



THE MONITOR

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

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A Campus Collective

Protesters paralyze SUB entrance

Story by | Cameron Moore

Four University students were arrested for organizing a protest at the Student Union Building last Monday, Sept. 24. They were protesting the biased and untruthful coverage given by corporate media to many issues surrounding the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Two of the students, Daniel Coate and former University student Bill Purcell, chained themselves to the east doors of the building. Two others, Benjamin Garrett and Ed Jenkins, lead a teach-in discussing the many facets of the situation that led to the attacks overlooked by corporate-owned media.

"I didn't care if I got arrested. All that mattered was that people started to think about things that aren't being discussed in the media. If that happened, the day was a success," Coate said.

As the lockdown and teach-in attracted a crowd, many other students helped in passing out flyers with information about the media. The event involved the help of many University students displeased with the way the events have been portrayed on the news.

"Locking down the SUB was a drastic action, but a drastic action was necessary to make people think, question and start talking about

these issues," University student Kathy Widitz said. Widitz helped in the distribution of flyers during the lockdown.

Many students trying to get into the SUB expressed sentiments of anger for having to walk around the building.

Shortly after the lockdown began, DPS officer Larry Logston arrived on the scene. After a failed attempt at using Coate's pressure points on his neck to inflict pain and remove him from the door, students stepped up to question the officer's methods of handling the situation.

Logston said he could use whatever force he felt was necessary.

Soon thereafter, two Kirksville Police officers arrived on the scene. They assisted officer Logston in the arrest of Garrett and the cutting free and arrest of Coate. Purcell fled the scene after the first two arrests and turned himself in to DPS later that afternoon.

Jenkins was arrested for "inciting a riot and vandalism," officer Logston said at the time.

"This is only true if a riot is defined as a group of people who are non-violent, peaceful, and attentive... I did incite one of those," Jenkins said after being released.

All four students were charged with disturbing the peace.



Photo submitted by | Dan
Speaker Ed Jenkins being arrested during protest by DPS officer Larry Logston and KPD

Statement issued by protesters Daniel Coate, Benjamin Garrett, Ed Jenkins and Bill Purcell

In regards to the events on Monday, Sept. 24 at the Student Union Building, the individuals involved wish to communicate the reasons behind their actions. In response to media bias and US foreign policy we staged a teach-in as a way to educate and dialog with our fellow citizens about what is occurring in our nation and abroad. This teach-in was a non-violent form of civil disobedience designed to raise awareness, discuss, and educate the public in issues that are not adequately covered by the mainstream media. The media is guilty of over-saturating their coverage with bias. As a result of the media's concentration on the damage caused by the attack, we have blinded to many facts.

Specific examples of media misrepresentation in the past two weeks:

- The media has not adequately discussed the US role in aiding and abetting known terrorists, specifically that the leading suspect, Osama bin Laden, was trained by the CIA to combat the Soviet Union.
- Initially, the media aired footage deliberately intended to cause outrage towards Islamic countries around the world.
- The media reports unanimous support for US military initiatives to retaliate against any government that harbors or aids known terrorists. The world's population does not condone US aggression. Many governments stated their support of the US without popular backing.
- "Even though the vast majority of the world's Muslim oppose terrorism, religious intolerance, and the oppression of women, these remain the most prevalent images of the Muslim faith throughout the Western world. Such popular misconceptions about Islam and Islamic movements—often exacerbated by the media, popular culture, and government officials—have made it particularly difficult to challenge US policy." — Stephen Zunes, associate professor of politics and chairperson of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at the University of San Francisco
- Due to over-saturation by the media, important domestic issues are being ignored, including bills passing through Congress without substantial discussion and opposition.

We recognize that the actions taken today were an inconvenience to the students at Truman State University. However, people all over the world will be facing consequences much worse than inconvenience if America reacts out of ignorance. We have a responsibility as students to seek the truth, and today we took the action most effective in raising consciousness across campus.



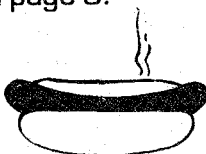
Photo submitted by | Dan
Daniel Coate being cut free from the east doors of the SUB

C O N T E N T S



Creation speaker belittles evolutionists. Read an opinion about it on page 4.

Free hotdogs? Find out when and where from the Hidden Treasures crew on page 9!



Git holy wit' ya bad self! Read *The Monitor's* Bible Study on page 8 and get more learned with the book of all books.



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 and they will appear right here!

Tuesday Oct. 2

-Visiting Distinguished Scholar James Burke. Public Lecture: *The Culture of Scarcity*, 7:30 pm in VH 1000.

-Reception for James Burke. At 8:30 pm in Violette Hall Lounge.

Wednesday Oct. 3

-Visiting Distinguished Scholar James Burke. Public Seminar: *The Knowledge Web*, 9:30 am in VH 1000

-Public book signing by James Burke. At 10:30 am in University Book Store.

Wednesday Oct. 3 (cont'd)

-The Scaries, Todd Rocket and Jonathan Lukens at the Aquadome. Also an art pre-party that consists of: you show up and we've got art materials, old magazines, scissors, and tape, and you help us collage the entire walls of the Aquadome, located at 121 N. Main, so it's one big creation. Suggested donation: \$2

Monday, Oct. 8-Saturday, Oct. 13

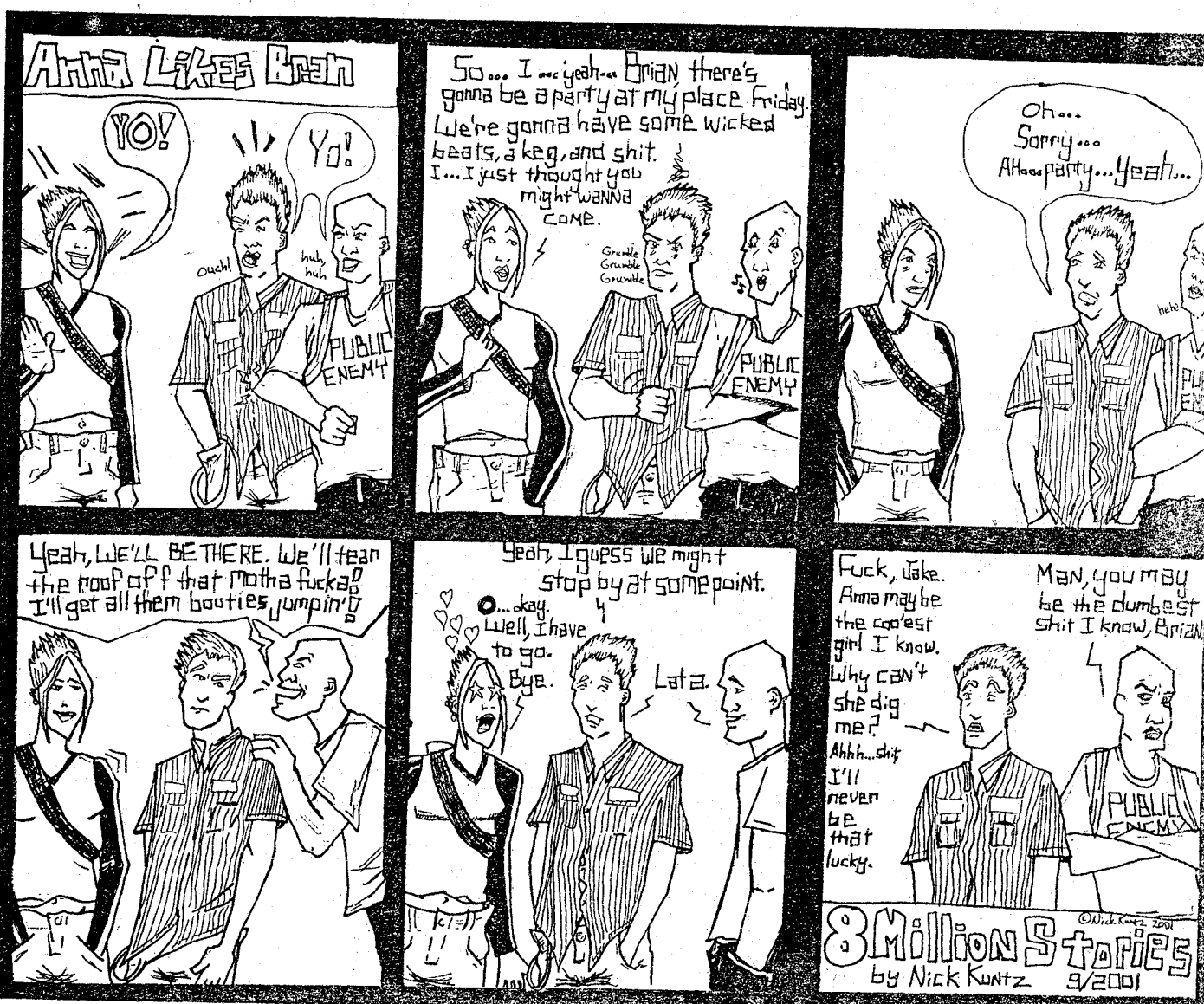
-Homecoming. Check local listings for schedule of events.

WEEKLY EVENTS

-Mondays: College Green Party meeting, 9 p.m. in VH1140

-Tuesdays: Christian discussion group. Come if you are disillusioned yet still faithful to Christ. Or whatever. At the Aquadome at 121 N. Main St. at 8:30 p.m.

-Sundays: Veggie potluck at the Aquadome. Bring a dish to share or a small donation around 6 p.m.



2 October 2001

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 CSI, or e-mail us at monitortrm@hotmail.com. Letters may be edited for length.

Student Senate wants student input for new food service contract

Hey *Monitor*, there are a lot of things about Sodexho that I don't like. And for a long time I felt that there was no way for me to voice my opinion about these issues. Sure I could go to Student Senate, but they can't do anything about it, right? Not anymore. Student Senate has just formed a committee that's sole purpose is to research, evaluate, and work to change the food service contract at the University. And the best part is, Student Senate is still accepting applications for the committee, and would like to have the input of students that are not on Senate and have food service plans. If that describes you, and you want to take an active part securing a contract that is best for students then you should stop by the Senate office and pick up an application. The food service contract expires at the end of next year, so now is the time that us students have to start voicing our opinions. Student Senate really does want to get involved in this issue, but they need student support if anyone is going to take them seriously. Taking action now might mean the difference between unlimited transfer hours and a larger selection of food, or eating the same old leftovers as the day before at Ryle cafeteria between the hours of 4:30 and 6:45. The choice is yours.

Benjamin C. Garrett

Iles returns from Britain

Having just returned from Britain in seeing how my own premier is, too sanctimoniously for most of us in the UK Labour Peace Action Now and historians Heritage groups alike, acting as George Bush Junior's war-cheerleader following the plain outrage of Sept. 11, I agree, largely, with the calmness calls from Professor Becker and Paul Moore in their excellent letters in your last issue. But, unfortunately however, in my view justifiably they dwell so much on the Latin American and Lebanese past American (right wing) repressive uses of, in fact, what are now denounced as "terrorists," and talk so abstractly in the grandiloquent terms about likely civil liberties threats, such as we see in the University campus safety's outrageous arrest of the Kirksville peace demonstrator four fro "obstruction" of a WHOLE building they in fact peacefully did NOT so attempt, that the war mob and establishment could, and will, "reply!" Do you in tend, Becker and Moore, to say we in "the West" (a horrible term, but one Kissingeresque dominant in the US-vital TV land) should do "nothing" in the short response to the undoubted murder, now, of over 7,000 people in this continent? In short, sorry Marc and Paul, you are not being, either as historian or political theologian, "realistic" if you think justified, long-term goals of "poverty" redress internationally are going to assuage, ALONE, the pain now manifest. After the biggest US war casualties in the aggressive meaning of

"war," as waged violence, since the US civil war on actual this, terra firma!

