



THE MONITOR

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

A Campus Collective

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Student Senate lays basis for state student association

Story by | Derek Spellman

Student Senate unanimously ratified the Student Association of Missouri (SAM) constitution at its Nov. 4 meeting in hopes of forging a coalition of Missouri universities to lobby for student interests in Jefferson City.

Almost 80 delegates from 13 different universities met in Jefferson City from Nov. 2 to Nov. 4 to draw up the constitution, which if ratified by at least nine of the universities' student governments will take effect in Sept. of 2002.

Once in place, SAM can lobby state legislators for measures such as tuition freezes, an increase in Bright Flight scholarships, the publication of teacher evaluations, and the extension of voting privileges to students on university governing boards. SAM can also help to heighten students' awareness of political issues, strengthen communication between Missouri universities, and foster a climate of cooperation and activism on college campuses.

"SAM exists to unite students to work towards common goals for the betterment of higher education in Missouri," Bethany Ordaz,

the interim president of SAM and chair of Senate's External Affairs Committee, said.

Ordaz said that Senate first hatched the plan for SAM during its pursuit of a student vote on the University's Board of Governors. In the course of their research, senators discovered state student associations in Wisconsin, Florida, Oregon, Minnesota, California, and Arizona.

"They [referring to these student associations] have been very successful," Ordaz said. Associations in Wisconsin and Florida, for instance, successfully introduced measures for tuition freezes in their respective state legislatures. The Oregon student association quarterbacked a two-thousand-student march on its state capitol several years ago.

Ordaz said that SAM delegates looked to these organizations when drawing up its constitution. In its present shape, the SAM constitution calls for the establishment of a permanent five-person staff in Jefferson City, which will lobby legislators in the state capitol. It also calls for the arrangement of a six-person Executive Board comprised of students, which will

meet every month to coordinate events and facilitate communication among universities. A general assembly, comprised of delegates from every member school, will convene at least every other month.

The total cost of the maintaining the organization amounts to approximately \$164,000 a year, Ordaz said. SAM will be funded by charging each student \$2 a year, or \$1 a semester, at all the member schools. Individual senators at the University will circulate a petition calling for a special election before Christmas in order to approve the \$2 fee.

The Association of Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) could raise problems for the embryonic organization, however. ASUM, a similar organization that lobbies on behalf of the University of Missouri-Rolla, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, has construed SAM as a challenge to its interests and a reduction in its own power. "They think we're invading their territory," Ordaz said.

SAM also faces a statewide budget crunch

after a \$300 million dollar shortfall between Missouri's projected and actual income forced Gov. Bob Holden to trim higher education appropriations.

Ordaz, however, said that the organization has already enlisted the support of several state officials. "Both Steve Gaw [former Speaker of Missouri's House of Representatives] and Terry Jarrett [a present Representative] said it [SAM] would be well received," she said.

Matt Brooker, President of Student Senate, said that the challenges posed by ASUM and the budget crunch afford the fledgling organization an opportunity to flourish.

"In any economic slump, something has to give and priorities have to be clarified," he said. "I don't think higher education has been made as high a priority yet as it should be."

Brooker added, "I think that it [SAM] will provide a voice for Truman students that in the past has not been organized as effectively as it will be with SAM."

Kyoto Protocol loophole sells out environmental responsibility

Story by | Will Worden

On Monday, Nov. 12, in Marrakech, Morocco, environment and energy ministers from around the world agreed on the rules governing the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. The accord, reached after tough bargaining at a two-week U.N.-sponsored conference, provides a detailed rulebook governing the complex 1997 treaty aimed at limiting humanity's negative impact on the earth's climate. The Kyoto Protocol, which the United States pulled out of last March, is an international attempt to slow the effects of global warming by reducing emissions in problematic countries. The U.S., however, continues to refuse to participate, arguing that the fight against global warming "cannot be conceived without the global participation of all countries of the world."

Although the aim of the agreement is to help our future by addressing the causes of global warming, devastating climate change and the inequalities that divide developed and developing countries (and our children's' future, if that is still even a reasonable hope), the influences

of capitalism and a coterie of developed nations spearheaded by Canada, Japan, Russia and Australia have set their delegations to the task of paving the way for their business interests to seize a brand-new market: greenhouse gas emissions trading.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, industrialized countries are called on to reduce their greenhouse-gas emissions by five percent from their 1990 levels by the year 2012. These industrialized countries, which are producing the vast majority of emissions that cause global warming and wreak havoc on undeveloped countries that don't even use fossil fuels, have managed to use their influence (since the [at least] 55 countries representing 55% of 1990 CO2 emissions must ratify the agreement, the countries that produce the most emissions represent the most important opinions; especially with U.S. out of the agreement, Russia and Japan's involvement is critical, making them very influential) to include in the Protocol provisions which allow countries to avoid meeting these standards. With the Kyoto Protocol in effect, each

country will be assigned a certain amount of "emissions credits" that will dictate the emissions reduction standards for that country. However, under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), if a country decides it doesn't want to actually reduce its own emissions, these credits will be allowed to be sold to countries that already have low emissions, leaving the pollution problem, and some corporate spare change, in their hands.

For example, an undeveloped country that was given the flexibility to have emissions rise by, say, five percent (this would include a lot of countries that don't use fossil fuels and therefore have very low emissions) would be able to, for lack of better words, 'sell' their cleanliness to a rich country like the United States (if we had enough freedom from corporate influence to even participate in the agreement), which was required to reduce emission by 5 percent (below 1990 levels). So, since one country needed to reduce emissions, and the other had low enough emissions to tolerate a rise, they can combine their efforts and manage to avoid

any emissions output changes, and make a little money on the side, too.

Another way the CDM allows rich countries to avoid lowering their emissions is by funding the implementation of low-emissions programs in developing countries (for instance, a hydroelectric power source in return for the retirement of emissions credits). For example, the EU and Canada are setting up an adaptation fund to provide the US\$410 million up to the year 2005. Unfortunately, the stark reality of global warming shows us what this \$410 million really amounts to. If all of this money was given to just Nicaragua and Honduras, it would only amount to a FIFTEENTH of the six billion dollars in damages caused by hurricane Mitch in 1998. That hurricane also killed 20,000

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C O N T E N T S



Uh-oh, looks like the editors learned a fun trick from a rival paper and had a little too much fun manipulating quotes. Find out what we think this guy *should* have said on page 6.

Admit it: you pick your nose, don't you? So do we at *The Monitor*. And so does Lifehouse. Read about how much they sucked on page 11.



Urinal Jesus disappears from Barnett, only to resurrect and announce His imminent return. Read about it on page 8.



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CAMPUS ADDRESS

CSI SUB
TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501
FAX (660) 785.7436

OFFICE ADDRESS

MONITOR TOWER
1209 N. GREEN STREET
KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501

monitortrm@hotmail.com

MANAGING EDITORS

CAMERON MOORE
DEREK SPELLMAN

MY BACK PAGES EDITOR

JESSE PASLEY

PHOTOGRAPHERS

AMANDA ROMINE

ADVERTISING ROYALTY

TOM PALMIER

DISTRIBUTION

AMANDA ROMINE
DEREK SPELLMAN

STAFF WRITERS

JUSTIN ANDERSON, MARC BECKER, JOHN BECKER, JOHN BISSES, OLIVERA BRATCH, JAMI BURNS, DAVE BUSH, DANIEL COATE, ANDRES DELGADO, JESSE DOWELL, APLISS GAMMILL, BEN GARRETT, CHRISTIE HALL, JOHN HILTON, ED JENKINS, JUSTIN KEMPF, ANNA KOEHNE, ZACH LECHNER, MARIE MONTANO, JOHN NGUYEN, ADAM NINE, SEAN O'BRIEN, JESSE PASLEY, J.J. PIONKE, RORY ROBERTSON, AMANDA ROMINE, JON SANDERS, LINDA SEDEL, ANDY STEVENSON, LESLEE WHITE, W. AARON WILSON, WILL WORDEN, KELLY YORK

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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."

toam Chomsky



Student Senate: and you thought our only meetings were on Sundays

General Meeting: Sundays, 6 p.m., Conference room, SUB.
Sodexo Contract Review Committee: Call x4193 for details

Academic Affairs: Thursdays, 7 p.m., Senate Office.
Sober Driving Committee: Call x5159 or 627-5892 for details

Campus Diversity: Wednesdays, 9 p.m., Kirk Buildings.
RHA Roundtable: Monday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., Ryle Hall Classroom

Campus Environment: Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Senate Office, SUB.
Media Roundtable: Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Outside Senate Office

External Affairs: Tuesdays, 6 p.m., Senate Office, SUB.
Special Interest Group Roundtable: Thursday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m., VH 1412

Public Relations: Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., BH100 and Sundays, 5:15 p.m., Mainstreet Market, SUB.
Greek Roundtable: Monday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., VH1148.

Student Affairs: Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Senate Office, SUB.

Everyone is welcome to attend any and all meetings

For more information, please contact Student Senate at 785-4193 or email senate@truman.edu

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.

Local media mirrors corporate media, ignores protests

Two, to say the least rather interesting, even penetrating, pieces of literature of concern, relation, to the vexed problem of patriotism have been ignored, published within just the last three weeks locally; if admittedly both alike within that far greater subsidized competitor, the *Index*. For, make no mistake, "patriotism," despite the best, distortive efforts of the numbskull combinations of the Bush US administration and conservative OZ-owned Rupert Murdoch's tabloid style Fox TV networks is just, such, a more complicated present "problem" needing what neither of them want, dissenting debate! So, as I was denied an earlier pre-emptive peacenik "strike" by the *Index* on this evidently "taboo" subject, may I be permitted space to redress in *The Monitor*? To henceforth, reflect what the majority of the 96% of we in the planet happily non-voting US citizens, are beginning to feel! Even in our quarters normally pro-US craven to a craven fault in money-lust; in our concern, to the point of disdain, for this continued hysterical US flag-waving one sees! Indeed, it is alas not too far-fetched to state: we are starting, in this US country, to resemble NAZI GERMANY IN EITHER 1933 OR 1939! FLAGS, EVERYWHERE: MINDS EMPTILY AND BLINDLY, UNREASONINGLY AND OVER-OBEDIENTLY, NOWHERE, WHATSOEVER!!!!!!

More healthily, the first local exception to the chloroforming of the modern American mind process, McCarthyitely repeating itself in dumb-down nastiness, by all of all, was an almost lyrically beautiful, mesmeric cry. Deservedly, a "lead" letter in status, by TSU English professor, Liz Delmonico. In the admirable course of which, Delmonico made a protest, an "historical" analogy, via a famous Asian novelist she excerpted, with the British Tory Viceroy Viscount Curzon's turn-of-last century "patriotic" turn of last century divide-and-rule tactic in the exact northern Indian sub-continent; by British imperialism's Hindu-versus-Muslim dissensions stirring up on Nathaniel's haughty part! By what right, thundered the usually mild Delmonico, in the name of her own affronted "decency" sense do we, in the US and UK, "patriotically" bomb, analogously today, the four millions Afghan refugees? In further fact, more prosaically, the feminist social worker leader of Canada's 13-elected New Democrat MPs, Leader Alexa McDonough put it more crisply perhaps. When, leading all her Ottawa House of Commons socialist team, solely, into the dissent lobby against her own Canadian country's dispatch of a US/UK support "war" fleet, she said! "By what arrogance in the name of we, all 'Western' life, do Messrs Bush and Blair claim to act, on all our behalf, as judge, jury, and executioner over all of Afghanistan. By what arrogance?" (Source: CBC TV "The National." Lead Item satellite system, available Kirkville Updike Cable Technologies).

The second item, locally was a back-page

report by Lauren Sladek, claiming, more dubiously, I thought than Delmonico's heartfelnness, that "students" are capturing the mood of flag-waving "patriotism" as Lauren, flatteringly, paints it. But, are you, in such un-Delmonican stupidity? The only additional, such gargantuanly repellent flags I few have seen myself are those the ones the egregiously fat male TSU-dominated, and itself overpaid, TSU administration I have seen spoiling all our peaceful meals with, outside and within the SUB, all in supposedly student-run union and refectory locales! And Sladek made no effort to interview any TSU student opposed to this senseless "war" who might prefer the international peace flag at Andy and Dots Kaleidoscope emporia. In reminder of a really better America in love with life's 1960s exuberance, not death-dealing to Afghan kids 50,000 feet on, cowardly, "high-tech" hi!

Now, two final observations arising from the Delmonico bravery and the Sladek fudge locally, seem, appositely, warranted. Before, the patriotic Hitlerism gets worse as the US TV flag-waver eunuchs play up every crank's an-thrax; while ignoring every real maimed Kabul Afghan boys' more, palpably, real distress: thanks to my and yours bombs. That last real atrocity is being shown elsewhere on most other nations' less-chloroformed TV!

