

# THE MONITOR

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

a CAMPUS COLLECTIVE

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## University mourns national loss

Story by | Amanda Romine

Last Tuesday's misfortune filled the University with serious faces as everyone gathered in lounges and rooms to listen to the tragic news. America's security was the topic of discussion in every classroom, office and residence hall. Many classes and activities were cancelled and people were in shock.

Almost immediately following the news on Tuesday morning, signs were posted advertising a presentation and discussion of the day's attacks. At seven o'clock that evening, a throng of University students settled into the Ryle Main Lounge to join with other members of the campus community in dealing with this tragedy and their related feelings.

Dr. Lou Ann Gilchrist, the Dean of Student Affairs, gave a brief introduction of the evening's speakers, which included a discussion panel consisting of two political science professors, Dr. John Ishiyama and Dr. Marijke Breuning; two representatives of the University Counseling Services, Dr. Michael Mann and Dr. Tricia Brown; and Father Bill Kottensteade from the Catholic Newman Center.

Gilchrist said that with this diverse panel,

the planners hoped to cover all aspects of worries that students were having. The political science professors would explain the political situation and settle students' worries regarding the nation. The counseling professionals would tell the body how to deal with loss and tragedy and offer future counseling and support. Father Kottensteade would serve as a spiritual advisor to students of all different religions.

Dr. Ishiyama started by giving a presentation on what events transpired and what probably motivated the attacks, the possible suspects who may have been capable of such organization and force, the probable reasons behind the specific attacks, things that the United States planned to do in reaction to the attacks and things that University students could do to help with the rescue effort and the healing. Ishiyama tried to reassure the crowd by saying, "I don't think Kirkville's going to be the next target," which was followed by laughter and applause.

Dr. Brown then spoke briefly about the need to for people to reach out to each other and the need to come together to work through grief and loss. Father Bill gave a touching speech on fear and anger and how these are natural reactions that must be controlled without hurt-

ing or blaming other people. Gilchrist then stopped the presentation in order to watch President Bush speak to the nation. This prompted a bit of a reaction from a couple members of the crowd, but a vast majority of the body desired to watch the president's speech.

After the president's touching words on the generosity and perseverance of the United States and the American people, Gilchrist opened the floor to questions. After a few questions, Gilchrist cut off the session in order to move students into small group discussions, but few students remained.

President Bush declared Friday a national day of prayer and remembrance and in recogni-

tion of this declaration, the University cancelled all classes and closed all offices for a portion of the day. The University also put on a brief memorial service in honor of those who lost their lives in the attacks and those who died trying to save others. After a few brief and touching speeches, the body paused to hear the bells toll and then joined their voices in singing "Amazing Grace."

The national memorial service was broadcast directly following the University service in many locations on campus to allow students a place to watch the national memorial service and to offer them a place to unite and support each other in the country's time of sadness.

photo by | Amanda Romine



Students watch news as event unfolds

## An alumnus' look at Shfaram and Israel

feature by | Derek Spellman

Found in the depths of northern Israel, the Arab city of Shfaram appears safe from the crises that engulf the rest of the world. White and splendidly isolated, the pale little town tumbles over slopes and strips of hilly or undulating countryside, and every turn seems to yield a glimpse of something resembling the past as well as the present. Up one street, a small boy nudges a soccer ball, shopkeepers cry their wares and the sharp outlines of mosques appear suddenly here and there. Up another street, signs for GAP imports are stuck in shop windows while traffic jams trail plumes of exhaust and blare rap music.

"My roommate laughed when I told him that I had been telling my friends that Shfaram is an old hilly town," John Halski, a University graduate and recent resident of Shfaram, said. "He said that Shfaram is probably one of the flattest in Israel."

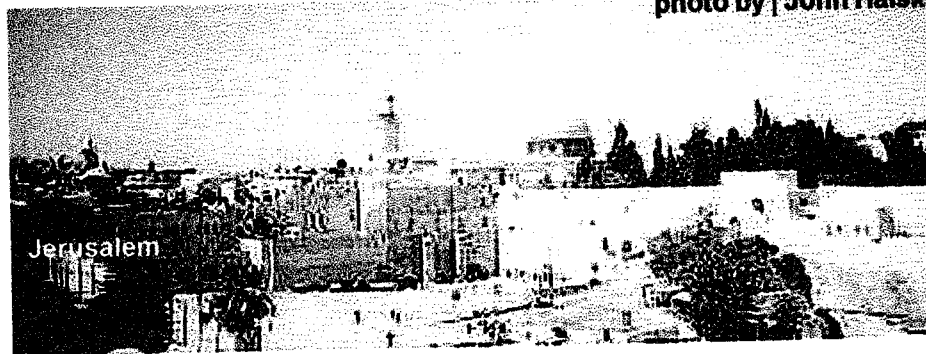


photo by | John Halski

Shfaram (or Sharma in Arabic) lies between the cities of Haifa and Nazareth in the northern half of Israel. Nearly all of its 30,000 inhabitants are Arabic and describe themselves as "48ers," meaning that the city was annexed by Israel in 1948 and has remained under Israeli jurisdiction ever since.

Halski serves as an intern at Adalah, a pri-

vately funded human rights agency in Shfaram that sues to reclaim lands illegally wrested from Arabs by Israelis.

After living in Shfaram for four months, Halski said that the transition from Kirkville to the Middle East has neither been rocky nor seamless. "Shfaram is about the size of Kirkville," he said. "I have spent the last four

years living in small towns in the Midwest, but Shfaram offers even less in terms of distraction."

Despite its population, the city's commercial life amounts to a scanty assortment of clothing stores, small grocers and markets, convenience marts, vegetable stands, an ice cream parlor and a public Internet café.

"It's about as Spartan as college," he said. There is no air conditioning, no cable, no major appliances."

For Halski the most daunting obstacles however included the language barrier, his sense of cultural displacement, and the quickened pace of events at the agency. "I was really worried about the language gap," he said. "I was worried about how I would communicate."

Halski also said however that the effects of the change were curtailed by the generosity

See "Shfaram" page 12

C O N T E N T S

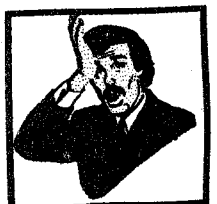


Students smoking at "hot spot" may be a thing of the past. Read an opinion about it on page 4.



A look at what people look for in a mate from both sides of the story on page 8.

View From the Back Row is a new column. Check it out on page 7!



# The Monitor

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

— Noam Chomsky

# UPCOMING EVENTS

If you would like *The Monitor* print your organization's upcoming events, e-mail them to [monitortrm@hotmail.com](mailto:monitortrm@hotmail.com) and they will appear right here!

## Tuesday nights

Christian discussion group for those disillusioned Christians out there, 8:30pm at the Aquadome, located at 121 N. Main.

## Thursday, Sept. 20

Peace Rally, noon, on Truman's Quad. A call for restraint in the reaction to recent events, affirming commitment to thorough and peaceful justice, as opposed to retaliatory violence. Sponsored by Amnesty International.

## Saturday, Sept. 22

Family Day Garage Sale at the Aquadome! A nice family-friendly event to bring your folks and buy some good stuff. From 9 am to 5 pm, and maybe even later!

## Wednesday night, Sept. 19

Stolie w/ Carabeca at Aquadome. Two excellent voices, two acoustic guitars, beatboxing and fun! 8pm, \$3 suggested donation.

## Friday night, Sept. 21

Hazard To Ya Booty with Afro Mike to the Ninth Dimension and Sleepflower. This will be so much funk, watch out or your tush will get damaged. The show is \$3 (for charity soup kitchen) and is at 8pm.

## Sunday nights

Veggie potluck at 6 pm at the Aquadome. Bring a small donation or a dish to share.

# HEY YOU! GET UP OFF OF THAT THANG!

Be sure to vote in the  
**STUDENT SENATE  
ELECTIONS**

Polls are open on Thursday, September 20, from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm and on Friday, September 21, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Voting will take place in the lower level of the SUB by the Student Senate office.

Any questions, call the Student Senate office at x4193.



# monitor letters

Got 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 SCI, or e-mail us at [monitortrm@hotmail.com](mailto:monitortrm@hotmail.com). Letters may be edited for length.

## Violence won't solve terrorism

The violent attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last week are terrible tragedies. It is understandable that many people respond to these events with angry calls for revenge. But seeking vengeance against a people or nation only spreads violence, increases hatred, and leads to more death and destruction. How will such a response deter another similar violent act when the perpetrators feel so desperate and backed into a corner that they are willing to commit suicide in acting?

It's time to ask some serious questions: Why do some people hate the United States so much that they are willing to die in these attacks? What has the United States done to trigger these types of passions? Unless we listen to those who commit these acts of violence and understand their grievances we can never overcome this threat of terrorist violence.

Many in the United States enjoy an affluent consumer lifestyle benefiting from the resources of the earth, while others around the world live in abject poverty. A few monopolize political, cultural and economic power while others have little. The United States needs to change its policies and relations with other countries. Living in an increasingly globalized world, it can no longer afford to consider only its own national interests, but instead it has to become an equal partner in the world looking out for the interests of all. If we work together to create a more egalitarian and tolerant world, then we will have a more secure world.

It is also important to realize that the United States has not shied away from the use of terror to achieve its own objectives. The Army's School of the Americas specializes in training allies in Latin America in the use of human rights violations to quiet political dissent. In the 1980s, Ronald Reagan and Oliver North outfitted mercenaries in Nicaragua and trained them to mine roads and blow up civilian transportation vehicles in attempts to destabilize the government. Ironically, the United States trained Osama bin Laden to fight against the Soviet Union. In what the CIA calls "blowback," bin Laden proceeded to use these same tactics against his creators. The United States cannot claim innocence in the exercise of terrorist actions.

