support herself and her 12-year-old son. Though she is going blind, Selma continues her mundane job with only thoughts of her son and the escapism of American musicals to keep her working. She also finds comfort with an immigrant coworker (Catherine Deneuve), a gentleman caller (Peter Stormare) and her landlord Bill (David Morse). Conflict occurs when one of her friends takes advantage of her trust and places her in a position of devastation so severe it can only be alleviated by bursting into a lovely show tune.

And so they break out into song, Björk style. First the sounds of the factory morph into an enchanting rhythm, then the horns and strings kick in and finally Björk layers her distinct style of drawn-out syllables and pitch bends over the

music. She serves the film and makes vision seem obsolete with her angelic screams at half of the tempo of the danceable music.

But at the same time Björk does not neglect our eyes. It is difficult to say that Björk's acting was good because it did not seem as though she was acting. She became Selma to an extent that viewers who are not Björk experts will forever associate the name Björk with a blind, naïve Czechoslovakian factory worker.

Of course Björk's performance is only the beginning. The film works because of von Trier's script which takes a unique perspective at the concept of musicals. We all know theater majors who are in love with Broadway and dull housewives who have seen *Sound of Music* 34 times, but we film critics and intellectuals typically respond that those are bastardizations of cinema. *Dancer in the Dark* not only nullifies those arguments, but it actually forces us to appreciate the fun and spontaneity of those 1930s Hollywood classics. The plot goes farther and applies the new musical philosophy to very serious social oppression and brilliant scenes I cannot reveal.

Von Trier also directs with an interestingly choppy technique that serves the film well, but gets a little too choppy at points. Basically this film has all the elements to make it good: creative writing and directing, an eccentrically amazing lead and a more than solid supporting cast. This is a musical that will make you cry.

Guru hits your soul

Guru
Jazzmatazz: Streetsoul
EMD/Virgin Records

review by I Jonathan Cannon

Any true hip-hop fan can tell you about Gang Star. The duo, made up of now-legendary producer DJ Premier and rapper Guru (Gifted Unlimited Rhymes Universal), hit the rap scene hard in '91 with their debut, *Step into the Arena*. They were everything a b-boy could want: fresh new beats, flowing lyrics, top notch cuts and scratches. Like some of their peers of the time -- De La-Soul and A Tribe Called Quest -- the sound of Gang Star blended jazz samples with hard beats instead of overused James Brown samples.

In 1993, while Premier focused on countless side projects, Guru took the next step. In his groundbreaking *Jazzmatazz* album, he didn't simply sample jazz artists -- he worked with them. Enlisting artists such as Ronny Jordan, Roy Ayers and N'Dea Davenport, Guru's *Jazzmatazz* was one of the catalyst albums to really set in motion the fusion of live jazz, R & B and hip-hop.

He pushed the envelope further two years later with a second volume of *Jazzmatazz*, this time featuring an even wider range of artists: Brandford Marsalis, Ramsey Lewis, Michelle N'deogecello, Jamiroquai and several more.

However, with the third and newest volume of *Jazzmatazz*, Guru changes the game entirely. Featuring mostly R & B artists, the rightly named *Streetsoul* is much more timely than the other albums. Whereas the first two volumes of *Jazzmatazz* pay large tribute to the past, *Streetsoul* is about the present flavor of hip-hop and R & B.

Consequently, then, many fans of the *Jazzmatazz* series will be turned off by this new volume. He trades in the saxophones and trumpets for programmed drums and a larger use of samples. In fact, the only tried-and-true jazz art-

ists show on the album are Herbie Hancock (on the album's final track, "Timeless") and Najee, who plays flute on a track.

But for lovers of R & B-flavored hip-hop, it's another story. The album scores on nearly every track, blessed with strong vocals by Angie Stone, Kelis and Amel Larrieux. The tone shifts smoothly from down-to-earth ("Keep Your Worries" with Angie Stone) to thugged-out (on the Premier-produced, Donnel Jones track, "Hustlin' Daze). In each, Guru's laidback rap is pretty on the mark, fitting the easy tempo in most of the songs.

While some of the tracks flounder (as with the helplessly dated Isaac Hayes collab, "Night Vision") and others just don't work (the heavy beat on "All I Said" poorly matched with Macy Gray's light, raspy voice), when the album hits, it hits hard. The stunning Erykah Badu collab on

"Plenty" helps revive some of the flavor of the first two *Jazzmatazz* efforts, as Badu brings Billie Holliday-esque playfulness into her vocals to make a jazzy and absolutely delicious track. Guru also wins with the Roots collab "Lift Yo Fist," a militant, Rhodes driven anthem that puts a much-needed energetic hip-hop emphasis into an otherwise R & B dominated album.

But none of these elements top "Certified," head-and-shoulders the best cut on the album. Featuring up-and-coming crooner Bilal, the track is simply incredible. The bass line thumps, the multilayered vocals swing -- by itself alone worth the album price.

Fans of straight hip-hop while probably be bored with *Jazzmatazz: Streetsoul*. It doesn't smack you in the face like a Gang Star album. On the other hand, it's not set to get you jiggy like Sisqo or Jagged Edge. It's more the middle ground of R & B and hip-hop, leaning more towards straight groove.

Some of the songs will make you tap your foot, others you won't feel at all, but some songs will hit you right in your soul. And that's the whole point.