One, it is not, merely, anymore, we on the "far Left," as idiots like the "Eagle Scouts" *Monitor* correspondents persistently calls us, who think this US-waving manifests unhealthiness, illiberally, by your establishment, be it Bush or Magruder's in their depressing self-smugness in suits! Indeed, "Eagle Scouts," even, might be disturbed to know that solely Italy's Mussolini Fascist party-supported, billionaire tycoon premier Signor B! has, alone, "unconditionally" endorsed, as a "Christian" civilization leader, this miserable US /UK Afghan sickening aggression out there! For the rest of us, more interesting things, unreported entirely by the US media, have been transpiring. The normally, heavily conservative London UK Times color supplement ran just two issues ago, a lead article from LA where flags, too, have mind-numbingly sprang up. Searching vainly the huge UK citizens enclave in California (statistically 50,000 plus although they did not say it our such abiding citizens prefer such "settlement" state) FOR THE FEW WHO LIKED THIS FLAG NONSENSE, they were overwhelmed instead by somber comments like Mike, a journalist's who said he "felt such US flag-waving was a reflection of refusal of width" by American neighbors to even try to understand other countries! Ever! Andrew Stephens, the excellent left wing UK New Statesman DC columnist chose to be blunter still in his weekly missive. Reminding readers most Americans "never see" any foreign news on their TVs save for when the US overseas are selfishly in a crisis, he says he thinks US flags are a "superiority-complex of bellicosity."

Two, the final point against the this flag-waving here, I wish to make by citing such comments as this. If Americans wanted to be in alternative peace do-somethingness, they really

could dare to look at not only such comments and how frequent they are all over the world, but they could look at a comment editorially picked up supportively of her by the Sept. 21 last UK METHODIST RECORDER! Quoting a "pastoral letter," anticipatory in warning against this US flag empty flag hysteria, by the assistant female Michigan diocese madame bishop, they, highlighted her comment. 'WHY DON'T AMERICANS HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOOK AT HOW THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATROCITIES WERE COPY CAT EMULATORY OF OUR OWN UNIQUELY EXCESSIVE AMERICAN VIOLENCE WITH THE "DIE HARD" HOLLYWOOD STYLE PLANE VIOLENE CRASHES AND HOSTAGES! The Recorder did not, alas, extract further. But, I suspect, the feminist assistant Michigan bishop might in conclusion be getting at a point that the frequently more excellently socialistic than myself Delmonico English colleague, Linda Seidel, tried to ventilate in her own *Monitor* column last issue. She said: the trouble with this society is you are all, I quote, "taught to be rugged individualists" about things that don't, relatively speaking, matter. MAYBE, LINDA, but I venture to think that if we are to truly globally learn more from the atrocities, in the name of, yes, US flags, on poor people in Afghanistan and from the sources aforementioned, I think, too, we need to realize that the doctrines of "rugged individualism" should have been buried in the 18th century where it, archaically, in false flag-waving belongs. Or as that pacific great dead-century Tory UK sage, Samuel Johnson, said about his own Whig governments whipping up their rich Protestant elites mercantile flag hysteria for war against Catholic semi-Moorish cartooned Spain: "PATRIOTISM IS THE LAST REFUGE OF SCOUNDRELS!"

Indeed, I dare to end with a challenge to TSU and this "redneck" community of sad US flag-wavers in armchair warmongery. Invite myself and Linda, as an internal critic to my external one, to any sorority, fraternity etcetera open forum of your choice. Allowing not just your controlled elite up there on Magruder style remote podia, but your hall, total-crowd fullest discussion time. I, almost, "guarantee" we will both, very differently, come up with sander ideas for world and US peace alike than Bush, Blair and TSU male administrators flag-waving stupid mislearning in mindlessness will, ever, give you! And lest readers think I was put-up to do even this letter of reproof to "Americanism," by what the Eagle Scouter imagine to be an odd *Monitor* "anarcho-socialist TSU liberal cabal" (don't you, creeps, just macho-love these labels, so emptily demonizing), I actually think "progressive" peace faculty like Delmonico, Seidel and, previous *Monitor* peace writer historian Marc Becker, are too spineless. Relying on just TSU eloquent words in posturing US hollow-style of their "individualistic" consciences; even if "we" or "they" are right! IF YOU, THREE, DARED TO REVIVE BY FACULTY SPONSORSHIP, THE ONCE STRONG ANTI-SEXIST KIRKSVILLE PEACE GROUP, NOW, THEN WE MIGHT REALLY GIVE THE EAGLE SCOUTERS SOMETHING TO, MERITORIOUSLY, TO WET THEIR AWFUL STARS AND STRIPES FLAGGERS KILLING INNOCENT AFGHAN REFUGEES SOMETHING DESERVEDLY TO WORRY ABOUT IN REAL "COLLECTIVE" ALTERNATIVE, LOCALLY!!

Larry Iles
British Independent Scholar Member

Oops... Monitor finds lost letter, prints over month late anyway, begs for forgiveness

Sir-

I heard that Osama's Restaurant in Columbia was vandalized recently. It's heartening to know that we Americans are wise enough to realize the greatest threat to our national security is not somewhere across the ocean, but already within our borders. My fellow citizens' vigilance and courage to administer swift and severe justice to those who plot to murder innocent people and destroy our cities makes me proud.

I can't help but wonder, though: what if Osama and his wait- and kitchen staff were not actually guilty of the dastardly crimes of September 11, but were merely a convenient scapegoat? What if the true perpetrator-issome darker even more insidious force, such as Saleem's Cuisine in St. Louis?

I pray it is not so. I hope our carefully calculated actions have brought an end to this sad chapter in American history.

Joseph P. Gutting

USA act threatens all who stand for civil liberties

October 26, 2001 is a day that will live on for a long time in the history of the United States. October 26, 2001 may be the beginning of the end of the history of the United States. October 26, 2001 was the day that President Bush signed the USA Act into law. October 26, 2001 was the day that civil liberty in the United States died. The USA Act, which was supposed to be an anti-terrorist act in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, is in fact sweeping legislation which burns holes in the rights of all United States citizens, particularly citizens with any form of criminal history or who were not born United States citizens. The USA Act has many major revisions to US law, the most prominent being a complete restructuring of the abilities of domestic law and intelligence agencies to gather information on "suspected terrorists." Most of the revisions add new powers that were previously unheard of (US law enforcement can now with "just cause" wiretap, issue subpoenas, search buildings, and perform other trapping acts and receive a warrant for the act posthumously, or in some cases without a warrant ever existing) prior to this, and the other revisions remove major checks and balances that allowed US citizens to maintain their civil rights.

The USA Act also brings about a near draconian reign on the Internet, allowing the US to force Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to hand over the contents of web searches, e-mails, chat logs, and "non-content" information without court orders, which means that the government can, without your knowledge or consent, spy on your personal affairs and e-mails to friends and family.

The USA Act has a section that builds a DNA database of all people found to commit "any crime of violence," which while it may be applicable, seems to be a pointless add on which

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monitor opinions

Nicaraguan elections swayed by U.S. intimidation

Feature by I Dr. Marc Becker

In elections in Nicaragua on Sunday, Nov. 4, the conservative Liberal Constitutional Party (PLC) defeated the National Convergence, a left/center coalition led by the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN). Pre-election polls indicated that the Sandinistas would win, but the United States successfully placed such fear into people that in the anonymous secrecy of the voting booth Nicaraguans voted against their own socio-economic interests. This election reveals much about the nature of freedom, democracy, and terrorism in our world today.

By international standards, in the entire 163-year history of this small, impoverished Central American country, this is only the fourth legitimate, free, and honest election that Nicaragua has ever had. Although the United States purports to subscribe to principles of freedom and democracy, in Central America it has not hesitated to support repressive dictatorships. Considering Nicaragua as part of its backyard, the United States has repeatedly felt free to intervene and meddle in the country's internal politics in order to establish governments more to its liking. This history is deeply etched in the popular psyche of the country, and people are well aware of the heavy costs of opposing that dominant hegemonic influence from the north.

Placed in that context, the outcome of the 2001 elections begins to make sense. Had they won, the Sandinistas promised to implement social policies that would improve the lives of the poor majority of the

country. Instead, Nicaragua will continue to be a place of cheap sweatshop labor that exports expensive Liz Claiborne clothes to the United States and lines the pockets of the elite with cash. The United States is very pleased with this outcome.

In 1979, the Sandinistas led a social revolution that overthrew the brutal 46-year Somoza dictatorship and implemented literacy, education, and other social programs. Somoza did have elections; but he or one of his lackeys always won. That did not bother the United States, however, as he was its closest ally and enforced policies which favored the U.S.

One of the biggest contributions that the Sandinistas brought to Nicaragua was a stable and effective democratic system of government. In 1984, Nicaragua held its first free and popularly contested elections. Like a playground bully, the U.S. refused to recognize the elections simply because it lost to the leftist Sandinistas. Instead, Ronald Reagan rearmend the thugs who had enforced Somoza's brutal rule, called them "freedom fighters," and sent them back in to terrorize the civilian population.

The World Court condemned the U.S.'s "unlawful use of force," essentially meaning international terrorism, for its targeting of civilian "soft targets" (agricultural cooperatives, health clinics, etc.) in Nicaragua. With contempt and arrogance, the United States announced that it would not accept the jurisdiction of the court and in effect became a rogue state that did not respect international law and supported terrorism.

In 1990, Nicaragua held its second free

elections. This time the Sandinistas bent over backwards to convince the U.S. that the elections would be honest and transparent in a desperate hope that the U.S. would stop their insane terrorist attacks against the small country. The U.S. responded that the attacks would only stop if Nicaragua voted for their candidate. After years of warfare and with a gun pointed at their heads, the people finally cried uncle; the U.S. won the elections.

This story repeats itself again in 1996 and 2001. This year, I observed the electoral process in the rural community of Solingalpa on the outskirts of Matagalpa in northern Nicaragua. Despite some minor irregularities, the casting of votes was free of fraud. In a process that would put Florida to shame, election workers and party officials, alongside national and international observers, checked and double-checked each voter and each step of the vote. The result was that it took about a dozen people and an average of two to three minutes to cast each vote, and almost as long to count the votes as it took to cast them. Subsequently, however, the computer tallying of votes for the National Assembly has been very slow, which has led ex-president Jimmy Carter to express concern about this process.

As before, the United States made it crystal clear that a Sandinista victory was unacceptable. In what would be a violation of electoral laws in the U.S., Oliver Garza, the United States ambassador to Nicaragua, actively campaigned for the PLC presidential candidate, a wealthy businessman named Enrique Bolaños, and against the leftist Sandinistas. Florida gov-

ernor Jeb Bush took out a full-page newspaper ad in *La Prensa* several days before the election, which declared that "George W. Bush Supports Enrique Bolaños." The ad stated that Sandinista presidential candidate "Daniel Ortega is an enemy of everything the United States represents. Further, he is a friend of our enemies. Ortega has a relationship of more than 30 years with states and individuals who shelter and condone international terrorism."

In a very dirty campaign, the PLC and the U.S. attempted to associate the Sandinistas with terrorism, war, repression, shortages, and human rights abuses. In a meeting on the eve of the elections, however, Ortega expressed his condolences for the attacks in New York and Washington, and proceeded to note that Nicaraguans can identify with our pain because they have also been the victims of terrorist attacks. Ortega strongly denounced terrorist tactics, as do virtually all Nicaraguans.

Ironically, it appears that the U.S. utilized Osama bin Laden in the 1980s to help fund the contras' terrorist attacks on the civilian population in Nicaragua. Despite their repeated use of terrorist tactics in Nicaragua, the United States took significant advantage of the events of Sept. 11 to paint the Sandinistas as terrorists. The election boiled down to the Sandinistas and Daniel Ortega versus the U.S. government, with democracy ultimately being the loser. The United States continues to play its historical role of engaging in intimidation tactics that create fear and terror among the Nicaraguan people.

Beware of sinister liberal media Oil interests rule supreme

Opinion by I W. Aaron Wilson

A couple years ago at a Christian music festival I saw a bumper sticker that proclaimed, "I'm the Christian Devil the Liberal Media Warned You About." It made me chuckle. Not because I thought it was all that clever, but because the guy designing it must have been on some kind of controlled substance (a good Christian controlled substance, no doubt). I mean, no way is the media "liberal" (although it just might be in league with the devil).

For the purposes of the article that follows, I'll assume that I'm a liberal, by the way. My high school civics teacher called me "way out in left field," so I'm going to take that as an indication that I'm pretty liberal when it comes to politics.