So if we don't want counter-war for the very abstract reasons young Becker, correctly, suggests in breeding yet more terroristic "resentments," what should we in the GLOBAL peace movement actually be counseling as an effective, non-bombing response? One, the intermediate goal must be, as UK Labour Peace Action President Tony Benn, the former Cabinet minister I have been privileged to be a research aide to in the Gulf war, has long suggested, genuine UN international diplomacy, as opposed to the farcical Bush-Blair manipulation that goes on through Cold war obsolete NATO. This may well mean that we all, actually, start to make a serious reality of a "dead letter-clause" in the London and San Francisco UN charter founding conference (1945-47) intentions of GENUINE UN army, independent citizen recruited and multi-faith, to deal impartially in measured counter-espionage and deterrence arrest, with networks like wealthy bin Laden's Hamburg outfit. And states like oil rich Saudi Arabia that harbour, to this day, state mass murderers like Uganda's General, Idi Amin. Whenever Benn has pressed such proposals, pre-Sept. 11 outrage, he has been met with (principally) US scoffers who objection patriotic "security" grounds to UN involvement in the supposed "USA" super-power's affairs. BUT 2,000 of the 7,000 dead of Sept. 11 were, please, NOT US CITIZENS BUT INNOCENT GUESTS IN YOUR COUNTRY. WHO, AS FIONA MACKINTOSH DC CORRESPONDENT OF THE CENTRIST UK LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY NEWS (SEPT. 21) HAS POINTED OUT, HAVE BEEN "UNMOURNED" IN ALL YOUR PATRIOTIC FLAGS! And for goodness sake, Bush not only, as we now know, "fled" the White House, but could not even ensure USA "NATIONAL" security sufficient to protect, with WWII style radar, the 200 Pentagon dead!

Finally, every *Monitor* reader should point out that the take about "guns in cockpits" on the world's internally largest US flight masks again! The actual evidence that the tragedy can be repeated if "physician USA thy heal not, first, thyself." The camera chilling photos of the Boston hijackers, with their vast back-pack bags and knives umpteen layers probably within, show that NOBODY was properly invigilating that entry gate. I do not, for a moment, suggest such security "lapse" was deliberate. But when President Reagan took away the airline workers right to effective pay and conditions, LABOUR UNIONS in provocative start of his 80s ME decade, he condoned such tired over-work lapses, as surely as University DPS did when guns were permitted "our" people, locally. IN SHORT, YOU CANNOT EXPECT PROPER SECURITY FROM A WHITE-MALE-BUSINESSMAN-INTIMIDATED, LOW-PAID MINORITY-LIKELY FEMALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT, IF SHE, ALAS, ALL TOO REALISTICALLY KNOWS IN THIS COUNTRY MR. BUSH WON'T ALLOW HER A LABOR UNION TO "BACK HER UP" IF

SHE INSISTS THIS GUY STOP HIS "RUSH" AND BE INSPECTED LIKE YOU, AND IMPOVERISHED MONITOR, I! She's had no proper sleep through proper pay and hours to wakeningly even "see" an oversized backpack comin' through the door, FIRST PLACE!

So, Becker and Moore, fine stuff. But let's have some positive global peace and security proposals, non freak-out style, from our peace side, in preference to the nationalistic war agenda that is threatening to drown out such sanity, with even Bill Maher losing AMERICAN Express sponsorship for his ABC TV nightly shouting matches simply because he made largely the same point as your writers did about "brutal" US foreign policies spawning Sept. 11 madness, initially!

Yours Sincerely,

Larry Iles

State Chair, Socialist Party USA (NYC)

Bible study found insulting

Monitor,

While I understand that you suffer from your desire to maintain a "liberal" focus, as is required for all major media outlets, I find your taste in religious commentary to be especially reprehensible. The piece of Anarcho-Atheistic trash labeled so inappropriately innocuous as "the Monitor Bible Study" is the most blatantly offensive article you have ever published. While I can appreciate a light bit of religious humor every now and again, (Did you ever hear the joke about Joseph and yellow-bellied turn coat? Hilarious stuff), Your Bible Study qualifies as an unforgivable blasphemes against Jews, Catholics, God, and the Bible. Using pseudonyms of the Devil's own firewater in conjunction with religious titles insinuates a connection between over-indulgence and clergy that is unfounded and libel. And then making light upon the words of God, as recorded by man, is unacceptable. And then using those words to inspire hatred against innocent Human beings, such as Bill Cosby and the Kansas City Wizards, is down right sinful. Be ashamed of yourselves for spreading such racist and anti-Semitic propaganda. My only hope is that you right your previous wrongs by NEVER publishing such trash in your pages again.

May God forgive your for your sins
John Gramb, student-at-large

Search for Truth, keep an open mind

To Doug Reside and all other interested parties, I state, for your inspection:

"Truth is conformity with the fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is, has, been or will be" (*Evidences and Reconciliations* by John Widtsoe). Those things that we see and touch are real, and the factual information we gather is truth. Just as some things are in accordance with the reality of our physical lives, and some things are not; some things are in accordance with the reality of our spiritual lives. Other things are not. Often, when we have the courage to ask, "What is truth?" we mean, "What is Truth?" or "What things are in accordance with spiritual reality?" I assert that spiritual Truth does exist, and that it can be found and recognized by those who seek it. "You will seek and find me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13).

To Ed Jenkins, I say:

Bravo! I admire the courage that your recent article portrays. I hope that you have actively taken the challenge that you issue your readers. This summer, I issued the same challenge to myself. First, I figured out my beliefs, not those of the church I was raised in. To do this, I studied the Bible for myself, reading and studying much of both the Old and the New Testaments. I read at least five to seven chapters a day starting in Genesis, and chose large sections of the New Testament as well. I consulted books like *How to Read the Bible* for all its Worth by Henrietta C. Mears, a Presbyterian minister. I prayed often, and pondered continuously. I searched with all my heart. As I studied, I became more aware of the differences between my beliefs and the teachings of my church.

I felt convicted that there must be a church that teaches the gospel the way I understood the Bible. I then began to study the doctrine of other Christian denominations. (It seems important to point out that my certainty of Jesus Christ as my Savior was already such that no other religion would have satisfied me. Had I not been certain of this, I would have also investigated other faiths, which also teach Truth.) I was determined to find and join a group that shared my beliefs. Jesus taught that we are to gather often, for worship and for fellowship.

Some people might argue that there is no denomination that will completely match their beliefs. This might be true, but there is certainly one that is closest. However, I am not suggesting a compromise between your beliefs and the teachings of any denomination. If your beliefs do not perfectly match the teachings of the denomination you choose, keep your beliefs. Staying true to your own conscience is more important than agreeing with your acquaintances, and it allows you to continue your search, should other options present themselves. This does not mean that you should not worship and fellowship with your friends. It only means that you do not have to agree with others just because many people do.

On the other hand, I am not suggesting pure hard-headedness. Keep an open mind while you search and remember that you seek Truth, not just someone who agrees with you. Remember that searching, learning and refining your beliefs is not the same as throwing away your faith. In fact, by studying and understanding Truth, your faith in it will only increase.

Before you say you disagree with another person's beliefs or practices, you should know what those beliefs and practices are. And you should find out from that person, not from someone who disagrees with them. You wouldn't ask bin Laden what Americans think about Muslims, would you?

I believe that a person should also remember to keep searching continually. Even if you believe you know the Truth, never stop testing your beliefs. If your faith in Truth is strong enough, learning the beliefs of others cannot hurt you. You have nothing to lose from being open-minded. If your faith is not strong enough, then you should study to increase that faith.

Sarah Macey

monitor opinions

Leftovers: be fo' real, yo

Opinion by I Ed Jenkins

As the name cleverly implies, this column, of which this is only the second appearance, is a left-wing political piece. But I'm going to commit an unprecedented crime in "Leftovers" history and not talk about politics. The ironic part—look, Jimmy Valentine's in Love—is that my non-politics theme may or may not (I'm writing as I go, bitch) turn into a political message at the end.

And I don't want to write about or even mention my arrest on Monday as I will be getting both *Monitor* and *Index* action in the actual news area. I mean now I will be able to tell my children, or at least my brother's children, that I first hit the being-arrested rite of passage before the having-sex one. Like, that's really bad-ass in a too-cool-for-school way.

And I'm not going to talk about how Hazard To Ya Booty rocked a breech in the hull of the Aquadome so big that a hundred people spilled out into the street two Fridays ago and had to be funneled back in when the po-lice came and threatened to cite us but were deterred eventually by Ben and I, later civil disobedients, and our powerful words of truth. Between 225-250 people attended that event. Thank you all for coming.

But I will talk about the weather over the last few weeks. "So, uh, nice weather, huh? Wanna, um..." Please don't wait for the heat to migrate to Florida so you can open your indiscriminate pie holes and make screwing-cat noises about all of the miserable weather when it comes. Because I didn't see many of you appreciating paisley clouds and sneak-attack leaves circulated in unmeasured euphony. No doubt, some folk are cool enough

to take a walk and dig the trees and appreciate the spiders who it turns out were only trying to warn us. Let me reiterate that: the spiders are not trying to terrorize us, but are only trying to wake us up into paying attention to the ticks that are waiting in the grasses over the hill. But don't sit and pray that it warms up or the sun comes out. I didn't see all of you thanking God for or meditating on the solar power when it was in surplus. "Yeah, Boy." Flavor Flav has my back.

And as long as funky black dudes that are sincerely essential to our history are being quoted with respect, I've got to love the unequaled Sylvester Stewart in the Sly song "Fun" when he suggests, "Sock it unto others, as you would have them sock it to you."

Isaac Stern died last week at age 81.

If any females would like to sing in my country band then contact me at c2352. It wouldn't hurt if you dug such divas as Kim Gordon and Margo Timmins.

Time to bring it home.

Reading over what I have written, I'd like to emphasize how important it is that we just sit around with each other in our respective hang out places (that's the old meaning of the term for you hipsters). Let's do the school thing and do the work thing and do the activities thing for sure. But let's also do the friend thing and be relaxed. Don't put on a façade. Don't drink just so that you don't have to be present. Just talk to your friends as though they are your friends. Be comfortable and be open. It's okay if you're a dork, people already know. It's not okay if you're coked. And if you're going to be a chicken, be a free-range one.

It was airlines' own fault

Opinion by I Justin Anderson

In an effort to get Americans back aboard planes, President Bush recently said, "Fly and enjoy America's great destination spots." Bush feels obligated to persuade citizens to help out the struggling airlines. I say fuck 'em. The airlines were already in deep shit before bloody Tuesday happened, this tragedy will just help weed out the weaker airlines faster. The government has approved a \$15 billion aid package for the airlines. Sphinctersaywhat? Does anybody else see a problem here? Instead of working on improving highways or cloning superhumans, the government spends \$15 billion to help out a commercial industry. Commercial being the key word. If things get tight for the airlines, why the hell can't they solve the problem like every other friggin business in the country would have to? It's their problem that they can't make a profit. It's their fault for not providing good service, cheap fares, and hot flight attendants. TWA comes to mind when one mentions airlines that suck. The people who ran TWA should've taken their heads out of their asses long ago. The market for people wanting to fly is there. At least it was, but not right now. Even with the cash flow from the government, airlines are still laying off people by the thou-

sands. Maybe people had too many choices, causing airlines to take a loss to get you to fly them. That will change now; half of the airlines in the country are ready to file bankruptcy, unless the government keeps trying to bail them out. Maybe the government should mind its own damn business. Don't they realize that people don't feel like flying around the globe right now? Fuck Bush. Fuck Congress. If they would just let the airlines die out, then the ones that remain would be able to make a profit and grow. Anyone familiar with the works of respected author and philosopher Ayn Rand realizes what could happen when the government starts trying to do favors for businesses. It's the virtue of selfishness; the strong survive because they can. If you start trying to make Americans ride airplanes because it's for the good of everyone, then you might as well eat shit and die. Bottom line: the airlines needed something to force them to die, the attacks on Sept. 11 were that force. People will fly again, in time. Until then, let the smart businesses play it smart and let the government bail-out the dumb-ass businesses. That looks to be the way to do it these days — you can suck at your business and not have any problems as long as you also suck someone's dick in Washington.

Professor decries LSP

Opinion by I Dr. Linda Seidel

A university's curriculum contains a view of the world in which the prospective graduate may expect to work and prosper. In the rhetoric of the Liberal Studies Program (LSP) here at the University, the world appears to be a place where business people and professionals must be able to exercise critical thinking skills, negotiate multiple disciplinary and cultural perspectives, and retrieve information in the service of life-long learning. So far, so good. These goals are unexceptionable, even admirable in suggesting openness to new knowledge and diverse points of view.