Fall in love with The Corrs

The Corrs
In Blue
WEA/

Atlantic/Lava



review by I Rachel Beckett

While studying abroad in the beautiful country of France last semester, I fell in love. With a band, that is. Dubious romances aside, I'd call the trip a success. The band was the Celtic-pop-folk quartet known as The Corrs. A family of three beautiful sisters and a cutie-patootie brother who play a whole range of instruments and who possess exceptional voices, this group instantly grew on me.

Their latest album, *In Blue*, released stateside Sept. 12, boasts soothing melodies that flow over you (think Sarah McLachlan) and catchy, poppy beats that make you want to take a long, sunshiny drive in a convertible.

However, if you've been a Corrs fan in the past, don't expect any of the same stuff, because these guys have a brand new image. Even a quick glance at the album cover, which features the band's normally smiling faces clouded with cooler-than-thou attitude, makes you wonder what the heck hap-

pened to those sweet Dublin lasses.

But the music captures you from track one. From the irresistible first single off the album, "Breathless," a lighthearted yet mature pop tune that somehow perfectly captures that feeling of falling in love (minus all the gushy stuff) to the powerful and moving "No More Cry," written for the band's father after the death of their mother,

In Blue is full of great cuts, smooth beats and incredible vocals. They play around a bit with new sounds on songs like "Give Me A Reason," which features a decidedly techno beat underneath their signature Celtic strings, and offer up a different, harder rock on songs like "Radio" and "Say."

The beautifully wistful "All The Love In The World" is reminiscent of their past hit "Runaway," and the bright "Irresistible" is, well, yeah, just that.

I generally consider an album good only if I can stick it in the CD player knowing that I won't want to skip over any of the songs, and *In Blue* definitely meets my criteria. Unquestionably worth your time, this is the best stuff they've produced in years, and certainly my new favorite Corrs album.

For more info on The Corrs, check out the Atlantic Records Web site at: http://www.atlantic-records.com/frames/Artists_Music/index.html?artistID=62

Step into Okayplayer's realm

feature by I Jonathan Cannon

It just might be the next movement in music.

If you've ever gone to a Roots concert, or purchased one of their CDs, you may have noticed something. An ambiguous little sign tagged on the back case of albums and the shirts of enthusiastic fans. The sign reads something like this:

**OKAY PLAYER
GIVING YOU TRUE NOTES SINCE
1987**

What does this mean? Who or what is an okayplayer? These questions and the plague of idle time sent me to the Internet, that vortex of information, chat rooms and credit card expenses. A bit of hunting and a short time later (a short time = twenty minutes to three hours), I found what I was looking for.

[Http://www.okayplayer.com](http://www.okayplayer.com), Web site for not only the Roots but D'angelo, Common, The Jazzyfatnastees, The Dilated People, Talib Kweli and Hitek. Only this wasn't your average Web site. Sure, the guest books were often filled with stalker-esque "D'angelo I luv U so much I want to have yo Baby!" material, but there was something more. The more I explored Okayplayer, the more I caught from it a sense of community -- among fans and artists.

For example, a visit to the posting boards might reveal an ongoing battle between fans and Roots drummer and Okayplayer co-founder Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson. The battle? Seven Degrees of Separation -- in music (you've heard of the Kevin Bacon game, now try connecting Dizzy Gillespie to Metallica). Or check Common's site and download in Real Audio his three-minute freestyle about the site. Meanwhile, on the Jazzyfatnastees page, singers Tracey and Mercedes record in journals the progress in their careers, upcoming events and... their beliefs on love and sex? It's all there.

As an introductory page explains, "Okayplayer.com is you, the Okayplayers (if you're reading this, you are an Okayplayer) who make this place so damn vibrant. It is only your continuing support, love and care for the open areas of this site (guestbook, chat, message board) that keep this place going... This is all for you."

While Okayplayer formed in Questlove's mind in 1987, it didn't begin to take shape until shortly after the release of the Roots' 1998 album, *Things Fall Apart*. According to Angela Nissel, co-founder of Okayplayer.com, "He [Questlove] was actually in Europe on tour, and we used to talk on the phone every night about what should go on the site. We're still paying those bills. We wanted the site to be different, so we put our heads together and came up with a bunch of things, like Stalker of the Month [featuring descriptions and taped 'gotcha' conversations between Questlove and an actual Roots stalker], his review section, etc."

The site opened up in 1999, starting as the Roots web site but soon attracting like-minded artists the Jazzyfatnastees, D'angelo, Common and several others. In fact, non-musicians became involved too; Aaron McGruder, illustrator of the critically-acclaimed comic strip *The Boondocks*, joined the throng, even supplying installments of his comic for daily posting.

By fall of 2000, Okayplayer had expanded to include six different Okayartists groups and

an assortment of featured artists including soul singers Jill Scott, Michelle N' degeocello, Toshi Kubota and Avant. Not to mention a sizeable extended family (up-and-coming artists Dice Raw, Jaguar and Flo Brown to name a few).

To add, the site is responsible for the upcoming Okayplayer Tour, featuring many of the Okayartists and such guests as Slum Village, Rah Digga, Bahamadia and Dead Prez.

In fact, it was via Okayplayer.com that I was able to reach Mercedes Martinez, one half of soul divas The Jazzyfatnastees, for an interview.

MONITOR: Getting right into it: So you guys have done work with a pretty long list of artists -- Stevie Wonder, De La Soul and Outkast to name a few. What brought you to Okayplayer?

