



THE MONITOR

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

A Campus Collective

Volume 7, Number 13 / 17 April 2001



Student Senate does not plan to turn the Quad into a lake. *Monitor file photo*

Proposed campus lake may resurrect traditions

story by | W. Aaron Wilson

On Sunday, Feb. 11, Student Senate passed a rather unusual proposal. Alternately hailed as genius and mocked as folly, the proposal is aimed towards the creation of an on-campus lake that could "both resurrect and create traditions that focus on [the University's] rich heritage."

Having a lake would not be a new development for the Truman campus. The original campus held a lake, located on what is now the quad. During the 1924 fire that destroyed the original Baldwin Hall, workers drained the lake in order to fight the conflagration.

The proposal came about through the efforts of the Campus Environment Committee, a part of Student Senate dedicated to improving the atmosphere of the University campus.

"We normally stick to campus aesthetics," Kelsey Simpson, the Campus Environment Committee Chair, said. "What struck us was that it [the proposal] was something new, and something different, and it had never been tried before."

One of the senators to first voice the proposal was Representative at Large, Andy Lewis.

"It came about one day as I was walking on the quad, trying to see where the lake had been," Lewis said. "I thought that a lake would make it [the campus] look nice, give campus a different look. At our meeting we started talking about all the neat things you could do with a

lake."

Proposed uses for the lake center around the lake as more of a landmark, a scenic area that students could spend time at. The area could also serve as the background for an outdoor stage or the site of Biology research.

Contrary to popular belief, the new lake would not be located on quad.

Senate Historian Zac Burden had been researching the history of the University. He found that while the University has a rich heritage, it lacked the kind of powerful traditions that unite past and present classes of students. He researched the original lake and began asking for feedback on the idea from fellow students.

"I found that people grew reminiscent for a lake that they'd never seen before," Burden said. He said that from most of the students he talked to, their attitude towards the idea was positive.

However, since the adoption of the resolution, the attitude towards the proposal has shifted, due in large degree to rumor and misinformation, although some have more practical concerns.

"It will get dirty," freshman Ian Samuel said. "Lakes are expensive and hard to maintain. It's not going to be crystal blue waters with birds flying overhead."

Many students believe the idea to be ludicrous, especially coming from what many view

see LAKE, page 9

Daily Jolt users discuss Monitor, Senate, squirrels

story by | Matthew Webber

If you want to know what people at the University are gossiping about, visit the Truman Forum.

The Truman Forum on the Daily Jolt Web site (<http://truman.dailyjolt.com>) is one of the University's best kept secrets. It operates as a perpetual sounding board for members of the University community to vent about *The Monitor*, Christ on the Quad, Sodexo and any other topic about which anyone could wish to vent.

It works the same as any Internet discussion board in that anyone can read the posts, start their own thread or respond to a previous post.

Unfortunately for those for whom vengeance is a valid option, most users choose to remain anonymous.

Dan Clark and John Haney, the Daily Jolt's Web masters, said the Truman Forum has always been a part of the Web site. Both the Forum and the site debuted on August 11, 2000.

All Forums are totally self-regulated. Clark and Haney do not read every post, but they may remove a post if other users report it to them.

To get to the Forum, click on the "Truman Forum" link in the upper left corner of the Daily Jolt. Usually, there are one or two controversial topics listed immediately beneath the link, and users can click these links to go immediately to

these topics.

Clark and Haney said Student Senate has been a popular topic recently because of the upcoming elections.

In fact, a new Student Senate Elections Forum now exists so students can discuss the candidates and issues.

As of this writing, this Forum was free of candidate mudslinging, but other Senate-related threads in the past month contained many personal attacks -- always levied by anonymous cowards, of course.

Christopher Michael Shanahan is another popular topic. His letter in the last *Monitor* pissed off more people than *The Monitor* has pissed off since last year's "Do you f--- Magruder?" feature.

The four letters to the editor in response to Shanahan in this issue show some indication of people's anger towards him, but the Truman Forum on the Daily Jolt shows more. Posts about the now-infamous letter stretched for more than three Web pages and took hours to read (if you could actually finish all of the profanity-laden posts).

The Truman Forum is so fast-moving that an Internet page can fill up within 24 hours. Beware of inside jokes such as squirrels, the eating of dead babies and Josh's slutty mom. I don't know what these posts mean, but I know from frequent readings that Josh's mom sure is dirty, whoever she is.

FTAA causes protests

part 3 of story | Daniel Coate

Starting tomorrow, tens of thousands of activists will take on the Quebec authorities as they try to make their voices heard. The activists will be protesting the Summit of the Americas meeting, in which delegates from 34 countries will meet to create the first full text of the Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA), an agreement that would basically expand NAFTA to the entire western hemisphere, creating the largest trading block in history.

I have written about how the FTAA will destroy working families, increase poverty, ex-

acerbate environmental destruction, and lead to human rights abuses, but that is not all the FTAA will do. The FTAA will devastate small farmers. The agreement is expected to contain numerous deregulating policies. The FTAA will lower standards for food safety, meaning that unsafe foods will be sold throughout the hemisphere.

Since NAFTA, meat and poultry products not meeting U.S. safety regulations have been imported into the U.S. and consumed by Americans. Illegal pesticides and other toxic chemi-

see FTAA, page 6

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The Truman State Ultimate Frisbee team deserves recognition.

Story, page 11.

monitor letters

Last issue's Christopher Michael Shanahan letter angered both Greek and non-Greek students.

Letters to the editor, pages 8 and 9.

"Chutes and Ladders" offers a male perspective on the female form.

Feature, page 13.



The Monitor

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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 expres-
sion 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 signifi-
cance."

-- Noam Chomsky



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April 2001

monitor letters

Something to say? Write a letter to *The Monitor*. Letters must be typed and signed to be considered for publication. Send complaints or praise to the *Monitor* mailbox in the CAOC, or e-mail us at monitortrm@hotmail.com. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

Hey, Monitor,
Does she really
hate you that
much?
D.S.

Letters to the editor regarding last issue's Christopher Michael Mahan letter appear on pages 8 and 9.

Correction: The photograph on the front page of the last issue that was edited to Derek Spellman should have been credited to Amanda Brink.

I got n. firewood

In answer to Lisa Magierowski's question "They're Queer, They're Here... Aren't They?" (the last *Monitor*), why a "fag" is a cigarette in England and a homosexual in the United States:

Both words come from the English word "fagot," a pre-cut piece of firewood.

Why the British use this word for cigarette is pretty obvious. The American usage, on the other hand, seems to stem from the old practice of burning gays at the stake.

And yet, it's a word I overhear at least once a week just walking around campus.

Anybody want to bet those people aren't looking for cigarettes?

Dave Yost

Government opinion is B.S.

Although he makes a splendid and touching analogy to carpentry in his opinion, "Government is improper tool" (in the last issue), David Frederick falls prey to the woeful fate of many a liberal arts essay - his column is bullshit.

The column asks ridiculous rhetorical questions such as "When the government puts you in a cell... to whom do you appeal?"

Frederick claims that "as a student of history" he understands the evils of government, but he fails to enlighten the reader as to what he is talking about.

The column is not poorly written in a grammatical sense; it is merely pointless.

Phil Schiff

Vote in upcoming election

I am writing this letter to encourage everyone to come and vote in the Student Senate elections on Thursday and Friday in the lower level of the Student Union. I know it is a cliché, but voting is a great right and shouldn't be taken for granted. If you don't vote in this election, you cannot justly complain about matters concerning Student Senate next year. There are a lot of students running, so you have quality candidates to choose from.

Please vote for the candidates who you believe will do the best job representing your interests to the administration. Vote for the candidates who you believe will be fair and unbiased. Vote for the candidates who are honest and trustworthy. But most importantly, vote.

Jeremiah Finn

D.S. defends grammar

Normally I do "no-comment" on private, anonymously hidden columns with obviously labored sarcastic bent as represented by *Monitor* opinions rant by Dave: "Why I'm Right: The Tao of Mickey" (last issue).

But, since I along with all people, "Magruder" am publicly named even to the point of Nixonian style Watergate tapes "expletive-deletives" abuse and accused, as far as I can prose make sense, of everything British *Absolutely Fabulous*-ly takeover effort of his TSU; to "World Domination"; to "Socialism tyranny"; to false punctuation and capitalization, to boot, all in offense to an American "Mickey mouse" somehow, whew, transposed to Chinese Taoism, all in just 12 paragraph diatribe, perhaps I can be allowed natural justice a riposte! Of, I hope, less April fool irrationality in delighted zest back at my accuser!

It will entertain we, your bizarrely loyal readers, anyway, far more than the "MAN JACK" and his clique, who probably resent the association with me far more seriously and suppressively of *The Monitor* than I ever, laughingly, will!!

After all, when you have just "splurged" an estimated TSU 5,500 bucks on student fees, faculty/staff potential salary and local taxpayer monies on crowded packing them in for that Albert E. "OLIE THE NORTH," you are going in satiation waste feel constipated, "upset"! If *The Monitor* ranks you derisively with the likes of just foreigner insignificant me, aren't you, looney toones!

So each point, consecutively, as I "plead" the charge! On wanting Joanna Lumley, Jennifer Saunders and June Whitfield to kick out Jack, Gary, DA Fuhrer, Patrique et al and run TSU instead, I plead, "wait for it," "GUILTY"! ALL three women could do a better "trio" management and more humane liberal "arte" job of managing NMSU, or Josephine Baker as honorably I'd prefer it called your campus, than any of the five bedtime for bozo males I've subversively just, politely, cited.

Ye Goddesses, Joanna, whose publicly proclaimed politics are left wing "purdy" UK Conservative (that's capital "C" you U.S. *Monitor* editorial hicks, as Patsie might say!) might actually appoint a MAJORITY of women as befits a female majority campus to be Divisional 2002 JB campus heads!

Come to think about it, since she's a serious Asian studies documentary BBC 2 TV studies scholar and authoress in her own right, unlike MSC Chemistry Magruder, she might actually "go" for real subject department female heads!

With JB faculty expected to publish books, articles for a change rather than females slaved to death in high school over-marking of you as happens imprisoningly all too literally of you today!

Ye gods, a European historian from Europe in progressive JB place, how

"LUVELLEE" as Jennifer might FANTASY BIRTHDREAM. "Yanks": learning others actually do think different, even "critically" of you!

Finally, as for the other April, rather too menacingly, for decency's liking "unrepentantly" spewed out "charges," more "mixed" pleas will be entered whether you like it or not, you predominantly self-photographing male layabouts!

"World domination," "not guilty"; I've been more atom-bombed by Harry Truman style male sexist, racist types in sinned-against than sin-on mentalite!

"Socialism"; "guilty" as the more I see of the planet and this U.S.A. country in monotony of capitalist boredom, the more "Red" in sharp sensitivity against sheer "daft" gullibility one becomes!

Grammar etc. (YOURS? WHOSE, IN SOCIAL CONTROL?), the Scottish verdict of "unproven" is probably the case most impartially. Cos unlike my good conservative Mormon Spanish TSU friend, Woy Spanner, I don't ponder it "seemly" or "wright." To tell off everyone else's "ENGLISH" pronoun sense but one's privileged own, even in the *Index*! Especially given its current feminist, Dubcek Prague spring liberalization phase: threatening to make *Monitor* Dave the cowardly Ranters chauvinistically, not to say arrogantly, redundant in the English "JB" Divisional We-Luv-Heinz Hegemony! Now let's chant the last again in American mindless conformity, boyz!

"Love" and "peace" (ugh, how un Truman, "ALIEN"! How English!),

Larry Iles

"The Man" defends himself

In response to "The Manitor":

Boy, I hate America! There are times when the mere mention of the name of this "glorious" country sends me into uncontrollable convulsions. There are times when I would just like to move to another country so I can escape from this hell on Earth! Let me tell you why I hate this country.

First, I absolutely hate the peaceful process for resolving problems we use in this stupid nation. As a white male, I am genetically predisposed to violent and thoughtless behavior. Whoever came up with the idea of debates, and compromises, and the peaceful transition of power? This may be all well and good for the weaklings of the world, but it does little to accommodate my insatiable blood lust. I do not want the stability and security that we have here in America... I want nonstop civil conflict and violence.

And another thing, just who gave us the right to free speech?! I hate the fact that anyone can express any opinion they want to on any subject at any time. I hate the fact that we explore a variety of options when we are faced with the problem. I want to be told what to do by the government. I want the government to be controlled by just one man who seized power in a violent military coup and who has eliminated all opposition to his point of view. No more of this popular election B.S! People should not be active in their own governing, they need to be oppressed and told what to do! Only with their face under the heel of an oppressive dictator's boot will people be truly happy.

You know what really pisses me off? The free-market! Who came up with this ridiculous idea?! The people should not earn a living based on their productivity and ability to add to society! We must strive to avoid the very idea that a person can be responsible for his or her own future. We need communism! The government should supply us with our livelihood! We must

be given all that we have; earning it is for chumps! The more we learn to rely on the government, the closer we get to being controlled completely, the closer we get to oppression, the closer we get to real happiness.

What is this "freedom of religion" bunk anyhow? This is one of the things that I hate most about America! We do not need to worship God as He has called us to Him! No indeed! We need the government to establish a state religion or abolish religion altogether. Our ability to choose whether to practice a religion and how to practice a religion only makes us weak! We need to be told what to believe and how to believe it!