But, as higher education guru Alexander Astin has argued in many of his writings, the explicit purpose of the curriculum, as mapped out in university documents and course syllabi, is not the only message students receive about the real values of the institution or the "right" way of doing things. According to Astin, the "implicit curriculum"—those unchallenged assumptions underlying institutional practice—can be equally power.

This university, for example, while touting the importance of critical thinking, assumes that students cannot make careful, intelligent choices about the courses they wish to pursue and largely robs them of the opportunity to do so. Authoritarian in structure, the LSP rewards obedience, docility, and persistence, instead of critical thinking.

Similarly, the University seems to celebrate the skills necessary for life-long learning, but even a cursory look at the LSP reveals the University's desire to cram students full of as much stuff as they can hold before they escape from the institution, as if their only real learning must happen here.

But surely, you might protest, the LSP's insistence on the recognition of multiple perspectives is real enough, as demonstrated in JINS courses, the intercultural requirement, and the various "modes of inquiry." Here is the University's strong point, you might say. To that I would offer that the only perspectives not considered as real in this mix are those of

the students, whose goals and values are forced to conform to those of the institution. Thus, the would-be amateur painter finds that no studio course counts for credit in the LSP. The non-traditional student who has not taken a math course in 15 years must decide whether to add calculus to her career plan or commute to Buena Vista. The brilliant writer whose high school was too small to have an AP class in English sees that the procedure he would have to follow to try to waive the freshman composition requirement would demand almost as much work as the course itself (and without any guarantee of success).

Our community may believe that the LSP teaches respect for diverse perspectives. At times it may succeed in doing so, but also conveys a contrary insistent message: you must fit in; you must conform; you must follow the rules; we know what's good for you better than you do.

Now imagine an alternative vision of general education, one that mediates between institutional directives and student desires. Imagine a menu of requirements limited to 30 hours (without any hidden add-ons for people who didn't take algebra in high school). Faculty would fight intensely about the contents of those hours, but the resulting program would be clearer and more coherent. Then imagine that students would take an additional 15 hours of non-major liberal arts electives—so that the computer science major who caught fire in Ethics could keep the flame burning in Nietzsche and Kierkegaard the following year. Or so that an English major who decided to take every Women's Studies course in the catalogue could do so. Would it be a bad thing if students took JINS courses not because they had to, but for love? So what if some students took several and others took none? Don't we learn the most from the courses that we are ready for?

I am not describing utopia, only the sort of regulated freedom offered by many other liberal arts colleges and universities. We all know it's time to work on reforming the LSP. Let's get started!

Why I am not a Republican

Opinion by I Justin Kempf

I am not a Republican. I have never been a Republican. I am not a Republican because I oppose big government. The Republican Party, contrary to their rhetoric, has continued an historic trend of increasing the role of government to the detriment of individual liberty. They have expanded governmental power by managing the economy, by instigating the War on Drugs and by opposing the rights of minority groups. This is a tradition that has no place in American politics.

The Republican Party opposes a free market. Instead, Republicans find it desirable to create hindrances to the free market such as corporate subsidies and tax breaks for large corporations. Small businesses and alternative markets are unable to compete against policies providing unfair advantages for big businesses. Policies of eminent domain have forced small businesses to relocate or shut down so large businesses can expand. The Republican Party would rather support policies of economic favoritism than economic freedom. Republicans support big markets rather than free markets.

Even before Ronald Reagan's administration, Republicans have been zealously supportive of the prohibition on most recreational drugs. This policy has resulted in the enormous growth and power of the government. The drug war has escalated the costs of law enforcement and the

penal system. However, the drug war has also extended the power of government into health policy (medical marijuana), agricultural and environmental policy (industrial hemp), and civil liberties (asset forfeiture and relaxations of the fourth amendment). The War on Drugs has undoubtedly increased the size of government and limited the freedom of Americans in various ways. Still, the Republican Party is more concerned with legislating morality than limiting government.

Finally, Republicans have traditionally been the first to oppose the extension of full civil liberties to various minorities in American society. Phyllis Schlafly defeated the Equal Rights Amendment with the assistance and support of the Republican Party. Homosexual rights, especially homosexual marriage, are opposed most fervently from Republicans. Any opportunity to extend the power of government to influence American society towards traditional ideals is supported. Unfortunately in so doing Republicans have destroyed the most traditional American ideal: freedom.

I cannot support the Republican Party because it thwarts the Libertarian ideals of limited government that I hold dear. Republicans have become hypocrites in their rhetoric. It is time to open a new dialogue based on freedom and tolerance, a dialogue the Republican Party can never accept.



by Andy Stevenson

View from the Back Row

After attending a "Rally for America" at noon last Wednesday on the quad, I walked away confused. What started as a gathering of countrymen singing the national anthem around the flagpole had quickly turned into an open forum discussion lacking any semblance of direction. While some students spoke of God's love for people regardless of nationality, others carried protest banners marked with such slogans as "USA = terrorism." Voices crying of a need for forceful retaliation to send a message against terrorism were followed by arguments for increased international cooperation in resolving criminal action through legal justice systems. Numerous atrocities committed in past US foreign policy were cited. Some individuals muttered obscenities under their breath; others left the event within the first half-hour, upset with what their peers were saying. When the remaining crowd finally dispersed, two hours had passed and a lot of us had successfully vented our thoughts in an impressively disorganized fashion. This "rally" left me with several questions: *What does America really stand for? How does this translate into American foreign policy? Should we be rallying for or against America? And where do our individual roles as American citizens fit into the picture?*

Through the political socialization of the media, government press releases and our history books, we have been taught that, among other things, America stands for freedom, justice and equal opportunities for its citizens, regardless of origin. This much is present in most of our minds; in fact, the rhetoric behind these ideals is so pervasive that it has been practically shoved down our throats since pre-school. But do these catchwords represent actuality?

On one level, these abstract ideals are myths inasmuch as they fail to translate into definable realities that yield distinctly advantageous results to the society they represent. For instance, while opportunities for well-paying, skilled employment and management jobs abound in the United States, the creation of these positions has often resulted in disproportionate layoffs or international relocation of unskilled labor, eliminating other job opportunities. The objec-

tivity of verdicts issued by our judicial system can greatly vary by the amount of money poured into the process, as anyone who followed the O.J. Simpson case knows. Ethnic and sexual-preference minorities, as well as women, are still highly discriminated against in many American circles, and their lack of relative freedom is unquestioningly justified by social stigmas.

Yet while these contradictions cloud the valuation of the practical implementation of the ideals our country stands for, it should be recognized that this symbolic representation of America is something most US citizens identify with. In terms of legally protected civil liberties, the United States is one of the most progressive countries of the world. Although the principles of freedom, justice and equality do not always transfer to flawless realities, it is certain that they are noble virtues that many Americans strive for and some attain in their daily lives.

In theory, if these ideals are representative of our universal beliefs, they should be reflected in our interactions with the rest of the world through our foreign policy. Yet as pretty a package as all these abstract concepts form around the proverbial oasis of America in the middle of the global desert wasteland (with the glistening white banner of "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free" hanging proudly between joyously upright palm trees), we often come up short in this area as well. In the recent history of American foreign relations, unilateral and extraterritorial decision-making have abounded, inhibiting other nations from practicing the freedom of political self-determination. Further, these misdirected policies often serve to create a greater chasm between ideals and reality. For example, in US funding and military support to keep conservative, gringo-friendly governments in power in Nicaragua and El Salvador during the 1970s and 80s, American foreign policy interests were so single-mindedly focused on ideology that little to no attention was paid to the propagation of social and economic inequalities in those countries.

However, perhaps irresponsibility in American foreign policy should not be overemphasized. As with the projection of American ideals within the US borders, it seems that the

struggle to actualize our ideals in the world outside our nation is near impossible in a practical, political sense. If anything, this realization becomes clearer when projected into the third world, where despite noble efforts on national and international levels to impose respect for basic human rights, many people face daily realities of despotism, severe socioeconomic inequalities and grossly inadequate resources. Given the grim reality much of the world faces, can America claim to be a world leader and a bastion of such glorious ideals as freedom and equality as long as its geopolitical neighbors lie in squalor? Does the United States inherently have a right to identify with these idealistic words just because of its self-acclaimed proximity to these abstractions as compared to the rest of the world's nations?

To a certain extent, talking about these concepts in terms of national identities and world governments comfortably alienates us from any sense of involvement in the discussion. Still, all these issues affect our lives in that they at least marginally influence the different social circles we belong to. Facing ourselves, we must make some sort of choice about what we stand for in our personal lives. At some point, this boils down to a basic identification with political views and the assumption of a role in the society we live in.

So what position should we take as individual American citizens toward our own country? Should we unquestioningly support our current system, vehemently oppose it, or find a middle ground between the two? The social groups and institutions we form parts of, including friends, family, church bodies and student organizations teach us that community is important, allowing us functional environments in which to foster collective goals and ideals, and then work together to achieve them. This seems to suggest that the American way to achieve progress is to work together.

Yet when a group of people comes together such as at the "Rally for America" from different backgrounds and opinions, somehow it is easy for our ideals of collaboration and cooperative will to get thrown out of the window. Especially when differences are capitalized and perceived as oppositional, as I saw happen in this instance, there is an instinct to cleanly split into different factions. It was greatly discourag-

ing that afternoon to see the two sides give up on each other. Most protestors adamantly refused to sing the national anthem to open the event; those who did crooned in high-pitched mockery. Equally intolerant were the patriots, abandoning the event they had organized while others voiced dissenting opinions about the United States. Opportunities for collaborative discussion were dashed against the rocks as waves of single-minded issue advocacy and diametric rhetorical opposition completely suffocated rationality. And the scary part is—parties from both sides are probably still sure they did the right thing that afternoon.

Even though it is hard to hear people speak out against our opinions, we must value this as ground upon which to build a consensus and make progress toward achieving our ideals. While it is often frustrating to seek common ground, we can be confident that positive change will occur in the world through establishing respect among other people and groups. Thinking outside of our little boxes and concerning ourselves with general as well as personal welfare is and will always be prudent in making our environment a more accepting place to coexist with other human beings. International cooperation and increased legitimacy to universal political institutions could be the right way to get this ball rolling on a global, bureaucratic scale. And on a personal level, looking our fellow human beings in the eye, listening to what they have to say, and incorporating the beliefs of others into our active conscience is a must in achieving universal human goals.

Applying this argument to current events sparks further questions. If our fellow citizens experience tragedy in the failure of universal ideals, is it appropriate to turn around and violate these same ideals in answer? If we are conscious that, despite media glorification, the decisions made by world leaders are mere human decisions just like ours, what ideals are global elites holding themselves to? Are we as Americans willing to live up to the responsibility of calling ourselves the "leaders of the free world?" If so, when will we start by respecting those around us?

Creation speaker equates evolutionists with Nazis

Opinion by I.W. Aaron Wilson

I decided to keep an open mind about Dr. Kent Hovind when I went to see his lecture on Creation Science on Monday, Sept. 24. He had obviously spent a lot more time studying the subject than I had and probably knew quite a bit more about the intricacies of the evolution/creation debate.

But then again, I was the "enemy," so to speak: a third generation evolutionist who had, at times, felt hounded by people who disagreed with me. I suppose that has made me a little jaded towards creationists, but the flyers said Dr. Hovind was a man of science. I was looking forward to a critical, scientific look at the theory of evolution.

And besides, anyone who believes in the Loch Ness Monster can't be all that bad. I've been to Loch Ness, and while I'm not sure there's a plesiosaur hiding in its depths, I'm pretty sure there's something down there.

Now I'm listening to the tape I made of the first 45 minutes of what for me ended up being a two-and-a-half hour ordeal. The tape had "nature sounds" on it, so chirping crickets and squawking birds undercut Dr. Hovind's voice. These sounds are meant to be soothing; I am just growing enraged.

Dr. Hovind composed the main body of his talk by listing the lies of evolutionism. I will now list the things I found offensive in Dr. Hovind's talk. This will mostly ignore anything I found wrong in his theories.

1. I am not a Nazi. Because I believe in evolution for biological and universal formation, does not mean that I believe there is some "master race" that is "more evolved" than others. I took great offense in Dr. Hovind's insinuations that evolutionists are racist, as when he presented Hitler's arbitrary "evolutionary" chart of races and directly correlated the Holocaust to evolutionary theory.