MERCEDES: Well we met The Roots in LA in 1995. They asked us to do some stuff on [*Illadelph Halflife*, the Roots' third album] so we came to Philadelphia. Their manager became our manager and we became part of The Roots family. When they started their label Mottive Records we were the first act to sign. Of course when they created Okayplayer, it was only natural that we keep it in the family.

MONITOR: I've read Questlove (very much tongue-in-cheek) refer to Okayplayer the "first cult of hip hop"? What sort of image do you have of Okayplayer as a site and/or fan base?

MERCEDES: It's definitely a community. You get much more of a feeling of connection than you do with many other music sites. Many of the Okayplayers become actual friends that you meet and talk to on a daily basis. You bond through the love of music in general, hip-hop in specific, and live music in particular.

MONITOR: What's the overall feeling among Okayartists? That is to say, is there ever a sense of competition, the need to top each other's albums?

MERCEDES: I'd be lying if I said there wasn't a natural inclination towards competition. We're talking about artists in the music industry. However, because we consider ourselves part of an extended Okayplayer family, if one act wins everyone wins. It only furthers the cause. If anything you listen to each other and think, "Hmmm, they're rockin' it! What's our thing going to be?" It's challenging, inspirational and motivational.

MONITOR: So what kind of upcoming projects can fans expect from Okayartists, in particular The Jazzyfatnastees?

MERCEDES: We're working on our follow up album to *The Once and Future*. The new album is called *The Tortoise and the Hare*. It won't be out until next June but so far people are feeling the vibe. We're also supposed to have a song on the soundtrack for the upcoming Wesley Snipes movie, *Disappearing Acts*. Look out for Black Thought's *Masterpiece Theater* and Jaguar's *Denials, Decisions, and Delusions*.

What I found in Okayplayer.com was more than just another anonymous fan Web site. It was an entire community of music lovers. A community that combats the celebrity deification so recurring on Internet sites. Mostly, just a community of people, artists and fans, who share two things in common: the music and idle time.

It just might be the next movement in music.



Fall Spiritual Growth Meetings

Hosted by the Church of Christ
1302 E. Filmore, Kirksville Mo.
660-627-4003 www.veren.com/kirksville

Friday, October 27

11:30 a.m. Session, Truman Campus

Ekklesia TGIF Devotional Luncheon
Spanish Room, Student Union Building
Doug Twaddell "Nonverbal Communcation & Christians"

7:00 p.m. Session, Truman Campus

Ekklesia Devotional & Learning New Songs
Down Under Room, Student Union Building
John Morris "Repentance"

8:00 p.m. Fun at the Truman Student Recreation Center



Doug Twaddell

Saturday, October 28

5:00 p.m. Fun at the Truman Student Recreation Center

7:00 p.m. Session, Church Building

Scott Shappard Songleader
John Morris "Significance of the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ"



Scott Shappard

Sunday, October 29

10:00 a.m. Session, Church Building

Doug Twaddell "God's Call"

11:00 a.m. Session, Church Building

John Morris "Demoniac of Gadara"

Noon Meal

2:00 p.m. Session, Church Building

Doug Twaddell "Commitment"



John Morris

I don't need surgery -- yet

opinion by I JJ Pionke

OK, so finally the day was coming to see the surgeon. I am laying kind of preoccupied in bed and I feel this painful spot on my breast. I have a lump. I have a brief panic attack asking my higher being "WHY?!" and then call the doctor. The next day I have go to the doctor at 10:30 a.m. and she tells me it is probably an infected cyst, she gives me some antibiotics and sends me on my way. I talk to my mom a bit and then go to my meeting with the surgeon at 1:30 p.m.

He was an asshole. I did not like him at all. If I do end up needing surgery, he is not going to be the one cutting into me. He basically told me that he didn't understand why I was there. My cyst was small compared to some of the ones he has removed; it would either dissolve or burst on its own. He recommended getting a second pelvic ultrasound in two months and sent me on my way. To say that his abrupt manner and dismissive attitude was a total turn off is an understatement. Needless to say I will be seeking a second opinion come November from a gynecologist at home in Chicago. So the status right now is that I don't need surgery, but that could change.

Perhaps one of the things I have thought about the most is not just that this is my health, or even that many women out there do not pay attention to their bodies or their health, but rather that I am in the precarious position of losing my insurance shortly. When I turn 23 in February, I will be off my parents insurance and the problems I have now will have to be covered by either my own acquired insurance or I will have to go without.

While I am happy that I am catching these medical problems now, I am upset that I may have to find some other way to get needed medications and exams. It is something I have never thought

about before. I don't think a lot of people do until something is wrong and you realize that your insurance doesn't cover it. While I am safe for the moment, I won't be much longer.

In the meantime, every day is a battle. Half the time I don't want to get out of bed. Keeping my chin up gets hard when you have papers due, you are behind on reading, you don't feel well and you are 400 miles from home. My friends and family have been supportive, but they can't make me stop feeling uterine cramping or pain in my breast.

In the end this is a fight I must fight alone. While they help, they don't know what's going on in my head. It doesn't help that some people simply don't have any sympathy. I can't help it if I have migraines that hurt so bad I just get up long enough for some Advil and then crawl back into bed, or that I have moments when I completely freak out and cry hysterically because this is happening. I wonder sometimes what these people would do if it were happening to them; if they didn't have many people to rely on for support.