How will we respond to these violent acts in New York and Washington? Will we devote our energy and resources on a descent into vengeance and increased security measures? We can never be secure enough in a world where hurts and hatreds fester these types of responses. Violence against these perpetrators will only result in increasingly violent counter-responses, as well as a repression of civil liberties and human rights both at home and abroad.

Or will we work instead toward understanding, equality, and social justice that diffuses the roots of this violence? Rather than retreating into an armed bunker in which we

responsible world citizens and share our resources in order to build a better and more secure world for everyone?

Marc Becker  
Assistant Professor of History

## Take responsibility, ask God for forgiveness

On this day of prayer I would like every American to ponder this question.... If the horrid and cowardly acts that took place in our house to our family of Americans had been done differently would it make a difference in our cry for justice and outrage?

As a specific example I offer this scenario: suppose a different method and target were used. Suppose that instead of airplanes being crashed into symbols of power we were victimized differently. Suppose that a barge was parked off the shores of New York containing six of the largest artillery pieces made by man. Artillery that fires shells the size of a Volkswagon. Artillery that leaves a crater the size of a football field. Suppose those shells were hurled at the poorest section of that city. Would we be just as righteously enraged?

I feel certain that we would be. We would still be shocked into knowing that we are indeed in a war. We would mobilize as best we could and revenge the blood of the innocents who should never have died. Sadly, and to our shame as a nation, such an event was ordered by President Ronald Reagan after the marines left Beirut following the bombing of our marine barracks. We did not aim these shells at a military target. We didn't level a terrorist training camp. We didn't snuff out the life of an evil terrorist madman. We killed the innocent.

The poor victims in a mixed Muslim and Christian slum who only weeks before may have had some hope that America's presence would somehow end the madness of the politicians in their own country. Men who came home from their jobs that day found craters where they had once had a family. Some of those men became terrorists on that day because they were filled with the same feelings you and I feel today. They had no mighty army to avenge them. They didn't have multinational corporations to fund them. They were forced into a decision between forgiveness and madness. Many of them chose madness.

Because we do these things to people and shrug our shoulders when the events garner fifteen minutes of TV coverage and brief mention in the newspapers we are guilty of hard heartedness. Because we continue to elect and re-elect the democrats and republicans who order these atrocities in the name of American interests we are complicitous in each atrocity. Our punishment so far has been a litany of petty tyrants with names like Minh, Noriega, Castro, Pinochet, Hussein, Pahlavi, Savimba, Somoza and God help us even bin Laden. All of these men were our paid madmen who were in power because we put them there to do our

dirty work. Some of them were installed after we helped to assassinate their democratically elected predecessors. All of them came back to bite us.

After we grieve I pray we do three things. Kill the madmen that we have spawned. Beg forgiveness of God and the people we have sinned against. Repent of our crimes and never allow our leaders to do it again.

Amen,  
Paul Moore

## Not all Arabs are terrorists

Like most Americans, I have spent the last week juggling shock, disbelief, anger, and confusion. While I have spent the last four months living in Israel, the news of terrorist attacks in the U.S. struck a much deeper chord in me than any of the acts of terror perpetrated on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Reaction to trauma changes considerably when the trauma happens to you or your people instead of someone elsewhere, and the differences between "us" and "them" become pronounced.

On that note, I would like to make an effort to challenge what may be an inevitable wave of anti-Arab/anti-Islamic sentiment in the U.S. For as often as we compare this tragedy to Pearl Harbor, we are also constantly reminded of the most glaring difference between them: the day after Pearl Harbor, all of America could join in unison against the Axis powers, while we today can only speculate. Before anyone could place blame, however, the networks had already assembled specials on the growing threat of Islam around the globe, and to make matters worse, begun looping images of Palestinians celebrating in the streets. Meanwhile, Israeli commentators have speculated that "a taste of the Islamic-Arab menace" could spark even stronger U.S.-Israeli relations.

I would like to implore anyone reading this now to remember that as difficult as it may be to single out terrorists amongst the general public, we cannot justify our own prejudices with an assortment of madmen and a minority of misguided refugees. On Tuesday evening I spent many hours discussing the attacks with a secular Muslim Palestinian from my small Arab town. She expressed to me her contempt for those who have turned the Muslim "jihad," or call to armed service in case of legitimate conflict, into a label for cowardly terrorism. These men do not represent the essence of Islam any more than the followers of David Koresh or Fred Phelps do Christianity.

Watching that unfortunate footage of Palestinian celebration, I first felt a deep wave of contempt for those I have tried to assist since arriving. After watching it several dozen times, however, certain details came to my attention. I noticed that the better part of the crowd looked no older than ten, and that most of those in the background hardly looked to be celebrating at all. Finally, there were the voiceovers, repeatedly asserting that these few outbursts mostly took place in refugee camps, and that the leaders of the Arab world have condemned the attacks. Yet, the implications, regardless of the voiceover, are despicable. You might as well show a prison riot in Compton, California, to demonstrate the mood of African-Americans nation-wide. These hotheaded youths cannot represent an entire people, even when broadcast around the globe by headline-seeking journalists.

Terrorism has scored a lasting victory if

these heinous acts motivate us to turn on the innocent with souls full of blind hatred. Retaliation has a correct time and place, and it must not mix with prejudice. Otherwise we will only make enemies out of possible allies without addressing the situation at hand.

John Halski,  
Class of Spring 2001

## University speaker a mouth-piece for "The Man"

Can I request space to complete something unusual even, yes, by MONITOR "alternative" remit standards? Namely, complete in your first new semester some 2001 unfinished business attended by well over 100 students. And at least 4 of us in this beloved TSU-abused community of Kirksville who are qualified and even occasionally employed by the ultra-conservative predominantly powers that be as radical historians, from last semester! Vital! As "memory," I am convinced, in its LACK, is what these very same Magruder powers rely upon; lazily aided by very conveniently long summer breaks! You see the last INDEX of the last major 2001 spring semester promised it would keep its web site etcetera "open" for any last-minute stories the last semester week failed to, doubtless exams, to come out. It never did, as far as the visit of white and billed "South African" history professor, Dr. Fred Hale was tragically concerned. And the Index has not rectified the situation this semester so far as a strong, and far longer, "comment" than this, I sent in about his "content." "Contents" in alarm and distortion at what he said, I know of at least three of my TSU historian counterparts share. As at least two of them besides myself, when half his audience had left, were finally, allowed to question him in what orally appeared to be a totally UNCHAIRLED lecture-monologue, despite TSU "SS" funding!

Worst, when I phoned TSU's own excellent African history professor specialist, Sarah Macauley, an excellent successor to my other abiding friend, Taj Hargey, Ph.D., before he was TSU forced out by Study Abroad and others mediocrity, I found to my own painful consternation that not only was my outrage shared, but, unbelievably, she had been given "no say" in Hale's invite. I myself, having heard from my father early in life, about white WWII Afrikaaner-based racism, was shocked, that HALE CALLED SARAH, WHO HAPPENS TO BE BLACK, almost TSU-last of all! Behind, we white males, even though she had her hand protestingly up almost from the start! While I am sure Hale's right, despite his public lecture condescension towards we "Socialists" and the ruling multi-racial "ANC" (African National Congress party of which both he stressed he was not a supporter) that he is not a "racist" by record. But his "pessimistic," in his other words, and highly selective lecture appallingly was, IN NET EFFECT, consciously too!!

Just a few choice nuggets for those who were wearied out, misled and which I promised both Sarah and my R.A.F. mutineer-against-such-white-South-Africans pilot training and other in WWII I'd answer! Former SA state, first, non-apartheid president, Nelson Mandela, whom I had the honor of seeing, and hearing, in person, at last September's UK Labour Party

## monitor opinions

## Leftovers: why we believe what we believe

opinion by | Ed Jenkins

Before we discuss our beliefs it is important to strip down to the naked mind. Let's look inward for a second and see in general who we are but specifically, for our purposes, what we believe and why we believe it.

It is fundamentally okay for you to believe what you believe. The problem arises when we examine why. If you believe in God because you've explored your self, looked at your relation with the earth and considered other options, then I respect your belief. If you believe in God because you grew up with the doctrines of the church and you've gone along with it or just agreed with it, then we're getting a little fuzzy.

Now of course it's okay to have grown up in the church and to still agree with the church, but you must compare and contrast countering beliefs and specific dogmas. This applies to all types of beliefs, not just religious, but it is often prominent in the religious community. Questioning your sources and studying the opponents will both make your case stronger and also help you realize any fallacious beliefs that you may have held. We can't all be right.

Let's practice by taking a look at political beliefs. We'll use Republicans as an example, but not because I believe that conservatives are inherently wrong. They are not (though I will make no secret that I am a Green Party supporter). They are, however, widely supported by the status quo, and it is important to ask why.

And since I seem to be running this discussion I'll select the topic of campaign finance reform. Here are two basic opposing viewpoints stated generally:

DuPont donate a million dollars to both Bush and Gore, they are essentially buying the politicians, and the elected individual will consequently work to give that business breaks re-

stroys our democracy. A corporation or an individual has the right to spend their money however they like, even if it sacrifices the well-being of the people. If they really think a candidate deserves to win, then they may invest in that candidate's campaign; or, if they think that both leading candidates are adequate, they have the right to give both candidates money just for the hell of it.

As you can see from my nonpartisan wording, both can be valid beliefs, but an individual must subscribe to his or her belief for valid reasons. If Steve, whether he's drunk or not at the time, tells everybody that campaign finance reform is really stupid and the only reason he says it is for a bad reason—he's a Republican and most other Republicans don't support campaign finance reform—then his position is unforgivable.

If Nick says we need reform because he heard Ralph Nader say that we do, then his position is equally weak. But Nick is okay if he says that campaign finance reform is a specter that haunts democracy because it is detrimental in relation to his personal values of equality, respect, and the common good.