I think you know what I am asking from you. I am making a call to all white males who read this. Tap into your natural aggression, tap into your violent behavior, tap into your desire to destroy the environment, tap into your natural need to oppress anyone different, tap into your need to your thoughtless violence and rise up! Every man is born with these traits naturally, and they need to be used to destroy this "great" country of ours! America and its peaceful stability must end! America and its freedom of speech and action must end! America and its free market must end! America and its freedom of religion must end! Rise up to destroy this America, this freedom!

The Other Man

P.S. To ease the conscience of the author, it must be known that this article is put forth in complete sarcasm as a response to last issue's "Manitor" section.

My devotion to my country is unspeakable.

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conflicts like these?

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become a mediator.

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monitor opinions

Students who whine waste SAB's money

opinion by | Matthew Webber

Kim Tempel, the president of SAB, told me a secret yesterday and made me promise not to tell anyone. She should have known better than to tell a secret to a journalist, because this one's too juicy not to print. Put your ear to the newspaper and I'll whisper who SAB's headliners will be next fall: THE DAVE MATTHEWS BAND!

Actually, SAB hasn't planned the fall concert yet, but if you're salivating to hear someone perform "Crash Into Me," all you have to do is walk through any of the dorms at any hour of the day and you'll hear somebody somewhere attempting to impress his crush by crooning at her to hike up her skirt a little more and show the world to him.

One "Tipping Billies" performance by The 4th Floor Boys: zero dollars.

One "All Along the Watchtower" performance at Truman State University by the real Dave Matthews Band: probably more money than most of the faculty make in a year.

Disagreeing with columnists like Anna Codutti (in the April 5 *Index*) and every other student who knows who Carter Beauford is and hates SAB because they bring that rap crap to campus instead of the sweet pop-folk and pop-punk stylings of the "Better Than" and "Less Than" bands they crave: priceless.

Memo to Codutti et al: The Dave Matthews Band will never play this University, and bands with a DMB cover song in their repertoire are more plentiful on this campus than

unfinished Sodexho meals, so go see one of these bands for free and get over it.

What Tempel really said to me is that it is "ridiculous" for students to complain that SAB tries to blow our money.

"Spending students' money wisely is our main goal," Tempel said. "It's in our mission statement."

Jason Turk, outgoing SAB concerts chair, said the SAB conducts a band survey every year and "the vast majority want to see one big artist" instead of a bunch of unknown acts.

The claim that SAB doesn't know what the students want becomes even more preposterous when one remembers that its members are students themselves.

Yet students somehow continue to whine that SAB hemorrhages their money. SAB, more than any other campus organization, is locked in a lose-lose situation: Do what the students tell you they want, and you're wasting their money. Spend your large budget on multiple small bands to try to appeal to students with different tastes of music, and you're bringing crappy shows nobody will attend.

Cry into your Howie Day CDs all you want, but the vast majority of this campus listens to mainstream music. SAB is merely accommodating our desires. When SAB does bring a relatively unknown performer to campus like Allette Brooks (who was awesome), none of the SAB-haters show up. Only 100 people attended this \$800 show, while 1,600 watched the MTV-sponsored Wyclef.

(Additionally, the Campus Music Collective is daring enough to bring bands from other countries without hit singles to campus, but the apartment-sized Aqua Dome stays empty. Almost every weekend, the CMC brings the type of shows you SAB-haters claim to want, but you stay in your dorm rooms to listen to "I Did It.")

SAB does the best it can to bring good and diverse shows to campus in its attempt to please as many people as possible, but the vast majority of students are scared to listen to anything non-DMB or non-Now Vol. 6.

Of course, there are always those deluded few who think they *really* know what the students want. They'll promote the Howie Days instead of the Wyclef Jeans, despite the fact that the vast majority of students wouldn't know Howie from Green Day and won't see a concert by someone they don't know.

These students will hype the DMB cover songs by their favorite artist and cry because SAB can't bring the real Dave, forgetting the fact that SAB miraculously brought an internationally recognized, Grammy-winning rap artist to Kirksville "Population 17,000" Mo. last semester.

Codutti et al, you're right. SAB doesn't do anything... except wake up at 7 a.m. on the morning of the Wyclef show and clean up afterwards until 4 a.m. because the students of this University told them they wanted to see a big concert. I guess that makes them "guilty as charged."

Ed's guide to an enlightened summer part 1: Tennis courts are for tennis

opinion by | Ed Jenkins

Four weeks and this social labyrinth called "school" will be on hiatus. At that point us young people (not you Grandma) will have a carte blanche with which to be static, tragic or enlightened. Why remain as you are when you can always improve yourself in various ways? Why sacrifice your health and soul for expedient pleasure? Besides, enlightened living will be fun too.

1. Television. Start with that boob tube that gangrapes your intelligence with a variety of programs -- sitcoms, dramas, game shows, the news. The TV is half the evil in your life. It makes you slower, lazier, and more ignorant. Yes, there is some good television like *McLaughlin Group* and *Reading Rainbow*, but even good television can be substituted with social interaction or reading. Your life would be much purer if you didn't watch so much TV.

So, the first mandate for your enlightened summer is to watch absolutely no television. For those who can't handle the cold turkey, try the *Simpsons-Only Method*, the PBS Theme or similar restrictions. Or you could decide not to watch TV alone, only in social situations.

Regardless, cut down on your TV or else.

2. Outside. Hot, eh? So what? Don't spend all day in front of the TV (duh) and don't be a Mallrat. Go to the park, go for a walk, plant a garden.

Those aren't just suggestions, those are essentials. If you are going to be a real person, not the bastardization of one, then you need to occasionally stop all responsibility and feel the evening breeze caress your soul as you walk

through your neighborhood.

You need to experience the unexplainable miracle of planting and caring for delicate plants that produce bright, organic tomatoes throbbing with sweet juice, imperfect in all the right ways. Trust me, you have room in your yard for some tomatoes, onions, peppers, and asparagus.

And the park: Use that which God gave us and for which your taxes pay. Those tennis courts aren't for the Possum Summer Midnight Ball. They're for tennis.

3. Social Stuff. Here's one with which you won't have a problem. Get out and have fun on the weekend. This does not mean binge drinking or rolling. I mean do what you want that's healthy -- movies, sporting events, dancing -- but also just relax with friends and family and talk about life, limestone, politics, pop culture. Huddling around the video player is acceptable for this category, but sometimes it's just good to have conversations.

And please, if you have a front porch, sit on it. If you don't have a front porch, build one or sit in your yard. Seriously, TV bad, front porch good. And don't forget to spend time with the old people (that's you Grandma). They're Precious.

Of course it's one thing to talk about an "enlightened" summer and another to actually do all of these things while working and going to summer school. But if you try, you can do it. Peace.

WHY I'M RIGHT
I want to drink

rant by | The Dave

I want to drink; everyday when I wake up long for the overwhelming sense of superiority get from that most precious of liquids. The nectar of the gods, Tanqueray and Tonic. But in the view of the patron saints of lost causes, Pro-Staff and their Acolytes, SA's, my gods are false. Little do I know that in reality my most beloved friend Johnny, Jack, Jim and precious Gin are actually the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

Our chosen saints have been set forth upon this earth to rid the world of these former icons and persecute all those who choose to imbibe in the intoxicating wonderland that they provide. Once again making the world safe for the "good residents" to spend their evenings playing board games and talking of global politics they have no background in or intelligent opinions on. Following that up with a rousing game of Twister, and polishing off the night of sexual frustration by trying to masturbate quietly enough so as not to disturb their roommate, who they think is sleeping but is actually enjoying some not so private time of their own.

These saints, compiled by the fierce political juggernaut that is TSU, force my kind into classes for alcoholic abuse, where their propaganda is beaten into our minds following the precedent for torture established in WWII, and follow that up by making us sign a three-page confession, thereby proving their superiority.

I know not the opinions of the masses, but I don't recall my soul being part of the contract I signed when I agreed to live in a residence hall. However it seems that what our appointed rulers deem righteous doesn't coincide with my idea of having a good time. Don't get me wrong, I am not a raging alcoholic that goes around stealing baby carriages and forcing old people to give me their social security checks, but if I want to down some cocktails with my friends to celebrate the end of finals, then I am going to do it good, dammit!

I don't bother anyone when I come home; I go straight to my room and fall asleep. Leaving the others to pursue their strange and eerie happiness in peace. But by partaking in the joys of a night out on the town I have been slapped with the sanctions illustrated above. There is just no place, in the capitalist regime that is residential living, for this man anymore. Free will is more important to me than my semi-private toilet down the hall from my room. Soon I will be fleeing this cesspool of despair, and I invite all of my brethren to join me in revolution by taking your class and, when they ask you to write what you have learned from your excursion, filling out the confession as follows:

PAGE 1: LIVE

PAGE 2: OFF

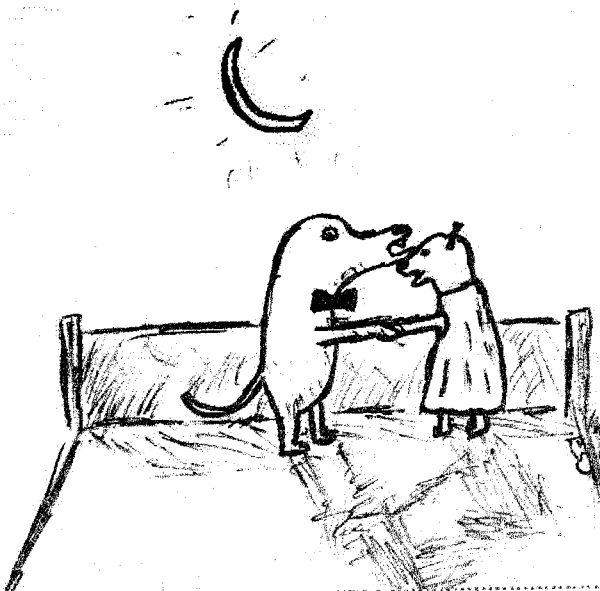
PAGE 3: CAMPUS

Come with me my brothers, let us leave this Circus of the Damned, and move on to greener pastures on the not too distant horizon. To a place where the Tanqueray flows like wine, and freedom runs rampant destroying all those who seek to oppress its radiant beauty.

Word.

The characters in the aforementioned opinion are not related to any specific persons. Any resemblance to actual persons, or their actions, is unintentional and apologetic for.

Except for gin; oh, how I long to taste your sweet kiss.



The Possum Summer Midnight Ball

April 2001

Civic action empowers

Opinion by | David Frederick

In my last article, I argued that the government, because of its supreme power and potential for oppression, is an improper tool for trying to solve most problems that our society faces.

However, in order to keep my first article concise, I did not put forth an alternative tool for solving society's problems. I now intend to suggest alternatives to the government for solving our problems. Before citing specific solutions to specific problems, which I again will come in future issues, I must establish a general foundation of social change in which to operate. The goal of this article is to establish this foundation for solving society's problems.

So, to whom do you turn if you do not turn to the government? Turn to yourself! It is the civic action of the citizens that this country needs. Stand up and take action! Do not rely on the government to solve all of your problems for you. Besides, you control a power greater than any power that the government could possibly muster. You control the power to convince others. Think about it:

The government implements its will primarily by a show of force. Citizens obey the government because the government enforces a penalty if its will is disobeyed. The result is compulsory obedience. Avoiding punishment is not the best motivation for civic action within citizenry. Indeed, the resentment of being forced to perform certain action is apparent in a multitude of government laws.

This is where your power is greater than the power the government could ever possess. You and I have the power to persuade and the power to convince -- the power to convict the hearts and minds of our neighbors. The government has the ability to force people to do what it says, but we can make people understand that certain action is right. A very minuscule example:

In the state of Missouri, recycling is not forced by law. A person has the freedom to choose between recycling and not recycling. Long ago, I became aware of the state of our environment, and I became convinced that recycling is the right thing to do. Since then, I have gone out of my way to recycle. Not because I am forced to do so, but because I have been convinced it is the right thing to do.

No government, no law could ever give us that conviction. No threat of repercussion could ever enforce a sense of loyalty to proper action as well as personal conviction. The government possesses no means to instill in a person the same sort of personal convictions as those that a person finds for him or herself through freedom of choice and persuasion of action. Our freedoms and our persuasions make for true loyalty to the virtuous; governmental force does not.

Earlier in this article, I -- like some sappy fortune cookie -- said to turn to yourselves when faced with problems. It is what we choose to do, not what we are forced to do, that can really begin to solve our problems.

Altruism does exist, and it is our greatest tool, but there are problems standing in the way of its application. These problems are namely apathy and greed. They must be addressed.

As for apathy:

A person, whom I greatly respect, once

said to me, "I am glad I pay taxes that help poor people so I do not have to think about it." And, though I greatly respect the person, my response was simple, "That's horrible!"

Paying taxes is no excuse to be apathetic about the problems the world faces! The taxes we pay our government *do not* buy a solution to the problem of poverty or any other problem. We cannot simply keep our heads down and hope the problem goes away because we pay the taxes we are forced to pay. Each of us, every single one of us, must become active in our world.

I suggest joining a civic action organization. I suggest this, and I hope to convince you of this, but I shall not force you. Go to <http://www.charities.org> for some ideas of what's out there that you can do to help. You are able to make a difference. If you do not feel you have the time to commit to these organizations, consider donating money.

That suggestion brings us to greed:

In this country, 80 percent of the wealth is controlled by only 20 percent of the population. I hate this statistic -- I hate it! I am, however, unwilling to use force to change it. Instead, I will attempt to persuade against the hoarding of wealth.

America continues to be a country of misers. Unfortunately, money in the hands of those who intend to hoard or those who intend to seek extravagant pleasures with it is kept from the hands of those who need it. The gap of wealth is so great that while some of the population live in mansions and drive Mercedes, others are unable to afford to feed their children.