I will say this. Every single one of my professors has been supportive, understanding, and caring about this whole situation. I hate missing class. They understand that if I am not there it is for a really good reason, not because I just don't feel like going to class. For that I am very grateful for their continuing support.

As I write this, the lump in my breast seems to be receding, yet it lingers and my uterine cramps vary from day to day. I talk to friends and family every day. I tell myself everyday it will be better soon. I must be patient and not worry as much as I have been. It happens to millions of women every day and I am not the only one. Some days are worse than others, but more than anything, I still have hope. My friends, family and teachers

Monitor Consumer Report

Blimpie sandwiches

feature by | Dean Yzon

Consumers have a right to know about the products they purchase. As a college-aged consumer, your money is important to you. It is imperative that it is not wasted on faulty products, because like most other college students, your financial resources are, to put it kindly, limited. It is my duty as an uncertified inspector of consumer products to make sure you get your money's worth.

In this week's consumer report, I investigated the Blimpie sandwiches from Main Street Market in the SUB. In an attempt to ascertain whether or not the Blimpie subs are worth your cash, I used my transfer specials to stock up on such delicacies as the Blimpie Best and the Veggie Max.

I resisted the urge to conduct a conventional taste test because it is, like I said, conventional. Instead I put the sandwiches through series of rigorous tests. Well, due to the abundance of homework issued out around here, I only had time for one test. With the help of some of *The Monitor* staff I was able to research how well the Blimpie sandwiches fared a five-story drop from the top floor of Missouri Hall. To determine whether or not the Blimpie sub sandwiches are quality foods, I examined the consistency and blast radius of the sandwiches upon impact with the sidewalk pave-

ment. Each sandwich yielded similar results.

The vegetable patty of the Veggie Max stayed intact through the fall, though the vegetable toppings did not hold strong. The ham and cheese sandwich splattered itself all over the pavement. Entrails of mustard and mayonnaise were clearly indicative that the ham and cheese is not a quality buy. The Veggie Max being tasted after impact however, was superb.

When the test was administered to the turkey and cheese sub I was amazed at the results. The cold slices of the dead turkey rained down from the sky with unexpected speed. Lettuce and onion circles hovered in the air like ashes after an explosion. The slabs of turkey and Swiss littered the ground. The turkey and Swiss passed.

Next up was the Blimpie Best. The Best with all the fixings left a little bit of lettuce shrapnel to hazard pedestrians walking to class. Although it held its innards together the bread and toppings managed to spread over the sidewalk. Which leads me to my conclusion, Blimpie has my stamp of approval, and overall the Blimpie Best was the best.

The blast radius



Dining With Sodexho

feature by | W. Aaron Wilson



On Wed., Oct. 11, I took a break from my normal eating routine in order to explore other dining alternatives in the area. That was how my companions and I found ourselves at Missouri Hall Cafeteria for my evening meal. We arrived early, as from past experience I knew how packed that establishment can get at time.

Unfortunately, I had picked a particularly bad day on which to visit that establishment. A water main had burst, depriving the eatery of running water for their dishwashers and beverage machines. Still, the staff seemed to make the best of it, cheerfully handing out paper plates and setting up temporary beverage dispensers.

I chose for my dinner the chicken fried steak, with applesauce and dinner rolls. The steak, an old standby, was served with white gravy and had just enough spice for a well-rounded flavor. While the batter proved to be a bit thick, this ensured that the meat was moist and tender.

My companions, Ray Shell and The Dave, both sampled the fish sandwiches. "This fish sandwich, which doesn't remind me of fish sticks, is really pretty good," Ray commented. "You better eat all that fish. Jesus made that fish patty for you. And do you know how many dolphins he had to kill to get it?" The Dave said.

Overall, dining at Missouri is a pleasant enough experience, provided that no water mains have burst and you arrive before the dinner crowd.

Protesters, tear gas fill St. Louis

feature by | Daniel Coate

Despite the lack of excitement in the last Presidential debate, if it can be called a debate, the streets of St. Louis were filled with energy that night as more than 400 activists gathered to protest the unfair treatment of third party candidates, the two-party system, capitalism and various other injustices in our country. I had the chance to participate in the protests and exercise my First Amendment rights on Oct. 17, a.k.a. O17.

We arrived in St. Louis just after 4 p.m. and made our way towards the sight of the Green Party rally (not an easy task, thanks to the police), where 600 other activists were also headed. As the Missouri Green Party candidate for governor spoke, people flowed into the park. By the time Ralph Nader took the podium, the crowd of 600 had swelled to 1,500.

Around 7:30 p.m., people started to gather at the intersection of Big Bend and Skinker, through which those attending the debates would pass. We didn't make it to the protest site until about 7:45 p.m. on account of my companions' need for food. The party didn't really get started until after we arrived (surprise, surprise), as the protest had started with speakers addressing the crowd of about 400 on issues such as the drug war, prisons, the United States' continuing war against Iraq and, of course, the injustice of the two-party system.

After the speakers had finished, we put gags in our mouths and turned our backs on the debate hall, raising the appropriate finger in the air. After being warned by peacekeepers that those who stay might be subject to police action, a portion of the protestors marched away from the intersection in silence.