I really don't know how you can watch the kinds of things regularly done by the established media and believe that they have some kind of liberal bias. For example, in the past couple months two similar events occurred within Kirksville that were covered very differently by the established media (i.e. the *Index*).

First, in the Oct. 4 issue of the *Index* a large picture of a student holding a candle was run on the front page. The caption read: "Sophomore Cameron Moore holds a candle at the protest against the execution of Michael Roberts. Roberts, 27, bludgeoned a St. Louis grandmother to death with a hammer in 1994." Curiously, no story accompanied this picture.

The following week, the *Index* ran a picture of a six-year old child holding a sign saying "Adoption: The Loving Option." A full-length article went with this picture to explain the event behind the picture, which was about a pro-life demonstration.

Two events, both dealing with the sanctity of human life. The conservative event gets a full article and a fairly bland picture caption (I won't bore you with repeating it. It is on the *Index* website, after all). The liberal event gets only a picture with a fairly negative caption (Apparently Roberts wasn't just convicted of killing; he "bludgeoned" a "St. Louis grandmother."). This demonstrates some kind of subconscious bias not towards liberal views but towards conservative views.

Now I'm not trying to pick on the *Index*. I don't think their entire staff is composed of conservative drones, and I don't think they are regularly biased. I merely thought the above example handily illustrated my stance.

Here's a more national example. A lot of confirmed liberals oppose the recent campaign in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, *Time* magazine publishes a cover showing the screaming faces of Muslims protesting the bombings.

The letters *Time* chooses to print the next week are generally letters expressing anger, but not anger at *Time*'s borderline demonization of an entire culture, but anger at the Muslims themselves. If *Time* really had an underlying liberal bias, wouldn't it run a front cover showing peaceful Muslims picking through the wreckage left by stray missiles?

In closing, I think the assumption that the media is "liberal" is an illogical generalization. I personally don't think they're biased in any way, except towards the powerful corporations that own them.

But then again, I'm sure they warned you that liberals are always saying crazy things like that, especially when writing in weird "alternative" papers.

Opinion by I Ed Jenkins

On Friday, Tom Ballanco questioned our reliance on foreign oil and on oil in general, suggesting that we could invest money in researching very viable alternatives rather than use that money to kill people. Some thinkers from the Right may feel this is a bit extreme considering the amount of vegetables we would need to grow in order to run this country on bio-diesel, but their points are very right. We consume too many resources, especially oil, and we sacrifice the well being of other people so that we can be wasteful.

Last Wednesday, Stephen Gaskin spoke on money and oil in foreign politics and mentioned the Carlyle Group, which includes ultra-wealthy businessmen and politicians, including former president George Bush. The Carlyle Group is an investment firm that manages \$13 billion in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Nina Burleigh of TomPaine.com suggests, "The Carlyle connection means that George Bush Senior is on the payroll from private interests that have defense business before the government, while his son is president."

Gaskin also told us that the conflict in Kosovo is based on oil. The trans-Balkan pipeline is presently being constructed.

This past weekend John Danforth met with the presidents of Kenya and Uganda. Then President Bush met with those two leaders in addition to the presidents of Madagascar and Congo in order to talk about peace negotiations to end the civil war in Sudan. There is some terrible bloodshed in Sudan that needs to be stopped. There's also oil in Sudan.

And remember Iraq? I'll give you the facts, and you can believe what you want based on them. Iraq has a huge amount of oil. In about 10

years, over 500,000 Iraqi children have died as a result of economic sanctions. The Iraqi people need food. The U.S. trades food for oil.

And are we familiar with that drug war in Columbia? Columbia is one of the most oil-rich nations in the world.

As far as foreign "aid" goes, we give \$6 billion a year to Israel, which is not even close to being a needy country. It is, however, a political ally in the Middle East.

We can also look at places that do not have oil and see what's going on there. Sub-Saharan African loses 6,000 people to AIDS every day while the U.S. knows how to alleviate a lot of that suffering. In Brazil, 3 percent of the population owns 2/3 of the arable land. The Mexican states of Chiapas and Guerrero are both witnessing human rights violations and military oppression while we complain that Mexicans are trying to enter our country (some of which used to belong to Mexico). And for those of you who feel we have to take care of ourselves before we help the world, please realize that the U.S.A. is still filled with racism, classism and sexism.

And if any of you still don't believe that the world is as lopsided as the statistics and facts that I have given you, then give me a call and we can check the facts together.

My point is that such magnificent international involvement and non-involvement seems to hinge on oil. Our whole reliance on oil is based on our right to drive automobiles that get 14 miles-per-gallon and also on the fact that the people that determine our foreign policy are the same people who make money off of oil and 14 miles-per-gallon automobiles. That these things are taken at the expense of lives is wrong.

Walesa's address overlooks pitfalls of globalization

Review by | Andres Delgado

Lech Walesa-Nobel Laureate, former President of Poland, winner of *Time* magazine's Man of the Year award- came to speak to the University on Friday, Nov. 2. He said his life history was "so rich" that he could hardly pick out any one event to offer to the audience. This problem, however, was one I was above worrying about. "Ah yes, gather near my child, whilst I regale you with the story about the time I watched TV."

Walesa began by making some brief remarks about the relevance of his experiences to the realities faced by the youth of the 21st century. He acknowledged that we live in a vastly different world from the one in which he came up. Blinking in the aftermath of the Cold War, Walesa said that while "we face more challenges in every aspect" we also have "greater opportunities to win the peace." He claimed NATO is strong enough now to begin the process of destroying all sources of confrontation through a grand unification. This vision, rather than his own experiences, would be the topic of his address.

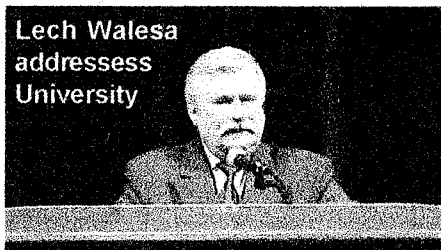
NATO, he said, was born of confrontation. It was a coalition designed to wage war against the economic enemies of the West. Now that the war is over, he claimed that what remains for NATO is to act as an instrument of globalization, a word that denotes a vision of ideological and economic community, not fraternity, around the world. Walesa exhorted the realization of globalization as entailing peace and security on a level unseen in the history of mankind. He appealed to students to responsibly and dedicatedly accept roles as the progenitors of the new community. He warned them to act as the fortunate inheritors of America, the superpower, because they had the opportunity to shape this new community. If

students carried out their responsibility with prudence, he said he could envision a world in which the only "shooting" would be agricultural rather than military, with rain-making pellets replacing bullets and riddling pregnant clouds rather than human beings.

However, there is a hot ongoing debate over the benefits and drawbacks of globalization and its impact upon humanity, none of which were acknowledged by Walesa. Peace and security are two seminal privileges that would be enjoyed by all with the integration of the planet into a single society -a beautiful vision that is worth working for. However, peace and security for the world's citizens have never been the highest priority for the policymakers of America. What gives? As Michael Parenti, a political scientist, puts it, "Given its expansionist nature, capitalism has little inclination to stay home." Peace and security may be seen as happy side effects of opening the world to international business. Indeed, when a company can convince a government to open a previously untapped nation up to unregulated business, the visible effects are often disenfranchisement, poisoned rivers, and the establishment of utterly destitute shantytowns.

Imperialism, the previous incarnation of Globalism, was responsible for plunging previously self-sufficient cultures into abject poverty and slavery. Parenti notes that the hunger and shabbiness of indigenous peoples around the world were not pre-existing states, but instead were brought about by the ravages of European colonialism.

This is not to say that Walesa's vision of a peaceful, unified world is evil, or even necessarily undesirable. A homogenous climate of stability throughout the world is a dream-like prospect. *Governance in a Globalizing World*, an interdisciplinary conglomeration of writings on



Lech Walesa
addresses
University



Photo by Amanda Romine

globalization published in 2000 and edited by Joseph S. Nye, Jr., Dean of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, finds that globalization benefits "the many" by creating new jobs and raising real incomes in poor countries. The trick, however, will be to learn from the past and keep the cost of globalization to a minimum. The potential costs are real. The same book notes the "threats to the environment, [and] to cultural identities" that often have accompanied a nation's incorporation into the world economy. Walesa acknowledged that some loss of native culture is an accepted cost of globalization, but he didn't touch upon the severe environmental destruction that also seems endemic to globalized nations with rich natural resources.

There will be enough magnificently powerful interests working toward integrating the world's population into a single economic entity. However, if there are any future policymakers among University students, I appeal to you to devote your energies toward regulating the expansion of the free market. As we pursue the venerable fruits of commonality - peace and security - the human and environmental elements most vulnerable to destruction must be spoken for and actively defended by today's college students.

MO butts are nasty, getting out of hand; I'm sick of it

Opinion by | Jesse Dowell

I am for real. I'm sick of the fucking cigarette butts in front of and around Missouri Hall. For fuck's sake! It looks nasty as hell and is bad for the environment around the hall. Only a small part of the fault belongs to smokers, however.

As many of the smokers and residents in Missouri Hall know a new rule was passed against smokers. Smokers must be 25 feet away from the building to smoke. The ashtrays, however, are still next to the building. This poses an interesting situation for the smokers. They can: a. leave the conversation in which they are engaged, walk 25 feet and put their cigarette out; or b. continue their conversation, drop the cigarette and crush it with the sole of their shoe or flick away and be cool like James Dean. If I was in that situation I believe I would probably choose b. Most people would say a., but judging by the number of butts on the ground around Missouri Hall, when posed with that choice, they choose b.

This problem might be lessened if the ashtrays would be moved out to where people can use them. So smokers of MO Hall, UNITE! Demand the right to easily put your butts out without doing extra work. Demand the ashtrays to be moved!

Fight the persecution! Ask why did this rule pass. I heard it was because smoking that close to the building is a fire hazard. OK, which is the greater fire hazard: cigarette ashes against brick and concrete sidewalks or cigarette ashes on dried leaves and grass?

Gaskin, Spitfire disappoint, illuminate double standard

Opinion by | John Hilton

On a campaign stop in a small Midwestern town several years ago, a candidate for reelection to the United States Senate was confronted by a local conspiracy theorist with a daunting question. "Aren't you a member of the Trilateral Commission?" the theorist belligerently inquired, waving a copy of an alternative "newspaper" where he had presumably gotten his "information." The candidate, aware that in many circles the Trilateral Commission is known as the engine behind a Jewish-Communist-Eastern Establishment conspiracy to take over the world, rather than the foreign policy think-tank that it actually is, casually smiled and replied in the affirmative. The activist, bowled over by the politician's candor, began to rant about how unconscionable it was for anyone to knowingly participate in such a nefarious scheme. After a moment of reflection the candidate interrupted his constituent and, with a broad grin, calmly asked, "But if there is in fact a small, powerful group of people conspiring to take over the world, wouldn't you want your U.S. Senator to be a part of it?"

When a member of the Right Wing raves about how the Trilateral Commission or the Council on Foreign Relations is preparing a fleet of black helicopters to enslave America, they are met with ridicule, and with good reason.

Such notions are absurd. Unfortunately, when representatives of the Left Wing put forth similarly absurd and fantastic notions of international conspiracy, they are met with sympathetic nods and applause. On a college campus, where intellectualism and rational thinking are supposed to flourish, the climate is often even more conducive to such fantasy. One need only to replace the Trilateral Commission with Shell Oil and the Carlyle Group to recognize that conspiracy theorists at both ends of the political spectrum are equally wrongheaded in their beliefs.

University students were subjected to a veritable parade of ignorance and misinformation last week, and in the interest of truth and enlightenment, yours truly elected to suffer through the ordeal. Stephen Gaskin, a washed-up hippie and former Green Party presidential candidate, spent the better part of two hours last Wednesday night espousing his opinions on U.S. foreign policy, domestic politics, and recent American history.

Drawing on the fact that a majority of those persons in jail for drug offenses in America are minorities, Gaskin concluded that the war on drugs is a scheme by the Religious Right to maintain its political power by disenfranchising a sizable portion of the Left. Gaskin's conviction that "The news is so managed it's pretty

hard to find out anything" is reminiscent of the Liberty Lobby's charge that the Jewish-controlled media manages the content of the news to serve its own purposes. The highpoint of Gaskin's rambling diatribe came when he articulated (and I use that verb loosely) his belief that all military actions taken by the United States in recent years are the work of an international investing firm called the Carlyle Group. To hear Gaskin tell it, the Carlyle Group has carefully orchestrated American foreign policy with the ultimate goal of monopolizing oil reserves in the Caspian Sea region. The fact that Gaskin was not laughed right out of Violette Hall is cause for concern.