The purpose of life is not to grab money, not to own a mansion, not to drive a Mercedes. A friend of mine once asked me, "Why store up wealth here on earth, where robbers can steal it and depreciation can destroy it? You can't take it with you."

Instead of relentlessly pursuing money, spread it around. Money can be put to better use buying food and clothes for those who need it than it can be used for buying a Mercedes for yourself.

Once the roadblocks of apathy and greed have been removed, the path for altruistic civic action may be open. I know that I may sound hopelessly optimistic, and perhaps I am, but I truly believe that the solutions to our problems lie in ourselves, not the government. Next time I shall write on some specific problems and specific, nongovernmental, solutions.

United we stand, in President Bush we fall

Opinion by | Kevin Haworth

Finally, we have a president who really knows how to reach out and bring people together... or so we thought.

President Bush campaigned as a uniter who would not only end gridlock in Washington but also get Republicans and Democrats to want to work together. It was a great campaign promise to make but like many others, he has already broken it in his short tenure in office.

I am particularly saddened by the fact that within President Bush's first 100 days, we have not only seen him divide Republicans and Democrats but drive away many of our global allies and virtually else anyone who is not on the right. I would like to take the time to highlight a few of President Bush's decisions that have caused this in order to keep our campus informed.

Bush's grand unification plan began within the first few days of Bush's administration. Typically, if a person were to claim they are going to bring people together, we would expect them to act in a manner that could be characterized as neutral and non-confrontational.

However, Bush immediately went against both of these expectations and ordered all money to be withheld from any international group that within its activities performs abortions. Even if no U.S. money is used for performing the abortions, Bush's order still prohibits clinics from receiving money to help their clients in any way.

It is obvious that this would upset pro-choice proponents, but this is not the only group Bush alienated within a matter of days of becoming president. Many countries that depend on U.S. aid for family planning, abortion education and prenatal care were left in the cold because of this. Not only were they financially burdened, but also they were being told that they could not determine the needs of their own people.

Round one is over, and President Bush has alienated pro-choice proponents and countries that depend on America for necessary funding to maintain the health of their citizens.

Next, we have a budget that was muscled through the U.S. House of Representatives. Once again, we would expect someone responsible for smoothing out the gridlock of our capital to make conciliatory efforts.

Instead, the small Republican majority of the House did not make significant efforts to work with Democrats, and President Bush made

no efforts to promote this. Rather our president strong-armed those he had promised to try to bring together to pass his own agenda. An agenda, I would like to note, that was not supported by a majority of Americans in the November election. So now we can add nearly half of our congressmen to the groups alienated by our "Uniter."

In order to top off our list of people alienated, President Bush has renounced the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and placed the U.S. at odds with nearly all of the European Union, Russia, China and many other countries. Our president has told the rest of the world we will not tolerate paying more for comforts, even though other countries spend more on those comforts than we do or they do not even have the luxury of being able to afford them.

We will not pay more even when our actions threaten the health of others and may cause whole cities to end up submerged under water. I think it is reasonable that other countries might be a little upset with the President's actions.

Bush has not been a unifier in office. Rather he has tried to muscle his way through getting everything he wants. I emphasize the he because it is obvious from polls and our past national election that President Bush did not receive a clear mandate on any of these issues.

Within the first 100 days of President Bush's tenure in office, repercussions are already being felt for his actions. In our latest incident with China, no country, not even our strongest ally, Britain, offered any support. Typically, when a foreign country is holding U.S. service men and women the United States finds strong international support.

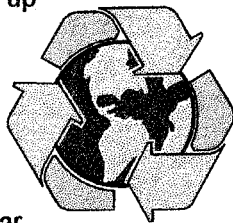
This is especially true in a case where the facts are disputed and the Chinese are now saying that the U.S. plane may not have caused the collision at all. We find ourselves on our own because of the anything but unifying actions of President Bush.

I wish I could say this is all our great unifier has done to break his promise of bringing together people. However, it is not. President Bush has issued strong statements on capital punishment, globalization, the national missile-defense shield, Iraq, the Balkans and NATO without making a true and sincere effort to discuss them with others.

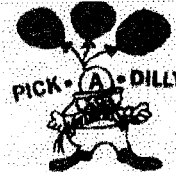
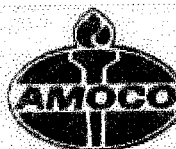
I only hope this trend turns around and that in four years we do not find ourselves isolated in another cold war.

ECO Tip

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CIA's Homepage for Kids

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/ciakids/>

review by | Daniel Coate

Have you ever wanted to know what it's like to be a spy for the greatest country in the world? Have you ever wondered what the CIA does to keep our country safe?

Well, if so, you should check out the CIA's Homepage for Kids, where you can get honest, straightforward answers to these questions and more. In addition to learning the history of the Central Intelligence Agency and what role the CIA plays in ensuring our safety, you can find out about the CIA seal, check out their recommended book list and take a virtual tour of the CIA.

Be sure not to miss the Canine Corps section where you can meet some of the CIA's best guard dogs. Also, try on some spy disguises and play the always-fun games: Geography Trivia Quiz and Crack the Code. And remember: "Fly high on intelligence NOT drugs..."

It's Human-licious!

<http://www.manbeef.com>

review by | Ryan Ruffatti

You ever have that uncontrollable urge to eat human flesh? Well, I do too. That's why I visit <http://www.manbeef.com>. ManBeef has been the world's leading distributor of human meat for the past 19 years. ManBeef provides information on processing, acquiring the body and quality control I demand as prospective consumer. They also offer unique and creative recipes that are easy to follow.

Doodoo.com

<http://doodoo.com>

review by | Sean O'Brien

If you're like me, you probably hate people. Well, I have just the site for you. Doodoo.com allows you to alleviate that potentially harmful aggression in a passive, if smelly, way. NO, not sex. Call me crazy, call me sexy, but send me poop in the mail. What else could bring children and adults alike pleasure and joy? For the low cost of \$19.95, Doodoo.com will ship a prettily wrapped pile of quality horse poop to the person of your choice. Poop can bring a smile to anybody's face. Heck, even if it doesn't make them happy, you can draw a poop smile on!

Doodoo.com has given meaning to my life. There is now a greater standard of happiness for which humanity is capable of striving. But no enemies, you say? Make some! Packaged poop also makes a wonderful gift. Remember, nothing says "I love you" like a steaming pile of feces.



Thank you, Ms. Thomas

story by | Derek Spellman

Baldwin Hall Auditorium was nearly filled to capacity on April 7 when veteran White House correspondent Helen Thomas spoke about the nation's present political landscape and spun stories about past American Presidents.

Thomas has served in both the White House Press Corps and United Press International (UPI) for almost forty years, establishing a reputation for asking presidents pointed questions and for ending her exchanges with "Thank you, Mr. President."

Those who attended her speech saw the blend of toughness and humor that made Thomas a legendary fixture in the White House Press Corps.

"Conservatives try to demonize the federal government and talk about how it can take over everything," she said "Are they talking about some alien invader? The federal government isn't evil. The federal government is we the people."

In the first half of her speech, Thomas staked out her position on current affairs, reviewing the Clinton presidency and the United States' role as world superpower.

She also drew an irreverent portrait of President George W. Bush, decrying his faith-based policies, his privatization of Social Security, and his own intellectual deficits.

"I don't want Wall Street to get its mitts on my money," she said in reference to Bush's Social Security plan.

In discussing President Bush's attempt to

enlist the support of African-Americans, she said, "Bush is trying to sell himself as the friend of African-Americans. Now no black child in Washington is safe from being photographed with George Bush."

In the second half of her address, Thomas regaled the audience with humorous stories about American presidents such as President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

"Once LBJ's speechwriter brought him a copy of an address he was to give," she said. "The first line was a quote from Aristotle. 'Aristotle, Aristotle? No one is going to know about Aristotle,' he said. So he reached for his pen, crossed out Aristotle and wrote 'As my dead old daddy used to say' on the draft."

In a press conference earlier that day Thomas said, "I don't put them [Presidents] on a pedestal. They are our public servants." She said, "They [Presidents] get elected and they think they are Presidents. I just see them as human beings who tried to get into office. Now I have great respect for the Presidency as an office. I am in awe of democracy. But human beings occupy the Presidency."

In the closing moments of her speech, Thomas said that while the media's standards may have eroded in the last few decades the press remains the most ardent defender of the First Amendment.

"I believe people can handle the truth," she said. "I believe they can make good decisions when they are informed. The job of the journalist is to keep people informed and in so doing keep democracy alive."

FTAA, from page 1

cals are often sold to Latin American countries for use in their farming. Under the FTAA, foods contaminated by these chemicals will be sold throughout the hemisphere.

Though food security organizations all over the world agree that biotechnology and genetically modified foods will increase hunger in poor nations, the FTAA will promote the interests of biotechnology corporations such as Archer Daniels Midland, Cargill and Monsanto.

Under the FTAA farmers will be forced to buy expensive patented seeds every season, rather than saving and planting their own, as they would normally do. This will make small farmers dependent on multinational corporations, such as those mentioned earlier, leading to increased poverty and hunger.

The FTAA directive on agriculture and government procurement will prevent governments from subsidizing or favoring local farmers.

In addition, the FTAA will seek to eliminate the governmental price controls on necessity crops (rice, corn, grains) that keep them affordable. Multinational corporations will likely raise the prices of necessity crops, so that the poor will no longer be able to afford the food necessary for their survival.

There is much evidence that in the future powerful military forces will be used to protect the global marketplace.

In a 1997 Pentagon study of the global situation it was stated that the future purpose of the U.S. military would be to "protect U.S. interests and investments" and to "respond to movements and rebellions spurred by the growing gap between the rich and poor." With the FTAA the gap between the rich and the poor will undoubtedly grow.

If the FTAA is enacted, one can expect to

see an increase in "death squad" activities. These "death squads," often trained at the School of the Americas, protect corporate interests in Latin America by suppressing unionizing and other organizing efforts.

The development of a corporate global military designed to protect business interests will be an all-to-real possibility if the FTAA is passed.

The future does not have to be this way. The FTAA is not a done deal; it can be stopped. The recent anti-globalization protests have accomplished much and are the best, if not the only, examples of real democracy seen in the last few decades.

In Mexico, since 1 January 1994, the day NAFTA went into effect, the Zapatista National Liberation Army has successfully resisted the forces of globalization.

Grassroots campaigns in 1995 and 1997 stopped the Fast Track negotiating agreement, the Multilateral Agreement on Investments was defeated in 1998, and in 1999 protestors in Seattle shut down the WTO summit.

People all over the world are working together to create an alternative grassroots globalization.

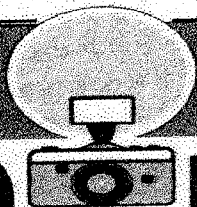
In addition to the tens of thousands anti-globalists converging in Quebec to protest the Summit of the Americas and confront the massive police force waiting for them, activists throughout the hemisphere are planning solidarity actions.

Demonstrations will take place on both the U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders. The Midwest Convergence (<http://www.stopftaa.org/kc>) will take place in Kansas City, Missouri from April 19-22. All citizens have a duty to take to the streets and make their voices heard. It is not too late to stop the FTAA. It didn't start in Seattle, it won't end in Quebec!

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Dining with Magruder

feature by | Derek Spellman

Going to President Magruder's house for dinner is very much like going to the house of your significant other's parents: you realize you should not be there, you worry that everything you do will deface the occasion and yet you feel obliged to go anyway.

At any rate, that was my most consuming concern when I went to President Magruder's house to share a meal with him, his wife and about 25 Student Senators last week.

President Magruder's house lies across the street from the Catholic Newman Center, set back a little from the road and splendidly isolated.

It is a soft spring day, and mounting the stairs leading up to the entryway you see him pumping the hands of his guests, smiling broadly, exchanging pleasantries. Magruder is a large florid man who always looks relaxed and jovial, always wears a grin on his face.

When he shakes your hand and says "Good to see you" there is an unspoken feeling of "Now I know I can place my absolute trust in you because even though I don't know who you are and I have never seen you before I am sure you have been an archetypal citizen/student since the day you were born." Then he gently choreographs you into the dining room.

Dinner starts at about 6 p.m. and is essentially appetizers -- little smokies drenched in barbecue sauce, heaping platters of fruits and vegetables, peanut butter squares laid out in neat rows.

Magruder does not really mingle with his guests when they stand in clusters. He prefers one-on-one conversations, the swapping of stories, innocuous questions about your hometown.

He bears a curious resemblance to Jay Gatsby in that he seems vaguely uneasy about breaking into other peoples' conversations, preferring instead to remain at a prudently withdrawn distance while events unfold.

At about 6:45 p.m., Magruder steps into his living room, which serves as the reception area. The room is large and elegant, gracefully furnished with portraits, comfortable armchairs, and a grand piano.

Standing in the center of the room, Magruder begins to take everyone through the history of the Presidential mansion and some of the paintings hanging in the chamber, inserting jokes here and there.

He then unfolds the history of the University name change. After about 20 minutes his wife gently chides him about the length of the talk, and so Magruder brings it to a close.

The inexhaustible flow of language obscures the fact that Magruder is not very comfortable speaking to groups. A politician to his fingertips, he nevertheless remains a peculiarly modest and self-deprecatory figure, one who is uneasy with all the attention being concentrated on him.

He prefers the more personable approach, the handshakes, the rudiments of pressing flesh above the presidential pulpit.