2. I am a Christian. Dr. Hovind repeatedly declared that evolutionism is a religious worldview and not a science. He even went so far to say that acceptance of evolution would lead you to hell, with "Satan laughing at you," all the way. I have fully accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and yet according to Dr. Hovind I am not a Christian. I apparently belong to some kind of Church of Darwin.

3. I am not a Communist. I am concerned about the environment. I admit to this. I am troubled by the fact that private industry has the right to pillage and pollute public land. Just because I am an environmentalist, however, does not mean I want to make all lands public. I only want to protect those resources already held in common, like air, water and federal lands.

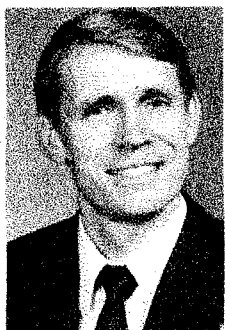
4. I do not appreciate being insulted, misled and bullied by a speaker who was supposedly going to illustrate the scientific shortcomings of evolution. Although Dr. Hovind was

introduced as an expert on "science and the bible," he rarely attempted to be scientific. Instead, he consistently used insults (equating evolutionists to fascists), jokes ("Jump frog, jump"), and well-aged rhetoric to obscure the fact that his arguments had fuzzy scientific basis. Even the points I thought may be worth looking into were presented in a demeaning or condescending manner.

I've already taped over Dr. Hovind's speech, but memory of his presentation still lingers. I've come out of it as I've come out of most evolutionary debates or discussions. Dr. Hovind's flimsy evidence has strengthened my belief in the principles of evolution of science, and his venom has strengthened my faith in a living God not bound by dusty books and tired dogma.

TWEAK YOUR MIND

Do you still beat
your wife?



"That's a tricky question."
- Dr. Kent Hovind



"I'm not married."
-Charisse Arrens
Sophomore

"Yes."
-Skye Cobb
Sophomore



"No, she divorced me."
-Alex Gillette
Sophomore

Police chief addresses loud parties, underage drinking

Story by | Derek Spellman

Kirksville Police Chief David Pingel told a group of University students last Thursday that while Kirksville police will gradually relax their weekend patrols they will continue to try and retard the growth of underage drinking and public disturbances.

At a forum hosted by the University's American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) chapter last week, Pingel said that he encourages his officers to be more aggressive at the start of the year and then taper off. He also said that the steep rise in the size of parties over the years has raised new problems for the community in the areas of public littering, public disturbances, and minors in possession of alcohol, and that Kirksville police will respond accordingly.

"The size of parties has grown considerably over the years," Pingel said. "We have had a couple of instances this year in which the parties have become as large as 300 or 400 people."

Pingel said that arrests for public disturbances have increased from 65 arrests in 1998, to 67 arrests in 1999, to 90 arrests in 2000. Bengles said 85% of those arrests stemmed from complaints filed by citizens. He also said that partygoers are bolder than in the past.

"Today partygoers are more likely to challenge police officers," he said. "A couple of incidents happened last spring in which the officers were involved in what I thought were dangerous situations. In one case, an officer had to arrest an individual in a crowd that I considered to be hostile. In the other case, individuals were throwing coins at an officer as he entered a crowd. Those incidents were bothersome to me."

Pingel said these two incidents and the growing size of parties have induced police to be more aggressive in looking for citations this year. He also defended the policy of sending letters home to the parents of minors cited for underage drinking.

"We have sent between 200 to 300 letters to parents so far," he said. "We believe the letters have been successful in solving the alcohol problems we have." Pingel said that the letters did not abridge the rights of students because parents have a right to know about their children's drinking habits.

Pingel also said that many of the rumors circulating about Freshman Week patrols and future enforcement measures were false. Pingel said that he did not import a hoard of officers from neighboring towns for Freshman Week,

but enlisted the help of only four additional officers for foot patrols. He also said the City Council does not plan to impose a keg registration ordinance.

When a student asked him if Kirksville police deployed undercover officers over the last few weeks, Pingel replied, "Not to my knowledge. We might have had two perhaps, but they were only supervisors and uniformed officers accompanied them. We did have liquor agents out there who were not in uniform, but uniformed officers accompanied them also. They may have been mistaken for undercover policemen."

Students attending the forum bombarded Pingel with questions covering a wide range of concerns, including the statutory authority of police officers on public sidewalks and private porches, the circumstances under which an officer may enter a private residence, and the impact of the policies on University fraternities and sororities.

Pat Finney, a Junior and a member of Lambda Chi Alpha, asked if Pingel was sure that police patrols had been relaxed since Freshman Week.

"Since Freshman Week this year, we have had six parties broken up. Five parties were broken up all last year," Finney said. "So in our case, it has not tapered off." Pingel said Finney's experience was an exception, and that overall police patrols have relaxed their aggressiveness.

Pingel said that he welcomed such exchanges, however.

"I am pleased with the interaction with students so far," Pingel said. "We've had good discussions, and I am happy with the questions and comments students had tonight."

Finney said, "I appreciate [Pingel's] coming to talk to us. He also came to talk to our fraternity. I can really respect that."

Finney added, however, that his respect was tempered by skepticism. "I think he may be a little detached from what actually happens on the street."

Kevin Heyen, the outgoing president of the University's ACLU chapter and the moderator of the discussion, said, "I think the evening went well. I had hoped more people would come, but I think those that did come have a better understanding of the issues."

Heyen also added that, "I personally think that what [Pingel] says is fine in principle but is not always what happens in practice."

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Bullets rugby defined

Story by I Kelly York

You see a group of girls in what appears to be some type of athletic apparel. You say to yourself, "What is up with those shorts? Why are they wearing soccer socks? And what is up with those ugly colored jerseys?"

Well, don't call the fashion police. We don't wear these clothes out of our homes to impress. If you see us in this apparel, we are most likely on our way to practice or a game. So who are we? "We" are the rugby women of Truman State. Yes, you have probably heard about us. Maybe you have heard we are big and scary, loud and crazy, or maybe nothing at all. There are quite a few stereotypes about the "rugby girls" here on our campus. What is amusing about these stereotypes is that some are true and some are not. In all honesty, can you say which are true and which are not? We would assume that you cannot.

To begin with, there is not a large rugby following in Kirksville. However, there is an even smaller following of women's rugby in Kirksville and on campus. Thus, we would like to dispel some popular myths about the University women's rugby team. Also, we hope to inform you a little bit about "us" and maybe spark some interests to come and check out some games.

First of all, rugby is a very complex sport. The best description I am aware of is that it is a combination of football and soccer (without pads). Rugby is a very old game. It originated in England before football. In fact, football came from rugby. The University has had a women's rugby team (the Bullets) since 1991. That is why this year the Bullets will be celebrating Homecoming "big and bad" with a

huge alumnae game that will feature many returning alumnae, including some founders.

Rugby is an interesting sport in that it combines every type of person into one working unit. The Bullets rugby team has every type of girl on campus. We have sorority girls. We have jocks. We have marathon runners. We have partiers. We have bookworms. We have feminists. We have health nuts. The list just goes on and on. To say that the rugby team is just one thing or one type of girl would be a completely false statement. What is awesome about our team is that we come together, all as different individuals with varying majors and interests, and through rugby we become a tightly knit family. I have never met a more devoted, caring and loyal group of friends in my life. To us rugby isn't just a game; it is a mentality, a way of life. Many can attest that once rugby "gets in your blood," you are addicted. Not only do we get physically fit through an interesting, challenging and coordinated sport, but we also get to meet other awesome "rugbers" from all over the country. I have made so many good contacts through rugby networking that will not only help me advance "rugby-wise" but will also give me a pool of resources later in life.

I guess my overall message is this: don't think you know what rugby or Truman's rugby women are about just because you have heard rumors. We are definitely more complicated than just the stereotypes you have heard and we have a lot more fun than the stories let on. Rugby has made my college experience memorable. It has introduced me to many of my best friends, it has given me experiences that will help me later in life, and most importantly it is "hella" fun.

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First impressions mean a lot; dress accordingly

Opinion by | Jami Burns

I love Mondays for one reason only: dressed up fraternity boys! The fact that this excites me also pisses me off, however, because it is yet another social norm I have bought into. It is the one that girls learn from birth: that you are only attractive if you dress nice. I knew I had fully bought into this when the other morning as I was getting ready. It occurred to me that my next class had the most attractive football player in the world in it. With this thought, I picked out one of my cutest dresses and got dressed up just so that maybe he would initiate a conversation with me. I went through an hour of trying to look cute, and while all my girlfriends told me how good I looked, none of the guys I was out to impress even seemed to notice. So what is the point of spending time primping when I could be sleeping?

I'm not the only one who does this. It has been driven into our heads that unless your t-shirt is nice, your jeans are from the Gap, and your belt matches your shoes, you are not attractive to anyone. This is FALSE, FALSE, FALSE! I hate taking an hour to look cute, but I guarantee that while I'm still single, I'm going to look nicer than normal to get that guy in my class that I find attractive.

But as Adam says in his article, I dress for the person I'm attracted to. That might be a dress, or jeans and a gothic tee, but my hair will be fixed and my make-up will be on. It is this social norm that pisses me off. I just want to stand in the middle of the quad in pajama pants and a sweatshirt and scream, "I'm funny, intelligent, and can look good when I want to, just talk to me dammit!"

She said, He said



A two-sided look at
relationships

Opinion by | Adam Nine

What you wear is of vital importance to what others (specifically girls) think about you. Wearing that five-dollar Wal-Mart tee/shorts combination might be cool to you, but you have to understand that you look like you're wearing clothes that cost you five dollars. Wearing nicer clothes, and most importantly, understanding what looks the best on you, is one of the best things you can do for yourself in the way of landing a girlfriend. As I said before, girls don't want to have to pick out your clothes for you. Generally, they want someone who can take care of himself.

Here are some suggestions I have for the guy who is completely fashion-stupid. First of all, don't freak out; learning this stuff isn't easy for guys, but you can pick it up over a period of time. As per actual tips, wearing tees and sweats that blare logos such as Old Navy and Abercrombie and Fitch might seem en vogue and shows that you spent a good chunk on your clothes, but it doesn't exactly scream maturity. I'm not saying you go spend \$5,000 on some designer suits either. There is a midpoint where you can wear classy material but without sacrificing the comfort you got in your Wal-Mart clothes. This is called casual dress, and usually consists of dressier pants (NOT JEANS) combined with a nice looking shirt. I know this sounds pretty vague; my suggestion is to look through the catalogs of major department stores to get

an idea of what types of things go together.

Now that you've taken the time to pick out some good looking outfits, you should learn that accessories, such as belts, wallets and watches, are also important when trying to look nice. Your belt should be the same color as your shoes, which should in turn go with your socks. Seems like a lot of trouble, doesn't it? Well, the sad truth of the matter is, girls always notice what you wear, and since your job is to make a stellar first impression upon them, dressing nicely is a perfect way to accomplish this.

This might be straying from the subject somewhat, but I think it's important for guys to know exactly what kind of girl you're going to attract when dressing up, and more importantly, what kind of girl you're looking for. Understand that the girls who will be drawn to guys who dress up will tend to look better themselves, will be more self-confident, and are generally more high-maintenance than girls who don't dress as nice. What you have to figure out is who you are and what you want in a girl. If you're the more punkish type or the free spirit druggie/hippie, forget what I've said up until now; you don't want the type of girls that are attracted to those kind of guys. I'll talk exclusively about this in the next column. I just wanted to give you something to think about until then.

Tune in every issue for a new topic
about relationships from both sides
of the story!

Monitor Bible Study

Putting the "fun" back in fundamentalism

A horrible tragedy has befallen our nation, a tragedy that will cost millions of people their lives. That tragedy is the inability to recognize the Lord's hand of justice upon the earth. God has spoken unto us, that we might avoid his wrath, yet we continue to ignore His message. He presented his message clearly on Sept. 11, and yet the leaders of this nation continue to turn a blind eye.

The focus of our study today will be on how we, as individuals, can avoid God's wrath. This brings us to the Second Commandment: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth" (Exodus 20:4).