After the departure of the marchers, the party started. We began dancing, chanting and yelling to the sounds of bucket-drums in front of several dozen heavily armored riot police: "Two, four, six, eight, smash the police state!" "Let Ralph Debate!" and "I scream! You scream! We all scream for anarchy!" The anarchist cheerleaders, dancing with a red and black Circle A banner, led us in a round of "Revolution is the Solution." A flag was burned near where I was standing and a circle formed around an especially energetic activist as he danced on the burning flags, stomping out the flaming remains to the cheers of the excited protestors.

After about an hour of enthusiastic singing and dancing, word began to spread through the crowd that we were going to move the protest to a site where there would be more traffic. After an affinity group meeting, the rumors were confirmed and we turned and headed toward our new protest site, Forsyth and Skinker. The march was led by a 10-foot red, white, and blue "Same

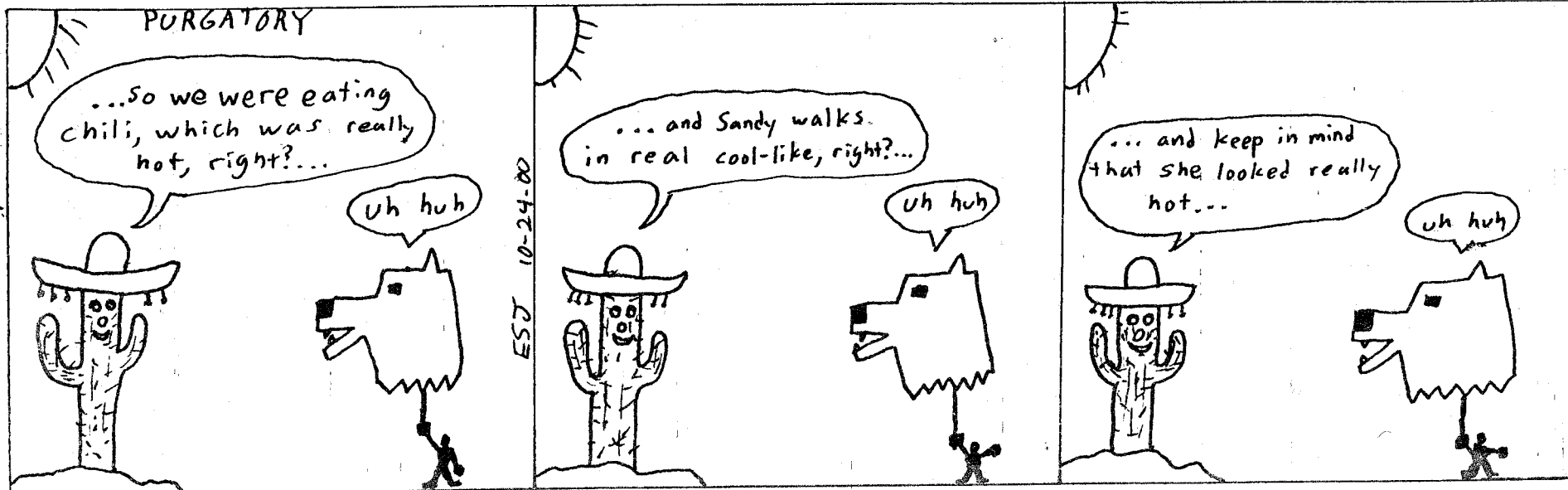
Fucking Difference" banner, which featured pictures of donkeys and elephants getting friendly with each other. The members of the local Black Bloc, who had been at the front of the protest directly against the barricades, marched backwards with their body shields raised, shielding us from potential police attacks. As we marched down Big Bend, our voices echoed throughout the Wash U. campus and the Wydown neighborhood: "Whose streets? Our streets!" and "Bush! Gore! Same fucking difference!"

When the police began threatening with arrest, most of us decided to clear the street. Three women remained sitting in the street and were arrested shortly. The police had lined up against a section of the curb where the majority of us had gathered. When several of the protestors began shouting insults at the police, they began pushing us with their shields. Because we were packed so tightly together and because of a six-foot wall behind us, we had nowhere to go and were forced to push back against the police, who responded by spraying us with pepper spray.

I was sprayed in the face, but luckily none got in my eyes. I was able to make it out of the crowd, while wiping madly at my face with the sleeves of my sweatshirt and grabbing for my vinegar-soaked bandana in preparation for the tear gas that I assumed would follow. Fortunately, no tear gas was used. Unfortunately, several people at the front of the group were clubbed, many more were sprayed in the eyes, and two were dragged into the street and arrested. I watched helplessly as the police repeatedly sprayed a girl, who had climbed to the top of the wall in an attempt to escape, despite her hysterical screams and cringed when she fell to the ground. We were outraged that the police had resorted to physical aggression and chemicals and began crying "Shame on you!" and "We're not violent!" Unfortunately, the hopelessness of the situation was apparent to all. We were not going to break our vow of nonviolence and many of us, me and my companions included, decided that the best thing to do was to leave peacefully.

Shortly after 11 p.m. we left the slowly diminishing crowd and headed home. By 11:30 p.m., only a handful of protestors remained, refusing to leave until the five arrested were released. Despite the lack of media coverage of the protests, (the national news was only there for a couple of minutes), the unjust actions by the police and Nader again being prohibited from entering the debates, O17 was a success and an important step in the direct-action battle against corporate power. As on N30, A16, S11, and S26, on O17 our voice was heard on our streets.

Read the complete article on-line at <http://www.trumanmonitor.org>.