After his talk he invites the guest to prowl through his study, a room that is cluttered in its décor but comfortable, with several hundred books jammed into its bookcase.

The Magruder's literary tastes seem versatile and wide-ranging: biographies of Thomas Jefferson, spy novels, a set of books about the Bethesda excavations and leather-bound edi-

see MAGRUDER, page 12

Wrongly convicted man believes in grace of God

news feature by | Shala Garcia

"Don't kill in our names, our hearts have bled enough."

The victim is George White but he's not really the victim at all, it's his wife; but we'll get to her later. He was born and raised in Southern California, went to college, spent two years fighting for his country, and then later spent nine years fighting for his life; but we'll get to that later.

Fifteen years after college ended, he found himself a resident of Alabama, a private businessman, husband to a Charlene White and father to Tom (12) and Christy (5), and then a murderer; but we'll get to that later.

On the evening of Feb. 2, 1985, known only to White and his family, the kids were at grandma's and he and his wife were considering a seven o'clock movie. Unexpectedly, they received a phone call from a customer asking him to reopen the store so he could buy a part to fix some home-emergency.

Believing that this would only be a five-minute ordeal, George and Charlene both went to the store... but only George returned because they were attacked by a gunman within the store who killed George's wife and injured George, while stealing nine years of his life.

As I sat in the Georgian room in the Student Union Building on April 2 and listened to this man's tragic story and heard his words of sorrow and saw his face that still remembered the horror of that malevolent evening, I thought, "How does this man not wish for the gunman to be dead? How could he possibly be against the

death penalty?"

After all, as he held his dying wife in his arms, he described it as "things beyond my capacity to endure." And even then as he told the audience this, he said regretfully, "And I don't remember to this day if I said goodbye."

George was falsely convicted by an Alabama State Court for the murder of his own wife, even though he was shot three times by the gunman and there was no real hard evidence for conviction except for the pitiful motive for life insurance of \$2.5 million dollars that was on him and not his wife.

He was sentenced to life and the only reason why he did not get the death penalty, so he believes, was because of the color of his skin (it was an all white jury) and his perceived economic status.

As he told this story, all he could say about his reactions was, "I couldn't believe it; I couldn't believe it."

Eventually after nine years of fighting with Alabama courts and eventually going to a higher court with evidence revealing his innocence, his freedom was given to him on Apr. 9, 1992.

He did not receive any apology or compensation for his misery, only "dismissal with prejudice," which simply means that the court recognizes that he shouldn't have been convicted but they don't care, so get on with the rest of life, "Next!"

Yet, after White has told of such tragic events as the time he sat chained to a chair vis-

see MURDER, page 12

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monitor letters

Some GDIs are missing out

I wish to respond to Mr. Shanahan's letter "Greeks ask for stereotypes" in the last issue of *The Monitor*. Being a Greek person on this campus myself, it is easy for me to see how ignorant all of his comments are. He clearly does not know anything about Greek life here at the University.

If you think some of the bonds we make with our fraternity brothers (or sorority sisters) in college will not last for the rest of our lives, you are the one who is sadly mistaken.

Mr. Shanahan, with his colorful language, obviously has some raging jealousy towards the Greeks. People do not join a social fraternity for future job opportunities — the thought of that is outrageous to any person with common sense.

People who are Greek do not succeed because they are Greek. Rather, the type of people who join social fraternities have the characteristics that help one succeed in this world — people who are willing to take a risk, willing to do something to better their lives.

That is why two percent of the male population in America are fraternity men, and that two percent makes up 80 percent of the executives of the 500 largest corporations in America.

Additionally, 75 percent of our U.S. Senators are fraternity men. And of the 16 presidents who were young enough to have the chance to join fraternities, 13 took advantage of that opportunity.

I think I speak for many when I say I don't particularly care about independents' stereotypes of Greeks. Anyone who has those stereotypes and voices them is showing everyone their blatant ignorance on the topic.

And as far as no socializing with independents during Rush, you are horribly misinformed. I am the Rush chair of my fraternity and I assure you there is no such rule (neither is that true of sorority Rush).

And no, Mr. Shanahan, we don't expect the general campus to view us as being just like everyone else. By joining any organization, Greek or not, you set yourself apart from everyone else. As Greeks, we are held to higher standards and we welcome that challenge.

There is so much to be learned in the way of social skills, time management and leadership in the Greek system that I consider a shame that more people do not go Greek. Of course, you would never understand that from your narrow and angry point of view.

Our social events do not consist solely of "drinking and fucking." We just raised \$1,300 for terminally ill children, and we all got up at 5:30 a.m. on our Thursday off of school to work at our annual Cookout for Kids. Every year we participate in the Special Olympics and have been involved in many other fun activities such as coaching little league basketball, refereeing for youth basketball tournaments and Habitat for Humanity. There are plenty of my fraternity brothers who never drink at parties, and that's perfectly fine.

So have your stereotypes and your angry articles in *The Monitor*. It does not bother those of us who have come across a wonderful opportunity that so many independents pass up due to their unfortunate misconceptions. You're just jealous because you know you are missing out on an exceptional opportunity in your life, while the rest of us go on living ours.

From a proud member of the close brotherhood of Phi Kappa Tau,

Scott Walterbach

Greek is proud of being Greek

This letter was written because, while I don't entirely disagree with Mr. Shanahan in certain regards, I do believe he has no reason for what he did and is not right in his accusations.

The truth of the matter is that people are generalized in ways that are not always accurate and these generalizations made about the Greeks serve no other purpose than making this kid seem like a whining, judgmental baby.

The generalizations do have other intentions, however, and I believe that one of them is to spur hatred between these "two groups," because of confusion, ignorance and a personal problem that Mr. Shanahan has with the Greeks.

I have also found out there are more people like him, and that most of what they believe in is about the same. They address the problems of binge drinking, rape, vandalism, STD's and the way in which they feel Greeks act towards others in ways that single out the Greeks as the source of these problems, or at least a major contribution to them.

First, let me say Mr. Shanahan has a lot of courage to voice his opinions and is a smart man.

Now, let me say this. I believe his entire intention of writing such a letter was merely to piss people off for his own twisted sense of satisfaction; why else would he further the alienation of these "two groups," and try to delicately word insults against a certain group of women?

While there are problems between these different groups of people, it is unintelligent to say that Greeks are the ones who create them. I can never recall an instance where I have ever alienated someone based on generalizations that are reflected by an organization to which they belong, or don't belong.

Furthermore, I don't think the Greeks go around and start such immature arguments for several reasons.

First, Greek life is here for the intention of social benefit. Maybe you haven't realized this, but college is about meeting people and enjoying yourself, and Greek organizations aid people in doing this.

The Greek system is not elitist either. It is not difficult to become a member of one, and each Greek organization caters to individual character in a way that will benefit you socially because they invite you as a member based on the fact that you will meet people with similar interests and personalities. There is also a lot of diversity within the Greek system, and even within individual organizations.

Therefore, Greek organizations help you more socially because they allow you the opportunity of socializing with many different types of people. After all, there is a strong sense of unity among the Greek systems on this campus (despite silly rivalries), and this is a result of learning how to treat different types of people well, regardless of differences that occur among them.

It was said also that Greeks exclude people socially. It is that surprising to you Greek people hang out with each other? With so many people within the Greek system it is almost impossible to not be constantly be meeting new people all the time, and establishing bonds with them that are a lot more important than you could ever realize.

People complain because they are not al-

lowed at our parties, but why? Do you pay for a house to have them at? Do you pay for the insurance that will protect that house if something happens to it, or someone hurts himself or herself there and sues (which would threaten its existence)? Do you take responsibility when something in that house has been damaged? NO.

You complain about us having a "monopoly of pussy." It makes you look selfish, and also like the pigs that you claim to hate. Girls come to our parties because they want to, and they have fun while they are there because the people they meet there are entertaining. You told me this wasn't a problem for you anyway, so why do you care? From my understanding you don't even want to be a Greek ever, so why would you want to offend organizations of which people are proud, loving and caring members?

What was said did not insult a person; it insulted a thing, a thing that is only here for good reasons. Greek organizations do more than social activities as well.

It has been said that they contribute nothing; this is not true. Think of how much good such large organizations can do with so many people involved who are only looking out for the best interests of their organization by giving it a good name, as well as by participating in acts that will help others.

We are very proud of being Greek, and we don't like to hear about people who can never understand our perspective criticize what we do. Why else is it possible for Greek people to understand that involving themselves in this fight is pointless? It is because non-Greek people will never understand our point of view.

That is why I believe this problem is rooted in human nature rather than quarrels between these "two groups." Recognize that people aren't statistics, and making generalizations based upon them is a stupid thing to do. Not only are you not respecting individuals for who they are, you are targeting innocent people who do conduct themselves well.

Think about this too: the way in which people act is a part of their individuality and is not always a good indication or reflection of an organization to which they belong.

I leave you here, with these things to think about, and also would like for you to read a longer explanation of the situation that can be found on the network (workgroup kai, computer 520). I didn't have to edit anything for length there and explained issues I have not addressed here.

Eric Peckitt

Shanahan exudes spite

I'm not a member of a club. I don't golf, ski or pray either. But most fortunately, I've never been rejected from a fraternity. Chris Shanahan, in his April 3 letter to *The Monitor*, exudes the spite that remained after his apparent rejection from a fraternity.

If my memory serves me well, he's written scathing letters about Greek organizations in the past, and this undoubtedly won't be the last.

I don't really understand his beef about "RESPECT" for women and the STD problem, propagated, as he explained, by the casual sex that often occurs following "Greek" parties, particularly when viewed in the light of his comment that "fraternities have a total monopoly on pussy." His unfulfilled desire to get laid at a frat party seems to conflict strikingly with his idealistic hopes to prevent sex from occurring on or about said frat parties.

Furthermore, Shanahan recycles the tired complaint that fraternities are not necessary to

instill leadership, communication skills, etc. in college students, through their ridiculous stunts, etc.

Perhaps Shanahan might trouble himself to speak with Kirksville's resident scholar of history, David Frederick, from whom he might learn that many American college systems are modeled upon British institutions, and that until somewhat recently, the building of character was ostensibly one of the primary functions of these institutions.

To append, I'd like to point out that whatever the origins of the term, the pride students seem to express when they proclaim they belong to "the goddamn independents" indicates they are more than likely satisfied with their title.

I do commend Shanahan however, for omitting the name of the sorority that "everybody's tried," although I am disappointed I can't make practical use of the knowledge.

Phil Schiff

He must have been joking

I know the last edition of *The Monitor* was the April Fool's Day edition, but I did not think the letters to the editor would follow the same jokes as the rest of the paper.

The reason I say this is because the letter written by the pompously ignorant "Christopher Michael Shanahan" is so off base, I thought surely it was a joke.

Am I right, or did he blame the STD problem on campus (we have a problem?) on the Greek system? Surely he must have been joking. Can anyone possibly think Greeks are the only ones on this campus who are fucking? Are you kidding me?

Also, what rational person could say, in earnest, that frat boys are the only guys who take advantage of girls? "Shanahan" suggest people socialize with "GDIs." Does he think all guys who don't have letters on their chest automatically respect women more?

Perhaps my favorite line of this unsigned letter: "Or do you think that the individuals who go to parties with the intention of getting drunk and/or fucked (usually both) are the ones who contribute to the [STD] problem?"

Sorry to burst anyone's bubble, but you don't need to be Greek to go to a party with intention of getting fucked. There is no way to label all the different people on this campus who like to get laid.

In fact, I know plenty of people in sororities and fraternities who are in committed monogamous relationships, who are abstaining from sex until marriage or who are not as morally casual as "Christopher Michael Shanahan" would suggest.

Yes, sometimes we hear disturbing stories about frat boys taking advantage of women, but I've heard just as many of these same kinds of stories about non-Greek guys. It's not fair to say Greeks are the only ones making problems.

"Shanahan" also said in the letter, "When your [Greek] social events consist solely of drinking and fucking, you only reinforce the stereotypes." Bullshit! I'm sorry, but can anyone think of a single party, Greek or "GDI," that they've been to at college when drinking (and fucking as a byproduct) wasn't the main activity? The stereotype is not reinforced by Greek activities alone.

The kind of shit that people like "Shanahan" talk about the Greek system is what reinforces the stereotype. In the letter, he said he was avoiding sex with a particular sorority because he didn't want to get a disease. Am I wrong, or is

Continued on next page

that a reinforcement of the unfair stereotype?

It is impossible to blame the so-called STD problem on any one type of individual. Lots of people like to fuck, and though this group probably includes Greeks, it must include just as many "independents."

One last comment: "Christopher Michael Shanahan" has no business speaking for Jesus, or anyone else for that matter. Actually, no one should really presume to know the intentions or feelings of other people.

As a Christian (and a non-Greek, by the way), I do not appreciate the statements "Shanahan" has made. I am writing to express that viewpoint, and that viewpoint only.

Also, to "Christopher Michael Shanahan," only a coward trying to publicize his ignorance and callousness would sign a phony name to letters such as the ones you write. If you have an opinion, try to find the balls to say it's yours.

Anna Codutti

Mommy! Everyone thinks I have an STD!

I was sitting upstairs in Violette Hall studying for my test when I overheard this guy talking about *The Monitor* to his friend. "Did you read what the fucking *Monitor* said about us [referring to the Greek population]? That we all have STD's and we sleep around. I'm fucking pissed. I am going to respond on that letter. I can't believe that shit!"

I couldn't help but laugh my ass off at this guy. I thought, "Are you kidding me?! Do these people actually get pissy about that crap?" Fucking whiner.