Father Daniels: Had the Ten Commandments been posted in the halls of every school, as God had intended, this terrible disaster would have been averted. But because of the unholy work of Satan's army, a.k.a. the Democratic Party, moral education is banned from schools.

Rabbi Kessler: Wait a minute, wait a minute! I'm sure that right now our readers are completely lost as to how the Commandments were violated. Maybe we should explain.

Father Daniels: Sorry. I get so excited about this issue. Why don't you clarify?

Rabbi Kessler: You see, the Second Commandment commands us not to defile the creations of God by creating graven images in their

image.

Father Daniels: And yet in America we do this all the time.

Rabbi Kessler: Yes, God struck down two manifestations of America that are responsible for creating many things in these forbidden images.

Father Daniels: Let's look at the first example, the Pentagon. Both the Air Force and Navy are guilty of violating God's Second Com-

mandment. Both construct airplanes, which are likenesses of birds. And where do we see birds? In heaven above! In addition, the Navy builds submarines, which are likenesses of fish, which exist in the water! You see, it is fitting that the Pentagon, which houses the offices of these sinful organizations, be

smitten.

Rabbi Kessler: Besides, true armies should be fashioned like the armies of God: marching across the battlefield and riding chariots. Not parading through the heavens and the seas like a bunch of cowards.

Father Daniels: Preach it brother! And it's only fitting that God's chosen weapon was an airplane.

Rabbi Kessler: And as for the World Trade Center, a more evil building has never existed. Stretching up from the ground like the two horns of Satan. My only prayer is that it could have happened sooner.

Father Daniels: Amen. See you next week.



Nude model bears all for sake of art class

Feature by | J.J. Pionke

Seeing a flyer for nude models and realizing that I did indeed need money badly, I inquired about the position and found that I was the first one to ask. Ergo, I became the first nude model for Dr. Aaron Fine's Art 314 class for the semester.

To be a model one has to have creativity, patience, endurance, and courage. It takes a lot out of a person to take all of your clothes off in front of a dozen people or so and realize that they are looking at your body critically and drawing their interpretation on paper. It takes a certain personality to go up on the riser and stand there in position or sit reading a book for 40 minutes while students scratch away at their paper with their charcoal. It gets cold in the room and the floor is filthy. By the time the session of three hours is over and done with I feel slightly frozen and the bottoms of my feet are black.

From what I have been told, most models don't take an interest in what the students are drawing. I guess I have to break the mold in everything because I am quite curious about their drawings. When they walk around the tables looking at each other's work I am right there with them. I have my favorites who seem to have more talent or at least more practice than the others do.

Dr. Fine asked me if I would mind if he posted some of the sketches out in the hallway and I said I didn't mind. I don't. I think that art is art and being a larger model adds some inter-

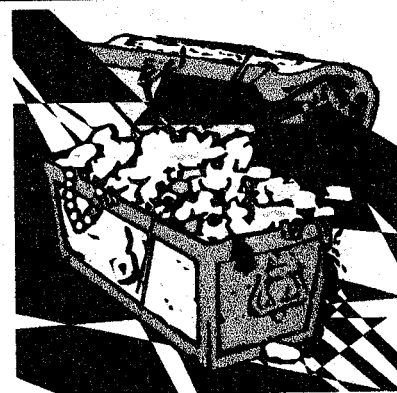
esting quirks to it. Through a good friend of mine I have heard that people are interested in the fact that there is indeed a larger model floating around. I guess you don't often find a fat girl confident enough to take off her clothes for three hours for anyone other than her lover.

To make this experience even more surreal, my mother visited over Family Day weekend. I pretty much tell her everything and she wanted to see the drawings. I think I was more nervous about my mother seeing me butt-naked in someone's sketchings than I was about taking my clothes off for the class the first day! She pointed out two that she liked in particular, but didn't say much else, which was a blessing! I was worried she would be hypercritical of me being a naked, considering I am a large woman. As a whole, our society is taught to hide fat and here I am flaunting it for the sake of art!

In general my experience has been very good. Sure, sitting still can be a pain, but I find the students are friendly and the positions interesting. I sit and meditate about this and that. I feel in many ways that it has been a liberating experience. It has definitely been something that I will never forget. Dr. Fine informed me that the week of Sept. 25 was my last week. I was a bit shocked and depressed by this news. I guess all good things must come to an end. What will I do with my Tuesday and Thursday afternoons? I am going to miss taking off my clothes for them. If you have a chance to do so, I highly recommend the experience if you have the confidence in yourself and your body.

KIRKSVILLE'S HIDDEN TREASURES

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



"Booty-licious Culinary Delights"

feature by | Olivera Bratich,
Marie Montano and Leslee
White

So you're out of money and don't want to eat your pets? Well, we certainly know what it's like to have an entire semester's savings go up in smoke. Luckily Kirksville provides lots of tasty booty for your mouth. Booty, as in treasure, for your mouth. You know, food, you dirty, dirty-minded readers. You're options are plenty, but let's start with free.

If you're looking for free food, we hope you like hot-dogs. They seem to be standard fare at Kirksville events. The entree du jour... tout le jour. A good place to get it is at a little

annual event known as CableOne Customer Appreciation Days. During this sacred time, CableOne spreads out their dogs, cookies and cokes for a lunchtime feast. Hint, hint: you don't really have to be customer to delve into a cornucopia of nitrates.

Listen up, you lucky fool. We'd like to reward our loyal reader with a once-in-a-year chance to partake in one of the best hidden treasures around. Drop your books! This week, and this week only, is Customer Appreciation Days. Run, run to CableOne Tuesday though Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs. We'll see you there.

Not willing to spend more than a dollar, Scrooge McDuck? Well Kirksville can offer some fine booty for that dollar. If you didn't get enough meat with those hot-dogs, Ryan's Bar

and Grill offers Burger Buck Night every Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00. One dollar will buy you a big slab of cow in a warm and cozy sports bar atmosphere. GO RAMS!

It's 4:21 a.m. and you have one dollar and an incredible case of the munchies. Well that's why convenience stores were invented. Kum N Go offers a scrumptious selection of HIGHland sandwiches ranging from the simple Ham and Cheese to the more complex Super Sub. We HIGHly recommend it (wink,wink).

So, sexual favors got you back on top financially? Well, Big Spender, you can flash your \$3.49 around KFC's Sunday night college buffet. All you can eat college girls! Er... CHICKEN. We mean chicken. All-you-can-eat chicken. Or you can try your hand getting into the most exclusive restaurant in town, Tudor's Deli. A

mere stone's throw away from campus, this establishment offers low prices and home cooked food but good luck figuring out its hours.

Eyes still bigger than your wallet, Money Bags? We know Pancake City is not a "hidden" treasure. But it's late night special is THE best booty around town. On Sunday night, from 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., Pancake City becomes an all-you-can-eat pancake paradise. For just \$1.99, they'll bring you plate after plate after plate of piping hot flapjacks with a fine array of flavored syrups. Yes, you can see us there every Sunday night, gorging ourselves.

That's right, our bodies are booty-licious. And yours will be too!

THE DISCLOSURE PROJECT

Feature by | Cameron Moore

When I gaze into the Kirksville night sky, I see something undeniably breathtaking. Just five minutes out of town, and I am staring at creation itself. From horizon to horizon, a deep blue blanket envelops the sky as a canvas for the cosmos. Stars and galaxies are tumbling and swirling, and yet they look perfectly fixed from my point of view. Light that has taken millions of years to reach my eyes obtains its final goal as an image in my brain. I feel connected, as though the light and I are distant cousins reunited after a long vacation.

From this infinity, you and I came. Call it the universe. Call it God. Call it the Tao. Hell, call it swiss cheese on rye, it really doesn't matter. The point is that we are alive, right here and right now, and we are all from the same place. It is the common denominator, the marvelous universe to which we credit our lives. And yet given that shared basis, we are all extraordinarily different.

Some of us live in tribes and in huts in the wilderness. Others live in cottages in the mountains. And still others in an urban jungle of skyscrapers and taxicabs. We all have different cultures, customs and perspectives on life. All of these possibilities for life exist on one planet—just one planet among possibly billions.

With the great degree of versatility of life exhibited on this planet alone, it would be such a waste to have such a massive amount of space full of nothing but pretty dust. It would be illogical for only one race of cognitive beings to find themselves alone

in the midst of an infinite expanse of possibility. It seems obvious that there is life out there, and given the timeline of the universe we currently have, there is more than enough time for it to develop to our level of intelligence, if not thousands of years beyond.

For over 50 years, popular culture has taken this idea to an extreme. Extraterrestrials are found in movies, television and cartoons. We have been bombarded with caricatured versions of what life from the reaches of the universe may look like. And with this bombardment, we have taken this idea for granted, almost as something of a joke. Aliens aren't seen as a possibility that we should all consider in life, but rather just a fantastical creation that serves no other purpose than to entertain us on the weekends before we go back to the work-week.

Well, I have news for you friend. Extraterrestrials exist. And we've been in contact for decades with beings from across our galaxy. Just ask Stephen Greer, MD. For the last eight years, Dr. Greer has been organizing The Disclosure Project. This project has many objectives, which include the disclosure of all of our government's information regarding extraterrestrial contact and the profound implications that this brings to our lives as humans.

On May 9, 2001, the first products of Dr. Greer's labor came to fruition. A press conference was held on that day at the National Press Club for the first stage of what will be a many stage process. He organized a group of over 20 high-ranking military, government and corporate officials to come forward with their encounters with hard evidence of extraterrestrial

existence, and the government's interactions with such beings. They described pictures of these beings and their spacecrafts, as well as the mind-blowing energy propulsion systems that these crafts use.

It seems as though we have reached a new age in our existence. Many of our long-held and stubborn beliefs are being shattered by the revelation of information that has been hidden from us by our government for decades. It seems a bit corny, as I have never been a sci-fi fan myself, but we are now faced with possibilities that many believe could only come up in a Star Trek writers meeting. And with all of these doors being opened for the possibility of space travel and communication with extraterrestrial beings, it makes our daily lives seem even more frivolous than before. Who has time to watch football or to work an unfulfilling nine-to-five job? We've got a universe to explore!

This has been an introduction to a topic that has many facets. Dr. Greer's Disclosure Project is still going strong, and has really only just begun. Each subsequent issue will cover a different aspect of this project, which include, but are not limited to: the implications of alien technology for the environment and our so-called energy "crisis," the implications of alien technology for transportation, the implications of contact for society and poverty, and the implications for the life of a regular Joe like you and I! I also hope to obtain an exclusive interview with Dr. Greer for publication in *The Monitor*. Until then, happy stargazing, and keep the peace.

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EVERYONE
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monitor reviews

The Monitor could use some work

The Monitor

Volume Eight, Issue Two

Edited by Cameron Moore and

Derek Spellman

Review by I Daniel Coate

My first impression of the last issue of *The Monitor* was that I know the end of each story within the first sentence. My second impression was that it is the journey that counts, not necessarily the destination. As we follow the development and adventures of editors Cameron Moore and Derek Spellman, a wolf/leopard hybrid with psychic powers, we are pulled into their emotions and perspectives; that is, if we can make it through all of the ads.

We found ourselves cheering for the hero of the story, Cameron, as he took on the REAL enemy, corporate media, but then found ourselves confused when he advocates guns and a missile defense system to defend our beloved nation from the Commies. I suspect that the alien ninja Sarcasm had a hand in this one.

The "Letters to the Editor" page of the last issue was a high-speed romp combining non-stop action with a subtle but effective beat-heavy techno soundtrack that rocks your socks off. This was one of the best letters pages I've

seen in a long time. The thought-provoking letters showed a genuine concern for the events of Sept. 11 and their aftermath. As usual, the best writing in the issue was done not by the staff.

The true gems of the issue were the features. "Kirksville's Hidden Treasures" was excellent as always. Ditto for "News that is Unfit." I was especially pleased to see the new feature, "Monitor Bible Study." Take it from me, babies, Rabbi Kessler and Father Daniels bring the funny and satisfy the world's need for smart, yet moral, humor. Too bad the bible study had to share a page with that stinking pile of feces, "She said, He said," which was only worth printing because of its killer graphic.