An Unwanted Legacy

HYPOCRISY

A Hard Look At Today's Christians



James Spiegel, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
of Philosophy at
Taylor University

Sponsored by:
Campus Crusade for Christ & **EAC**
Truman State University

www.trucru.cjb.net
Thursday, November 2, 2000
7 p.m.
Activities Room
Student Union

UNBELIEVABLY TRUE

actual news from around the world

feature by Joe Rothermich

A Brooklyn, New York woman has been convicted of bank fraud and larceny for spending money mistakenly deposited in her account. Reuters reported that \$701,998.94 was placed into the woman's Chase Manhattan Bank account. Susan Rouse Madakor said she thought the money had come from lottery winnings. Madakor had spent an estimated \$250,000 before her account was frozen. She reportedly spent the money to pay off credit cards, lease a minivan and set up a college trust fund for her 10-year-old son. According to a federal complaint, the money belonged to the U.N. Environmental Program. How the money got into Madakor's account is still not certain.

A new Web site is now offering women the opportunity to receive mobile phone messages reminding them of when they are most fertile. Women, who register at the site, <http://www.zappybaby.de> will have messages sent to their mobile phones for free, according to Reuters. A standard message would read, "Achtung! The best five days for love are starting." Women can also draft their own messages and even have the message sent to spouses. The service began on Oct. 18. Sabine Kulau, a spokeswoman for the site said women now will not have to bother with hectic calculating and planning and that it gives couples who want to have children the knowledge of when to spend some time alone.

If ancestry is any indication of who will win the presidential election, then Gorge W. Bush will be the next president according to *Britain's Blue Blood Bible*. The *Blue Blood Bible* said Bush is a 13th cousin of Britain's Queen Mother and of her daughter, Queen Elizabeth, and is a 13th cousin once removed of the heir to the throne, Prince Charles, according to Reuters. Bush is also a direct descendant from Henry III and from Henry VIII's sister, Mary Tudor, who was also the wife of Louis XI of France. He is also descended from Charles II of England. On the other side, Al Gore is a descendant of Edward I, and also a cousin of former President of the United States Richard Nixon. Gore also is a descendant of Roman Emperors Louis II, Charles II and Louis I and is therefore also a direct descendant of Charlemagne -- the eight-century Emperor. The only problem is that Gore's link to Charlemagne makes him a cousin to Bush.

Queen Astra

Let the stars be your guide!



Aries (March 21-April 20) It's time to start thinking about your future. And as I see it your future is in burrito hunting. Hey, it has its merits.

Taurus (April 21-May 22) Find yourself dozing off at awkward times? It's nothing a cup of joe and a good collection of text-based porn won't solve.

Gemini (May 23-June 21) Mark my words. You will be the source of much pain and anguish for all your friends and loved ones this week.

Cancer (June 22-July 24) You know it's now or never. Take a chance on rock 'n' roll.

Leo (July 25-August 23) Thinking of the perfect costume for that Halloween party all the popular kids are going to be at? My answer -- a gash.

Virgo (August 24-September 23) You will die in a horrible accident... tomorrow. Ah, c'est la vie.

Libra (September 24-October 23) Waste your brain, wax your board and pray for waves.

Scorpio (October 24-November 22) Thinking of infidelity? Don't worry. You'll never get caught. It's foolproof, I tell you!

Sagittarius (November 23-December 21) Your astrological energy is at an all-time high. Direct that energy at fishing for sardines. Sardines is good food.

Capricorn (December 22-January 20) There is no time for dillydally. Stop foting around. It's chicken sandwich day in the cafeteria.

Aquarius (January 21-February 19) The apocalypse is coming. And it's all your fault. Thanks for nothing, Aquarius.

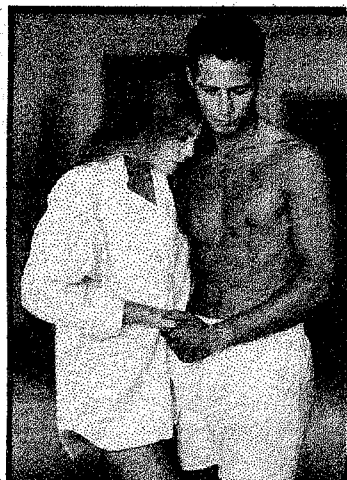
Pisces (February 20-March 20) If your money can't buy you happiness, don't let it go to waste. Give it to me.

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ART PAGE

Students in Jim Jereb's Printmaking I class are currently showing their work in Baldwin Hall on the third floor. Their assignment was to explore different methods of representing illusory depth, for example: using linear perspective, overlap, scale and size differences. All works are black and white litho prints.