Hey! Why don't you go whine to your mommy? C'mon, don't get your panties in such a wad. First of all, it's a letter. Second of all, it's a stereotype you have to live with. You joined

the Greek system, now live with it.

When I read the letter, I thought it was funny as shit. I thought that this guy was just telling the truth to finally get it out in the open. Then, when I heard people bitching about it, it made me think, "What kind of people actually go to school here?" It seems to me that they are stuck in the second grade whining to their moms about what so-and-so said about them and how they were "gonna kick their ass."

Now you have another stereotype: you guys complain and whine about stupid shit. I am stereotyped, but do I let it get to me? No. I am bigger and more mature than that.

I'll give you an example. I live in West County, the Chesterfield area, of St. Louis. I am stereotyped to be a "snotty bitch," "a little rich girl that has everything handed to her" and that "daddy pays for everything." That stereotype does not fit me at all, but do I pay attention to it? Do I let it make me mad? No.

Everyone is stereotyped, whether good or bad. It is just a fact of life in the real mature adult world, but I don't know if I can classify the whiners as mature adults.

My point is that the world is cruel whether you like it or not. Every one person is stereotyped in some way: Hippies are drug junkies and they smell, fraternity and sorority members sleep around, people who wear glasses are dorks, football players are dumb, scholastic achievers are geeks, Kirksville townies are white trash and so on and so forth.

If you know in your heart who and what you are, then stereotypes should not bother you. I know who I am and my friends know who I am and if someone is going to stereotype me, then fuck them. I know in my heart who I am. I am not going to let stereotypes bother me.

Just the other night, someone told me that "my daddy pays for everything," but it's kinda

funny he says that because I work with him. Obviously my daddy hands me everything because I work to make money to pay my bills. I don't know, seems like a dumbshit thing to say about someone you work with.

After he said that, I decided to say fuck him, that stereotype is not me and I don't care enough to spend the energy trying to tell him I am something else. I am a bigger person and I refuse to stoop to his level. I'm not gonna whine and bitch about it to try and change it.

Anyways, my point is, grow up and stop fucking whining about what he or she said about you. Live with it; it's going to happen all throughout your life whether you like it or not.

Andrea Mattina

LAKE, from page 1

as a powerless student organization. A common view is that Senate believes that it can issue a declaration and within days a lake will be created.

"In the language of the resolution, it calls for us to look into this problem," Burden said. "It's the first step in a really large discussion."

"We knew that it was a long term project," Simpson said. "It would not take place in the next two to five years."

At this point in time, discussion on the issue is just beginning. The Senators have not even taken their ideas to the Campus Planning Committee for review and feedback. The focus right now is on student response to the idea.

"It all depends on students' reactions and with what the administration feels," Simpson said. "If the feedback is all negative, we will drop it."

For more information on the proposal and Student Senate in general, visit <http://senate.truman.edu>.

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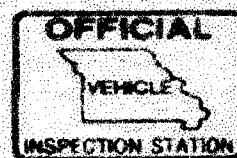
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monitor reviews

India.Arie sings guitar-based R & B

India.Arie
Acoustic Soul
Motown Records



review by | Jonathan
Cannon

Sometime between the '70s and the '90s, the guitar became a very ambiguous instrument in R & B. Once upon a time it dominated the music: the Isley Brothers, the Brothers Johnson, even James Brown all had strong guitar work fleshing out the soul.

Somehow, though, the guitar so fused to rock 'n' roll that focusing on a guitar part in soul (God forbid a solo!) is almost immediately considered crossover.

The focus, then, shifts to the bass, drums and keys. This has made up a major part of modern R & B.

As a consequence, then, for much of black music the guitar has a taboo that invokes Jimi Hendrix and Prince. Strong rock 'n' roll in black culture has with it a very noticeable appeal.

More and more, the image of the R & B artist with guitar has been springing forth (in videos and photo shoots both Usher and Sisqo have been shown with guitar, although neither play it).

Unfortunately, it's all in the look; actually building on a bluesy guitar riff is far too risky.

Not that several attempts haven't been made to change this. Tony Toni Tone, backed by whiz guitar brothers Raphael Saddiq and Dwayne

Wiggins, brought back guitar based soul with a "New Jack" swing. After the band broke up in the late '90s, Dwayne released the ambitious flop *Eyes Never Lie*, an album that attempted to fully realize the potential of the acoustic guitar in soul. (You can find the album at used record store bins everywhere.)

Mint Condition, the Family Stand and Brian McKnight also dabbled in acoustic soul -- and all met with relative failure. The fact was, making a radio-friendly, soulful guitar-based album that stays safely inside its genre is just damn hard.

In comes India.Arie, the newest voice from Motown Records. Her album, very appropriately named *Acoustic Soul*, achieves what R & B has been itching to do for years. It's every bit an R & B album, and yet the guitar parts aren't so simple as to insult guitar players everywhere.

No, she isn't blazing a new trail; you'll certainly find no guitar solos to drop your jaw. But for a debut album, it's pretty impressive.

Image-wise, she follows in the footsteps of label mate Erykah Badu. She carries an air of the bohemian, incense-burning, brown-skinned queen. "I will be patient, kind, faithful and true/ to a man who loves music, a man who loves art/ Respects the spirit world and thinks with his heart," she sings on "Ready for Love."

The acoustic quietly strums in the background. A piano accompanied by strings follows her heartfelt ballad.

There's a bit of filler found here, but not too

much to cover the monster songs, like the delicious "Brown Skin" or the final track, a surprisingly brilliant dedication to Stevie Wonder; the latter is so good that it almost seems out of place here, as if she should have saved it for her sophomore album (or at least, couldn't she have gotten those hot drums and hand percussions on the rest of the album?).

That's because what India.Arie shows on most of the tracks is a promising mark that, at best, falls short of greatness but several steps above mediocrity.

The problem isn't her voice, which is good, or her guitar skills, which are also good. The problem is just that most of the songs seem restrained. Perhaps this restraint will make the difference between an experimental album that gets lost in the shuffle and an R & B album that burns up the charts.

Acoustic Soul isn't a breakthrough album. India.Arie's probably not going to join Angie Stone and Jill Scott as the hot new female vocalists in neo-soul. What she does is carve out a much needed niche in R & B that she can lay claim to.

With an album so slick and radio-friendly, she's sure to have at least two more hit singles (if "Brown Skin" hits the air waves, mark my words it will hit big), so she's bought herself a lot of elbow room for future recordings.

Acoustic Soul is a sweet taste of what she can do. Now let's see if she can go the extra mile.

Ween expands minds, rocks Ohio

review by | Cameron Moore

Ohio... it's round on the ends and "hi" in the middle. And we were high right in the middle of Ohio as a brown cloud descended on the state two weekends ago, in the form of two Ween concerts. Performing two sold-out shows, in Columbus on Friday and Cincinnati on Saturday, faux brothers Gene and Dean Ween delivered what we drove 10 hours each way to see: over six hours of on-stage bad-assery.

Formed in 1984 when Gene and Dean (real names Aaron Freeman and Mickey Melchiondo) met in a junior high typing class in New Hope, Pa., Ween have toured the world making eclectic music from punk to psychedelia to funk to an entire country album. They are well known for their ability to play for three-plus hours on stage, delivering sets of 35 or more songs to their fans.

Two friends, Will and Jarrett, and myself left Kirksville at about 11 a.m. for Columbus. We brought only the essentials: clothes, money, CDs and enough drugs to entertain us for three days.

We drove pretty much straight through Illinois and Indiana, only stopping for gas and occasionally for food. We arrived in Columbus at about 9:15 p.m.; the show had already started. Standing out in front of Newport Music Hall, about a block off campus at Ohio State University, we could hear the band playing inside. But we only had two tickets, and we needed one more. After 15 minutes of standing around, shuffling our feet, we were about to give up on the third ticket. Then, out of nowhere, some dude walked up and asked us if we were looking for an extra ticket; he only had one. He just wanted \$15, but I gave him a twenty; we were about to see Ween and this guy just made our night.

We barreled our way to the middle of the crowd and got right into the show. We missed

about 45 minutes, but that didn't matter, because there were still two hours left. We watched the band through a cloud of smoke that smelled about as good as it tasted. The show was long and intense, but we needed rest for the big night that was to be the following evening in Cincinnati.

On the way out of the club, we ran into Scotty, AKA "Captain Kind Bud," a guy I met at the Ween show in New Jersey the previous weekend, where he was wearing a cape with a picture of a plant on the back and a kooky hat. He had a hotel room and offered to put us up. We gladly accepted.

Scotty had been to every show on the tour and was planning on going to the rest of the shows. The band asked him to come because they liked his costume and even put him on the guest list for all the shows. What nice guys. Although only a 10-show tour, that is a hell of a trip. We chilled in Scotty's room, smoked a doob and listened to our Texan friend tell us about his acid experiments.

"If you ever get your hands on some really good acid," Scotty said, "and you know that it is pure, do like 10 or 15 hits. It will change your life forever." And he didn't mean it would be changed in the sense of being schizophrenic for the rest of one's life.

He proceeded to tell us about the time he dosed about 20 hits. He had experienced the Void, and he was just passing the good news along to us.

"We are all one; we are just as much of Ween as Ween is," he said, bringing the conversation full circle back to the band.

The next day, we set out to conquer Cincinnati. We bummed around town all day, perusing smoke shops and various music stores. It took a while to secure our third ticket because there were plenty of people milling around outside the

club, looking for the same thing.

Scalpers were standing on the corner asking for \$40 if you were lucky, \$60 if you weren't. Most people tried to steer people away from giving in to the scalpers, reassuring those without tickets that cheaper ones will arrive when more people show up for the show.

Several hours and a stomach full of fungi later, Ween arrived on stage ready to blow our minds. They opened up with "Nan," a song from their first album, *God Ween Satan*. They followed up with a set of rock songs that were literally electrifying.

Halfway through the set, Deane went into "A Tear for Eddie," a tribute to Funkadelic guitarist Eddie Hazel. The song is an instrumental guitar jam, similar in style to Hazel's "Maggot Brain," and it doesn't get much heavier than this. This was easily the brownest moment of the show.

Ween closed the first set with "Enter Sandman," which surprised the crowd into a frenzy of screaming fans and onlookers confused at how much it sounds like the original. They can duplicate anything. They rocked the fuck out of that number.

The encore is opened with a song from the South Park CD, *Chef Aid*, "Homo Rainbow." Surprisingly thoughtful for a South Park CD, this song is truly inspired.

"There's many colors in the homo rainbow. Pick any shade from black to yellow... Don't be afraid to let your colors shine... and if you find your pot of gold, then every little thing is gonna work out fine," Papa Gene sang.

After a nearly lethal dose of rock 'n' roll that was the encore, we decided to drive back home instead of staying the night in town. We drove back to Kirksville to resume our normal student lives, with our minds expanded and our eardrums satisfied.



Roses and thorns

feature by | Tommy
Estlund

As my four years as an undergraduate here at the University comes to a close (yeah, you read that right... FOUR years... it CAN happen!) I have found myself thinking back about all the things that I have done and seen. There are a lot of people and memories that really stick out in my mind and I'd like to give the appropriate props to those who deserve it. So, here it goes....

Roses: to my freshman week class for still remembering each other four years later.

Roses: to teachers who let us have fun during Freshman Week.

Thorns: to teachers who think Freshman Week is another week of the semester for you to pile on homework. (Don't worry Tally, this wasn't you!)

Roses: to SAB for bringing so many cool groups and acts to campus.

Thorns: to SAB for the bad acts. (I had to be fair.)

Roses: to the students who go out and enjoy themselves at the many SAB events.

Thorns: to students who complain about the groups SAB brings here.

Roses: to the Greek System for providing some people with a good group they can feel comfortable in.

Thorns: to people, like myself, who have insisted for way too long on putting down the Greek system as a whole.

Thorns: to those people in the Greek system who perpetuate all the negative aspects of the Greek system.

Roses: to all the "ghost stories" on campus.

Roses: to the janitors who keep the Violette Hall bathrooms so clean.

Thorns: to the disgusting bathrooms in Baldwin. Scary.

Roses: to being done with all my math requirements.

Roses: to late night hours of talking with people you've never met and discussing the worst thing you've ever done and what dreams you have and what the meaning of life is.

Roses: to TBS for playing *The Shawshank Redemption* 43 times a week. As many times as I've seen it, I just can't get enough of it.

Roses: to the Louis House Lounge Lizards and to brownies with a very special recipe.

Thorns: to Stats 190.

Roses: to teachers who understand a 100 level class should have less work than a 400 level class.

Thorns: to teachers who don't understand that.

Roses: to classes outside.

Roses: to the two trees that are perfect for hanging my hammock on.

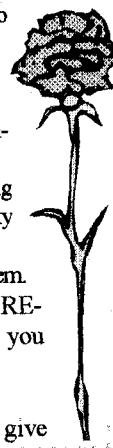
Roses: to SAB for playing music on the mall. Play that funky music.

Thorns: to the parking problem.

Roses: to how cheap it REALLY is to park here. Have you been to other schools?

Roses: to Spring Break.

Thorns: to teachers who give you homework over Spring Break.



University has an Ultimate Frisbee team?

story by | Justin Plassmeyer

We've got an Ultimate Frisbee Team?

Yes, and we're kicking ass! The Truman State Ultimate Team has shown incredible poise, confidence and skill throughout this past semester. A relatively unrecognized team, Truman State Ultimate has surpassed everyone's expectations with decisive tournament victories and a second place finish at sectionals.