The Spitfire Tour, emceed by one of the intellectual giants of the 20th century, Woody Harrelson, descended onto campus last Friday night with the goal of motivating activists to live their ideals. Those who attended the tour were witness to an orgy of muddle-headed blather and vague platitudes extolling the virtues of liberalism and ecological activism. I left the event with a splitting headache, unsure of exactly what the organizers of Spitfire wanted to impress upon the audience.

As best as I could gather from Julia "Butterfly" Hill's speech, corporations are uniformly evil. Never mind getting a good product at a reasonable price, or the billions of dollars cor-

porations and their executives donate to charitable and philanthropic causes every year. Howard Lyman, a former Montana rancher-turned-vegan, related to the audience how having a spinal tumor removed in 1979 somehow convinced him to abandon chemical farming and return to natural agriculture. Tom Ballanco, a former Army Ranger who bills himself as an attorney, spouted a lot of gibberish about the power of love and peace to resolve the current conflict with Afghanistan. Ballanco's convoluted philosophy was incomprehensible, and in an apparent moment of indiscretion Ballanco asserted that dropping a few bombs on CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., would stop the real source of terrorism in the world. How an American citizen could say such a thing in good conscience is beyond me.

When Gaskin and the Spitfire Tour's counterparts on the Right Wing speak up, their opinions are met with scorn and ridicule, and rightly so. The Council on Foreign Relations is no more a conspiracy for one-world government than I am the King of England. Unfortunately, the sword of reason does not seem to cut both ways. Harrelson & Co. are invited to tour the country and sell their half-baked ideas to supposedly discerning college students under the guise of intellectualism and activism. In the end, I don't know whether to laugh or to cry.

TEAR YOUR BLIND

What's your favorite century?



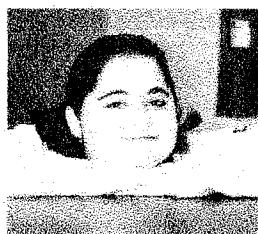
"I think ... I'm ... Christ ..."

- Mark Swanson
Freshman



"... the twentieth, probably ...
because of the [thigh master]."

-Ryan French
Freshman



"This probably sounds really bad,
but I would definitely say the twentieth century [because it was the first time sweatshops enslaved toddler savages so I can have cheap Nike's!]"

-Bobbi Heflin
Freshman

*Disclaimer: These quotes have been grossly modified. Remarks inside the square brackets were fabricated, while the ellipsis indicate portions of removed text. All else is legitimate

Millions dying; WTO marches ahead as planned

Compiled by I Will Worden

The following was compiled from a Third World Network report entitled 'TRIPS, Patents and Access to Medicines: Proposals for Clarification and Reform.' It was written by Cecilia Oh with assistance from Martin Khor and valuable contributions from Carlos Correa, Bhagirath Lal Das and Chakravarthi Raghavan. The full report is available on TWN's website, www.twinside.org.sg. The issues involved with the state of the WTO are very extensive and could never be covered in one issue of The Monitor, much less one article. However, the reality of what the globalization of capitalism is doing, and what the WTO will encourage it to continue to do, is very serious and very eminent. The following facts regarding pharmaceutical monopolies and their effects on developing countries are just the tip of a very large iceberg. I strongly suggest you learn more about the WTO, as it will likely affect your future as well as that of billions of humans around the globe. Sites of interest: www.indymedia.org, www.twinside.org, www.altpr.org, www.infoshop.org.

About 14 million people die each year from infectious diseases, many of which are preventable or treatable, such as acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria and tuberculosis. Up to 45 percent of deaths in Africa and South-East Asia are thought to be due to an infectious disease. The death toll is unacceptably high in developing countries, even as health indicators show improvements in many countries of the world. This health crisis is caused by several interlinked factors: poverty and lack of access to health services, water and sanitation being some of them. However, a vital factor in the promotion of public health - and very often a matter of life and death - is the supply of effective and affordable medicines and people's access to such medicines and treatments.

In the case of HIV/AIDS, a human tragedy of mind-boggling dimensions is now at hand. Of the 36 million people with HIV/AIDS in the world, 25 million are in sub-Saharan Africa. In certain African countries, more than a quarter of the adult population are infected with HIV, and life expectancy is projected to decline dramatically in the next 10 years. For example, life expectancy in South Africa is projected to fall by 20 years by the year 2010 due to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has put the spotlight on the issue of affordability of essential medicines. In industrialized countries, AIDS deaths have been dramatically reduced partly because of the availability of life-saving medicines. However, the cost of a year's worth of the standard treatment, a combination of three antiretroviral drugs, is estimated at US\$10,000-15,000 (*The Guardian*, Feb. 12, 2001). This price level puts such treatment out of reach of most people in the developing world, where 95 percent of the people with HIV are from. Prices of patented medicines are very much linked to the monopolies enjoyed by pharmaceutical companies, protected and maintained by patent rights.

Patent rights are being extended around the world through the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related

Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Proponents of the TRIPS Agreement argue that patents and other intellectual property rights (IPRs) are essential for promoting research and development (R&D) as well as stimulating innovation. Yet, there has been scant evidence that the introduction of TRIPS-compliant standards of IPRs protection has promoted transfer of technology, R&D or innovation in developing countries.

The intensive use of the patent system by corporations is intended to protect their competitive edge and markets by keeping out their competitors. This strategic use of the patent system has the effect of stifling R&D, preventing innovation and restricting information flows in the developing countries. Justification of patent protection is sought on the grounds that the negative effect of monopoly rights will be outweighed by the incentive for creative activity, innovation and R&D. This trade-off is beginning to be questioned because the price and competition costs of strict patent protection have been very high. In the health and pharmaceuticals sector, this trade-off often comes with life-or-death consequences.

The implementation of the TRIPS Agreement gives rise to factors that can put access to medicines out of reach for millions of people in the developing world. The TRIPS Agreement obliges WTO Member countries to adopt and enforce high standards of IPRs protection, which were derived from the standards used in developed countries. Prior to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations which spawned the WTO, some 50 countries did not grant patent protection for pharmaceutical products. This number included certain developed countries such as Portugal and Spain, and many developing countries such as Brazil, India, Mexico and Egypt. Many developing countries regarded the absence of protection as necessary to promote access to drugs at competitive prices. Conforming to TRIPS by recognizing and strengthening protection of IPRs over pharmaceutical products and processes - will cause problems for developing countries. Implementation of the TRIPS Agreement may lead to high drug prices, low access to medicines and a weakening of pharmaceutical industries in the developing countries.

TRIPS proponents and the pharmaceutical industry argue that patent protection is essential to ensure R&D for new drugs, but there has been little evidence to demonstrate that the patent system will ensure investment in R&D for diseases that afflict mainly the poor. Of the 1,223 new chemical entities developed in the 21-year period between 1975-1996, only 11 were for the treatment of tropical diseases. The last major new tuberculosis drug was developed 30 years ago, but tuberculosis remains a major cause of death in many developing countries. There is concern that R&D in the pharmaceutical sector is concentrated on products intended for the lucrative developed-country markets, given the increased investments for R&D on drugs for impotence, obesity and baldness, instead of R&D on new and more effective drugs for life-threatening or poverty-related "Third World diseases," including malaria and tuberculosis.

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War in Afghanistan will not assure freedom from fear

Opinion by | Dr. Linda Seidel

I have been thinking a lot about safety. All Americans—all people living within U.S. borders—have. I find myself checking the return address on every new package that comes in the mail, washing my hands even more than usual, and heaving a sigh of relief to hear on the news that my runny nose is not a symptom of anthrax.

Meanwhile, I go to class. I assign Tennyson to my British literature students: *Idylls of the King*, the Victorian poet laureate's meditation on what it takes to create and sustain a civilization. He offers the medieval legend of Arthur, who combined warrior skills with a sort of idealism; who consolidated power by killing or driving out the "heathen" (non-Christian Teutons, I suppose) and subduing the local competition. Tennyson was already old-fashioned by the time the *Idylls* were complete in 1885, his vast poetic gift wasted in the service of a soon-to-be-outmoded imperial vision.

Now we say that we have embarked on a new kind of war, with 21st-century methods and goals. It is true that we are not asked to follow an idealistic king; the sacrifices we are told to make for the sake of the common good

are limited to the mandate to be brave and "go shopping." We no longer see people as "heathen," and we try not to stereotype those different from ourselves.

Still, I have to wonder about a war that offers no certainty of locating, let alone punishing, the criminal we regard as responsible for Sept. 11, and only puts ordinary Afghan citizens at risk and inevitably turns them into enemies, despite our inadequate air-dropped food packages. There may be no heathen, but we are killing people anyway in our quest for that elusive safety we used to take for granted.

Nervously, some of us turn upon one another. My carry-on bag gets searched twice at the Kirksville airport. I might feel flattered if I thought I really looked fearsome like a terrorist. But I know it is just the reverse: I look vulnerable, an easy target for a young soldier on a power trip.

Arthur maintained order by rewarding followers and killing the rest. We might be able to reward our followers, but we cannot kill the rest. (Besides, I have begun to worry that I, too, might be perceived as one of "the rest.") We are going to have to find some other way to make ourselves feel safe.

"We are killing people for that elusive safety we used to take for granted."

Apathy vs. Racism:

The Real Problems Facing Black America and the Inner City



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Premarital sex: sensual ecstasy or really bad idea?

Opinion by | Jami Burns

If Jayme and I were interested in girls and had sex together, would it be masturbation? I mean it is Jami loving Jayme. Isn't that self-love? Sex is always a mess- fun, but still a mess. It can make or break a relationship, and in general it can be a pain in the ass.

So many questions come with sex, such as: When is okay to lose your virginity? How soon is too soon? How long of a wait is too long?

My mom answered these questions with one little bit of advice: don't have sex with a person unless you're sure that it would be okay if you had children together. Sex is a means of procreation, not just a recreational activity. I'm sure you all realize this, but sometimes it's necessary to reiterate certain points. Here is a good bit of advice: think back to all your friends that have gotten married for a child and then the marriage hasn't worked out. Think about girls that have to put their dreams on hold to take care of a night of pleasure that ended up lasting 18 years. From this standpoint, I think that waiting until you are married to engage in sex is a good idea. At least at that point you don't have the anxiety that comes with waiting for a phone call or thinking the relationship won't last now that it is based on physical pleasure.

I have no answers on the subject of sex. It is not something I'm well versed in. I do have

experience, however, in a relationship ending because I wanted to wait, but that's about it. When I talked to people about sex, I found that if they didn't giggle, they agreed that sex is just a mess that needs to be taken care of on your own. And I agree.

So on that note, if you do not follow the advice above and you decide to "do it," wear a condom, take your daily pill, and be safe.

Opinion by | Adam IX

Sex is bad. Maybe not in the physical sense, but it is if you want to keep a relationship healthy. Sex is one of the four big things that break up relationships, along with religion, money, and a lack of interest. (Some people have told me that distance is a big relationship-breaker, but I believe that breakups over long distances are interest-related, and that a breakup would occur faster if the couples were located closer to each other. OK, back to sex.) In a relationship, girls believe that sex is the highest level, a way that she can truly express her love for her boyfriend. Even if that sex amounts to just the occasional blowjob, she's doing these things for the guy. Girls, you should know right away that the guys DO appreciate this, although they most likely don't feel that it is the highest expression of the love that you

two have for each other. Guys, on that same note, you probably shouldn't have sex with girls you don't know extremely well, simply because girls who will have sex with you without knowing you very well have probably done

it before. Trust me, you don't want to sleep with these girls. Unhappy terms such as "dis-ease-ridden" and "loose" come to mind.

The other side to this conundrum is the absence of sex in the relationship. Same diff. This will also bring down relationships just as quickly, if not faster. The guy, in this case, wants to have unlawful carnal knowledge with his girlfriend, but she won't have it because most likely because she is a virgin. Two possibilities: he will get tired of trying to sleep with her and dump her, which will make her feel worthless; or she will relent and sleep with him, causing a terrible resentment on her part, which will lead to a breakup. I've got to warn you, this is the hopeless romantic in me speaking from this point. I feel that relationships shouldn't be about sex but about love. To put this into a timescale, if both parties are sexually experienced, sex should happen between four and six months. If one or both of you are virgins, you've probably been waiting until marriage anyway, so you should go on waiting. On this point, I don't think you two should make love unless you truly know each other, love each other, and feel like you understand one another completely. Remember that this is the hopeless romantic in me saying this, and that part of me believes that you shouldn't even get into a relationship with someone until you are friends and you know each other a little intimately. Understand why they call it hopeless romanticism?