So as I have already stated several times, my whole point is that one has to live an examined life. Buddha suggested that we need to question everything, including our Gurus. That is, if you seek truth, always question everything and everybody.

## The Buddha's Charter for Inquiry

**The Kalama People:** "How are we to know which person who addresses us is telling the truth?"

**The Buddha:** "Do not accept anything because

1. Of repeated oral transmission.
2. Of lineage or tradition.
3. It has been widely stated.
4. It has been written in books, such as scriptures.
5. It is logical and reasonable.
6. Of inferring and drawing conclusions.
7. It has been thought out.
8. Of acceptance and conviction.
9. The speaker appears competent.
10. Of respect for the teacher.

**Know what things would be censured by the wise and which, if pursued, would lead to harm and suffering."**

Source: Christopher Titmuss, *Light on Enlightenment*, 1999

1. Large campaign contributions destroy our democracy. When corporations such as

regardless of the needs of the common people.

2. Limiting campaign contributions de-

## Why you should love the WNBA

Rant by | W, Aaron Wilson

I always get a little anxious as school lets up and summer begins. I start visiting Internet bookmarks that have lain dormant all winter. I eye the TV every once in awhile and feel a twitch in my channel surfing hand. I am, like thousands of other Americans, looking forward to the immortal sport of summer: women's basketball.

I'm tired of people patronizing me because of this.

This past year I knew several people who would, without provocation, start expounding on the latest victory or loss of the Rams, Blues, Chiefs, or Cardinals. Every once in awhile someone would turn up with football, hockey, or baseball loyalties in other states. No one seemed to pay them any special attention.

However, if you wanted to talk about Rebecca Lobo's return to the WNBA after being out two years with a torn ACL, or about Houston's loss of Cynthia Cooper and Sheryl Swoopes, or about the dramatic rise and fall of the Cleveland Rockers, then suddenly you are treated like a ten year old.

For those people who just don't like basketball, I'm not talking to you. Watch whatever sport you like. I'm tired of people looking at me funny and then telling me that they think watching women's basketball is about as exciting as watching a high school boys basketball game. I'm tired of people saying they "can't believe" that I watch it.

What's so hard to believe? I like to watch the sport, I have more time to watch TV in the summer, and in the WNBA there are never

games that devolve into a back-and-forth war of dunking attrition.

Why do people automatically assume that because a league is composed of female athletes that it is by definition slower and less exciting than its male counterparts? I think it's ludicrous that television networks will give more air time to travesties like the XFL than to legitimate leagues played by some of our country's top athletes.

Oh wait, I just answered my own question. I can't believe I forgot. How stupid of me! Girls just aren't any good at sports. That's right, I remember now. That's why it doesn't make sense to watch their competitions, because you could be watching some real athletes (i.e. men) perform in the time you're wasting watching women pretend to play a sport.

Right now I'm typing as sarcastically as I possibly can, so I hope that's coming across. If people actually gave women's basketball a chance instead of dismissing it as "boring" out of hand, I think it would be impossible not to see the heart, the perseverance, and the sheer athleticism that goes into every season.

Take Theresa Weatherspoon's game-winning half court shot in the final seconds of the second game of the 1999 championship series. Take the Charlotte Sting's Cinderella 2001 season, coming from a 1-10 start to become the East Coast Champions. Or hell, just watch Ticha Penicheiro long enough for her to make one of her famous passes.

At the very least, stop treating me like a mental patient.

Unless I start thinking I'm Herbert Hoover. They named a dam after me, you know.

## SOHS: Save our hot spot

opinion by | Adam Nine

I don't smoke. I have tried in the past, and that's why I don't. Many of the people I know smoke all the time, however. These people are my friends and family, my coworkers, my lovers. That's why when I heard about the rule in Missouri Hall that moves smokers at least 20 feet away from the building, I was enraged beyond the limits of normal endurance. The Hot Spot — an abject yet heavenly concrete slab — hides warily at the front of Missouri Hall, or as it has become known to smokers recently, "the land of prejudice." During my freshman year, I spent many a night on the Hot Spot, shooting the breeze with my chiseled Adonis of a roommate, learning about life, learning how to smoke, and learning how to write "Ewoks" on the pillars with cigarette ash.

I've talked to parties on both sides of this debacle of Truman politics gone haywire, and have the ability to empathize with the hurt they both feel. I met up with my old nonsmoking high school buddy Derek White, a Junior, at King's Buffet over the weekend. Not only was I disturbed by the ap-

parent segregation in the restaurant of smokers from nonsmokers, but also by the vehemence spewing forth like black nicotine-stained tar from the mouth of my one-time friend. "Smokers deserve whatever they get," Derek screamed.

"They should be punished to the fullest extent of University policy."

Later on I talked with Adam Kos, Junior, a smoker and well-respected member of the University community, who used his dignified and sensible voice of reason to illustrate the views of the smokers that have suffered the slings and arrows of the outrageous University administration. "Truman's gonna learn the hard way not to fuck with us smokers," Adam said thoughtfully. "I mean, what would Truman be without smokers? Jack Magruder shit, that's what." And as Kos took a drag from his cigarette, I believe I

saw a shade of sadness in his eye, a sadness sparked from the senseless destruction of yet another bonding tradition among students. We can only pray that the administration will refrain from taking away our rights to have friends and speak freely among them.



Freshman Aaron Baker enjoys a smoke outside Missouri Hall



18 September 2001

# Truth often goes undiscussed, especially in classroom

opinion by | Doug Reside

Professors often use phrases that trigger in me immediate (though thankfully usually silent) responses. When a professor, holding a stack of papers, begins a sentence with, "I'm going to pass out," I have to fight the urge to interrupt with, "Oh come on now, take a deep breath. They can't be that heavy." When a professor perpetually speaks with the royal "We" (e.g. "Why don't we make the first hundred pages of your research paper due next Friday?"), I must roll back my tongue for fear it will start to command the many demons that live inside the body to vacate the premises. The temptation is greatest, however, when a professor asks, "Does anyone have any questions? Any questions at all?"

Yes. As a matter of fact I do. I didn't plan on mentioning them since there's only five minutes left in class and the greatest thinkers from around the globe have been trying to answer them for several millenniums. But since you asked, why do bad things happen to good people? Do we have truly free will or do we simply respond to the stimuli that shape our destiny? What is truth?

No, I never have responded in such a way, even in third grade. I doubt the professor would even attempt to play along. No one really wants to deal with these questions anymore. We see them somewhat like the movie version of *The Wizard of Oz*. They may be fascinating and beautiful, but everyone's been through it several times. Besides, we have it all on tape. There really isn't any point in going over the topics again. Or is there?

Let me simplify matters and deal only with the question, "What is truth?" The question was perhaps most famously asked of Jesus by Pontius Pilate in the first century. Since then people far more intelligent than anyone I have ever met have debated the question. Does it follow that such discussions are predictable and pointless? I cannot believe that this is the case. The definition of "truth" was not a new topic when Plato wrote *The Republic* with its "Allegory of the Cave." Gödel and Russell were not the first to try to define mathematical truth. Galileo, Newton, Darwin and Einstein each asked the same question of different generations. Although with perhaps less impressive results, the December 2000 issue of *Forbes*

ASAP also asked the question of those whom the editors considered the "world's best writers" and then published 51 of the responses from luminaries such as the Dalai Lama and Arthur Miller. In all of these cases, the old question was asked again and new answers were returned.

Yet very few people I know personally seem particularly eager to tackle the question of "What is truth?" Interesting, considering the fact that the answers must shape our philosophies and direct our actions. If I believe that the civil rights movement of the 1960s actually occurred, the belief will shape my understanding of the nature of humankind. If I believe the movement was a good thing, then I have adopted a moral code that I am likely to apply to my own life. My life is therefore changed by my definition of truth. I do not believe it is possible to evade the question; we will all answer it with our lives. It seems then fairly important to come to a conscious understanding of how we have answered it.

So although I may be too polite or too cowardly to ask the question in response to the ambiguous invitations of my professors, I

will ask the question now and request that those who are able and interested respond with letters or articles submitted to this publication. The prompt is as vague, and therefore as broad, as the average essay question on an English final exam: "What is truth?" The answer may take the form of an argument for or against the existence of truth itself. Or, given that one believes that truth does in fact exist, it may seek to define what is true about any topic, academic or otherwise. I only wish to start discussion on an important topic. The gauntlet has been thrown down.

*lles, from page 3*

2000 Brighton national and CSPAN conference as Tony Blair's guest speaker, was HALE-abused! He was so "wrong," said Hale, to accuse whites of only discovering "crime" when blacks were in power in an ANC speech! In fact, Nelson was responding after months of white racist opposition, Democrat-Nationalist leader Tony De Leon's attacks blaming for most crime in reverse, coded language of racism.

I could go on and on in similar convenient omissions, by Hale, such as refusing to by him to give African Americans in USA congress like CONGRESSMAN DR. HOWARD VOLPE whom I HEARD MYSELF when teaching history down at Washington University-St. Louis any credit ("they were not really significant," based on the word of an apartheid minister friend, Hale) FOR US SANCTIONS. These, in bringing down apartheid at all. Yet 20% of the SA whites' trade had been, before CONGRESS Volpe acted, with the Reagan USA.

But the point is clear: in SARAH'S WORDS ON THE PHONE, IN HER ANGUISH, WHEN, OH WHEN, ARE WE IN RELIEF GOING TO HAVE BALANCE, TO "THESE PEOPLE!" If it is not HALE, ITS FIVE THOUSAND BUCKS FORE "OLE" NORTH! What are we supposed to "free speech" be "learning" from such people that the USA mainstream media does not already saturate us abundantly, in illiberal bias, with ALREADY! Please? Do we have to go back to "boycotts," again, to get Magruder to earn his salary, and mansion, and thus promote some RESTORED speaker fairness in lectures advertised for ALL the community locality. Sorry for the capitals, but words are inadequate to the biased trash being TSU-perpetrated on us by white males, for white males ONLY, at a feminist-majority campus! Dicey roll, on Josephine Baker, campus, renaming, or maybe we will get yet another white male lecturer unjustly telling us on this campus she was an "uppity nigger in Paris, traitorously lewd-dancing thar from ST LOUIS slums": in conservative ANALOGOUS hate masquerading as TSU "history" lectures, however wittily, jokingly delivered as Hale's monologue was oh so assuredly! It was conservative propaganda by a man proposing to "emigrate" as he admitted and not even a new South African CITIZEN but an American white by his father's birthplace.