The semester started with a six-team tournament in Columbia, Mo. We showed up as the impervious underdog and left the undefeated, undisputed champions. A 6-0 weekend for TSU that left Washington University, Mizzou, Principia, Iowa and CMSU scratching their heads.

The team's next rendezvous with competition was Huck Finn IV in St. Louis. TSU ran into some stiff club team competition and fell into the B bracket. The team showed great composure and was able to fight through the adversity to win the B bracket.

The next pre-season tournament led the TSU team into the frozen tundra of Northern Iowa. In constant bone-chilling 30 mph winds and below freezing temperatures, TSU was able to muster the

courage to defeat St. John's and Knox.

Due to the unbearably cold temperatures the tournament was moved indoors for the second day. This allowed TSU to strut their stuff as we awed audiences with impressive victories over Michigan Tech, ISUC (Iowa State Ultimate Club) and University of Northern Iowa. Put another tournament victory under TSU's belt as they head into the post-season.

The post-season started with sectionals on April 7 and 8. TSU entered this tournament as the third seed, a drastic change from our previous status as, "TSU... who?"

We faced stiff competition on the first day as we beat down St. Louis University, McPherson and Kansas State but ran into a brick wall as KU's experience proved too much for our young team.

On the second day TSU defeated SMS and Mizzou to move into the championship game and a rematch with KU. KU got lucky and came away the champions as TSU surprised even more people, winning a spot at Regionals on April 28 and 29 in Dallas.

Rising out of anonymity, the TSU ultimate team is now attempting to raise money to fund their trip to Dallas in an attempt to qualify for nationals in May.

Any group or individual that would like to make a contribution may do so by contacting Erin Schuster at 665-1018 or Justin Plassmeyer at 785-4916.

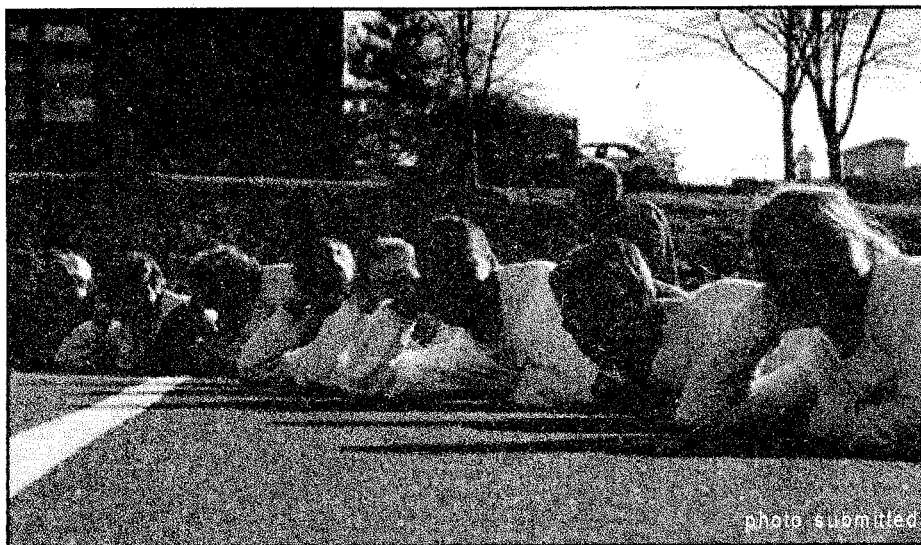
The TSU Ultimate Frisbee Team would also like to express its extreme gratitude to the men of Delta Chi for their generous donation.

The TSU ultimate team is a coed team that

allows anyone to come play with us. Our practice times are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 4:30 p.m. behind Centennial. We also play on Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. behind Centennial.

On April 21 we are having a couple of other college teams come up to play with us here in Kirksville on the field behind Centennial.

Anyone who would like to come watch and/or play is more than welcome!



Truman State Ultimate lounges between games in Columbia.

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April 19th and 20th
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MAGRUDER, from page 7

tions of classics such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Those who amble into the study are left alone because Magruder already has to begin exchanging goodbyes with some of his guests.

About 10 minutes later, the rest of the party begins to break up and the guests begin trailing out of the door. Magruder plants himself in the same position as he did at the start of the party, exchanges pleasantries with his guests, thanks you for stopping by, flashes that misty smile of his.

When my turn comes I am tempted to ask him about the enormous power of his office, how it feels to be seen as a power broker on campus.

But before I raise the question, I can see the response it would evoke: Magruder throws his head and laughs, saying something to effect of he's still waiting for that power to this day. So I just nod as thoughtfully as I can, as if in a gesture of farewell.

MURDER, from page 7

iting with his children whom he had not seen in 42 days and whom he may never be allowed to see again, since he was in a custody battle over them, sitting in a cell feeling hate for the gunman and some people of the system, losing friends, respect of some family members and everything he has become, he still believes he has been healed by the "grace of God."

Although it took White a long time to bring himself to this kind of salvation, he now believes, "No amount of retaliatory violence will heal the wounds of our loss."

And to me, who is a person, keep in mind, who has never had anyone murdered, this completely makes sense.

I think Batman in the movie *Batman Forever* described it best when Robin was expressing his strong desires to blow Mr. Freeze away. He said to Robin something like this, "And what are you going to do after you avenge your parents by killing Mr. Freeze when that void in the pit of your stomach still remains unfulfilled? You'll think that if you kill one more time the void will go away, but it doesn't. So you keep on killing and keep on killing, until one day you find yourself just like Mr. Freeze."

From this point of view, I can see the wrongness in the death penalty.

Now, White spends 200 or more days a year touring, telling his story, and promoting his opposing opinions of the death penalty.

He gave some fair ideas in place of the death penalty. He suggested employment in jails and fair wages afforded to the prisoners that could be used toward a trust fund for victims' families for counseling and social security.

White encouraged that tax money should be spent towards crime prevention, since "ninety-four percent of money spent is after a crime occurs," he explained.

It's hard to make a decision on whether or not the death penalty should be institutionalized. It is, in fact, a serious matter to end someone's life in such a conscious and precise matter, especially if the provided "evidence" isn't definite.

For me, if I knew the defendant was guilty, I wouldn't sentence him (her) to death. Death is too quick of a way out of the situation. I think that person should live out the rest of their life with the knowledge that they unjustly murdered somebody, and while they are living with it, they can be put inside of a pit beneath those Johnny On the Spots in the sweltering heat during an outdoors event so that every time someone enters one of these disgusting cubicles, that person will know exactly what they mean to society.



POP TOP FIVE

**feature by | Jonathan Cannon**

21. **Tony Toni Toné - *House of Music***. The Tonies' swan song was also their most satisfying effort. After the high-octane *Sons of Soul*, the trio of Raphael Saddiq, Dwayne Wiggins and Timothy Christian calm down really focus on the jam. They throw down every card in hand on this album: that sunny California blues sound ("Thinkin' of You"), jazzy, bossa nova groove ("Lovin' You"), Motown soul ("Don't Fall In Love") and bouncy, club-banging single ("Let's Get Down").

And with a guest list that fits their sound like a shoe -- percussionist Shelia E, guitarist Spanky Alford and DJ Quik -- the greatest moments on *House of Music* are on like "Wild Child" and "Lovin' You," where everyone just jams until the track ends.

The result is a quintessential album of '90s neo-soul.

22. **Digital Underground - *Sex Packets***. In the early nineties, everyone's heads were turned to Dr. Dre and West Coast G-funk, the good doctor's nods to (or theft of) funk legends George Clinton and Johnny Guitar Watson.

Yet two years before *The Chronic* even dropped, Shock-G and the gang were already paying their dues to funk. *Sex Packets* was the best realization of funky hip-hop the '90s had to offer.

While mainstream audiences are already familiar with the pop staples "The Humpty Dance" and "Doowhutchalike," *Sex Packets* has much more to offer. "The Way We Swing" and "Rhymin' 4 The Funk" are tracks worth every bit of praise as the hit singles.

In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find a

weak track on the album. With great live drums, guitars and piano parts, *Sex Packets* shows just how underrated Digital Underground is.

23. **Common - *Resurrection***. It's common knowledge (no pun intended) that this Chicago native is one of the greatest MCs of all time. *Resurrection* shows why. Before all the glamour, success, Sprite commercials, Reebok ads, high-profile collaborations and eccentric fashion sense, Common was a college dropout earning a living off his unmatched rap skills.

On this, his sophomore album, he brings it hard and pure. He explores his tragic love for hip-hop on "I Used to Love H.E.R." (which is possibly the most beautiful hip-hop ballad ever recorded). He rhymes with a fury on "Watermelon Man." He says almost all there is to say about hip-hop -- or just living in the city as a black man.

Later, Common would become a shining star. Here, he's just another guy trying to make it. That's what hip-hop's all about, which is why *Resurrection* is such a great album.

24. **2pac - *Me Against the World***. More than just his best work, 2pac's third album is one of the most moving hip-hop efforts of all time. Written during a prison sentence, the album is an emotional roller coaster in the troubled artist's life. Songs like "It Ain't Easy," "Lord Knows" and "Death Around the Corner" are gritty truths about the brutal horrors of inner city life.

Now, almost five years after the rapper's death, everyone is quick to focus on the later releases, in particular *All Eyez on Me*, the *Don Killuminati* and the Greatest Hits album. (I don't care what anyone says, "California Love" is NOT his best song, not in a billion years.)

However, any diehard hip-hop fan will tell

you that *Me Against the World* is the definitive Tupac moment. Experiencing the album is the only way to come to terms with Tupac's message, his mentality and his frustrated struggle. He doesn't glamorize drugs, murder and sex. Rather, those things torture and consume him.

At its peaks, *Me Against the World* is a painful cry to the rest of the world, a cry that ultimately went unanswered.

If there were any justice in the music world, in twenty years this would be considered one of the greatest documents of hip-hop ever recorded.

25. **Shaggy - *Boombastic***. You know what? Sometimes it's refreshing to stick your head out from underground once in a while.

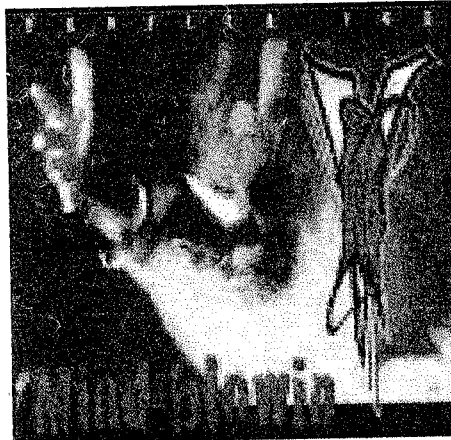
I know I'll take major flak for this one, but dagnabbit, *Boombastic* is just enjoyable as hell. Shaggy's album is 16 tracks of good clean fun. It's refreshing. It's pop. It's reggae lite.

The singles "The Train is Coming," "Boombastic" and "Why You Treat Me So Bad" (featuring Brand Nubian's Grand Puba) will have you smiling in spite of yourself.

"Jenny" and "Gal Yu A Pepper" are also fun, bouncy ditties that bring out the feeling of summertime block parties and music festivals.

Yes, technically and sonically it isn't a masterpiece, and purists everywhere will convulse and shout "Blasphemy!" to see the artist behind "It Wasn't Me" listed along with the likes of 2pac, Common and Digital Underground.

Quite possibly, this is the one and only true "pop" album on the Pop Top Five list. It's here because Shaggy reminds you that sometimes, music's all about having fun. *Boombastic* is just that, in spades.



Light up a blunt and wax a chump like a candle

Vanilla Ice
Mind Blowin
SBK

review by | Matthew Webber

Regarding *Mind Blowin*, Vanilla Ice's second album (yes, he actually released a post-*To the Extreme* album; actually, he's released two, and when he's not slicing pickles he's recording his third *Where Are They Now* disc), a friend asked me if it was as "good" as his debut.

So I blabbered something like the beats

GUILTY PLEASURES: STUFF SO BAD IT RULES

are rather primitive and he's, like, trying to be a gangsta rapper but he's white and he has no flow and his lyrics are kind of high school poetry-ish and there aren't any songs that are catchy enough to be singles, but yeah it's "good."

Sadly, with the exception of two songs, the album's as forgettable as MC Hammer albums after he shortened his name to Hammer and Dexty's *Midnight Runners* albums that don't include "Come On Eileen."

But really, it's not Vanilla Ice's fault.

Any hardcore Iceman fans/believers or astute watchers of *Behind the Music* know our hero could actually rap and beatbox. (Remember "Havin' a Roni"? He can even do that shit live!)

But because he was white, his management turned him into a one-hit marionette with the quickest 15 nanoseconds of fame since that "Hey, Mickey, you're so fine" chick. They draped him in American flags, notched his eyebrows, pompadoured his hair, labeled him the "Elvis of Rap," cleaned up his lyrics and basically sold him out.

The slap-bracelet wearing set adored him. Anybody else who had ever listened to real rap acts such as KRS-One or Eric B and Rakim thought he was only slightly more real than Milli Vanilli's live vocals.

Our hero, angry at being discarded like

a poopy diaper, rebelled like any repressed child whose parents burned his Twisted Sister albums and would only allow him to listen to Stryper would do: he started smoking weed, ignored the Adam Duritz Postulate (white guys *never* look good with dreadlocks) and started rapping about dropping bombs on other MCs.

The result is *Mind Blowin*, an album as excessive as a rebellious teen's orange hair.

Vanilla Ice really can have an original flow when he wants to. I swear. It's just that he tries too hard to sound like Snoop Doggy Dogg on songs like "The Wrath." "It's like that 'cause I'm the mizzak, I carry my strizzap/To bust a kizzap, don't try to jizzak me."