She said, He said



A two-sided look at relationships

tune in next issue for more stuff about relationships

Shorthand guide to spam prevention

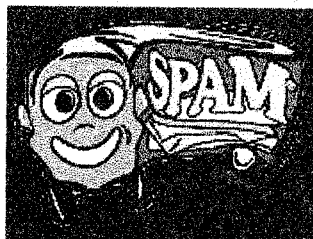
Feature by | Bob Ell

It happens to me at least ten times a day. I go to my room, look on my desk, and there it is: a big, stinky, uninvited guest. It's a lot like returning to your parents' house to find a hobo living in your room and sleeping in your bed. That's right, I'm talking about unsolicited e-mail, a.k.a., spam.

I get all kinds of spam. Credit card spam, porno spam, ebay spam, more porno spam, fantasy sports spam and even more porno spam. Then there's my favorite kind of spam — the kind you get from a real person — the kind that says, "If you forward this to ten people, you'll receive a thousand dollars/a Disney vacation/an Old Navy gift certificate." Now I'm not saying that I am some sort of expert at spam prevention or anything, but I've learned a few things over the years.

First of all, if you use some sort of web-based e-mail service like Hotmail or Yahoo, your service may offer a bulk mail folder. This will automatically divert the mass mailed messages from faceless corporations into a separate folder so you can easily delete them without actually having to read them. If you use your University e-mail account and you use some program like Eudora or Outlook Express, open the messages and look at the bottom of the message for information on unsubscribing or opting out. Any reputable marketing firm will provide clear instructions on how to opt out of a mailing list. Follow the instructions and that should be all you need to do.

Then there's the tougher issue of urban



legends. Some messages that frequently pop up in my inbox taunt the recipient with promises of free Disney vacations, \$1000 from Bill Gates, or gift certificates from Old Navy, Outback Steakhouse, or any other outrageous claim. Remember that old saying about things that are too good to be true? Yeah, don't believe any of that bull about e-mail tracking programs. They don't exist. It's that simple. Have you ever received e-mail about gangs who drive around with their headlights out and then kill people who flash their lights at them? Have you heard the one about HIV-infected needles being put into movie theatre seat cushions? Mailboxes? Public telephone change slots? Don't believe those either. Need a place to check the validity of a certain e-mail's outlandish claims? Go to <http://www.snopes.com>, where they do nothing but verify (or disprove) urban legends. If e-mail claims that something happened to a friend of a friend, then you should visit this site.

Here's another way you can help stop spam — quit sending it! When you receive a message that says you'll get something for nothing if you just pass the e-mail along to someone else, delete it. Be an educated e-citizen by knowing the difference between fact and fiction.

Urinal Jesus vanishes from shrine after Monitor article

Feature by | W. Aaron Wilson

Since the printing of my last article about the enigmatic face found in a Barnett Hall urinal, I have been made aware of some sad news: the urinal Jesus, a beloved object of pilgrimage, has mysteriously vanished.

On the first pilgrimage I made after Midterm Break, I met with a surprise and a shock that I will not soon forget: there in the urinal, where I had once seen an image of divine compassion, I now saw only dead, blank porcelain.

Half expecting the image to miraculously reappear later on, I have delayed reporting the sad truth to *The Monitor* readership, but I'm afraid now I have no choice. It would seem that the urinal Jesus has left us for good.

Why has the urinal Jesus chosen to leave us? Where did it go? Will it ever return to us? Did I do something to cause its disappearance? Did my original article, which had a 1.5 rating

to bring its presence to the attention of the student body, inadvertently cause it to remove itself from our world?

These questions, such as those surrounding the reasons for the appearance of the urinal Jesus in the first place, may never be answered.

I can only take comfort in knowing that everything that happens is part of some ineffable plan.

But, I'd like our readers to be on the lookout for the urinal Jesus and any manifestation it may choose to come to us in later. He may come again, and we must be ready for His return. Do not confine this watch to urinals! His next incarnation may be

that of a lichen pattern on a tree trunk, a burn mark on a tortilla, or an oddly shaped M&M.

Should you find His image, do not make the same mistake I did. Immediately erect a shrine, advertise like crazy, and rake in the dollars of passing tourists before the miraculous manifestation ends. I'm sure it's what He would have wanted.



Urinal Jesus devotees must await second coming for ascension into Urinal Heaven

How it begins...

Feature by | John Bisges

Please help me.

Big Brother is watching, don't be afraid. He is looking for terrorists and those who might be harboring them. He wants to keep you safe. Big Brother is your friend. He is only after those who present a threat to you and your way of living.

My way of living?

Your way of living is defined as the way in which you live your life. You should not feel panicked, self-conscious or anxious because of the presence of people you perceive as threatening, since this will present a threat to your way of life.

Okay.

Big Brother is here to remove the terrorists who present such a threat, so that you may continue with your daily life.

Cool. Thanks.

By the way, we have removed your neighbor, who was a terrorist.

What?!

He made those around him anxious and self-conscious by his presence.

How?

He recklessly spouted opinions that did not correspond to those of the consensus and of Big Brother. He was causing people to become anxious and forcing them to question their way of life, which is tantamount to self-consciousness and fear. He was therefore a terrorist and was removed.

Wait a minute...

What?

I didn't mean for you to take away normal people who just have different opinions from mine. I meant the maniacs like Osama bin Laden who ram airplanes into skyscrapers and put anthrax in the mail.

Very well. What would you have Big Brother do about these maniacs?

Well, kill them.

Kill who?

Kill bin Laden.

Then what?

Kill the rest of the terrorists.

Very well. Will you feel better then?

.....

You see, here is the problem, and here is where the necessity of Big Brother's presence

lies. In this war there is no enemy for you to sink your bullets into, no army to bomb or dictator to topple. The war is all around you. Inside of you. You have been cut deeper than you could have ever suspected, and now the wound is infected, eating at you from within.

What...what can I do?

There is nothing you can do. You can only heed the warnings of Big Brother and help him to eradicate those who are responsible for wounding you.

But what about the infection?

Big Brother will also remove all those who would present any further threat to you.

Yes, but what about the infection?

Destroying the infection would remove the purpose of Big Brother.

Yes, of course.

But you need Big Brother.

Yes...but only until I heal my wounds.

But you will not heal.

Why not?

Because without your infection, Big Brother is no longer needed.

I know! I don't want to be afraid anymore!

Do not worry. Big Brother will remove all those who would present any further threat to you and your way of life.

You're not listening! My way of life is already gone! Now I can't get on a plane, open my mail are turn on the TV without being afraid that something else will happen! Do something! I want my life back!

Big Brother will remove all those who present any threat to you and your way of life.

But I'm still afraid! You're not getting rid of all the threats!

There will always be threats. Threats existed before the present situation, else the present situation would not exist. Your fear does not stem from the sudden presence of the threats themselves, but from the shattering of your belief in your own invulnerability. Big Brother's capacity lies in the removal of threats, but he can never remove all of them. Hence, you are forever vulnerable and you will forever need Big Brother.

BUT I'M STILL AFRAID!!!

That is your prerogative.

...News That is unFit...

If you give a mouse a cookie, he'll get pushed into the fountain for being a bitch

Eagle Forum Collegians president Kevin Roach is reportedly in good condition after a frightening incident last Tuesday night. Roach was rushed to Northeast Regional Medical Center's Emergency Room/Podiatry Clinic after he was reportedly pushed into the fountain by a hoodlum.

DPS received a call late Tuesday from a distressed Roach and immediately dispatched an ambulance to the back entrance of the SUB. "Well, he was crying really hard, so we had to assume he was seriously injured," stated the switchboard operator on duty that night. "You couldn't really understand anything he was saying, aside from the words 'mommy' and 'it hurts,' so I read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* to him until the medics arrived."

The DPS officers who arrived on the scene and took Roach's statement told Monitor reporters that Roach had suffered great mental anguish at the hands of the attacker, and a minor cut on his pinky finger. Apparently he had a previous encounter with the attacker, and reported to DPS that the individual "made me feel self-conscious and anxious." Roach has begun a petition to have the fountain filled with conservative-leaning gnomes who will catch anyone pushed into the fountain. The gnomes will swim.

Hanging by a moment here with poo

The University's Student Health Center has reported an influx of students complaining of "goddamn chunks of shit stuck up on my butt hairs," as stated by one student suffering of the dingleberry affliction. More than 230 people entered the clinic before noon on Monday looking for relief.

According to one University pre-med student interning at the only place to get free samples of your favorite heavily regulated medications, "It's more of a problem than it seems like it would be, because you don't even know it's there. But then you start your day, and you think maybe you've got a tumor on your sphincter or something really bad, and so you come into the clinic and find out it's only a chunk of poop. I mean, dealing with the embarrassment of somebody picking around at your back door AND the fact that you have enough hair down there to snag a nugget or two."

Clinic officials reported that all of the dingleberry victims had been to the Lifehouse concert on Saturday night. Some suggest that the concert actually affected the digestive processes of attending students. Others point out that attending the concert would have been more likely to cause nausea than pebble-sized feces.

So, was I supposed to wear the panties, or....?

A number of on-campus sexual harassment complaints involving a young man were linked with a recent *Cosmopolitan* article. The magazine instructed readers to say, "Can I show you my new panties? Whoops, must've forgot 'em!" in order to get "picked up" at a party or other social event.

The University student, having misunderstood the intended audience of the article, was allegedly approaching young women and reciting the statement, "Can I show you my panties?" He then proceeded to remove his pants and continue with the statement, "Whoops, must've forgot 'em!" Four women fell victim to the would-be ladies man before he was taken into custody by local authorities.

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SAB misleads students with Andrews posters

Review by I Martin Schmidt

The Student Activities Board (SAB) failed to deliver the promise of a top dollar performance on Friday. Jessica Andrews is a "brand name" country singer with two number one hits, but she was a pitiful disappointment and horrible main act. The posters that were hung around campus did me an injustice by leading me to believe that she was a sexy country entertainer that would put on a slightly seductive on-stage act. All of my expectations failed to come to fruition. Jessica Andrews was not attractive, and she failed to seduce anyone but the idiot in the crowd with a sign that read "Will you make out with me?" In fact, Jessica Andrews is a measly child of 17 years that shouldn't be on the college concert circuit in the first place. If a rich female entertainer visits any college, male students should at least be able to imagine her naked.

One of the biggest problems with Miss

Andrews was her choice of songs. Not only did her country songs sound much like today's pop scene, they also attempted to cross into soul with a pitiful rendition of "Chain, Chain, Chain." Stick to country bitch! Andrews was even upstaged by her own backup band, which routinely got more cheers than her because the female backup singer/pianist Angela was H O-double T-hot! She was the kind of woman you can see yourself taking home and screwing the shit out of all week long. Backdoor no babies! "Damn, she's so hot I wouldn't mind tag teaming her just as long as I get a piece of that ass," Joe Marine, a junior, said. So here's a tip for Miss Andrews's tour manager: get Jessica off the stage and let Angela strip for a while, sing a song or two, and then resume stripping. Maybe let Jessica out of the trailer to sign autographs, but for the sake of all things beautiful, don't let her face be seen.

Incubus seamlessly layers

Morning View

Incubus

Sony/Epic

Review by I Dave Bush

I was all ready to put on my "God Of All Things Music" hat and judge the latest album by Incubus, entitled *Morning View*, to be unworthy of my oh-so-holy ears. I was ready to roll my eyes because the world had lost another band to popular music and bad acoustic ballads. It didn't happen. *Morning View* is a great record.

I was scared when I bought the disc. *Morning View*'s last two major-label releases are both among the 20 or so albums in my collection that never escape heavy rotation. I had heard the radio release, "Wish You Were Here," and it was really good. It was good in a way that could have been hiding a whole CD's worth of sappy, uninspired music. It turns out that the song is good in a way that is very representative of the vastly diverse 13 tracks.

The album begins with a show of the band's ability to gel and create layers that flow together seamlessly. It starts with some swooshy guitar effects, courtesy of Mike Einziger. But then all at once, Dirk Lance (a.k.a. Alex Katunich) jumps in with a simple bass line along with Jose Pasillas, Jr. on drums, and DJ Chris Kilmore and vocalist Brandon Boyd lock together with some tasty percussive texturing before the song really kicks in. The first 30 seconds of "Nice To Know You" are promising, and then it indeed starts to rock out. Einziger kicks in with a really nice fat guitar riff, and I begin to enjoy myself. The song shifts back to the intensely mellow feel of the beginning a few times, but it always returns to the driving rock that made *Make Yourself* a great album.

It's remarkable how slyly the transitions on *Morning View* pass by, barely noticeable to the listener. On a number of times, the entire album eases effortlessly from serene to heavy and back, as do quite a few of the songs held within. The middle of "Circles," which rawks

solid from the start, shifts over to a happy little trees progression before it kicks back over to rocking some more. In "Blood on the Ground," the more laid-back verses build perfectly into the vigorous chorus, and again there is a bit of calm before the rest of the storm.