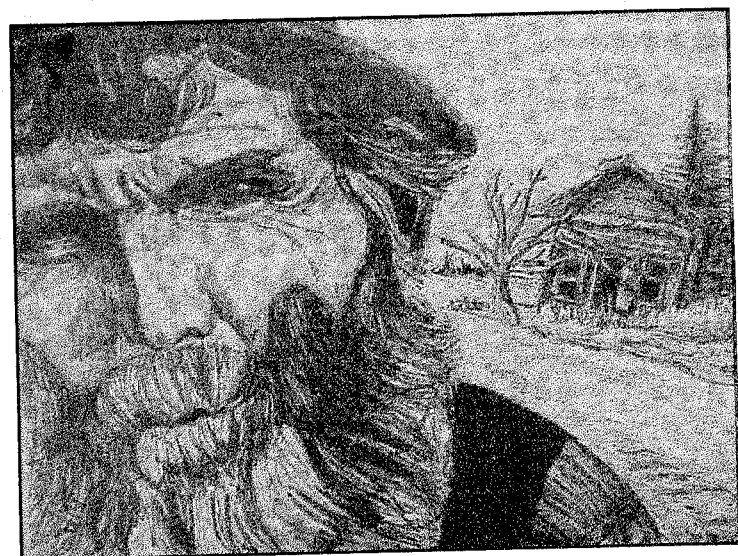
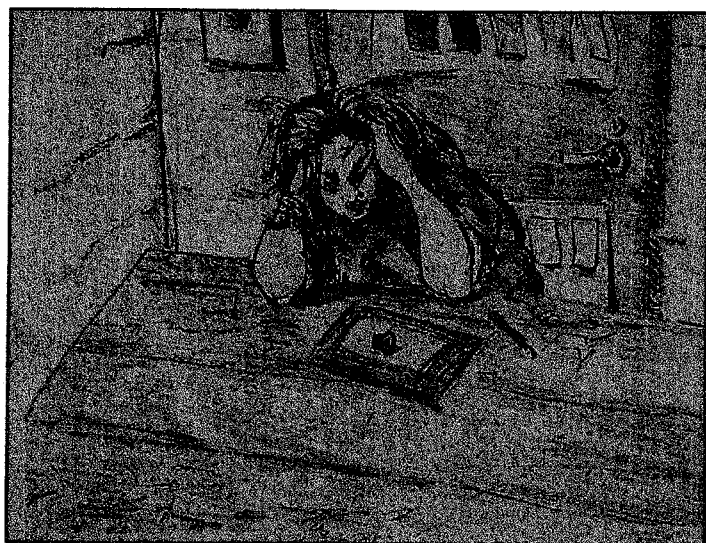


(Left)
Jennifer Boudreau
"Procession"

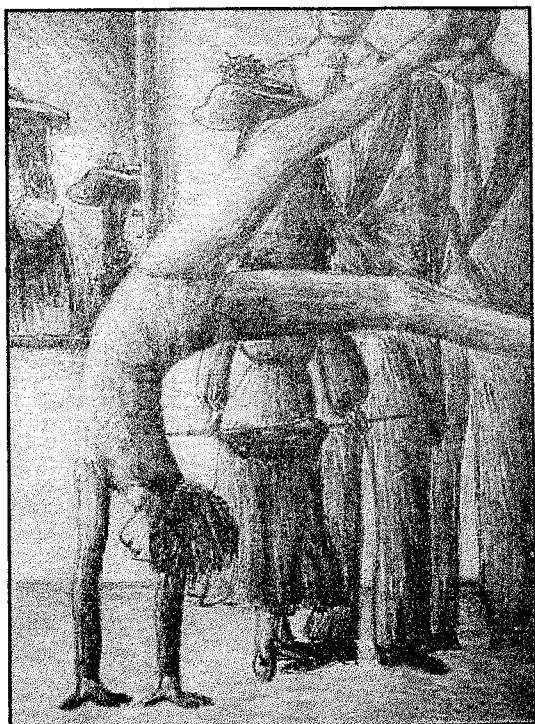


Annie Martineau
"The Green Monster"

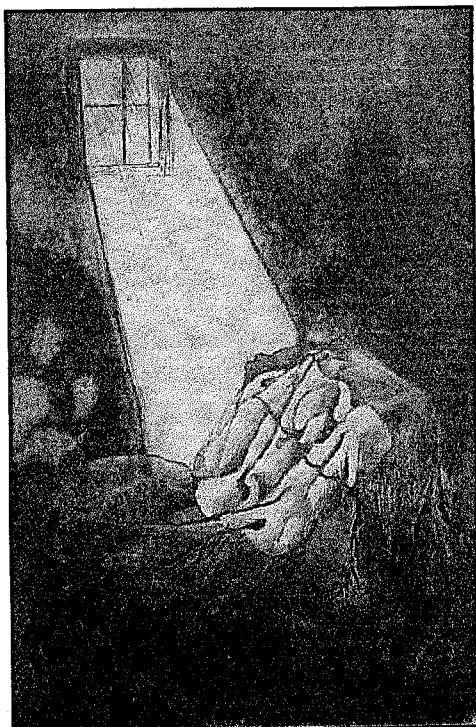
(Right)
Amanda Newell
"Speak!"



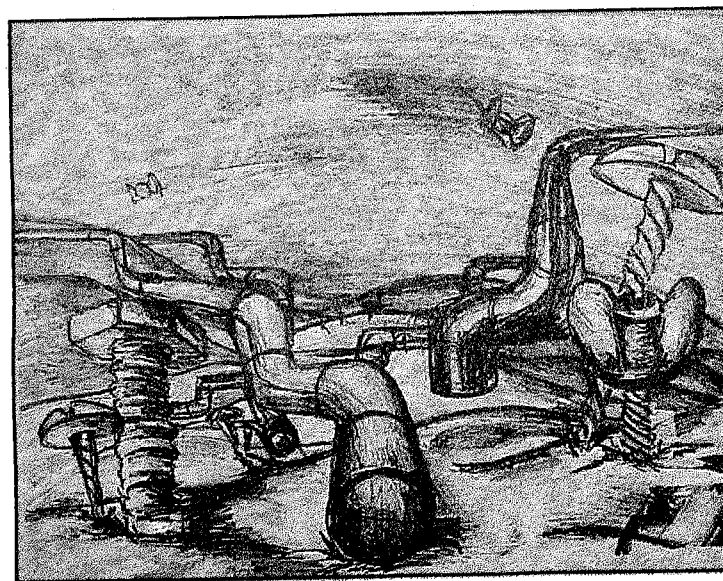
Heather Lynch
"Old Timer"