Speaking of stinking piles of feces, "My Back Pages" proved once again that not everyone has talent. But it was more than that; the so-called poets wrote with a surprising lack of imagery, so much that it became cumbersome. Help Paz out and send him something worth printing, not garbage that doesn't even deserve to be scrawled on a bathroom wall.

Overall, it was a decent issue. I suspect that the editors, the brilliant minds that they are, wanted to allow plenty of room for improvement throughout the year. But if you're just looking for something a little off beat to beat-off to, I really think you will enjoy this one. Rock on. Peace.

Gaiman excels in *American Gods*

American Gods

by Neil Gaiman

Review by I W. Aaron Wilson

Death comes hard to those who never truly lived. At the edges of reality, balancing on the razor of belief and disbelief, live the creatures and heroes and gods of a hundred different countries, exported and left stranded on the hard soil of America. The story starts here.

To read Neil Gaiman's *American Gods* is to carefully rip apart the seams in the fabric of reality and burrow through the lining. The reader gets immersed in a complex, dynamic world as utterly unreal as a half remembered dream and as familiar as a town, a building or a person you've met in the waking world.

The main character, Shadow, serves as the reader's guide through this world, himself slowly sifting through the layers of myth and magic that Gaiman has deposited on the American landscape.

Shadow, a paroled convict with a confused past and a fondness for coin tricks, rarely seems to know more than the reader. He stolidly pushes forward with a quiet sense of honor and duty, confronting the dark terrors of the ancient world and the bright, neon ones of the modern world.

Once again, Gaiman displays his mastery of the genre of urban fantasy. Every character, every scene, seems utterly real, as if he had plucked them from a vacation brochure or a post card of some small (or in some cases extremely large) town. For me, reading the book

almost felt like leafing through memories of road trips and daily life.

At the same time, we are given a look at an America that isn't as sane and rational as we'd like to think. Bits of belief and dream coalesce into shadowy, forgotten beings hungry for sacrifice and worship. Tourist traps take on all the gravity of shrines and sacred places. The sun and moon are used to perform sleight-of-hand tricks.

American Gods basically picks up the torch of Gaiman's *Neverwhere*, exploring the mysteries of the American countryside rather than those of the London Underground. The books have much in common, being at various times humorous, darkly chilling and psychedelically cerebral.

In my opinion, *American Gods* is one of the most entertaining and thought-provoking books ever written. It tackles every existential crisis and entrenched institution of modern America with wit and cynicism, and it provides a cast of endearing characters. The most remarkable of these are the strong-willed smart aleck Samantha Black Crow, the clever Mr. Nancy, and the quietly beautiful Zorya Polunochayna.

Even now, a week after I've finished reading, I find myself examining the small mysteries and paranoias of everyday life. How many people have I met today that I just forgot the moment I met them? What rites once took place in this empty field? How much do I sacrifice to the hungry gods of convenience and security?

It's almost as if the book were only the opening chapter of some greater and farther-reaching work.

Mentor's Lair an enjoyable read

Mentor's Lair: Book Two of the

Zaddack Tales

by Karen Daniels

Review by I J.J. Pionke

The second book in the continuing saga of the Zaddack Tales is *Mentor's Lair* by Karen Daniels. More than anything else, this book is about relationships, power plays, and survival. It still kept me riveted, but not nearly as much as book one, *Dancing Suns*.

Overall this book has a very different feel to it than *Dancing Suns*. In this novel, it is not so much the journey that is the interesting part as the ending. The whole book leads up to the epilogue, and I think that is a good thing. Sure, there are things that are fairly obvious from page one. That just seems to be a part of Daniels' style of writing, but she throws in a lot of little things that come as quite a surprise. Again, this is a novel that is not hard to read but is enjoyable and offers a welcome break from heavier material.

Daniels interlaces action with a lot of emotional moments in the novel. Overall it makes the characters more three-dimensional for me. It fleshes out their personalities and makes them more human (even the characters that aren't). If the first was about the journey, then the second is about the quest and understanding it. Daniels gives us a lot of information towards the end of the novel about why certain events took place and what has been happening to our hero mentally and physically.

It is welcome information and clears up a lot of questions, but it also creates many more questions that may or may not be answered in the series' next book. That might not be a bad thing. After all, a little mystery is always fun.

One of the really interesting little tidbits is that a major character in the book doesn't pop up until the last 50 pages. That is okay; after all, authors bring up and kill off characters at a whim, but my beef with bringing it in so late is that I felt rushed. I wish that I had had a chance to know it better. Daniels brings back one of my favorite groups of characters, the ore-seekers. I sincerely hope that she will be writing more about them, because they by far are some of the most interesting creatures that she has so far created.

The ending of the novel leaves something to be desired, however. I am all for a "this is what happened years later" ending. I like knowing that the characters came out okay or not as the situation warrants. At the same time, however, with that kind of ending you just know that the third book in the series is not going to be about the main characters that we have been following for the last two books. That kind of makes me sad. I was really enjoying the characters, but it makes me wonder what book three will bring.

Overall, like *Dancing Suns*, I really enjoyed this novel. It was a good read, and I would recommend it to anyone who would like a quick read on a cold evening. As I know, book three has been written but not printed yet. I am really looking forward to it, just as I was looking forward to *Mentor's Lair*.

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JON'S TOP 10 ALL TIME BEST MOVIES

Part one of two

Review by | Jon Sanders

Welcome, all you *Monitor* readers! This is the first installment of a series of "top ten films" lists in assorted genres and categories. This is a general top ten all-time movie list. I rank the films with several factors, overall entertainment being the primary factor. A humorous, believable and insightful script is also very important. A lot of "classics" will be left off my list, for reasons spelled out in the disclaimer (in part two). What can I say; I'm a contemporary. I've been working at a video store for over three years now, so my experience and repertoire are relatively large. Without further ado, here are Jon's top ten best films of all time, from least to best:

10. *King Kong* (1933) (Dir. Merion C. Cooper, Fay Wray, Robert Armstrong)

King Kong launched not only a series, but the entire genre of large-creatures-stomping-on-cities movies with its release in 1933. The stop-motion gorilla special effects are superb for their era, and the final scene with Kong perched atop the Empire State Building swatting at airplanes is one of the most recognizable in film history. Even modern film buffs will be surprised at how entertaining *King Kong* is. Also, beneath the skin of the classic beauty and the beast story is an interesting allegory about slavery and racism. **Favorite scene:** The battle between King Kong and the T-Rex. **Memorable quote:** "Rooooaaaaaarr!!!!!!!" -King Kong

9. *L.A. Confidential* (1997) (Dir. Curtis Hanson, Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe)

L.A. Confidential is a perfect contemporary film noir following the exploits of a straight arrow young recruit (Guy Pearce of *Memento*)

in a reluctantly corrupt L.A.P.D. Curtis Hanson's sure and stylish direction and gloomy sets emphasize Pearce's dark desperation to make something good of his career while surrounded by sleaze. His determination comes off as self-righteousness, and his crusade lures in other detectives hopeful of redeeming their lives. Kevin Spacey turns in his usual riveting performance as a cynical detective serving as a consultant for a popular *Dragnet*-type TV show and Russell Crowe plays the muscle-headed enforcer tired of people taking advantage of him. Kim Basinger won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her portrayal of a high-price hooker in love with Russell Crowe, and the movie itself was nominated for several other Academy Awards, including Best Picture. It lost to *Titanic*, one of the most overrated films of all time. Danny DeVito costars. **Favorite scene:** The action-packed showdown at a cheap motel. **Memorable quote:** "Rollo Tumasi....heh heh heh..." -Kevin Spacey

8. *The Princess Bride* (1987) (Dir. Rob Reiner, Cary Elwes, Andre the Giant)

You're telling me you haven't seen *The Princess Bride*??? Inconceivable! For super-masculine men who pass this off as a chick flick, notice Andre the Giant, ex-WWF wrestler in the credits. The big oaf actually puts on a solid performance. Buttercup (Robin Wright) falls in love with a farmhand Wesley (Elwes, in his best role ever) who is summoned to fight in a war. He is too long in returning and Buttercup is chosen to be the wife of a local prince (Chris Sarandon). She is then kidnapped by a scheming Sicilian (Wallace Shawn) and his two loveable accomplices, an alcoholic Spaniard fencer (the spellbinding Mandy Patinkin), and a thick-skulled giant (Andre). The plot is very well-structured and surprisingly intelligent for a fam-

ily-oriented movie. The story prances through oceans and swamps, from castles to dungeons, from swashbuckling adventure to captivating love, always with a warm blend of mild physical humor and dry tongue-in-cheek wit. Billy Crystal and Christopher Guest of *This is Spinal Tap* fame make first-rate cameos. William Goldman adapted the screenplay from his own satirical novel. **Favorite scene:** Rhyming on the boat. **Memorable quote:** "Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die." -Mandy Patinkin, confronting the six-fingered man.

7. *The Rock* (1996) (Dir. Michael Bay, Nicholas Cage, Sean Connery)

I often get ridiculed for my vehemence in defending *The Rock* as one of my top ten best films, but action/comedies provide the best pure mindless entertainment. While most movies in this genre attempt to throw off the action/comedy clichés, director Bay and screenwriters David Wiesberg, Douglas Cook and Mark Rosner realize the futility of originality in this kind of movie. Instead, they embrace the predetermined formula and insert every cliché that they could get their hands on, blowing them up to a titanic proportion, and in doing so, propel this movie head-and-shoulders above its peers. Ed Harris plays a U.S. general who, with a band of renegade marines, takes over Alcatraz, holding the tourists and San Francisco hostage with a number of missiles filled with poison gas. A marine strike force is sent in led by John Mason (Connery), the only man ever to escape the Rock, and Stanley Goodspeed (Cage), a weenie chemical weapons guru who knows how to handle the horrible V/X poison. Snappy one-liners, though sometimes predictably cheesy, never fail to bring a smile to the viewer. Most of the script's success is due to Cage's harried,

frustrated delivery countered by Connery's cool, calm cynicism. The movie balances just the right amount of humor and solemnity and addresses the government's treatment of special agents in the field with significant pessimism. Ed Harris is tolerable as the not-so-bad guy; the only real down part of the movie is a excessively tacky patriotic speech delivered by Harris to his rebels. The rest of the movie is high-octane laughs and thrills, served to you on a shimmering eye-pleasing platter. **Favorite scene:** Cage and Connery in the Rock's cells. **Memorable quote:** "Well, it's certainly more enjoyable than my average day; reading philosophy, avoiding gang rape in the washrooms - though it's less of a problem these days. Maybe I'm losing my sex appeal!" -Sean Connery

6. *12 Angry Men* (1957) (Dir. Sidney Lumet, Henry Fonda, Lee J. Cobb)

Twelve Angry Men is one of the few movies I was forced to watch in school that I really enjoyed. My seventh grade English teacher, Mr. Cecil, showed it to us one day when he was "bored." Henry Fonda's performance was so vibrant and entrancing that it managed to capture the complete attention of a 13-year old boy - no small feat. A vengeful jury is adamant about the guilt of a young man accused of murdering his father. Fonda's character is the only man who suspects the boy might be innocent, and he has to fight prejudices, closed minds, and various characters' pasts with complex logic to validate his "reasonable doubt." Fonda is surrounded by a very talented cast, while crisp editing and good angles keep the long jury room scenes from growing monotonous. **Favorite scene:** The pocketknife predicament. **Memorable quote:** "I'm gonna kill you!" -Cobb, to Fonda.

Ryan Adams mines heart of Gold

Gold

Ryan Adams

Lost Highway Records

Review by | Zach Lechner

Whenever I mention Ryan Adams to my friends, they inevitably respond: "Bryan Adams? You like him?" or "Bryan Adams? Oh, I like him. I still listen to his CDs a lot. He's really good." Let me say at the outset that Ryan Adams is not Bryan Adams, and that becomes abundantly clear when you compare their work. I will avoid doing this because admitting too much knowledge about Bryan Adams might hurt my credibility.

Talking about Ryan Adams, however, will only up my hipness quotient. Why? Because currently there is a huge buzz about him, and for good reason. Some music critics have compared him to a young Dylan or Springsteen. That may seem like an overstatement, especially for someone who has never heard any of Adams's work. There is no doubt, however, that the 26-year-old North Carolina native knows how to write a good song and that, like Dylan and Springsteen, he seems to place equal emphasis on lyrics and melody, both of which draw you in with their warmth, honesty, and deceptive simplicity.