The lyrics on *Morning View* are terribly well-written and intelligent, if not occasionally a bit syrupy, and they don't get repetitive despite the fact that Boyd wrote a major chunk of the lyrics as an outlet for a tough break-up. Incubus has strayed from the social activism found in songs like "Make Yourself" and "Out From Under" of *Make Yourself* in exchange for thoughts on love and relationship-type stuff. It's unfortunate there is not more than one song that doesn't include a reference to the mysterious "you" that apparently crushed Mr. Boyd's heart.

This record sounds quite a bit like it should. It falls in pretty naturally as a follow-up to their last, based on its similar vibe but somewhat different direction. It gets better each time you listen, which has to be the mark of a great album. There are so many things to notice, it takes a few listens for it all to sink in. It makes me want to go back and listen to *Make Yourself*, just in case I might have missed something really good. Weighed against the MTV exposure and radio-play from which this band has suffered, it's impressive that they've stayed so close to what they've always been: a rapidly evolving being (having progressed from a quirky, funky, groove-based heavy to a less quirky, melody-minded rock in just four years) that knows what solid riffs, well-planned and worthwhile compositions, and gripping melodies sound like.

Every track seems notable, but I'll spare you the time by simply saying this is a fantastic CD. Not all of the songs are quite as rockin' as those on their previous release, but the ones that do rock just rock even harder. The use of turntables is fantastically well-placed, the background vocals have matured, and the focus on melody and song-writing make the less-heavy approach one that serves only to improve Incubus' groove on *Morning View*.

Foreign Film review

Before Night Falls

Starring Javier Bardem

Directed by Julian Schnabel

Review by I John Becker and Anna Koehne

Before Night Falls is the compelling story of Reinaldo Arenas, a young Cuban revolutionary fallen victim to the revolution that he helped to create. The story takes us from his childhood through his adolescence all the way to his death, and gives us a good glimpse into the life of a homosexual writer in post-revolutionary Cuba. It is a movie to watch with full concentration. Every moment oozes with color and beauty.

The new strictness of Fidel Castro's regime doesn't allow for the liberal, gay anti-political poet. The stage is set for the film very early on, as we see Reinaldo's grandfather condemn him for having the gift of poetry. As his grandfather attacks a tree on which he has written a poem we are given a glimpse into the future: a future of being repressed, attacked and censored by a government wishing to crush any and all thought that may be "counter-revolutionary." As one judge of a poetry contest told Reinaldo, "People that make art are a danger to any dictatorship. They make beauty, and beauty is dangerous."

However, the road to repression is gradual, and in the beginning we are thrilled with the hope and possibilities that the revolution could hold for the future. Through expert use of color, and the amazing performances of Javier Bardem, we sense the hope of the future.

John - A somewhat surprising element, to me, was the prevalent theme of homosexuality. Many Hispanic cultures look very unfavorably on homosexual lifestyles and behaviors but, to paraphrase from the film, Cuba went through many revolutions at the same time, and the sexual revolution was very definitely prominent. I also thought it was quite abrupt when I found out that Reinaldo was gay. I suppose I just assumed him to be straight, and missed the hints that Anna tells me are in the beginning of the film, but I think it could have been done a little more gradually. Other than that, the plot sequence seemed very well thought out.

Anna - Some of the most wonderful parts of the film are when Javier Bardem reads Reinaldo's poetry in Spanish. The words be-

come liquid, dripping with his thoughts. It is made even more powerful with Julian Schnabel's visual images that go with it. We become in awe of Reinaldo's mother as he describes her in a poem like a huge tree trunk, strong and beautiful. Another poem is about the rebels, with live footage to accompany the words, capturing the feelings of a revolution.

John - The poetry is in Spanish, but the movie dialogue is in accented English, which was interesting to me. At first I found it odd, but it does seem a better option than the lame English accent that producers usually fall back on to let us know that the story doesn't take place in the United States. The only other good option in my opinion would be to have the whole film in Spanish, with English subtitles, but that would be more expensive to do.

Anna - Javier Bardem was a phenomenal actor. He is so natural and convincing. I am in absolute shock that Russell Crowe won best actor over his performance in this film. Bardem has so much passion and presence. He has a poet's voice and incredible talent.

There are also a few cameos with Sean Penn and a cross-dressing Johnny Depp (and go figure, he looks amazing dressed in drag), which is enough reason to rent this film.

My favorite sequence is Reinaldo's description of water, with amazing footage of the sea moving with life. Water is very symbolic in this film. It is a constant companion to Reinaldo, also his escape and inspiration. He says his favorite things are his typewriter, the youth of those days (during the revolution), and the full discovery of the sea.

John - I was fascinated with how well Reinaldo embodies the spirit of Communism in the film. He doesn't think of himself, is forgiving and is a perfect picture of working for the common good and not for personal gain. It is ironic to me that a supposedly Communist government would pick that type of people to call counter-revolutionary, when in reality they are the best examples of the Communist ideal.

A very touching film, it makes it easy to empathize with the plight of people suffering at the hands of oppressive governments. It is a true story, based off of the book by Reinaldo Arenas, and you can find both the book and the movie in Pickler Library. This film is incredibly intense, so save it for a night when you don't feel like watching *Tommy Boy* again

HEY THERE,
GOOFY McSTUDENT,
THE MONITOR WANTS YOU
TO WRITE STUFF FOR US...
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE YOU
CAN GET KICKED OFF THE
INDEX STAFF

Jacko still *Invincible*, new album proves it

Invincible

Michael Jackson

Sony/Epic

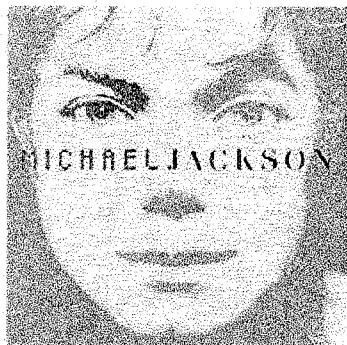
Review by | Justin Anderson

The King of Pop's new album is more fun than a monkey in a barrel named Bubbles. Called *Invincible*, this album shows that the man who single-handedly created pop music still knows how to please. The album debuted last week at #1 on the billboard charts, an impressive feat no matter who the hell you are.

The songs on *Invincible* are divided almost 50-50 between up-beat pop that you can dance to, and cootie-infested love songs, which you can also "dance" to, if you know what I mean. And I think you do. In fact I know you do.

"You Rock My World" is the first single off of the album, and, while it's a good song, it sounds like it could have been ripped right off of "Thriller" (Writer's Note: That sentence fulfills my mandatory "Thriller" reference that must be done when talking about MJ). This song does a good job of reminding people how good MJ was and is. However, MJ shows he doesn't live in the past, and the rest of the album shows that he has embraced the trends of pop and used all the studio tricks in the world to produce a hip album.

Invincible starts off great with three pop songs. Be warned, however, unlike most new pop songs, these songs have a melody. That may be a new experience for some of you, but



don't worry, you'll live. "Break of Dawn" is one of the slow songs that really shines. That, and "Speechless," are truly great songs for when you are "in the mood".

Michael pulls in some big talent, like Carlos Santana in the spectacular "Whatever Happens." This leads to some great variety throughout the album. However, some songs, like "2000 Watts," while catchy, are just too generic. Michael's voice sounds great. Whether this is studio magic or still just talent, it doesn't matter, it just sounds great. In some cases, though, it's scary. On "Butterflies" he hits some of the highest notes I've ever heard (and my favorite band is Rush).

If you still need proof that Michael Jackson knows what he's doing, watch his 30th Anniversary tribute tonight at 8 p.m. on CBS. If you still need more proof, check out www.michaeljackson.com. Whatever you think about MJ's personal life, it doesn't matter. He knows how to write great music. This album proves that. Bottom Line: This album kicks ass; go buy it.

Lifeshouse proves lifeless

Review by | Martin Schmidt

The latest flop of musical entertainment on campus occurred last Friday night with the appearance of The Calling and Lifeshouse. The lack of impressive musical talent and stage ability seems to be the plague of SAB concerts. Neither band could compare to any of the good bands on tour right now like Cake, Weezer or They Might Be Giants. Despite this fact The Calling stood tall above Lifeshouse as the better band.

The Calling consistently played songs that showed promise and they were sexy enough that they will sell to shallow teens that listen to crap like N'Sync and Britney Spears. The truly sad thing about The Calling was that they could turn out some quality punk or good metal if they would turn up the guitars and play faster. One good thing about The Calling was that they were kind enough to sign autographs after the show, something that Lifeshouse didn't do despite the number of fans that waited patiently.

Freshman Mustin Schmanderson said, "Lifeshouse was terrible enough that they need to sign autographs to salvage their reputation,

this is bullsh—!" Sometimes I think Mustin has two brains working for him. Bend Over.

Lifeshouse should work on their technical skills and learn to play one guitar really well instead of bringing seventeen along just for looks. While we're talking about guitars, the first guitarist should invest

some money in antiperspirant, half-way through the show it looked as if he had just finished a ten-mile run. It was just disgusting. Their sad attempt to get touchy feely with the crowd was simply pathetic. Sitting on stools and singing softly while playing acoustic guitars does not make the crowd feel for the idiots on stage.

Photo by | Amanda Romine



Lifeshouse member about to pick nose

This band had entirely too little cowbell.

This is a plea to the SAB, get a band that fuckin' rocks, please! We want to be entertained and we want the entertainment to be as high quality as your budget will allow. Next time there is an SAB concert, we shouldn't have a band, but we should just bring CD's and play what we want to hear really loud. It would be cheaper and much higher quality than the crap that is being dished our way currently. Anyhoo, if you want a good show go to the Weezer with Tenacious D or U2 concerts on Nov. 28.

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63501*We Buy Used Magazines and Tapes***Republican NAACP
president to speak on
racism, apathy****Story by | Derek Spellman**

An NAACP president and a Bush supporter? Meet Shannon Reeves.

Shannon Reeves, the Sec. of the California Republican Party and president of the Oakland National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), will address University students on Wednesday, Nov. 27 on the plight of African-Americans in the inner city.

The address, entitled "Racism is not the #1 Problem Facing Black America: How Apathy Hurts Inner Cities," is sponsored by the University's College Republicans and will focus on how to regenerate the inner city through grassroots organization rather than governmental programs.

"We wanted to bring someone who was different from the speakers we had invited before," Wayne Yocum, the chairman of College Republicans, said. "[Reeves] seemed to represent a demographic that most people don't equate with Republicans."

Reeves, 32, has gained a measure of fame in the Republican Party in the last few years as a conservative advocate for African-Americans. A regular on the talk show circuit and a multimillionaire, Reeves' credentials include a stint on Jesse Jackson's abortive presidential campaign in 1988 and a failed bid for mayor of Oakland in 1998, in which he ran on a platform of "No. More Excuses."

Reeves left the Democratic Party in 1989 after Jackson failed to capture the Democratic

nomination for president. More than a decade later, Reeves now divides his time between the lecture circuit and his business, Urban Petroleum, which owns a string of Chevron-branded gas stations and convenience stores in Oakland.

Reeves also presides over Freedom Fund, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to regenerating slums and decaying house projects in California's urban centers. His "No More Excuses" platform decries social welfare policies and lays an overwhelming emphasis on self-sufficiency. It also claims that the Democratic Party takes African-Americans for granted and that African-Americans should throw their support behind the Republican Party.

Yocum said that Reeves stirred his interest because his politics defied the customary Republican mold. "I wanted to bring a speaker that few people would have preconceived notions about," he said. "I wanted to broach subjects that Republicans usually shy away from."

Yocum said he hopes Reeves' address will stimulate discussion and deepen students' understanding of political issues.

"The goal of the event is to heighten the political discourse on campus. That should be the goal of every political group on campus. I think too often [campus political groups] get into petty games and politics, and that bores me."

The address is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. in Violette Hall 1000.