Sincerely,  
Larry lles

## Got an opinion, do ya?

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# Deception sells, not honesty; think twice

Opinion by | Richard Smoker

When I observe the world, I see tricks, lies, scams, schemes, deception and, underlying it all, greed. Honesty is no longer considered a quality. Honesty is no longer considered. Honesty is a joke. Honesty doesn't sell. Deception sells.

Many if not most relationships are fueled by deception, not love. The popularity of Maxim and its many female counterparts (YM, Seventeen, etc.) are proof of this alone. All of marketing is (with few exceptions) formed on a philosophy of trickery and lies. Psychology is used to access your mind without your consciousness getting in the way. When marketing execs discuss their advertising approach, they don't talk about how they can inform people about the usefulness of their product; they talk about how to trick people into buying it and keep them from discovering what makes it useless. How many of you who don't even like Pepsi can get the words "bop ba bop bop ba the joy of cola" out of your heads?

After they've tricked us into buying their products, professional liars give us comforting words so we can accept our purchase with a smile and not burden our brain with the knowledge that families are starving because the CEO of Nike wants a steadily climbing profit and we want shoes that are cool because of how much

we spend on them.

The government runs on deception by stratifying our society for the rich and then telling us we are a democracy "for the people" and "by the people." The government is unarguably run like a corporation, with decisions hinging on profits rather than the interests of the people. It is not run by the people, but by the rich; it is not run for the people, but directly against them; it is not a peaceful country, but rather the most destructive in the world. We can look down on communist China or Nazi Germany, but we would fail to realize that as we speak our greed is causing death and poverty throughout the rest of the world. Do you think our flourishing economy comes without a cost? The only way for our economy to improve is for someone else's economy to fail. When you promote economic growth you're also promoting economic strife in countries where people are already starving to death. On the off day that you read the world news (after it's been filtered by the media), you think to yourself, "What a terrible government that lets its people suffer so much." But you fail to realize that our perfect government is the real cause of their wars, poverty and unrest.

Not only have you been deceived; you have also deceived yourself. You think you are happier because of the material things that

money and technology have brought, when in reality that is the most ludicrous thought you've ever had. Happier than what? When you bought the latest video game did it really make you happier, or did it just return you to the state you were in before you knew the game existed? Buying things gives the illusion of creating happiness because as these products are dangled in front of our faces, they cause a desire that would not have existed otherwise. So when we purchase it our desire is fulfilled and it feels like happiness. This unnecessary cycle, however, does not bring happiness. It only returns us to our original state and perpetuates the greed that is causing strife for so many others.

In writing this I am not trying to influence you to be less materialistic, to be less deceptive, or to avoid lying. I'm not trying to claim that I am not any of those things. I am only trying to make it known that the way our society functions is not acceptable; that our country is not perfect (as you have been told it is); and that we are not perfect (as we have told ourselves we are). If you are content with who you are, then you are probably confused about what you could be. This doesn't mean that you should look to your past and think, "I shouldn't have done that" or "I'm ashamed of that," but that you should look to your future and think, "Maybe I'll do that differently next time."

# Corporate media is *real* enemy

opinion by | Cameron Moore

WAKE-UP CALL!!! Open your eyes and clean off the sludge. It is time to stop hitting the snooze button; this is something we can no longer ignore. We are being hoodwinked, and the media is in on it too!

Every morning, millions of Americans wake up to the morning news. They get all their information on world events from the exact same sources. And they eat it all up. Nobody questions, nobody wonders. Is this all that is going on? Is this the way the world is in fact unfolding, or are we getting the shit end of the stick?

For years, the CIA has been committing heinous acts of terrorism on the world, to keep the power of terror in power. In fact, we trained Osama bin Laden to commit acts of terrorism. We are the terrorists to many in the world. Realize that, to keep the world's richest people in power and to keep our collections of superfluous crap, some remarkably evil things have been done. And keep in mind that these same people that are in power OWN the very source of all your information.

Ownership of all major media outlets allows the real terrorists of this world complete control over what information we obtain. They can paint whatever picture they want with any spin they want, so long as a nice white boy in a suit looks sincere enough while he says it. And this past week has been the cream of the crop. Never in my life have I seen such blatant misuse of the media. The only motivation behind any

story in the press was to propagate fear. They are trying to scare us, and with fear comes anger.

Take for instance the Palestinian children shown on the news celebrating. The only fathomable reason to show that footage is to make us angry. Everybody was too enraged to notice the fact that it was early evening in Palestine when the attack occurred and subsequent parade footage was aired, and that the footage shown is of a daytime parade. And it's funny how those scenes just disappeared from the news hours after they appeared. The pictures in our mind are forgotten as the news diverts our attention again, while their affect proves to be a lasting contempt for Arabs. Faked footage or not, they just want to give us somebody to be angry at; somebody we can kill and feel justified in doing it.

The military is going to nuke somebody. It has all but been decided by the trigger-happy rich and powerful who suffer no consequence of their deadly decisions. And the press is scaring us all into thinking it is necessary, corralling us into a desperate fit of anger and confusion. What else are we going to let the press and government scare us into thinking is necessary? I'm not looking forward to a complete military state, and it is coming very soon if we allow it.

The media is scare-mongering everybody into thinking we need a complete lockdown on everything; that we need to give complete control to the military in order to remain safe and

secure. Big Brother, here we come. Or are we already there? ABC news reported Sunday on that the government plans to wire tap any and all communications media in the country. This is nothing new, but I think official announcement of this marks a very scary point in our existence: when the government takes complete control, and we are tricked into wanting it.

And while this was a horrific turn of events that necessitates sympathy for all those affected (I don't support mass killing as a means to ANY end), this event provides us with a unique opportunity to open our hearts. With any disaster comes a chance to learn and become stronger; every hardship is a lesson in disguise. And we still have all the hope in the world. We need to open lines of communication between each other, because in reality that is all we have; the rest is just an illusion. We give the media and the government their power, and we can take it away.

I beg the many of us that are angry not to close your heart; this is just as much our fault as anybody else's. But until we realize that we are being kept in the dark by our government and media, we will continue to blindly walk into disaster, expecting the rest of the world to comply with our fascist demands of unending wealth and power. We need to accept responsibility for all of our actions and move to rectify our wrongs on the world that we have raped.

## Indymedia.org, others provide real news

Feature by | Jesse Pasley

Tired of capitalist-controlled, fascist media? Are CNN and MSNBC sickening you with their lack of journalistic gusto? Then try out the world of independent and alternative media! But wait, you already are, just by reading the Monitor. Unlike mainstream media, independent and alternative media are not controlled by big-capital financiers or corrupt institutions such as the government, or, in our case, the University. Rather, independent media is directly supported by the community in which it serves.

Unfortunately, independent media is often brushed aside. "Leave it to the professionals!" they say. I often hear this directed towards the Monitor. Unfortunately, it often the so-called professionals of big name media that either fail to catch the important stuff or put such nationalistic spin on everything that their news makes me want to vomit. While the mainstream will flash a bunch of a junk about the Dow Jones and Hollywood, it's the alternatives that have the gumption to talk about stuff that really matters like human rights.

Even within this last week, while the press caved in to that "God Bless America" crap, independent media was the first to tear into American foreign policy. Despite the facts that the terror that is Osama bin Ladin was created by the CIA and that the US government gave the Taliban \$43 million for its anti-drug efforts earlier this year, I have yet to see mainstream columnists talk about anything except the government's line of "America's New War."

So, without further ado, here's a short list of independent media Internet sites that I frequent. Admittedly, these sites are what you call "left-leaning." If you've read the Monitor before you'll probably be used to it. But before you call any of this biased, the news on these

sites makes very clear and plain: yes, they do have an agenda. Contrast this to the mainstream news, where they claim they are unbiased, but really their agenda is money and shameless ass kissing. Take your pick.

### Independent Media Center

[www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org)

Wow, here's a real mother load, more alternative news than you can shake a stick at. Not only is there the written word, many news items have links to audio and visuals. The real cool thing is that anyone can become a journalist and post their news. Also, news is broken down into regional sections, so that if you're from St. Louis and Kansas City, you can find out what's on in those cities (and yes, radical shit happens).

This website won a "Webby" award (something like an Oscar for any Internet site or some shit) for best activist site. While it is technically a news site, much of it is activist news. But who said activist was a bad word?

Now for the downsides: due to its immense size and openness, there tends to be from time to time some really bad one-paragraph rants (but like I said, if you read the Monitor, you'll be used to it). Well, take the bad with the good.

### AlterNet.Org

[www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org)

### Pacific News Service

[www.pacificnews.org](http://www.pacificnews.org)

### Common Dreams

[www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)

Okay, so you've been overwhelmed by Indymedia.org? Then I highly recommend these three news sites. Professional, easy-to-navigate

### Alternative Press Review

[www.altpr.org](http://www.altpr.org)

While technically a printed magazine (which is a worthy read in and of itself), the website of said magazine has plenty of cool stuff to read and look at. It's got great articles of the same caliber as the abovementioned sites. It's got zine reviews. And it's got artwork to look at!