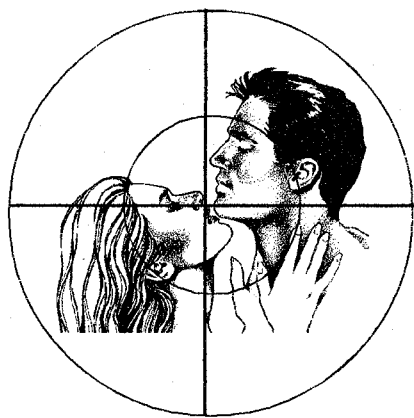
But give the man some credit. He co-produced every song on the album and responded the only way he knew how to do -- through his music -- to some of the harshest criticism the music press has ever dished.

For this reason, *Mind Blowin* is worth a listen. It's a document of a musician at an artistic and critical crossroads, reinventing his image and trying to prove his detractors -- who by then made up the entire world -- wrong.

Vanilla Ice may never be able recapture the glory of "Ice, Ice Baby." It's partly because nobody will let him.

Chutes and Ladders

An on-going look at Truman State relationships



From the Male Perspective

feature by | Lisa Maglerowski and Justin Scheuer

Last edition, someone wrote a letter to *The Monitor* to complain that my article entitled "Authority Figures... yummy" unfairly bashed men on this campus.

After rereading the article, I decided this person was correct. My opinion did come off a tad bit bitchy (big surprise).

Unfortunately for all the men on this campus who that author represented, his references to women as "you folks" and his cute belief that women's clothes do indeed speak, shouting words like, "Hey, doesn't it seem like I am giving you permission to ogle me" (my personal favorite, by the way), actually reinforced my bitchy opinion that men on this campus are pigs.

Even so, by dismissing these chauvinistic ramblings and his 32-line tangent about girls not noticing him, his basic premise (and only his basic premise) was valid: I constantly bash men on this campus because that is my viewpoint. So, being a fair person, I asked a MAN (dun, dun, dun...) to write "Chutes and Ladders" this week. Without further ado, here is a man's opinion of relationship issues on campus:

Spring is blossoming. The sun is bursting forth from a vibrant, periwinkle sky. The rose garden in Jack Magruder's side yard is starting to slowly bloom, birds are flying back after a winter-long hiatus, the grass is starting to hum and churn with tiny life... year old dog shit is heating up and releasing its long dormant odor.

And, yes, the other inevitable symptom of spring is also upon us: people are wearing less clothing.

The quad is filled with half-naked people. Guys running around shirtless in shorts made like cheap hotels (no ball room). Women mill-

ing around in short skirts, shorts, skorts, thin sun dresses, small tank tops, etc.

So, it is time once again to come face to face with a simple fact: the woman's body is just more aesthetically pleasing to look at than the guy's.

Guys are awkward, formless, hard, hairy and pudgy in all the wrong places the more clothes they take off.

It is not my intention to alienate any gay readers. I have several gay friends who, though they may not find the woman's body sexually appealing, can't help but admit it is more pleasing to look at... it's just prettier. It has more interesting angles and curves than a man's does. A woman's body is simply more graceful to look at.

My buddy Johnny Short-legs (that's his alias) really drives the point home: "Just look at the guy who won the \$100,000 bet by getting female breast implants... I heard that he chose to keep them because they looked better than his male body."

Just observe this difference at the Rec Center: the women working out look athletic, sleek, toned, while many of the men working out look bulky, top heavy, clumsy and thick.

Or, if they have a scrawny disposition caused by high metabolism, they teeter around like Jack Skelington.

So what does this mean? Men tend to look at a woman's body differently than most women look at a man's body. Women, it's just something you must be aware of. I'm sure you already notice that guys do and will sneak peeks at your more exposed body -- at the curvature of your more revealed upper thigh, at the parts just south of a low neckline.

This does not mean that (most of) these men consider you a quarry. It's just a natural impulse for men to look (usually) quite harmlessly and with no aggressive intentions.

With that said, there is another issue we must discuss. Guys, this does not give you license to gawk, leer or creepily paint a girl's body with your elevator eyes! All you beer-gutted libertines need to calm it down.

As men, we should maintain a sense of humility and respect when we look at a woman's body. I understand that you can't help it if your eyes seem to drift, but don't let them linger. It makes women feel uneasy -- and it's just plain sleazy.

And if you get caught gawking (which you will), you'll turn women off, and it'll just mean you'll stay the loser you already are; one who tends to look too long at a girl's breasts because you're not getting any.

Confessions of a shoplifter

Part 1 of 2

feature by | Cheaty McStealsalot

A friend of mine from high school always says, "You know you have a cool girlfriend if she thinks shoplifting is funny." I find this to be a fairly true statement. Most girls find shoplifting to be an immature act of selfishness. But only the really cool ones think shoplifting is at least amusing, if not hilarious.

There isn't much funnier than finding the biggest thing in a store that you can feasibly fit into your pants and walking out of the place winking at the doorman. But aside from the obvious physical humor of this, ultimately there is a source of humor a lot deeper than getting something for nothing. Let me explain.

Some people shoplift because of the rush they get. Palms are sweating; heart is beating faster. Look left, look right and stuff it down your pants. Just keep telling yourself that nobody knows about it. In fact, you tell yourself that there is no possible way for anybody to know, so there's no reason to even think about it. You walk through the security detector, and it remains silent; you breathe out a sigh of relief. You have now beaten the system, and you know it.

Other people shoplift because it's an easy way to get free crap. Are people really watching those cameras all of the time? I doubt it. If nobody is looking, that price tag is just a notice there for you to keep tabs in your head of how much loot you are getting for absolutely nothing. Why pay for it when it's just as easily obtainable for free? All those "morals" about taking stuff that belongs to somebody else just turn into unintelligible abstractions at the mercy of your desire.

I find that both of these reasons for shoplifting are flawed in one specific way. They lack a meaningful purpose. That is, they have no purpose outside of the shoplifter's immediate desires. If one is to shoplift, a vision is necessary.

We all go to school wearing clothes bought from huge corporations, shoes built by toddlers and eat food filled with poison. We are given the illusion of choice. Aisles and aisles of different brands, low fat this, caffeine-free that.

But really this choice is illusory; Wal-Mart is choosing which products it sells, and ultimately, the corporations decide what products to sell to them in the first place. We have no choice in the matter at all.

Shit, if we could really choose what we wanted, my refrigerator would be full of Crys-

tal Pepsi.

And it is this illusion of choice that is all that is necessary. It keeps us content. Just content enough to keep on going through the motions of life as an unwitting consumer.

But while everybody is complacent as can be, working for the weekend, there is a lot going on behind the scenes. Companies are merging, cutting corners and dehumanizing the entire world.

Why pay a white man in America \$5.15 an hour when you can pay somebody to do the same job in Mexico for a tenth of the price? The bottom line is money. Fuck humanity; that's out the window. Just keep gouging prices, and if people bitch, they will just deal. Look at those suckers out in California. They are at the mercy of the energy companies.

It isn't enough that these companies make us work harder than any other civilization in existence for more stress than we can handle and a deflated American Dream.

We also have to worry about not being able to live up to what they tell us are "normal" standards (i.e., house in the suburbs, running water, Internet access, etc.) because the very things that make our lives able to be so involved are at their control too.

They tell us we need to get a job to buy an SUV and feed our family, but then they pull out the trump card when the very essence of the universe, energy, is strategically used against us, forcing us to work more and more.

It's a constant reminder that they have us in check and that we can't do anything about it. Or can we?

I see shoplifting as something we can do about it. How the fuck are they going to make you pay their inflated prices if you just take the damn thing and stick it in your pocket?

The way I see it, shoplifting is the most direct way to extend a middle finger to the Man. Shoplifting can have a meaningful purpose. So where does the humor come in?

The humor happens when you realize that you're the one in control of the situation. Wal-Mart thinks they've got you in check. They're laughing all the way to the bank.

But when you walk in, take what you want and don't give them a dime, you're the one laughing now.

And the physical absurdity of having big bulges sticking out of your pants and having nobody notice makes it that much more funny. Especially if it's something like a pizza or a hoagie. Now that's comedy.

But I would never shoplift from a locally owned store or from another individual. That's just plain wrong.

Row across Missouri

feature by | Shala Garcia

There are some students who have never gone to the Rec Center and for those students it is the big building conveniently located on Franklin Street and next to Centennial Hall.

I, for one, am not one of these poor schmucks. That's right, I am one of those tall, thin, beautiful Sweden-like girls who goes everyday to stay fit and healthy.

But you wouldn't know if I was telling the truth or not since this is a newspaper and not a television. Ha!

Anyway, there is a competition happening right now at the Rec Center called Row Across Missouri. Now, one can row on the Chariton River from Thousand Hills State Park to the Thomas Hill Reservoir for a total of 40 miles and win a free T-shirt, or, if you're feeling really ambitious, you can keep on rowing to the Missouri River and earn both a free water bottle and T-shirt!

Plus, you have from until April 29 to do it.

Yeah, so you're thinking, "That sounds really stupid. If I wanted a free T-shirt, I would sign up and then cancel a Discover Card. And

if I wanted a water bottle, I would get one with water already in it."

Alas, you are probably correct. But is there another way one can go to and fro for twenty minutes without any risk of pregnancy or venereal disease? Besides, doing this provides many advantages.

Advantage 1: The statistics of you swallowing a bug are greatly reduced.

Advantage 2: If you're a hydrophobic, you can finally participate in a water activity.

Advantage 3: You don't have to rent a boat. (And for those of you who thought you did, you are utterly stupid and a disgrace to in-

telligent people everywhere.)

Advantage 4: You will finally know what it is like to be a hamster on a spinning wheel.

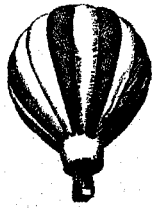
Advantage 5: You're technically not doing any work since work is actually force times distance, and you're not going anywhere.

Here's a quote that I got from one of the participants in this challenge, "I just keep on rowing as hard as I can but I just don't seem to get anywhere. I just don't understand, but I encourage everyone to try it."

So try it and get your T-shirt and water bottle. I'm sure everyone has paid for it somewhere anyway.



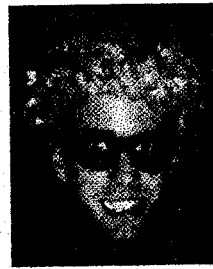
Study Abroad



An exciting meeting will be held for all who plan to study abroad during the Summer or Fall 2001 semesters.

The Center for International Education Abroad will host the meeting on Thursday, April 26 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Alumni Room of the Student Union Building.

All prospective study abroad participants are urged to attend. Several former participants will be there to inform you of their experience and to answer questions.



Queen Astra

*Let the stars
be your guide!*

Aries (March 21-April 20) You're all revved up for an upcoming holiday season. Why not take a trip down HIGHway 420 to visit your good friend, Justin Hale.

Taurus (April 21-May 22) Hey, man, you just want to hang out with your friends. Is that such a crime? Well, it is if your "friend" is a bong. Drugs — they're illegal.

Gemini (May 23-June 21) To smoke or not to smoke. Shakespeare smoked.

Cancer (June 22-July 24) Springtime is the mating season so you will find yourself searching for effective birth control. What lowers sperm count? TetraHydroCannabinol. Oh yeah.

Leo (July 25-August 23) Finals got you down? Among other things, assisted suicide is now legal in Amsterdam.

Virgo (August 24-September 23) Hey, why don't you make a resolution for your "new year" by cutting your hair, you dirty, tree-huggin', Berk-wearin' proto-hippie.

Libra (September 24-October 23) Puff. Puff. Pass. It's the rhythm of life.

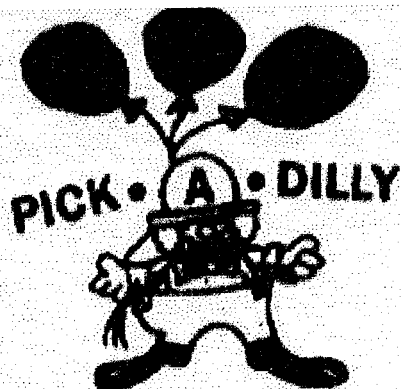
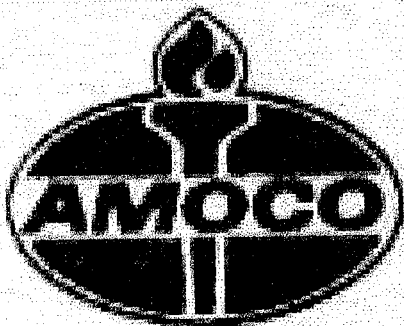
Scorpio (October 24-November 22) So you didn't end up raising enough funds for your dream of an indoor hot tub. You will have "All Night Satellite" to get you through the dry spells. I know I will.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 21) "Huff Reefer All." Think about it. Huff reeFER ALL. HuFF REEfer All. (Solution: A free for all)

Capricorn (December 22-January 20) Ellis Dee said he would meet you at Fort Wenty to give you the 'juana, Hombre.

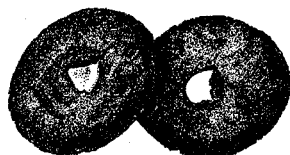
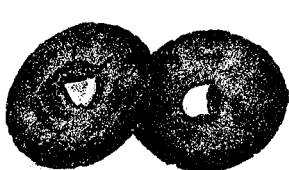
Aquarius (January 21-February 19) The eternal battle between good and evil will continue. But your day of reckoning will surely come, Cash Cashington. I presume you've met Bong Bongington.