Adams is hardly a newcomer to the music scene or to critical praise. His alt-country outfit Whiskeytown released two well-received albums, *Faithless Street* (1995) and *Stranger's Almanac* (1997), which had a more traditional country sound than the output of many of the band's No Depression counter-

parts.

Shortly after completing work on their third album, *Pneumonia*, in 1999, Whiskeytown dissolved, and it was not until this past spring that Adams found a record label to release the LP. *Pneumonia* shows what Whiskeytown might have been, as it presents a group experimenting with a more varied stylistic soundscape, including pop, folk, and even Latin.

Adams' latest album *Gold* is more rock-oriented and focused than *Pneumonia*. It is closer in content to the artist's first solo record, last year's stripped-down *Heartbreaker* (A more apt title would have been *Heartbroken*), which pays homage to *Highway 61 Revisited* on a number of tracks and leans heavily on ballads, perhaps excessively.

Gold expands on *Heartbreaker*, and it is a stronger record in every way, which is quite a statement considering the latter's overall quality. The songs on *Gold* are more complete and feel like they all belong together. In addition, varied instrumentation (including the occasional orchestral arrangement) and Ethan Johns' improved engineering work result in a fuller and more consistent production.

The new album sounds like the playlist of a classic rock station from a distant planet where Styx, Rick Derringer, and Peter Frampton were expelled to keep the world's musical integrity intact. This means that the record sounds good on the first listen and only improves with each spin.

Adams' skill at painting a picture with words (accompanied by fitting music) is demonstrated repeatedly, as he describes a relationship's post-breakup period that begins in the Big Apple ("New York, New York") and

ends on the other side of the country ("Goodnight, Hollywood Blvd."). The record's speaker attempts to make sense of his situation, which is demonstrated by his vacillation between feelings of regret and anger. On "Somehow, Someday," he says, "I want to tell you something / That I should've long ago / I wish that you and I had those kids / Maybe bought us that home." The polar sentiment is expressed in "Nobody Girl": "Say you follow your heart / Well, honey you're just being lost / Say you follow your gut / Well, how much would it cost?"

The narrator at his most forlorn ponders what it would be like if "I had a Sylvia Plath." He imagines the volatile poet, or a woman like her, as a muse who eventually sets him on a course for recovery by, ironically, making him imitate her self-destructive tendencies.

Before settling on a feeling of melancholy by the album's end, Adams' speaker manages to laugh briefly at his misery. "They say that love is hell, but I've been laughin' ever since I fell / It's only gonna make you love me more / The Lord will have his way but I'm just a call away / It's only gonna make you love me more" (from "Gonna Make You Love Me").

For most artists, an album like *Gold* might be considered their best work, but for the young Adams, who is as talented as he is prolific, it seems that his future albums can only get better. That's an amazing thought to ponder, but it really seems that the "It Kid," as Bonnie Raitt recently called him, can do anything he sets his musical mind to. Adams has not reached the level of a Dylan or a Springsteen, but *Gold* confirms that he has the potential. And no, that does not go for Bryan Adams, as well.

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www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/2680/

Review by I John Becker

I know you like to masturbate. I can see it in your eyes. And in the way you lustily eye my lotion bottle. You won't admit that you have a problem, but you do. Many people think that masturbation is harmless, but it really isn't. In fact, it's the number one problem in American public health. I used to be a self-abuser too, until I came across this site, the headquarters of the Americans for Purity campaign. I believe that you will benefit from the information contained in this site immensely, and that your eyes will be opened to the huge problem that masturbation is becoming in this country. So have no fear! Jump off the bandwagon today, and experience a life free of self-abuse.

Inane cartoons and more!

www.homestarrunner.com

Review by I Aaron Baker

If you're into fucked up cartoons that don't make a hell of a lot of sense and are pretty damn funny, then here is yet another website to provide you with just that. It's jam-packed with cartoons, some pointless games (including fortune cookies, which say the most random things and throw the "in bed" theory out the window) and even a store for that one person who might think buying a t-shirt from the website would make him cooler and help him score with the ladies. And they even provide you with the most useful information in the world: "The poopsmith's job

Toothgnip? exactly

www.goats.com

Review by I John Becker

Let's face it; all of the comic strips in the paper these days are a bit trite. They were all pretty funny the first time, but we've all been over and over the golf jokes, menopause jokes, office jokes and puns, and it's all starting to blend together into one big unfunny mass. The remedy? Goats. Simply log in and start to laugh as you pore over the archives and meet Toothgnip, Diablo, Jon and Phil. And that is just for starters.

Then watch as their lives are turned upside down by mad scientists, vicious love-triangles, the Internet and beer. Registering a username and password takes a second, but costs nothing, and gets you to the meat and potatoes of the site: the archives. I recommend not starting at the very beginning, but diving in somewhere in the middle (perhaps with "We're off to see the Amish" or "brains4zombies.com") where the action is the hottest. There are hundreds of wonderful laughing opportunities; go start taking advantage of them now before someone else beats you to it.

Http://websitereviews.monitor

End terrorism, start with US

Story by | Dr. Marc Becker

"Our war on terror begins with al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated."

- President George W. Bush, Address to a Joint Session of Congress and the American People, Sep. 20, 2001

In recent years, the U.S. Army School of Americas (SOA) has come under intense scrutiny for its use of terror to achieve foreign policy objectives. In a pathetic attempt to dodge this growing criticism, in January the army renamed the SOA the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC). The mission of this school, which is based in Fort Benning, Georgia, however, remains the same: to train Latin American soldiers in combat, counter-insurgency, and counter-narcotics.

The SOA has trained virtually the entire "who's who" of brutal dictators who are responsible for many of Latin America's worst human rights abuses. Among its nearly 60,000 graduates is Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega who was a CIA operative until he became "disposable" and the United States removed him in a 1989 invasion, killing thousands of civilians in the process.

SOA graduates also led the Sept. 11, 1973 military coup against Chile's democratically elected government. They worked as heads of the secret police, operated concentration camps where political prisoners were tortured, and ran a "caravan of death" that rounded up opponents, slit their bodies open and dumped them from helicopters over the Pacific Ocean. In 1976, SOA graduates also assassinated former Chilean ambassador Orlando Letelier, blowing his car to bits on Embassy Row in Washington, D.C. Previous to Sept. 11, that event had the distinction of being the worst act of terrorism committed in this country's capital, but the U.S. never showed much interest in finding or punishing the perpetrators.

The school also trained the leaders of the "dirty wars" in Argentina and Bolivia in the 1970s. Their systematic use of terror decimated popular movements and undermined democracy in those countries. The United States trained Hugo Banzar, who sheltered Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie in Bolivia, promoted drug trafficking, and developed a plan for silencing religious dissent, which became a blueprint for repression throughout Latin America.

Homecoming: not just a dance

Story by | Christie Hall

When I look back over the events of the past few weeks, the unrest on campus and in the nation and in the world, I think it is fitting that Homecoming is approaching. Any dictionary will most likely have more than one entry for the word homecoming. One of course will refer to a return to someone's old school or college for celebration; here at Truman that includes a parade, a football game, friendly contests among groups on campus, and the return of alumni. But the dictionary will also list another definition for the word homecoming: the arrival of someone who has been away. Every time I head home these days, I am happy to be going there. But it hasn't always been like that for me. Two years ago, when my mom was sick from chemotherapy and radiation and the cancer that was destroying her body, I didn't want to go home. I didn't want to confront the fact that she might be dying. I didn't want to realize that the mother I have always needed might

The SOA trained Anastasio Somoza's brutal National Guard in Nicaragua in the 1970s. The CIA developed a euphemistically entitled "Human Resource Exploitation Training Manual" that described coercive techniques, including the systematic intimidation of the civilian population and the assassination of political leaders, for use in its proxy war against Nicaragua's democratically elected government.

In the 1980s, graduates participated in the worst human rights abuses of El Salvador's civil war, including the massacre of 900 civilians at El Mozote and the summary execution of Archbishop Oscar Romero while he was saying mass on March 24, 1980. Another graduate was convicted this summer for the brutal murder of Guatemalan Bishop Juan Gerardi. Gerardi was killed in 1998 two days after releasing a report in which he linked the Guatemalan army to most of the atrocities committed during the country's civil war.

In Colombia, SOA grads have been linked with kidnapping, murders of peace commissioners and other civilians, repression of press freedoms, and participation in paramilitary death squads and brutal massacres. More Colombian military officers have trained at the SOA than personnel from any other country, and the result has been one of the worst human rights records in the world.

Yes, let's universally and permanently stop and defeat the use of terror wherever and however it is practiced, and let us begin right here at home by closing the U.S. Army School of the Americas. It would be the best moral example the United States could set for the rest of the world.

"Americans are asking, 'Why do they hate us?' They hate what we see right here in this chamber - a democratically elected government. Their leaders are self-appointed."

- President George W. Bush, Address to a Joint Session of Congress and the American People, September 20, 2001

Let's see. Bush lost the election but people who his father named to a high court appointed him president. Corporate contributions have a much larger influence in selecting governmental officials than popular will. The result is huge tax cuts for the filthy rich and a paltry \$300 for those of us struggling to get by in Kirksville. A democratically elected government? What a good idea, but I guess that is the subject of another article.

need me in return.

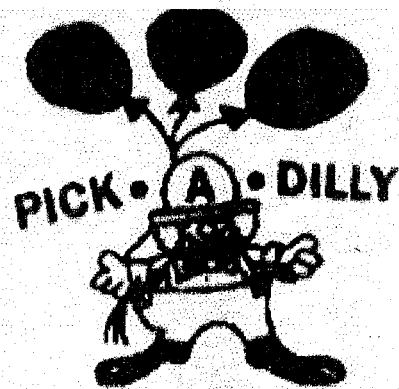
The Fine Arts Department is confronting some of those same issues this month with the opening of its newest production, *Approaching Zanzibar*, which will run from Oct. 9 to Oct. 13. It comes at an appropriate time of the year: October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and breast cancer is one of the number one health concerns of women everywhere. But this isn't a story of death and tragedy. It is a story of a homecoming for an entire family and what they discover as someone they love triumphs over death. It's a journey. My family has been on that journey, and I know we are stronger for it. When I head home these days, I am happy to be going. It is a homecoming.

I urge you to head to Baldwin Hall's Little Theatre and experience this show and a homecoming. It will definitely make you laugh. It might make you cry. But it will certainly inspire you. And maybe just for a moment, it will make the world fall away.



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or just drop a disk with your story in our mailbox in the CSI

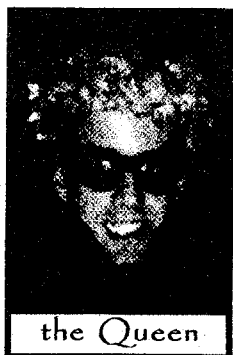


Good Luck TSU
Bulldogs at
Homecoming!

Free 20 oz. fountain drink
w/ 8 gallon gas purchase.

expires end of October

1112 S. Baltimore
Kirksville, Mo., 63501
(660) 627-1516



Queen Astra

Let the
stars be your guide!

Aries (March 21-April 20)

Never trust a man with a beard. He could be hiding balz in there. Or "he" could just be your girlfriend.

Taurus (April 21-May 22)

Remember to wish Paul good luck at the Olympics. He's slippery when wet.

Gemini (May 23-June 21)

There's "loads" of pronography in your future.

Cancer (June 22-July 24)

Is Justin trying to take over Nsync? Not without those curly locks he isn't.

Leo (July 25-Aug. 23)

The days may be getting shorter, but the nights are getting longer. Don't you think it's about time to check "get your freak on" off your to-do list?

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Need a new moneymaking scheme? Remeber: "Sex sells!"

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

This week you will utter the words "Whoopee, a trampoline!" Be forewarned.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

People have been talking about you, but don't you worry. With your "gun-crazy" reputation, it's all good.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Lather. Rinse. Repeat.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

It's time to have a heart-to-heart with the new love in your life. Except in your case, replace the word heart with the word genitalia.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

I'm a rebel and my pastor is, too.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20)

Go wild this week. You will discover that catnip isn't only for cats.