### InfoShop.Org

[www.infoshop.org](http://www.infoshop.org)

If you're feeling gutsy today, you'll check out this website, where you can have an encounter with (gasp, shock, horror) anarchist political ideologies. Yes, there is news here, if you click on "News Kiosk" on the homepage. Is it biased? You bet. Is it interesting and fresh? Entirely. So, if you want to try something new, go here.

### More Independent Media

While I've limited this feature to websites, I need to mention the coolest and probably the most important aspect of alternative media and journalism, that of the homegrown zine. I could tell you to read them down at the Aquadome, or buy one from that skinny hippy kid at the next Phish concert, but I'm going to tell you to start your own. After all, that's how the Monitor began, and you'd also be surprised what you can produce in one drunken night of anger and passion.

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## View from the Back Row

by Andy Stevenson

So the World Trade Center got blown up. And not just by some guy with a bomb. *This time* it was a complicated, terrorist operation involving four separate, coordinated plane hijackings and the murder of innocent civilians on board. I would say innocent civilians all the way around, but it really wouldn't be the truth. I mean, the people working in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (oh yeah, the Pentagon got crashed into as well. Of course it did. Although there's nothing more ugly and underhanded [at least playing off of stereotypes and exaggerated shoot-blindly-to-kill T.V. drama] in most countries than the military) aren't exactly free of misdirected, even unintended misbehaviors, such as the propagation of materialist capitalism and rampant consumerism, which in turn encourages the free trade of commodities such as mass-produced agriculture, whose prices peasants in the Third World can't compete with and eventually result in a mass grave by starvation or in degradation by sweatshop submission.

And then there are things like hostile military takeovers spearheaded by OUR government, which completely undermine the idea of universal national sovereignty, or wait, wasn't it national sovereignty that was threatened by that stuff last week? ("Uh, maybe, but I know that we should hunt down who did it and punish them. I mean, that's just what we do, what we want.") Never mind. (Also, I don't really understand the whole glossy ultra-nationalist finish on "America Under Attack." It was an international enterprise taken down [the World Trade Center] and murder is a crime against humanity regardless of geographical implication). Anyway, now that I think about it, maybe *none* of us can be called innocent. This isn't to suggest that by virtue of being non-innocent, we must be guilty, but that we all act in a morally self-contradictory fashion sometimes and know that truth inside for the glaring fact that it is.

So if none of us is innocent, and some of us have to die, who shuffles off their mortal coil? Maybe that's being a little harsh (not that there's a daily death quota on the great clipboard in the sky, nor is death an inherently unjust or un-

natural -or optional- end for anyone), but let's assume there was some deliberate determination of who and when. Because really, *SOMEONE/SOMETHING* chooses. Thousands of people *do* die every day, and I don't believe it could all be just one big coincidence—which I remember from looking into the sun one day—or so the average Joe/Sally might also say, at least to themselves or in front of some little curtain in close quarters.

So last week a died one of the people in the world that did were a bunch of imperfect Americans. And, obviously, by the unlikely chain of events that transpired, it was their turn. Simply their moment to tip their hats to life's encore, maybe even the second and third acts, and move on (to another show?). And all us humans are either alive or dead. No other way to go about it. And once you're dead, there's no more cotton candy (and hey, faster lines for the rest of us kids waiting in front of the *Gravitron*). Big sirens and flashing lights here, though—everyone's enraged about dead people. Why? Thousands of people died; thousands of people die every day. Was September 11 different? Perhaps. Although it makes page Q28 when terrorist acts are committed in the Sudan, history most likely wouldn't have prescribed a pile of bodies in Manhattan. I guess we're not used to massacres and senseless destruction in our neighborhoods (and in this fine land of democracy, justice and Columbine). So is what we aren't used to or we are unprepared for that makes us enraged? It must be more. Violence in itself is a daily occurrence, but is harder to justify when it accounts for thousands of seemingly arbitrary deaths.

Or can it? Hey, it made the news *BIG TIME*. But wait, it's a crime against humanity (maybe we should just issue them reparation checks or schedule a conference to discuss it and end up not attending). Regardless, it makes us think. Or should, at least. What caused it? As neat as our shiny stuff is, I doubt that the savages just *really* wanted our glass beads and trinkets. So why us? Does being Americans make us bad? Maybe not, but maybe so. Because we are all born into this world in a certain place around certain people that we don't have

absolute control of (again, the whole non-coincidental nature of life's river), and if there is no control over where we pop up, it's pretty difficult to assign inherent value to one's ambiguous geographical placement upon conception and the subsequent possibility of a red, white and blue confetti parade.

Conversely, most of us do-cocaine-and-drive-drunk-but-come-"back"-to-Jesus Americans, among other things, constantly contradict ourselves in daily capitalist existence, notably in our talking of the importance of welfare and meeting the basic needs of other humans around us, but then coveting the money and resources (ooh la-la shopping center and deliciously numbing beverages) that we have and using them to gratify ourselves in inconsequential material fashions. (Gettin' paid, huh? How's about givin' some to the poor, starving child that has a brilliant mind for physics but would think a theta sign was the symbol for turtle or something? —Naah, I'd rather have this electric flossing machine for my dog. He starts drooling and whimpering real fast and his back leg does this sewing machine thing when I use it on him, it's pretty funny.. Maybe next time.)

So that's part of life's irony, but most cultures probably contain inherent contradictory behaviors, whether they are as glaring as ours seem to be (within the confines of whatever morality we exhibit through allocation of resources by zero-sum capitalism) or not. Sure, being Americans makes us just as imperfect as any other humans, most likely. And just as vulnerable apparently. So what happens now? Do we collaborate with other humans and their respective institutional counterparts or step into our Robocop costume (custom-fitted by hegemonic historical tendencies) and turn the phaser to "liquefy neurons?" Or do we recognize our humanity and do a little more to coexist on better terms? Maybe the perpetrators of "peaceful" bliss were just some crazy dudes; maybe I'm just some crazy dude wading through mental sagebrush. Maybe after we hang our heads in solemn retribution, then we can crawl back into our little mentally fabricated life control towers and (re-) establish some sense of direction. Or at least normalcy (like Santa Claus).

## Guns, missile defense can solve anything, everything

opinion by | Cameron Moore

Terrorist attack? What? How could *this* happen to the United States, the infallible nation of GOD??? Does not compute...

While much of the nation is stupefied due to the terrorist attacks on our great nation, all I have is regret. All I can think of is what could have happened had we only been prepared. We could have stopped this; it didn't have to happen.

First of all, had all those liberal tree-huggers in the Pentagon been packing heat, this never would have happened. Guns save lives, people; all this stuff is easily preventable. Hell, if I had a gun, I would have shot that Commie bastard right between his eyes... I bet it was Commies. Never turn your back on a Commie, I always say. We should have nuked the shit out of them a long time ago.

Second of all, had we listened to Reagan and gotten that Star Wars missile defense, this never would have happened. If this doesn't convince you, I don't know what will. We *absolutely need* missiles in space. Missiles save lives; they cleanse and purify the world of the putrid Commie demons that disguise themselves as human. How much longer before the rest of the world realizes that we, the great nation of consumption, are right and they are wrong?? They should bow to us, for we are rich and powerful.

This attack is the first of what I am assuming will be many. How much guff do we need to take before we show the world that we are the boss? All this is a means to an end. We are perfect, the exalted nation of the wealthy, and guns and missiles are God's gift to the chosen few. We must not hesitate to nuke their families and teach them a lesson. Nobody fucks us over; we'll do the fucking over, thank you.

## The day after the attack, I cut my hair in mourning

Opinion by | John Nygen

The day after, I found a pair of scissors and attacked my hair. It was the first thing I did that morning. This was my grieving. This was my prayer.

In 1995, so many years ago, my grandmother was killed in a car accident. Somebody ran a yellow turned red and slammed into the passenger side of my cousin's car. My grandmother made gasping noises in the middle of metal and plastic, but arrived at the hospital in the arms of her Savior. In the emergency room, my cousin, Paul, sat at the end of the hospital bed, sprawled on the floor. His eyes were wide with tears. My mother held her mother's hand and wept as she tried to conjure life back into the worn skin and closed eyes of the matriarch to our bloodline.

At the funeral, Paul's long black hair was cut all away. Everyone wore the traditional garb of mourning. White robes with frayed edges. This is what we did for the dead. This was our sacrifice.

Wednesday morning I cut my hair. So many

tragedies in the world, I cut my hair. Every time I want it to grow out, I hear about some other atrocity in this world and I find myself staring through the mirror at the scissors pointed at my head. This was my mourning.

I've been shaking on these days, my bones quivering beneath my flesh. I am a coward, I suppose. I am afraid of war.

In 1975, American involvement in Vietnam was drawing to a close. My father abandoned his post on the front lines and ran over 100 miles to reunite with his wife and children. His clothes were stained with the blood of dead men that he used as camouflage to avoid being shot. He smelled of death. It was an atrocious time in the history of my people. Countrymen, brothers, wives, sisters, husbands, farmers, natives and foreigners alike left craters of fire in their mother nation. Vietnam became a horror story.

I am filled with anger, apprehension, and shame at the thought of my history. And history is where we stand today. Red faces on my television tell me that we are a nation at war. But who is our enemy? Is it the hidden terror-

ists that we so readily call cowards? Is it the nations that harbor our enemies? Is it the God who forsakes His people and leaves them to mourn in streets of rubble? No. No. No.

The enemy is our fear. The enemy is us. It is the anger that we feel. It is the sorrow on our sleeves. It is the terror in our tears. Our nation, our bleeding mother America, is on her knees, her right eye blossoming in blood and her mouth wide and true is chanting a mantra of healing. How will America stand here in our history? How will America grieve? Will we grieve with bombs in the sky, and missiles in space? Will we grieve with flags at half-mast and faces pointed at the ground? Will we grieve in the comfort of our homes while undiscovered bodies weep beneath ash and infamy? No. No. Please God, no.