Pisces (February 20-March 20) Hey, Mr. Smarty Pants, Tip #1: Don't have any of the "kind bud" on you when you're "stickin' it to The Man."

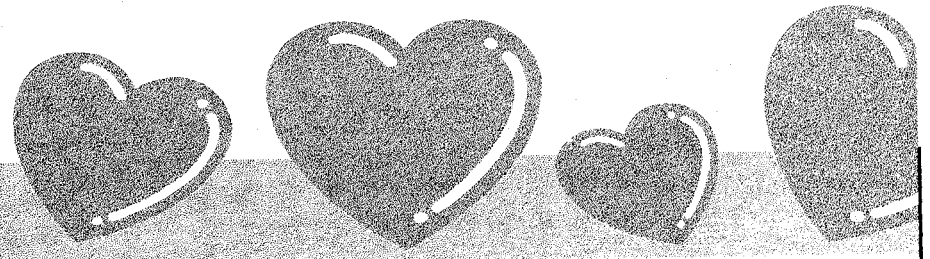


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Nursery provided; older children encouraged to attend class with ladies or men

3:00-4:00 p.m. Men's Class with Tom Dennis, Auditorium

4:00-4:45 p.m. Men & Kids at Park, Weather Permitting

5:00 p.m. "Ladies' and Widows' Banquet"
Men Serve

6:00 p.m. Worship, Tom Dennis
"The Greatest Among You"

Sun. April 29
10:00 a.m. Regular Classes
11:00 a.m. Worship, Tom Dennis
"Christ Died for Our Sins"

Noon Sunday Basket Dinner

6:00 p.m. Worship, Tom Dennis
"The Choices We Make"

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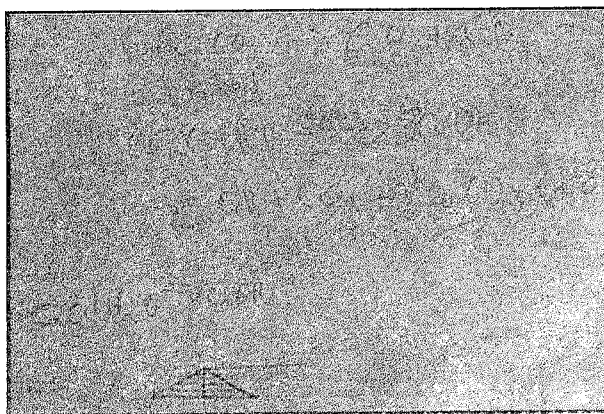
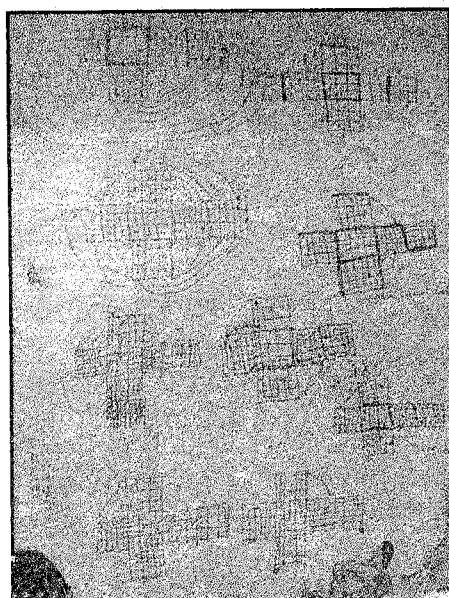
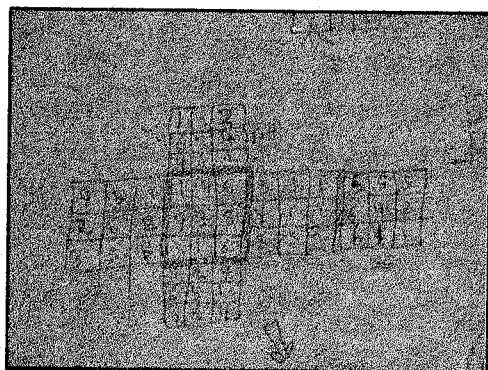
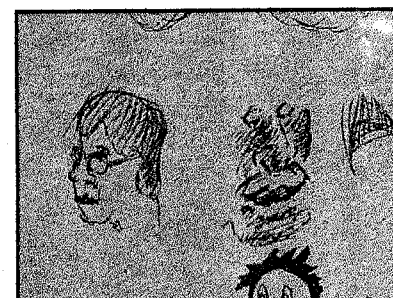
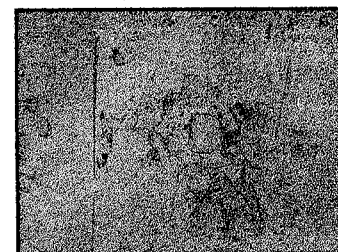
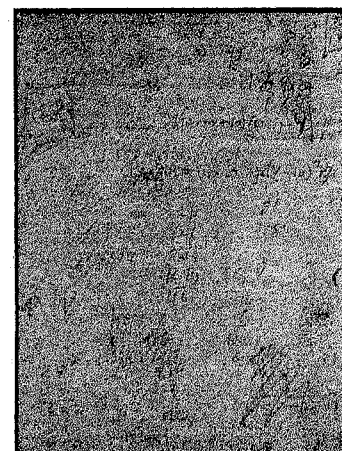
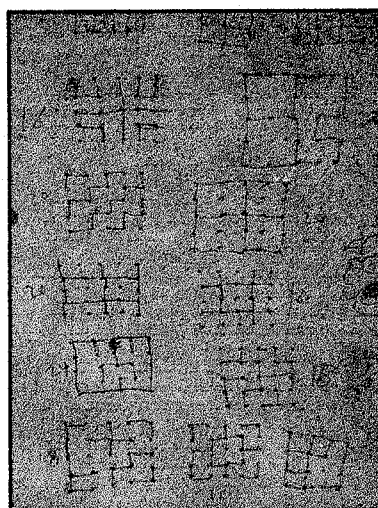
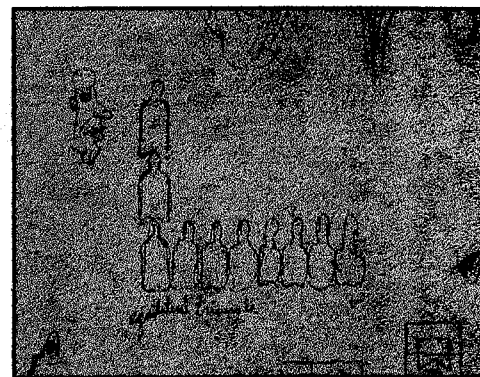
Art Page

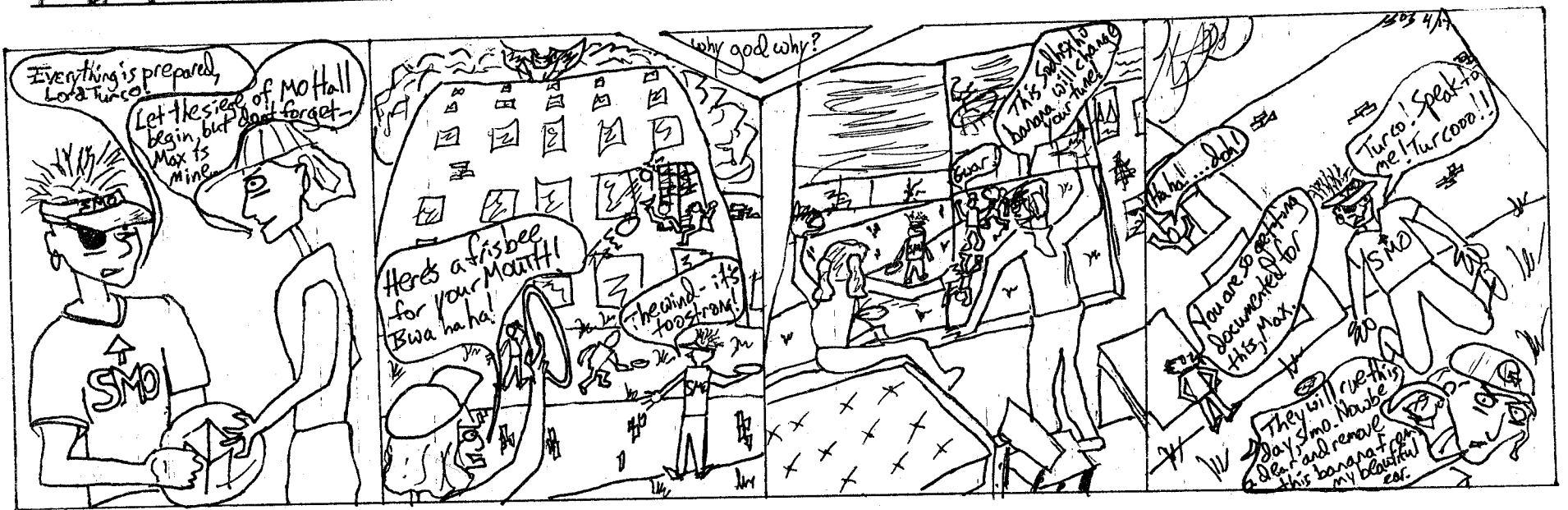
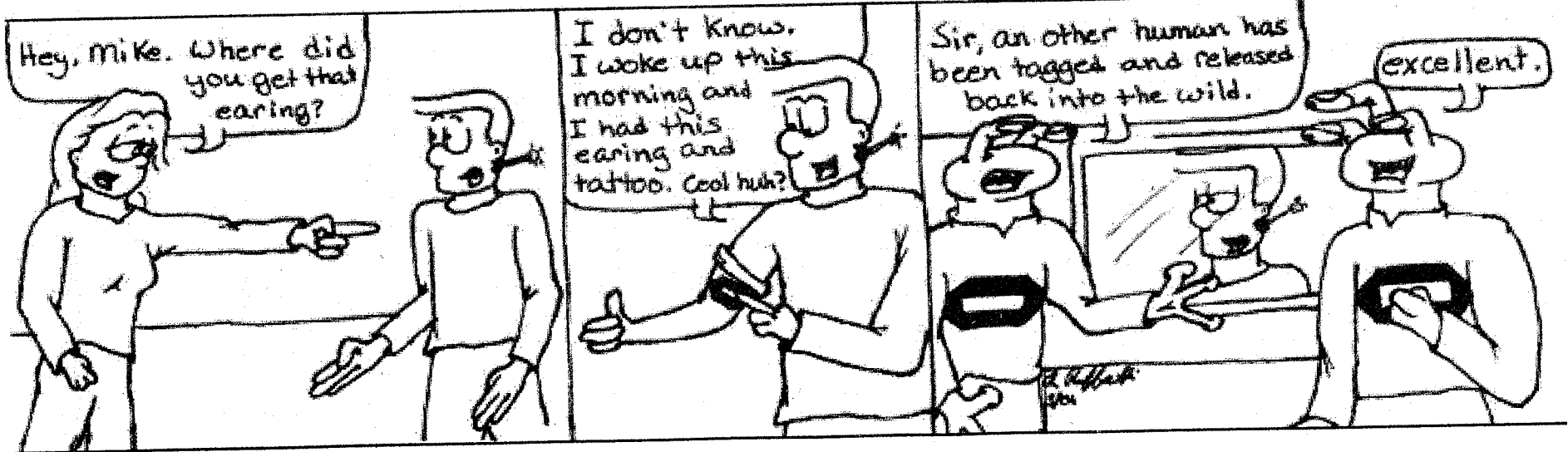
Art Page examines senior Phil Schiff and his current literary, visual and mathematical work. As Schiff prepares for his final semester he begins a renewed process of questioning in his essay "On Fine Art". Schiff plans to graduate in December 2001 with a B.F.A in painting at Truman.

Can fine art be done on a computer? Well, I'm not fully aware of the arguments against it, which will weaken my own, but I would love to cite one reason for it. When I was doing the fresco last spring, Jimmy said to me, "Phil, there is no reason not to take advantage of modern technology." I was trying to project a small drawing onto a full size cartoon, and was fumbling around with a grid method of transfer -- the old, traditional way. There was an opaque projector in the room, and he suggested I use that. As it worked out, I used neither. I guess a better way of saying what he meant would have been "there's no reason not to take advantage of modern technology if it benefits you." As it worked out, I didn't use the modern technology for the fresco, but the end result was the same. Some would argue that you would never understand how to transfer drawings using a grid -- I've done it before, and if you never transfer drawings using an opaque projector, you'll never know how to do that either. Besides, I broke one of the mirrors in the opaque projector, and was able to fix it without adding any parts. If no one experimented with new technology, linear perspective might not have come into use. Ghiberti was still using, in the 1450s, a system of creating images that intuitively "seem" to be in perspective, but actually did not make use of a vanishing point -- as they were based on a series of ratios. Ghiberti was probably a contemptuous fool -- his stubborn ideas about perspective indicate that, as well as the statistical possibility; most people are contemptible fools. Masaccio had restrained himself to the traditional methods, he might have listened to that crazy Toscanelli, and people might still be always just a little taller, or a little shorter, then they ought to be. Mathematicians believe that they discover, rather than invent, mathematics, and what one mathematician doesn't do will show up eventually in somebody else's work. It is, however, significant to note that the zero was not invented until 600 A.D., and although someone would have eventually found a way to preserve space in a list of digits, it sure would have set back modern engineering marvels we enjoy if no one had discovered it by now.



Portrait of the artist





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