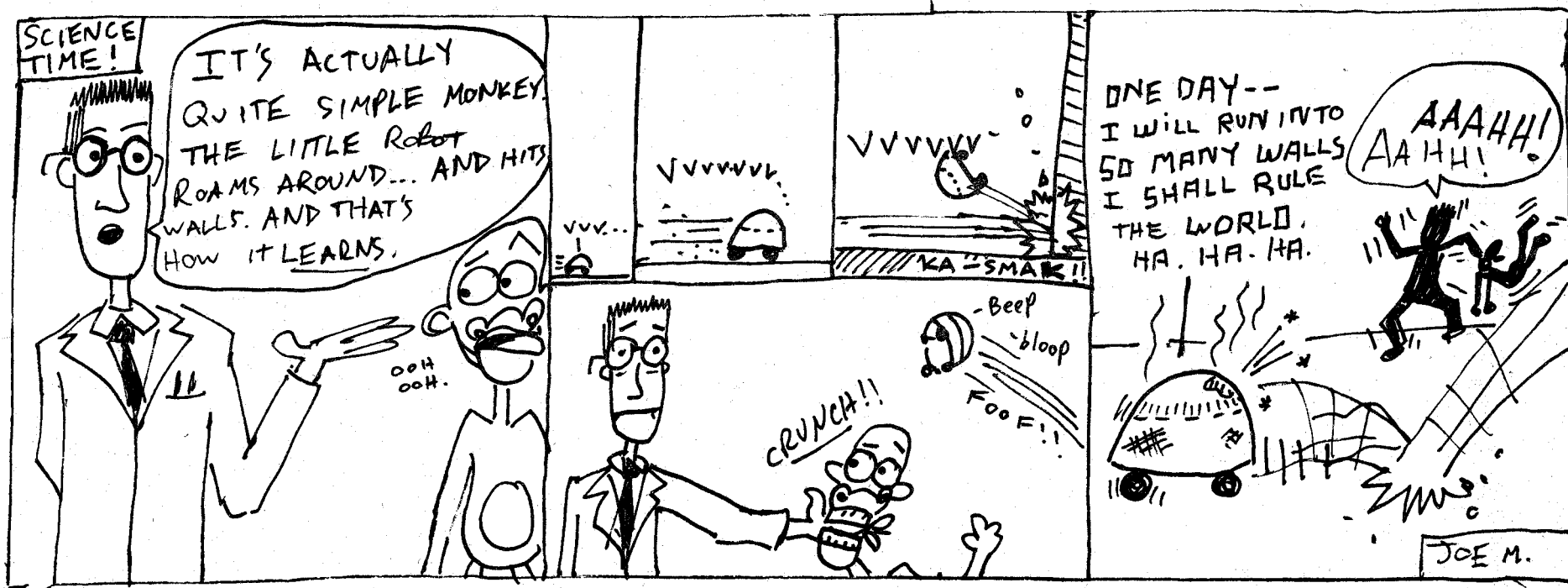
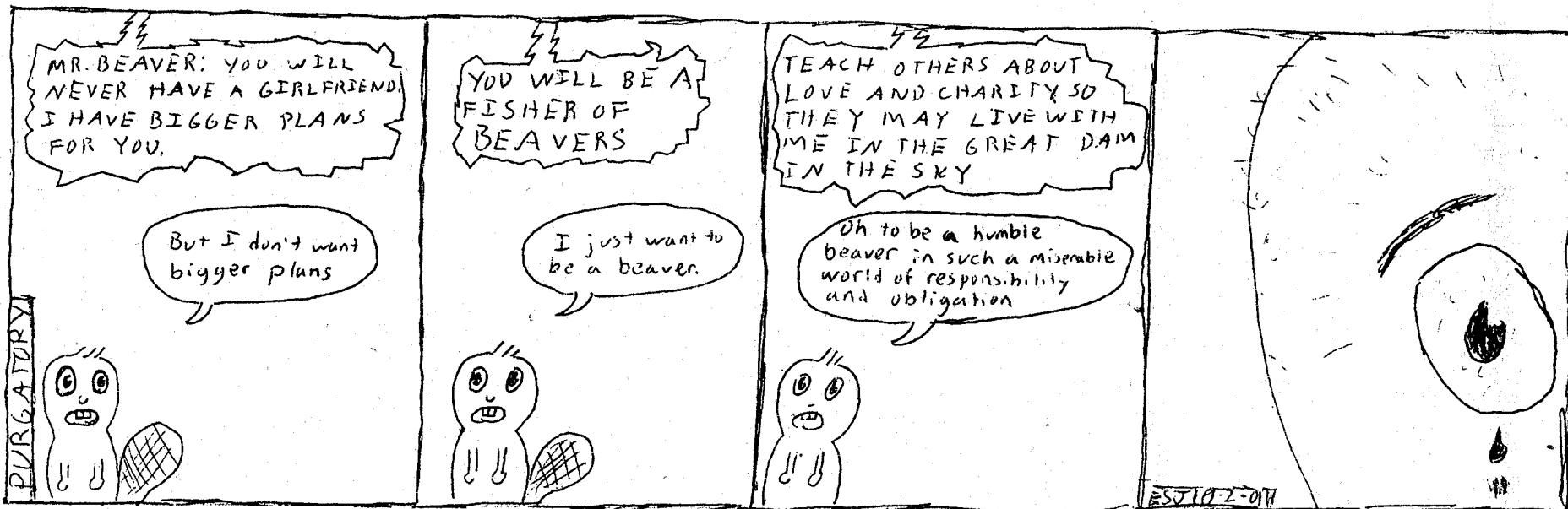
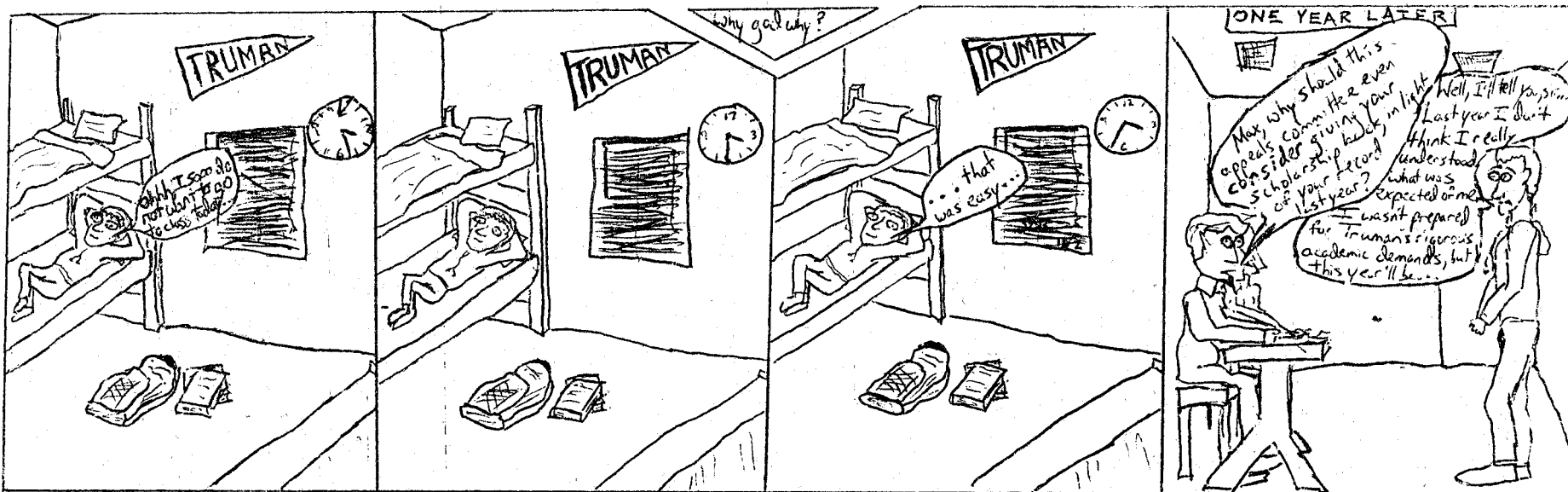
parentheticalization

Feature by I Andy Stevenson

We (referring collectively to the body of people who participate in and around the activities of academia [including students, professors and others that lead and/or follow expeditions through semantic jungles of varying lexical humidity]) often (that is, "occurring with normal or regular frequency"¹ [with comparative respect to the other endeavors that account for the time-space allotted among other life activities of aforementioned individuals]) make things (generally, alluding to streams of linguistic communication [including, but not limited to, written, verbal and body language]) more complicated (of course, relative to other conceptual phenomena stewing in our basal ganglia) than they actually (at least under the current gerontocracy [which has clearly equivocated in policymaking under subcommittees X⁴ and Y₈₃]) are.

¹ "regular." *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*. 4th ed. (2000).





My Back Pages

readers: please send neat poems to y096@truman.edu
then, we shall feast on sounds and lame Harlan Ellison
references. neat doodles also accepted...

Ode

The time has come to come undone
With fevered mind and sharpened tongue.
The song I sing to all and one;
To body, soul, to moon and sun,
Is full of chorus bright and true.
And the song I sing shall be you.

-L. H. Stevens

My Voice

My Voice is silenced by fear.
My Voice is silenced by happiness.
My Voice is silenced by anger.
My Voice is silenced by love.

I never talk about my feelings.
And I try not to let them be shown.
I have never let anyone see my true self.

The frustration is mounting higher,
And my emotions are starting to peak.
I don't know how much longer I can stay silent.
I have no Voice and I must scream.

-Michael Harris

Soul to Sell

How much is my soul worth to the Devil?
Fame? Fortune? Beauty? Talent?
Could he convince me?
Would I accept?

How much is my soul worth to God?
Faith? Obedience? Loyalty? Trust?
Would He need to convince me?
Would I refuse?

How much is my soul worth to my family?
Love? Posterity? Future? Respect?
Should they test me?
Would I pass?

How much is my sould worth to me?
Personality? Inner-Peace? Spirituality? Family?
Must I fight?
Would I win?

- Akela Cooper

Untitled

Bow to Lord dollar
Has it come to this?
Where he goes we follow
And happiness we miss.

Praise God greenback
Who needs spiritual pleasure
When your wallets fat
And have time for leisure.

Oh mighty dollar
Where you been all my life?
Why don't you give me a bother?
And relieve my strife?

- Dylan Page

Untitled

The IDEA of the POLICE like hydra grows 100
new heads for each one cut off—and all these
heads are *live cops*. Slicing off heads gains us
nothing, but only enhances the beast's power till it
swallows us.

First murder the IDEA—blow up the monument
inside us—& then perhaps .. the balance of
power will shift. When the last cop in our brain is
gunned down by the last unfulfilled desire—
perhaps even the landscape around us will begin
to change...

- Go Roke

Your Mama is So Stupid, She Thinks "Haiku" is Something You Say When You Sneeze

Hello, Mom, it's me
Just called to say 'hi' to your
Answering machine...

- Bill Walton

Untitled

M ove from the couch to the floor because the armrest is uncomfortable
A s slick fingers groove on your lower abdominal region
K eeping the rhythm of love alive with a lubricated metronome
I n a trance of tongue and lips and snagged facial piercings
N o time exists but the moment, and wierd memories from junior high
G ive up the funk

O pen your eyes but then remember why you closed them in the first place
U nzip your pants but keep your socks on because it's cold and get it on
T il the sun comes up or you pass out, whichever comes first

- Allowishes Dabercrombiy

White

The green blowing grass
Sways above the world of white,
Like early zealous fans
Trying to catch the first glimpse of spring.

I walk along the peppered path of asphalt,
Breathing in a metallic mass of air
That only the barren cold of winter
Can bring to my seething lungs.

I exhale the air slowly,
Blowing a white bubble of my life's ghost
Into the world surrounding me,
The world already full with too much entropy.

I wonder at the cloud
With my gray-flecked eyes
Thinking about my breath
And why it's still here

I need reassurance.
I need an end to this wasted winter.
Every inch of snow is an inch of despair
That sterilizes the world with blankness.

I look at the evergreens covered with ice,
They look like pristine pine Popsicles.
Still Wondering as my breath dissapates,
I look down and find my answer.

The green blowing grass
Sweeps the snow away.
It relieves my soul
On this dreary winter day.

- L. Hubbard