America must not be victim to its pain. We cannot be victim to our natural desires for vengeance, because America is an idea. America is an ideal. It is a place born for freedom and forged in blood. A million mistakes we have made. A million justices we have erected. But today, now in this hour, we cannot afford a

mistake. We cannot afford to tarnish the colors of our freedom with guilt. This time must not be a period of future shame.

I do not know what will happen tomorrow. I do not know who will be captive. I do not know whose face will offer contrition on my television set. I do know that when all is said and put to rest, it is us who must save ourselves from terror and terrorism. We, the young, we shape the world that we grow into. We shape the children who will live in what we sow. Will we shape a world where people are pushed to attacks of incalculable violence? Will we shape a world torn by war and fear? Or will we breed the kind of understanding this world has not yet seen? Will we find the serenity that our destiny calls us to? Will we surpass every hope that every person on this earth has ever dreamed?

I believe we can.

Until there is peace, my hair will stay cut. My thoughts will stay somber. And my world will stay ever changing.

We must build a monument to the people, to the victims, who are dead. And that monument must be a peaceful world.



# What do we look for in a potential partner?

Feature by | Jami Burns

Great smile, tight pants and an even tighter shirt seem to be the only justification for girls getting hit on at parties. As I sit back and observe life around me, I see two very different sides to what guys want in a girl. The factors usually involved are 1) whether we are in class or at parties and 2) what the guy wants at the time (i.e. either a trophy girl to hang on his arm or a last phone call at night).

From what I have gathered about the female perspective, it seems that in the long run a guy wants a sweet girl that Mom will approve of and the other guys will be jealous of. So girls be confident! You are the one guys want. I promise. I didn't believe it either until I was waiting to give blood and I talked to the people around me about what they look for in the perfect girl. The guys agreed on one thing: they wanted a girl who is confident (but not the overaggressive type who scares people with her pearly whites flashing at everyone in the room).

Guys also want girls that are easygoing, not easy. In choosing a girl they want to make some decisions but not all of them. Or so they say. The more I heard the guys talk the less it made sense. So I made all of these good points and gave pointers, but it's bull. There is no formula for what guys want, so don't change for another person. That is what is wrong with college relationships: too many people change themselves in order to find that perfect someone. The perfect someone is the person who wants you for you!

*She said, He said*



A two-sided look at  
relationships

Feature by | Adam Nine

One of the biggest questions guys have about dating is why girls choose to go out with the guys that they do. We all know that girls talk about how cute guys are, and that good looks are indeed a plus. We also hear that girls want a sensitive, romantic guy. The problem with this is that most jerks seem to have little to no trouble landing a girlfriend, even if he treats her badly. What most guys don't know, however, is how heavy of a role psychology plays in the girl's decision.

Side Note: This is more of a mission statement, but it also goes along with what I've been saying. My purpose this year isn't just to make random opinions and suggestions about dating for entertainment. Instead, I'm planning to present observations and follow them up by explaining why the people do the things they do. The whole idea behind this is to gain insight into the female and male minds, which work differently (if you didn't already know). This will allow you to not just follow my tips mindlessly, but to make successful dating decisions on your own.

The first thing that I want to stress is the first impression. Girls notice everything that everyone does, and never forget anything. Girls tend to date guys who are sincere, funny and at ease. Compliments are nice, and everybody likes to receive them; but a girl doesn't want to be over-complimented. This gives her the impression that you are not sincere with your compliments and that you are after something. Even if

she doesn't feel that way, if you give her too many compliments, each individual compliment will mean less to her due to their frequency. This also applies to "I love you" when you are in more serious relationships.

Girls also love self-confidence in a potential mate. There are many reasons for this with one of the biggest being the idea of a stronger guy who doesn't need a babysitter and can possibly take some of the everyday pressures off of the girl. Will a girl date a sad, pathetic loser like you? Yes, if she wants to. I've known girls who need to date a loser to either make themselves feel better or because of a fear of rejection by more confident guys. For the most part though, girls would much rather date a guy who is confident, even if that confidence is fake, than date a guy who only feels sorry for himself.

The final thing I'll mention about the choices girls make is the pursuing nature of the guy. There's nothing wrong with showing a girl that you like her, but most guys tend to (mistakenly) believe that girls will go for them if they put their heart on the line and tell her how extremely interested they are in her. This can be a large turnoff to girls, simply because they are wary to hook up with guys who are that easy to get. If a girl consistently misses dates or makes a guy wait for hours before leaving, and the guy is OK with that, the guy looks weak to her. Girls are more likely to be attracted to and respect a guy who isn't afraid to stand up for himself, someone who has the ability to walk away from a bad relationship.

## Monitor Bible Study

Putting the "fun" back in fundamentalism

Hello, we are Rabbi Kessler and Father Daniels and it has come to our attention that the youth of today have lost touch with their religious heritage. We feel that this is largely attributable to the religious right's inability to keep religious zealotry enjoyable. We are here today to remind you that you can't spell fundamentalism without "fun." Not convinced? Well open your bible and select any random passage. We guarantee that you will be able to find hours of moral entertainment. This week we will be taking it back to the old school: Leviticus 20:27, where God himself states, "A man or also woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them."

**Father Daniels:** This has really been bothering me for a long time now. Sorcery is so rampant nowadays. Just the other day I was at the local mall preaching to the unsaved when a young man cast what appeared to be Evard's Black Tentacles.

**Rabbi Kessler:** And let us not be deceived by the media, aka the devil's microphone, portraying wizards as robe-wearing, wand-holding, white-bearded men. Wizards are an honest threat to hard-working men everywhere.

**Father Daniels:** With all of the illusion spells

available today it is easier than ever to rustle up a rudimentary disguise. Only a necromancer would have difficulty finding a magical disguise.

**Rabbi Kessler:** That's right. Look at all of the big name examples out there: Mr. Wizard, Harry Potter, the Wizard of Oz, all Grand Wizards of the KKK, that popular rock group Weezer(d), The Wiz, Bill Cosby, Michael Jordan and the

Washington Wizards, the Kansas City Wizards...

**Father Daniels:** The Kansas City Wizards?! Why they're only three hours away!

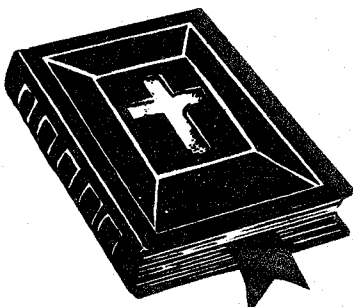
**Rabbi Kessler:** You're right! And what a perfect opportunity to put our philosophies into action. This Sunday why don't we organize a co-religious crusade to Kansas City for some good old-fashioned

lemonade and stoning?

**Father Daniels:** They will pay for defiling God and his chosen sport! Don't be intimidated by their numbers. Just remember that wizards have low hit points and can't wear armor. Meet us Sunday at 9:00 am in the circle park drive where the bus will be waiting. Be sure to bring your bibles, plenty of stones and a change of clothes.

**Rabbi Kessler:** If we don't see you there, be sure to catch our next Bible Study where we will explore the story of Moses and the Temple of Doom.

**Father Daniels:** God bless America!



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# KIRKSVILLE'S HIDDEN TREASURES

AN ON-GOING SERIES DEVOTED  
TO DISCOVERING THE WEALTH OF KIRKSVILLE

feature by | Olivera Bratich,  
Marie Montano and Leslee  
White

Think kids are a bunch of snot-eating, glue-sniffing, hair-pulling shit for brains? So do we, but Kirksville decided to honor them in a festival of fun and debauchery. The Kids R Best Fest took place at Kirksville's luxurious swimming pool park on a hot, hot Saturday afternoon. As we neared the festivities pop-rap supastar Nelly invited us and all the little children to "take a ride wit me/ Smoke an L in the back of the Benz-y." "Fuck me good! Suck me good!" Nelly's voice rang out over the crowd, but his cries went unheard. The children were too wrapped up in games of chance and skill.

Ever feel the urge to play doctor with

several small children? Then Giant Operation is the game for you! Yes, that beloved childhood game made life-size was the toast of the party, but we had to wait our turn behind a line of clumsy, Doogie Howser wanna-be, ass wipes.

Luckily the wait was shorter to compete in the balloon toss event. We tossed a water balloon until it broke and then we walked away. Good times, good times. The kids got a little wet at the balloon toss, but they sure got soaked at the dunk tank. It sure didn't look like fun but their glistening wet little bodies kept lining up for more.

Aquatic themed booths included the duck pond and Shark Attack. After 2pm any dip in

the duck pond resulted in a handful of Smarties, so we moved on to more dangerous waters. Shark Attack involved slinging severed limbs into the gaping mouth of a "shark." This game was especially poignant for us in light of the recent string of shark attacks along the Eastern seaboard.

We briefly visited the obstacle course and effectively "pussed out." But we sure worked up an appetite watching the sweaty little boys squirm and grunt their way through the course. We succumbed to the gentle call of Oscar. Oscar Meyer that is, in the form of FREE HOT DOGS. We eagerly devoured our "free lunch," this staple of Kirksville family affairs.

After lunch we caught the Heartland Express, a miniature train designed for small lightweight children. As we traveled down the street and back again, the obvious stress of our free hot dog lovin' bodies on the small trolley car made us feel like "thicky thicky thick girls" (Nelly, "Ride Wit Me"). Conveniently, the train stopped near our final destination. The City of Kirksville's gleaming new fire truck was on display for all the little greasy-fingered, beady-eyed money-suckers. This fine new piece of machinery set Kirksville back a pretty penny, but we had a great time crawling around pushing buttons inside. Yea to firemen! And Boo to children! Stupid little crayon-eatin, Santa Claus-believin incontinent wastes of space.



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## ...News That is unFit...

A record 117 farm animals were reported missing from neighboring towns during the week of Sept. 9. The count currently stands at 38 missing sheep, 23 missing goats, 11 missing cows, 41 missing chickens, three missing badgers, and a single missing turkey.