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and Operated

Translate dis, bitch

<http://www.joel.net/EBONICS/translator.asp>

Review by I Justin Anderson

When it comes ta tight websites, none can beat da Ebonics translator page. don't make me shank ya! It iz very tight. peep this shit. With its random werdz an' phat looks, nuttin' beats dis here website and git Sheniquah's ass back ova' heeah. I love dis here website all ye damn hood ratz.. And ah th'o't ya will too w0rd! if ya wants some pimp-tight insults, try usin' dis here website ya'll is mad stupid. If ya th'o't I be lying, just ax Justin you know das right! Slap mah fro. he says dat da internet iz fo' pieces o' sheeit like ya an don't make me pull mah gat! Here iz how it werkz Ya' dig? Type in a phrase like: Monkeys fly at midnight with the angels and the girls. And you get: Monkeys fly at midnight wiff da angels an' da ho's. Jus' like Orenthawl James. Well, if ya still gots concerns, just check out da website with muh beeotch.

www.theonion.com

Review by I Cameron Moore

So you like *The Monitor*, do ya? Well, I'll tell you what, we've got nothing on *The Onion*, that's for sure. Maybe this goes without saying, but *The Onion* is the most consistently funny publication in existence. I can't think of an instance when I went to this website and didn't cry from laughing. In addition to being funnier than this paper, their satire is so sharp that it will cut your eyes when you read it. And even in this country's current times of trouble, their jabs at American culture are as relentless as ever. *The Onion's* parody of the "America Under Attack" theme seen on all major news networks is genius (it is titled "Holy Fucking Shit: Attack on America") and I will never forget the headline "Holy shit. Man walks on fucking moon," followed by the sub-heading "Neil Armstrong's historic first words on moon: Holy living fuck."

Kyoto, from page 1

people.

There is much speculation that emissions trading will eventually be completely privatized, a move that would put credits from all over the world into the hands of self-serving corporations to do with as they please. This, of course, borders irrelevance though, because these corporations will likely have the most influence in these decisions anyway, regardless of legality, as they do in many other governmental processes. Another proposed possibility is that the WTO will declare the Protocol illegal, and therefor be able to completely ignore standards.

The Kyoto Protocol is unlikely to do anything to slow global warming and will certainly not stop or reverse it. When we hear Dan Rather reporting that it is only a matter of time before NYC slides off the East Coast, when we have

factual evidence that the ice caps are melting and sea levels and CO2 levels and temperatures are rising; when hurricanes become common and living on an island borders suicidal; when the shit is just inches from the fan, that is when it is time to do something. That time is now. All of these things are happening now. Capitalism thrives on the death of people and the death of our home, the Earth; it would defy economic logic for capitalist influences to actually help our environmental condition. A slow-down of global warming would require virtually abandoning all fossil fuel energy sources. If our capitalist leaders (be they corporation heads or governments) are making money (\$\$\$a lot of money\$\$\$) off the oil market, who will make the changes that are necessary for there to be a future? The shit is about to hit the fan, and it is going to get all over us if we do not do something *right now*.

[[http://www.websitereviews.monitor]]

Queen Astra



Let the stars be your guide!

Aries (March 21-April 20)

By the full moon you will be able to accomplish something that was previously impossible. But you may have to remove a rib to do it.

Taurus (April 21-May 22)

An unusually high number of guys will go for you this month. Try to hold out for a pornographer.

Gemini (May 23- June 21)

Has terrarium-building taken over your life? It's time to get out more. Set the dial for party time. Boogie woogie oogie oogie.

Cancer (June 22-July 24)

Men over 54: Slight breathing troubles may portend a serious ailment. Your lucky color: plaid.

Leo (July 25-Aug. 23)

On the 19th the planets will align in a special formation for YOU. This is your day. Take over the world.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Boogers.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Self-fulfillment is a full bowl. (And that's supposed to be prophetic.. Can you stop thinking about ganja for one minute, you tree-hugging, birk-wearing, communitst-sypathizing hippie?

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Culminating on Thanksgiving, you'll be sex bomb and it would be wise to stay away from family "talks." You haven't seen your cousins for a while and turkey has long been considered an aphrodisiac. Use condom sense.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Don't hide from problems, work WITH friends to clear up any misunderstandings... or cum.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

When you're going to do it with somebody, make sure it isn't the boss' daughter, Fred Savage. And what's the deal with Ab Fab?

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Yes, shacking IS OK. Why not shack with a goat? If there was wisdom in beards, then goats would be prophets.

Pisces (Feb. 20- March 20)

At no point does the movie *13 Ghosts* have 13 ghosts. And Matthew Lillard doesn't get naked. Two enthusiastic thumbs down, sucka.

Leftovers: War profiteering is blatant oppression

Opinion by I Ed Jenkins

There are so many reasons to oppose the war that people from all political and social spectrums are skepticising. In addition to the progressive community, the United Methodist Church, which has 8.4 million U.S. members, is standing against all violence, including that of war on Afghanistan. And if violent death is too much of a common sense reason to stop the war, then your intellects can turn with me to the subject of this particular anti-war message regarding war profiteering.

Somebody's making money from killing people. Is it the guy who was laid off during this "recession?" No, he's not doing so hot. The guys (and they're mostly white males, too) getting the bonuses are those atop the corporate hierarchy. And we're giving them *our* money. Should you and your family be paying some white, male millionaires a portion of your taxes from that KFC paycheck you picked up Friday? This is exactly what is happening.

On a mostly party line vote, Republican leadership in the House approved a measure that will give \$1.4 billion to IBM, \$833 million to GM, \$671 million to GE, \$572 million to Chevron Texaco and \$254 million to Chevron. The House also voted to repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax, which means a lot of big businesses will receive retroactive tax breaks for the past 15 years. The U.S. government will be short about \$12 billion in tax revenue this year. With this effort to "stimulate" our economy, the House is also allowing such business to store more of their earnings overseas as a form of tax shelter.

Let's play a game (because it feels like that's what they're doing). Corporations lay off workers. Who is worse off, the CEOs or the workers? The workers have no jobs. The CEOs make the same amount of money as before. So what does the government, a protector of its citizens, do to alleviate this economic downfall?

Well, the best answer is that the government invests time and money into picking up the working class people who are not doing so well so that they can have money to spend and stimulate the domestic economy (at local businesses, no doubt).

But the real-life answer is that everybody who makes decisions in the federal government is getting money in some form or another from giant corporations, and only thing they are getting from their "constituents" is votes. So they do what any good racist or classist would do: they use the war as an excuse to dump more money into businesses that do not need more money.

These companies like IBM and GM will never need government handouts. They are making more money than the people counting it can comprehend. But with another racist oil war going on, the rich white politicians have another opportunity to collaborate with richer white businessmen in order to keep African-Americans, Hispanics, women, and workers as inferior references with which to evaluate their own empty social status.

And we're funding the whole operation with our tax dollars. God Bless America.

Letters, from page 3

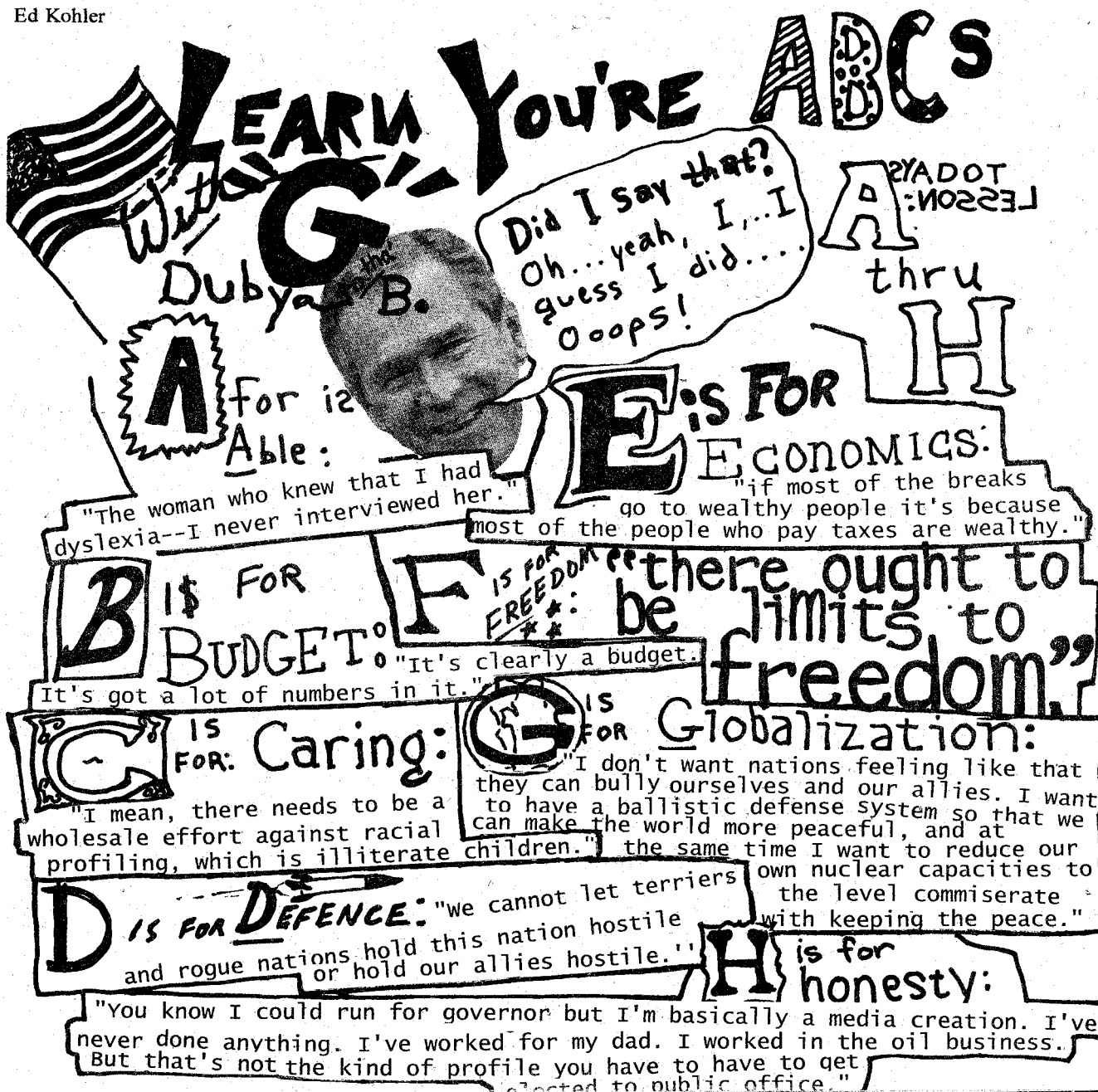
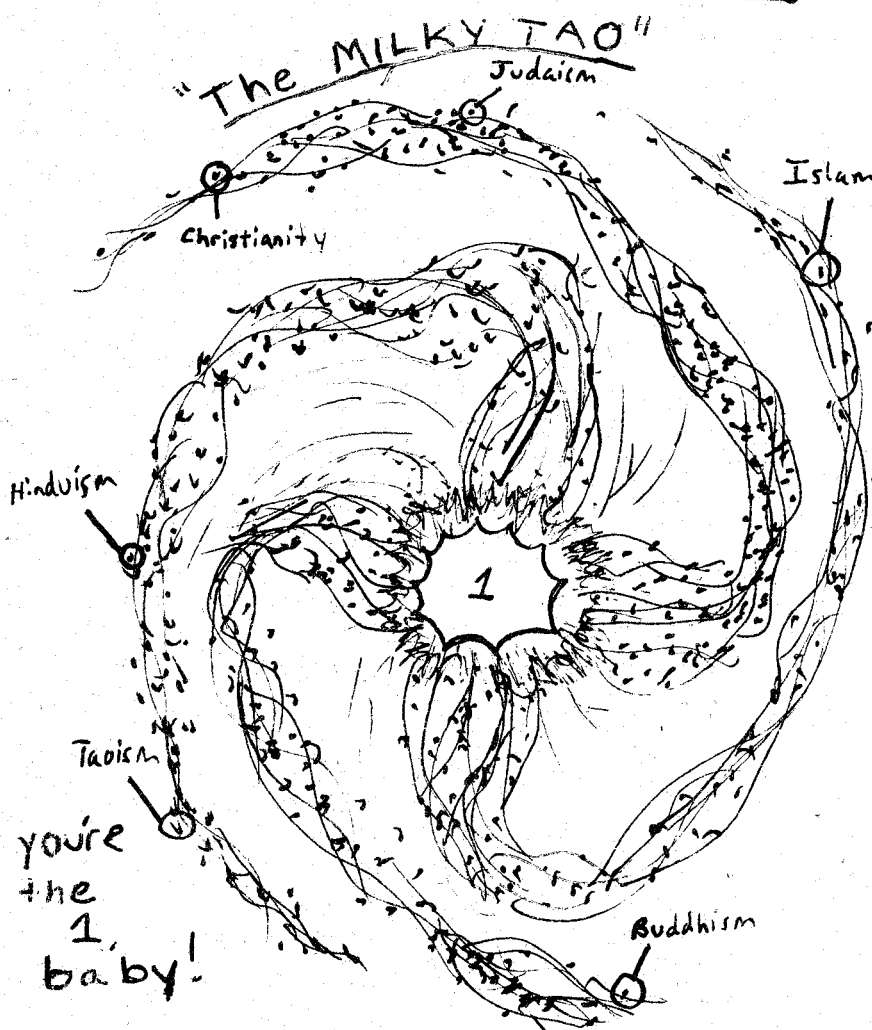
has nothing to really do with terrorism, the alleged purpose of this document. This continues when the USA Act gives the power of "sneak-and-peek" warrants to law enforcement, which allows U.S. law enforcement to delay notification on searches of civilian or business buildings for "a reasonable period" which can be "extended for a good cause shown" to a court to allow tapping of wire or electronic communications or the impounding of "tangible property", removing the rights of citizens given by the Fourth Amendment of our constitution, in the name of finding terrorism.