Leslie Proud
"A Different View"



Cassandra Graham
"My Parents Are Strange"



Jenn Ronkoski
"Nuts and Bolts"

My Back Pages

Man

Father of tribes and nations
Master of his earth
Inventive destroyer
Rightfully stealing land and life
Consuming, exploiting, raping, killing, cloning
Genetically engineering himself to be God

—Crystal R. Tillman

The Paper Napkin

I had the urge to write to you today,
While I was at our favorite restaurant,
So I asked my waitress if I could borrow her pen,
And I unfolded my paper napkin to begin.

I told you all about what I've been doing lately,
My goals and plans and hopes and dreams and fears,
I know it's been a long time since I wrote last,
And that old paper napkin filled up so fast.

I needed to tell you more so then on the back,
I shared some of our favorite memories,
And before I knew it I touched that napkin to my eye,
I hadn't even realized that I had begun to cry.

Then I paid and left to take that napkin to you,
Completely covered in heartfelt words of mine,
I saw some friends who wanted to tell you they thought
that you were brave,
So I scribbled it in the corner of your paper napkin,
and laid it by your grave.

—L. B. Filner

The Time of the Roly Polies Has Begun

My six-year-old passes seasons by their bugs,
and tells us
April is the time of roly polies.
My three sons and I
walk down to the lagoon,
stop for newborn leaves,
curled around their branches
like the inner petals of the artichoke,
heavy with butter,
we ate for supper last night.

The two older boys run to hide til I
burst after them, an elephant,
clump through yellow grasses, boom and bellow,
swipe with open hands.
Overgrown bushes, and
clumps of young elms,
stand to watch around the dried and leafy oval.

Across the clearing,
the spot I just left,
green and white cloth moves
against the gray-barked trunks.
Two-year-old Tommy, lonely with the sentry trees,
strips his shirt sleeve, calls me back with
one bare arm,
pale as the artichoke,
cut at its alabaster heart.

—Jennifer Hatala

Losing Innocence

You cry, you whine,
You want to talk all the time.
I laugh, i leave,
all i want is to be free.
You don't understand why things have changed,
you want it back, you want me the same.
I don't understand what happened when i was young,
all of that fear has kept me from fun.
You know what i am talking about,
you know what i went through.
You said it was wrong of him,
but you did it too.
You were so determined—
you wouldn't let go.
You told me to be quiet
when i told you "no".
So you did it once,
and you did it again.
You did what you had to
so you could put it in.
Week after week
and year after year,
You'd smile in my eyes
when they were full of tears.
The only difference is
you said you cared
And when you were done
you didn't go back up stairs.
Then someone showed me
how it should be done;
us shouldn't be feared
us should be fun.
I learned how to smile
and learned to laugh too.
Then he took what he wanted—
it was the same thing as you.
You said you had changed,
you said you were wrong.
You said you were sorry
and hate when i am gone.
I said i was hurt,
i can't be what i was.
You said it was fine
because you were in love.
I was weak so
i gave you a second chance,

The next time we were alone
you tore off my pants.
I treated you well,
i did all you said
You just soaked it all up
then took me to bed.
My thoughts were something
i wouldn't give you
Eventually you saw this
and then raped them too.
Then i understood what our
"love" is about
And i was forced to discover
the only way out.
So i took what was left,
that very little part,
i told it "goodbye"
and closed up my heart.
I can do things because
i have memorized their action.
But never again will i do
them with passion.
You loved what you were
when i needed only you.
Now i don't,
and you don't know what to do.
You tell me i am wrong
you tell me it isn't fair.
You can tell me what you want
I really don't care.
I must have been tight,
it must have felt great.
Don't cry for me now,
you are a little too late.
You ask me to hold you,
you ask me to stay.
I look at you, laugh,
and then walk away.
Now you cry,
you whine,
you want to talk
all the time.
I laugh, i leave
and now i am free.

—Molly Gillespie

My Nigga

Mellow like jazz
that's tardy to the stage,
but thoughtful like hip hop
shy of contracts,
My Nigga Stan
is my balance beam,
balances my jump
with chairs,
balances my whore
with straight lines,
balances my grimace
with phone calls to mom,
and wrestles my poetry
as we roam The Ville,
pursuing screams
only we know of.

—Orlando L. Williams

"I'll bother you on Wednesday."

By beginning I invited the end.
Upon your face I read its absence.
In your actions I see the memories.
Presently I see the past
As it arranges itself in the future.
Along this walk I'll cross my
Thought in ways that dim my vision.
On either side, I don't deny
The growth for which this path exists.
Through my closing eyes, I allow myself to carry on
In this highly fashioned fashion.

—Steve Sesti

My Back Pages is still on the prowl for
new poems. Drop submissions in the
Monitor mailbox, in the CAOC, or
e-mail me at x289@truman.edu.