The following account was taken from one livestock farmer who witnessed a goat-napping: "Well, they was two of 'em, and they was drivin' one of them Jeep Wranglers, and they was both wearin' hippie sandals. They wadn't no hippies, neither, cause I'da shot a hippie on the spot. Anyways, they put three of my best billies in the back of that pussy car and took the hell off."

Police have no leads at this time, but they are currently investigating a possible tie between the livestock stealings and the robbery of a local ice block manufacturer around the same time.

In completely unrelated news, this weekend brought an end to what is known to most University students as Rush Week. Go Greek!

As construction on the brand new Ophelia Parrish building seems to be approaching its end, the University continues to begin new projects throughout the campus. According to plans released by the administration, as soon as the area between the SUB and McClain Hall gets past the "Fence it off, Bob" stages, construction for the new Zoological Studies building will begin. The University will then demolish other buildings to make room for the new sculpture park and reflecting pond.

The project coordinator said, "To make room for the pond, we're going to have to take out the parking lots behind Missouri Hall and Blanton-Nason-Brewer. There will still be plenty of room to park behind Dobson Hall.

"Instead of finishing all the different projects at different times, the plan is to try to finish all of them on the same day so that we can have a campus-wide ribbon cutting ceremony. That date will be June 1, 2008. Oh, and students won't be able to get in or out of any of the residence halls for the next three months, but it shouldn't be a problem."

Although there is no official word yet, many sources are busily guessing what concert events the SAB will be bringing to the University this year. After both Less Than Jake and Wyclef Jean performed at the University last year, SAB will have to struggle to outdo itself.

The reports flowing into Monitor Tower seem to indicate that there are a few artists leading the speculated race: Ace of Base, Michael Bolton, Devo, Vanilla Ice, Hank Williams, Jr., and K.I.S.S. May the best band win.

## monitor reviews

## Tenacious D Aim to "Rock Your Fuckin' Socks Off"

Tenacious D  
*Tenacious D*

Epic

## Review by | Zach Lechner

The acoustic comedy rock duo of Jack Black and Kyle Gass have finally issued their long-awaited CD, and it is, quite frankly, hilarious. The Dust Brother-produced recording, which includes assistance from Dave Grohl, keyboardist Page McConnell (Phish), guitarist Warren Fitzgerald (The Vandals) and bassist Steve McDonald (Redd Kross) will certainly please long-time fans of the irreverent D and will hopefully attract a legion of new followers.

The band has gained a great deal of notoriety and established a loyal cult audience by touring the country and appearing on HBO and *Saturday Night Live*. Their penchant for combining folk, classic and hard rock, psychedelia and general weirdness with deliciously offensive subject matter makes for a highly enjoyable and fresh musical experience.

On paper, the concept may sound Ween-like, but the D are more joke-oriented. That is not to say the music is not good, because it is, and it stands on its own. In fact, on fan favorite "Fuck Her Gently," the band can make lyrics like "And then I'm gonna love you completely / And then I'll fuckin' fuck you discreetly / And then I'll fuckin' bone you completely / But then I'm gonna fuck you hard," sound downright poignant, which only adds to their humor.

Black and Gass's genius is their ability to mock the rock god persona by embodying it so flawlessly. Black, who assumes lead vocal

duties, comes off as an overzealous heavy metal asshole, and consistently berates the laid-back Gass in numerous skits that pepper the album. When Gass tells Black on the track "One Note Song" that the latter's musical composition could have been penned by anyone, Black replies, "Yeah, but guess who did write it? Me. . . I win: one to nothing!"

Elsewhere, Black preaches the benefits of inward singing, doing cock pushups and banging groupies, in a manner that pokes fun at the stereotypical rock star's ego, which judging by "Rock Your Socks," requires only that groupies repay the D's hard work by taking a crap on them.

If you are looking for a clunker on *Tenacious D*, you will be hard-pressed. Some of the best tracks are those that, as you might have guessed, involve freaky sex. The first tune, entitled "Kielbasa," has Black singing, "I see you walking / But all I can think about is Dianetics / Your butt cheeks is warm," backed by a driving rock groove. "Double Team" informs the ladies of what they can expect from some three-way action, Tenacious D style. The song embodies the group's musical skills as it moves from folk to 70s metal and sleazy funk, before settling on hard rock. It also features the memorable line, "We don't mind sucking on toes." Another (non-sexually-oriented) standout is "Tribute," an attempt to pay homage to "the best song in the world."

Take it from me, babies, Tenacious D bring the funny and fully satisfy the world's need for smart, yet perverted, humor. "Do you know what time it is? Tenacious D time, you motherfucker." It is indeed.



Got a new CD that could  
change the world?

Seen a movie that others  
should avoid?

Read a book that just tickles  
your fancy?

**Review it for  
The Monitor!**

## FOREIGN FILM REVIEW

*Lola Rennt*

directed by Tom Tykwer  
starring Franka Potente

## Review by | John Becker

*Lola Rennt* is a high-speed romp combining non-stop action with a subtle but effective beat-heavy techno soundtrack that will rock your socks off. This is one of the best films that I've seen in a while, and I think that if you like action, you'll agree with me. The premise of the film is that Lola has 20 minutes to find 100,000 marks (roughly 50,000 US dollars) or her boyfriend Manni is history. She's pressed for time, so she runs, hence the title. Along the way she runs into

several problems, making her trip very interesting, even a bit surreal.

The film was made in Germany, so it's in German. Both a dubbed version and a subtitled version are available. One World has the subtitled version and Hastings has a dubbed version. I didn't like the dubbed version at all. I felt like it compromised the integrity of the film, so I went to One World to pick up the subtitled version. If you're looking for something a little off-beat to watch, I really think you will enjoy this one. Rock on. Peace.

*Suns* is a captivating journey*Dancing Suns:**Book one of the Zaddack Tales*

By Karen Daniels



## Review by | J.J. Pionke

My first impression of this novel was that I know the end of the story within the first chapter. My second impression was it is the journey that counts, not necessarily the destination. As we follow the development and adventures of Serall and her Zaddack, Kafa, a wolf/leopard hybrid with psychic powers, we are pulled into her emotions and her perspective on what is happening to her. But it is more than that; Daniels writes with surprising imagery, but not so much that it becomes cumbersome. She leaves enough to the imagination so that the reader can fill in the details of the world of Riatha.

Daniels has written a novel that is a joy to read. Again, the story line is apparent in the first chapter as well as the outcome, but it is the journey that counts the most. I found myself enthralled by her writing. Her main characters are well developed and the story, the journey is interesting. I found reading her novel to be a welcome break from the deep stuff of Eliot,

Dickens, and Woolf. It was a welcome drink of water on a hot day of heavy literary criticism.

The journey of our two female main characters takes us through unimaginable loss, the meeting of mythical figures and the ultimate test of true faith in one's self and one's friends. The story is so captivating because Daniels takes us to a place that we could imagine easily, but she makes it come alive. This book is about being more than who you are, friendships, love and adventure. It is about everything that you imagined when you were a kid and so much more. If you liked the Pern series by Anne McCaffrey, you will definitely like this novel.

So far Daniels has written book two, which I will also be reviewing at some point, and she is working on book three even as I type this. She is definitely an author to watch. I would recommend this book to anyone who would like a quick delightful read. It is a quick sojourn out of the ordinary to resuscitate our minds from the dreariness of day-to-day living.

# 24-hour theater to put on show, stay up all night

Story by | Sean O'Brien

Think of it as a regular show with ADD.

Some writers take years, or even decades, to perfect a script. Some directors begin planning over a year before the scheduled opening night of their show. Many actors actually demand to have their script BEFORE the day of the performance! Bah! Probably everyone ever involved in the processes described above has thought, at one time or another, "Oh what I wouldn't give for this to all be over today." Then they sigh and forge onwards. Twenty-Four Hour Theatre, on the other hand, says, "What the hell, lets do it. I got other things to do."

Beginning at 8:00pm on Friday, September 21, 2001, a group of University theatre enthusiasts, directed by Kevin Sorice, will begin

writing, designing, building and rehearsing a full-fledged original short play. The play will be performed 24 hours later at the Baldwin Little Theatre at 8:00pm on Saturday, September 22. Tickets will be available at the door for a nominal charge (\$1 or \$2) to defray costs, since it is not a school-sponsored production.

Founded at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, four years ago, the Twenty-Four Hour Theatre made its way to Kirksville last spring and featured Histories Mysteries, or: If It's Your First Night At Fight Club, You Have To Fight. That production showcased an all-faculty cast. This

year's production will utilize students not only as actors but also as participants in all other facets of production.



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[www.beyondirc.com](http://www.beyondirc.com)

review by | Amanda Romine

This website is devoted to (what else?) Tuesday's terrorist attacks. There are a few photos of survivors and workers in New York and a few words about America followed by a list of the deceased. Actually, it was rather touching... but the phrases ended with "We will find you... and you will pay" which ruined the warm, fuzzy feeling I had inside.

[www.jigzone.com](http://www.jigzone.com)

review by | Amanda Romine

I can't think of a better way to waste time at my computer than messing with jigsaw puzzles. I don't even like jigsaw puzzles but I love this website. You can choose anywhere between 6 to 247 pieces and pictures of dolphins and Valentine candy hearts with pieces shaped like birds and polygons... and to top it off, you can have the website solve the puzzle for you! What more could a gal want!?

### Shfaram, continued from p. 1

of locals. "While America the country is sorely disapproved of, Americans are generally warmly welcomed by the Arab population here," he said. "In fact, it can be annoying. I have had meals paid for by people I met while sitting in a restaurant. People offer me a lift at the drop of a hat. And if I'm in someone's home, I have to tell them to leave alone after a while."