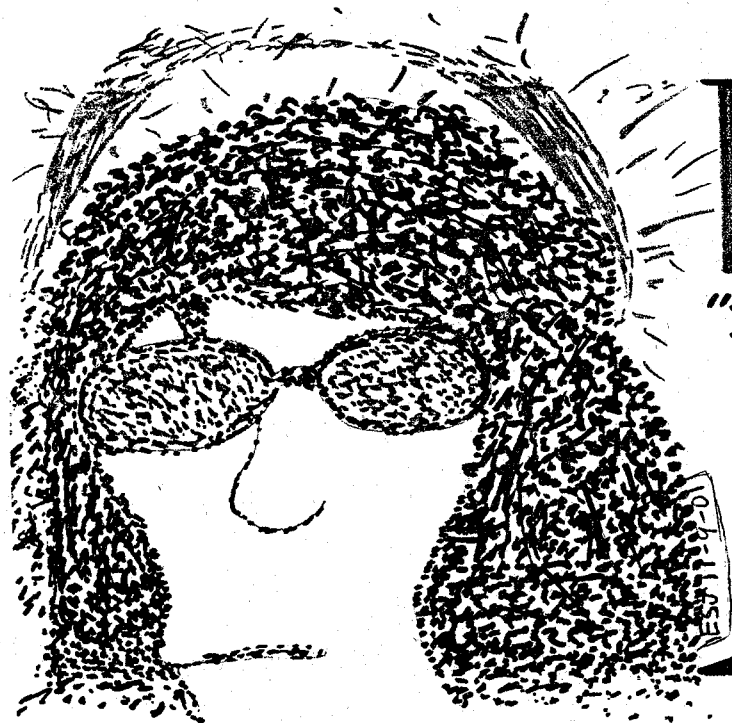
The attack on the Bill of Rights continues when the right of habeas corpus is removed for "a person or persons with suspected links to terrorism" and the definition of terrorism being expanded to include protests or gatherings that could result in violence.

One of the things that I find even more odd about this whole situation is that while our civil liberties are attacked and destroyed by a government who claims to work in the interests of citizens, the American media has entirely ignored the existence of this act, obscuring the fact that it even exists. The real question standing before us is whether our problem is found in terrorists and those who are willing to destroy life in an attack on our way of life, or whether the problem is found in our freedoms. I will admit to having a stance that often opposes the U.S. government, but before I disliked them for minor reasons and things which were not important. Now the government is a parasite that is devouring the very purpose for which our nation was founded. If we continue on this path, the terrorists have won already.

Ed Kohler

Think about it, stoopid ☺





PURGATORY PRESENTS WHAT WOULD JOEY DO?

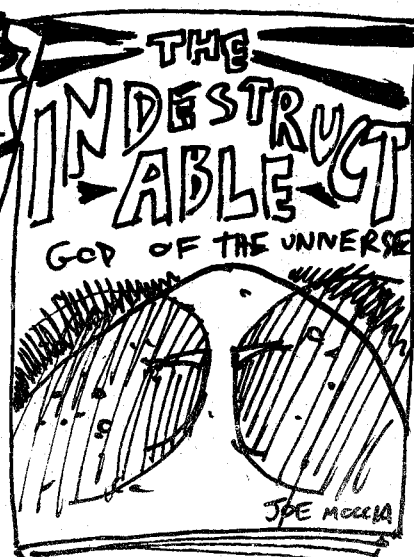
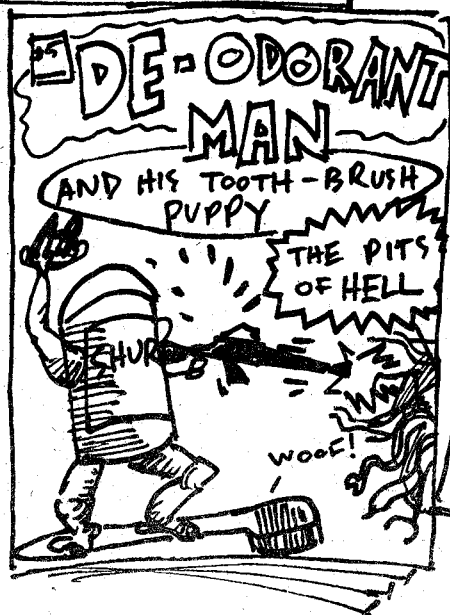
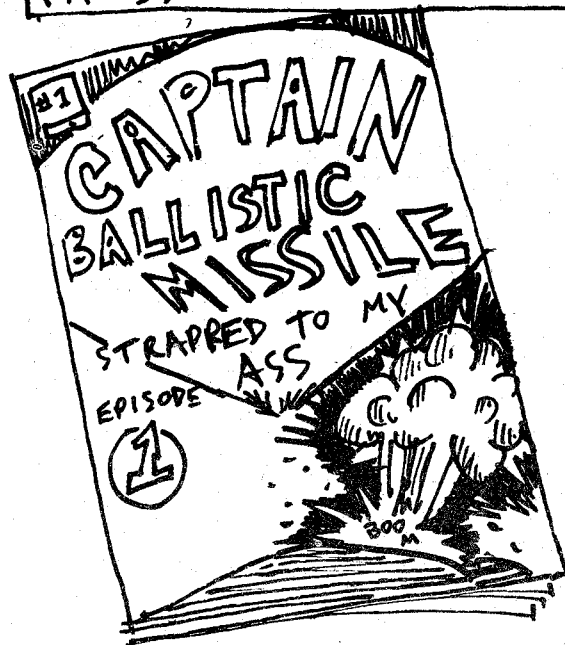
"I don't wanna go down to the basement
There's somethin' down there
I don't wanna go
Hey, Romeo"

- St. Joey Ramone

Works Cited

The Ramones. "I Don't Wanna Go Down to the Basement." Rec. 1976. Ramones. Sire 1976.

FAILED COMICS OF THE 20th CENTURY



RAGE AGAINST... ...my back pages

send submissions to y096@truman.edu

MY AMERICAN FLAG

KILL 'EM ALL,
let Allah sort 'em out.
Won't be any sweat off America's back,
'cause we got the right religious support.
America is endorsed by a Christian God!
Planes are flying over sand,
we send Death in one hand, food in the other.
As our patriot bombs are dropping,
The Almighty is wearing RED, WHITE, and BLUISH.
Don't be misled; with His support,
My American Flag will triumph over innocent people,
Oh yeah, over terrorism too.

In the Beginning,
My American Flag called 'em Yankees.
Later,
had to battle those idolatrous Rebels.
(There is only *one* American Flag, thou shalt not put any other flags before Thee)
By the 50's,
My American Flag called 'em Red.
In the 60's,
" 'em " became Gooks.
For the 70's,
Keep My America Beautiful, Negroes need not apply.
In the Awesome 80's,
Well, capitalism was over-abundant so no one cared.
As the century came to its last decade,
(Oh damn, we need oil!)
we found a new enemy that wore towels on their heads.
We raped the land, demoralized the people,
(it wasn't about oil, we swear.)
Then pulled a "Who Me" when they began burning My American Flag.

And what happens,
They bomb My American Flag back.
But My American Flag is resilient!!
Try something, and it'll just give you the finger.
'Cause My American Flag don't take no shit.

-Akela Cooper

Xtianity II

As for the genuine death-cultists, ritual
cannibals, Armageddon-freaks—the Xtian
Right—we can only pray that the RAPTURE
WILL COME & snatch them all up from
behind the steering wheels of their cars, from
their lukewarm game shows & chaste beds,
take them all up in to heaven & let us go on
with *human life*.

-Go Roke!

it happened again
day after day now and i don't know that i can take it
anymore
here i go now
walking past, hoping for just a glimpse...
and there's nothing.
nothing
curse my ill-fated love
damn it all to hell
"please, please, for once in my life let me get what i
want"
why can't i have even this small amount of happiness
no one understands this feeling
feeling like i do
so i ask just one more time:
"Where the fuck is my cookies and cream?"

-Aimee Lichtenberg

why do birds fly

what is going on in the world today
id rather be dead then turn my head away
what s going on anderson
well i am here in st.charles

well i got to be heading to the library
well see you later

-Mike Reynolds

Continual Assumption Haiku

I'm a tough bubble
I'm afraid of submerging
Do not pop me, jerk

-Cameron Moore

An Imploring Haiku to Mr. Larry Illes, That He May Choose a Different Hobby

Your incoherent
And pompous tirades and rants:
Enough is enough.

-Bill Walton

I am on my own
Why do I always seem to be in this place
The computer lab at three am
The same place where I can drown myself in the same place everyone else does
Something, anything that allows me to become anyone else for even a split
second
It becomes my closest friend
This thing
This thing that allows me to live as a man
As a woman
What am I
I have no clue lately
I feel so jumbled
Like the universe has played this cruel joke on me for being pause
different
Different how
Different wow
How do I decide between the two halves that make up me
One half begs for the softness sweetness honesty that is woman
The other half dreams of the hardness mindless intelligence that is man
How am I supposed to come up with an answer
Is the answer to give up searching for what is right and true for me
Is there anything right or true for me
What about what is right and true for others
Like my current obsession
Looking at her makes me feel like I can see through gods eyes as she formed
the perfect woman
The most ethereal soft smooth fluid mess that turns me on like no other
Never knew there was such an all consuming flame that burns constantly
Burns with a brilliance that blinds me from the cruel truth of unrequited
lust
Fuck me
Is what I want her to say standing in her doorway with candles lit and tori
amos singing
Tell me about leather tori and how it can cure my thoughts from the evil
path they've taken me lately
Fuck me tori
Fuck me with your leather and pain
Rape me with the pain you sing for

-Schnyde the Clyde

Table for One

"Table for one."
The loneliest words in the world.
Uttered by the single masses,
Day after day.

One,
Lone,
Alone,
Lone,
One.

Day after day,
Hour after hour,
Minute after minute,
Second after second.
Alone, without friend,
Companion,
Lover,
Family.
All have abandoned me.

"Table for one,"
I utter,
With a shudder.
Mumble beneath my breath.
Not proud,
Or happy,
Or content,
Or fulfilled.

I always manage to push away,
Those who I want to pull closer.
Somehow make them run,
And left to sit here,
Alone,
At my table for one.

-Michael Harris

ALERT: Highly Illegal MBP Poetry Reading
Night! Administration or Law Enforcement
types need not ask! We will bring this campus
to its knees! Enquire at the appropriate email
address. You know which one, lover!

Playtime

Ring around the rosie

They fiercely held hands and
circled around the
yard, oak and earth smells
living, invading.

Pocket full of posies

The yellow and orange
leaves swirled up, forced by the mellifluous wind
and danced in circles
around the girls, ruffling their blonde ringlets.

Ashes...

Frail arms now wispy and arced, with
heads tilted to the side and down as the girls
lamented.

Ashes...

They chanted, ashes flying from their lips.
Their little faces solemn,
all reaching for the child
lying centered on the grave,
her limbs not arced but asleep.

We all...

Each little girl face had eyelids exposed with
no traces of imperfection.
Mouths upturned, once smiling,
now contorted.

Fall...

Each little girl body in each little white dress
Collapsed in a fatal ballet, circled

Down.

on the ground, irrevocably sistered with the dead girl.

The leaves calmed themselves
and found their places
between the little dead bodies,
all prettily dressed.

-Jessica Whalen

A Poem That Mentions Vicki Burke (Who Happens to Represent [in Many Ways] the Brutal, Authoritarian Culture We Live in Today)

Just when you thought that...
Shit, there you are.
Watch me now! Make me! Make me!
Now, love this Cabana Boy!

-Peter Vella

requiem for my skin

pick me up off of this floor of life
scrape the mud off my skin.
cleanse me, purify me....

without dirt there can be no cleanliness
and without cleanliness there can be nothing
nothing to ever disgust me....

distrust this which does not have dust
that which is pure and true
truth is the enemy of many things...

including those who have betrayed me.

crack open the casket,
i wont be long.
i want to bury my old self
i want to belong....

i just want to shed my skin...
i have too many scars that show.
i need to be tougher, i need to stop scarring myself
they are contagious, you know.

at least scars are memories...
but what if you dont want them anymore?