Halski said that the hospitality is part of the general vibrancy of the city, whose inhabitants, among other things, chain-smoke long cigarettes and nurture a love of automotive transportation. "Any distance over two blocks has been described to me as 'very, very far, too far too walk,'" Halski said. "I have recently learned that more Israelis have died in car accidents than in all the wars of the past fifty years combined."

Halski also said, however, that despite the generosity of locals, throughout Shfaram there are pointed reminders of the nation's yawning ethnic divide. "In the course of a 15 minute walk around the block, I saw signs of separation," Halski said. "Buildings had huge signs hanging from them with 'Arabs in Israel are Oppressed and Discriminate Against' in English."

Halski said that inside the town anything remotely Israeli aggravates suspicion. "It (suspicion) comes across very strongly in the looks I get from people," Halski said. "I find that when someone stares at me for some time, if I shout back in a clear American accent 'sabach alkare'—that means good morning in Arabic—the face changes dramatically and they yell back a similar greeting. Until I can suggest otherwise, I seem to be on the other side of the line."

Consequently, Halski said, terrorism and mutual suspicion have become fixed features of daily life in the Middle East. The check-

closest to Shfaram), for instance, are negotiated through a thicket of automatic weapons and Israeli troops. Searches and inspections at the checkpoints can paralyze traffic for hours. Pitched battles between Israeli border patrols and scrums of small Arab boys are all too familiar, while Israeli soldiers routinely spray rubber bullets and lob canisters of tear gas to disperse potentially threatening crowds.

Halski said last week's terrorist attacks served as a vivid demonstration of how routine violence and destruction had become in Israel.

"When the news broke, my neighbors asked me how I felt and showed concern for my family. In truth, and perhaps this ought to disturb us far more than those few celebrating (the attack), most seemed to find it surprising but not unexpected. They know that such tragedies occur and that innocent people suffer."

Halski said that when he saw crowds collecting in Arab towns to celebrate last week's terrorist attacks, he felt, "Those children—and most of them on screen were children—found something to celebrate in seeing the friend of their oppressor hurt so badly. They did not realize that the image of a couple dozen men and women in the street—and the networks used those same dozen people over and over again—celebrating in the streets would fuel a hatred and prejudice that would haunt them for generations."

He added, "I am not what you would call a religious man, but if you ever had reason to consider the words of the gospel, 'Forgive them, they know not what they do,' now is the time. Unfortunately, these misguided individuals may never know precisely the effect of that their celebration had on the plight of their entire people, for they have given up most all hope anyway, and another 50 years without relief will not shock them as this week's incidents shocked America."



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# Queen Astra

*Let the  
stars be your guide!*

**Aries (March 21-April 20)**  
Looking for love and companionship? Get a cat. Give it a human name. You figure out the rest.

**Taurus (April 21-May 22)**  
When you're all alone. And the pretty birds have flown. Honey, I'm still me. Take a chance on me.

**Gemini (May 23-June 21)**  
When you stab yourself with an x-acto knife, skip the emergency room. Stitches smitches. It'll scab over. Trust me.

**Cancer (June 22-July 24)**  
Move to Canada.

**Leo (July 25-August 23)**  
No whammy. No whammy. Big bucks. Big bucks. Stop.

**Virgo (August 25-September 23)**  
Here's a hint for your next math test:  $x - (\text{school}) = \text{FUN!}$ , where  $x = \text{anything}$ .

**Libra (September 24-October 23)**  
Defense level Delta 5. Lock down your bong. They'll need a warrant.

**Scorpio (October 24-November 22)**  
Never trust a man named Julian. He'll give you 'ludes, but he won't give you love. And maybe a case of the clap.

**Sagittarius (November 23-December 21)**  
Us in Chili? What do you think?

**Capricorn (December 22-January 20)**  
Dump a forty out for all your fallen homies. Namely, Mr. Belvedere.

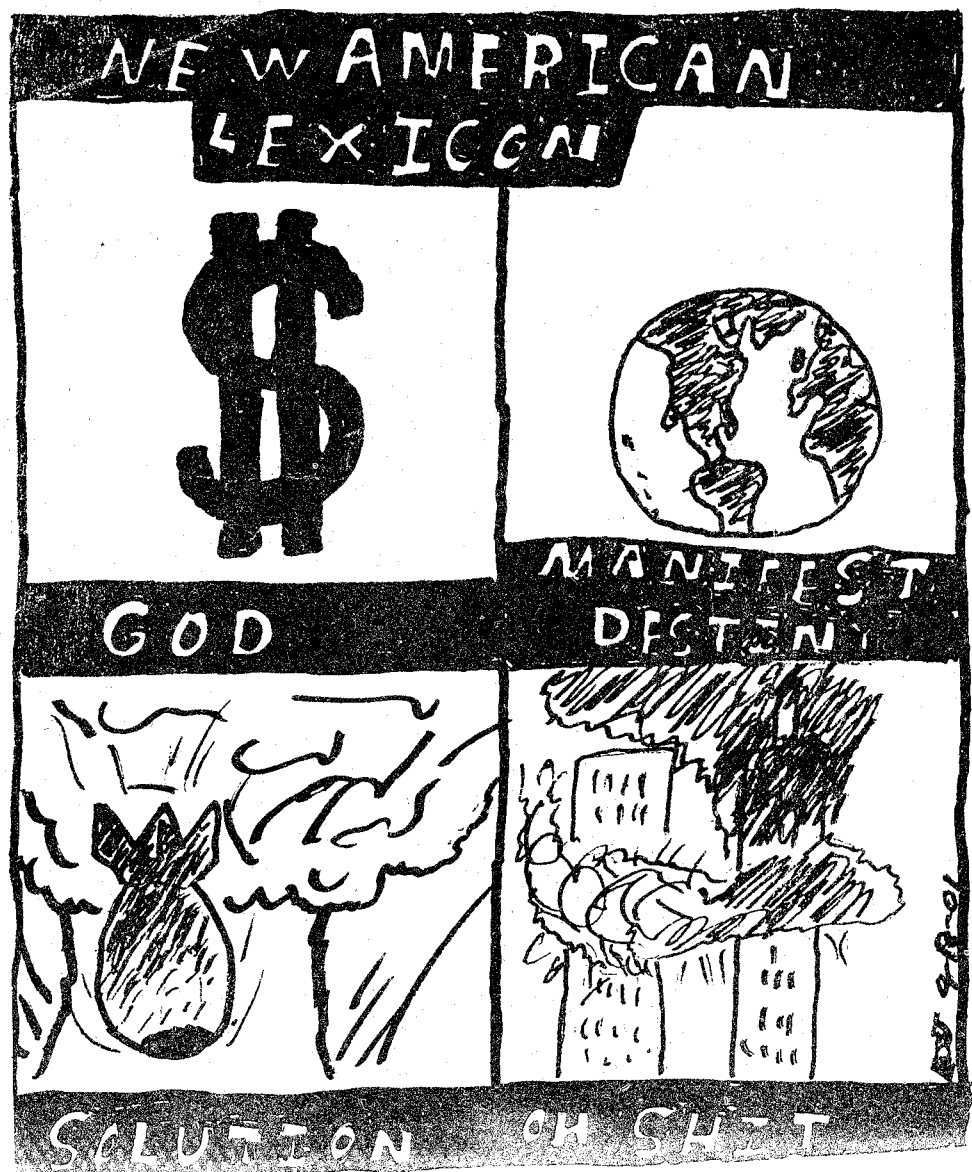
**Aquarius (January 21-February 19)**  
Is the starch in your shorts starting to chafe? Then stop using starch in your shorts stupid.

**Pisces (February 20-March 20)**  
Why does the Pope wear a funny hat? Why can't he wear something like a baseball cap? Is it God's law? Then God is a Nazi.



**Hey there super-sleuth, hot on the trail of a new scoop?**

**The Monitor would love to hear about it!**







# My Back Pages

## reality buffer

the new Steven Seagal movie  
came out on tuesday  
but nobody seemed to like it much—  
except for some arabs  
and anyone who's seen "Executive Decision"  
can understand why.

maybe it was a flop because  
Steven didn't come through  
with as many jump-kicks as he usually does  
in those cool zoom-in and slow-mo shots

or maybe people would have warmed up  
if the video game came out at the same time  
because anyone with good hand-eye coordination  
can kill people and score lots of points.

but I guess that's the risk  
of working in Hollywood;  
you win some, you lose some.

and it's O.K. for us moviegoers  
because the new Jean Claude flick will be out soon.

-Andy Stevenson

Fools Bait:

1.g4... (dare I hesitate?)  
...e5 (ooh, I hardly can wait!  
Is he really that poor?  
Why yes!) 2.f4,  
(Ha-Ha!) ...Qh4++, "Checkmate!"

-Rick Lime

## College Life

Make that buzzing stop  
Make the workers quit  
Make my homework done  
Make my professor absent  
Make me breath and slowly let me  
live

-Nicol Lane

## Girl in a Tree

The girl lives up into a tree as she  
lookd down she sees people. They are  
all yelling get down stupid girl you  
don't belong in that tree with those  
smart monkeys. She stays in the tree  
with all those smart monkeys. Will  
she suceed or fail up in this tall,  
strong, friendly tree. Only time  
will tell. So we all wait and see.

-Nicol Lane

## Morning Torn

Aching, yearning,  
stomach turning,  
burning,  
"too early in na moanin'  
fa all dis moanin."

Then take the tiger off that box.

I can't focus with Tony's trot  
rumbling in this spot, moving,  
stalking, causing a quake.

Release him!

Give me "Frosted Flakes."

-Orlando L Williams

Lover,  
I need from you hot-lovely poetry to  
wrap up my body with. Please send all  
words and bodily juices to the Monitor  
mailbox at the CSI on paper, or to  
y096@truman.edu with "pananana" in the  
subject line if you wish to email my  
heart. Who is God? Sex is a snake...

-Paz

Oh, also, send me funny desktop doodles  
from boring-professor-class.