



THE MONITOR

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

Volume 8, Number 9 / 13 February 2002

COPHE asks for student, community support in keeping funding for higher education a priority

Story by I Derek Spellman

Representatives from Missouri's Council on Public Higher Education met in Violette Hall on Monday and unveiled a study touting the public benefits of higher education.

The study, entitled "Missouri's Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities: Building a Better Future for all Missourians," is the centerpiece of a campaign to shore up public support of higher education. Representatives from Missouri's 13 public four-year colleges and universities, including University President Jack Magruder, developed the study after Gov. Bob Holden said Missouri could face a shortfall between \$234 and \$680 million in the 2003 fiscal year.

COPHE representatives said heightening awareness of higher education's public benefits will help the entire state realize it has a stake in the higher education system.

"The thought behind these [COPHE] meetings is to get people who are not involved in [Missouri] higher education to understand the worthiness and the importance of higher education," Magruder said in his presentation.

The study offers an array of statistics suggesting that higher education is bound up with the state's economic growth and quality of life. For instance, individuals who graduate with a bachelor's degree are 50 percent less likely to be unemployed and 77 percent more likely to vote than individuals with only a high school diploma, according to the study.

The study said higher education provides the state with quality health care professionals, teachers and agricultural research centers in addition to generating revenue for the state.

The study also said that while the Missouri's higher education institutions have been allotted more annual funding in past years, the system's share of total state revenue has declined since the 1980s. Missouri's public colleges and universities have suffered from deep cuts in the state's recent budget crunch.

"Tonight's meeting is not meant to be a

dire warning," Manuel Pacheco, the president of the University of Missouri System, said.

newed or else it will be taken for granted." Pacheco said that higher education ab-

cluded from the definition of education any longer," he said.

He said higher education receives only 12 percent of the total revenue generated in the state, down from 17 percent seven years ago.

He also said Missouri's public universities and colleges must enlist public support if they are to make higher education a priority in the state legislature.

"The time has come to take a broader view of education in this state," he said. "Higher education simply cannot afford to continue to go it alone."

Pacheco joined with Magruder and Kirksville mayor Bill Murray in calling on students and members of the community to contact their elected officials and demonstrate support for higher education.

"We need to get students and their families to know what a great value higher education is in this state," Magruder said. "We must have [students'] families express their appreciation for higher education."

Mari Macomber, Kirksville's Economic Development Director, and Pete Detweiler, the president of the Northeast Missouri Economic Development Board, said that the University plays a vital role in the life of the city and should not be overlooked.

Macomber said that University generates revenue for the city and that the University employs 1,072 people. She also said that students, faculty, staff and their families offer a variety of public services, including research facilities, student internships and volunteer programs such as Adopt-a-Highway, which must be taken into account by the community.

Detweiler said the University is "the dominant player in Adair County." He added, "The future of Kirksville rests on education. Education is what made this city."

Quick stats:

Bachelor's degree graduates will, on average, make about 60% more than those with only a high school diploma.

Bachelor's degree graduates are 77% more like to vote than those with only a high school diploma

Higher Education accounted for 20% of Missouri's budget cuts in the 2002 fiscal year

Missouri ranks 39th in the U.S. in per capita spending on education

Higher education receives less than 12% of the revenue generated in Missouri

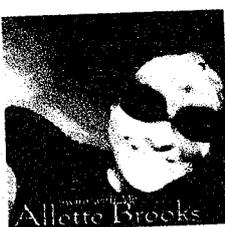
Information supplied by Missouri's Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities: Building a better Future for all Missourians. University President Jack Magruder and Manuel Pacheco, President of the University of Missouri System

"But the drastic reduction in state appropriations for higher education is a reminder that commitment to higher education has to be re-

sorbed 20 percent of the budget cuts last year, more than any other state agency.

"Colleges and universities cannot be ex-

C O N T E N T S



Allette Brooks will be playing at the Aquadome on Feb. 27! Read a review of her new CD on page 10.



It's a Valentine's edition of She said, He said! Yay, page 8.

WEAR YOUR BLIND

on page 6

The Monitor

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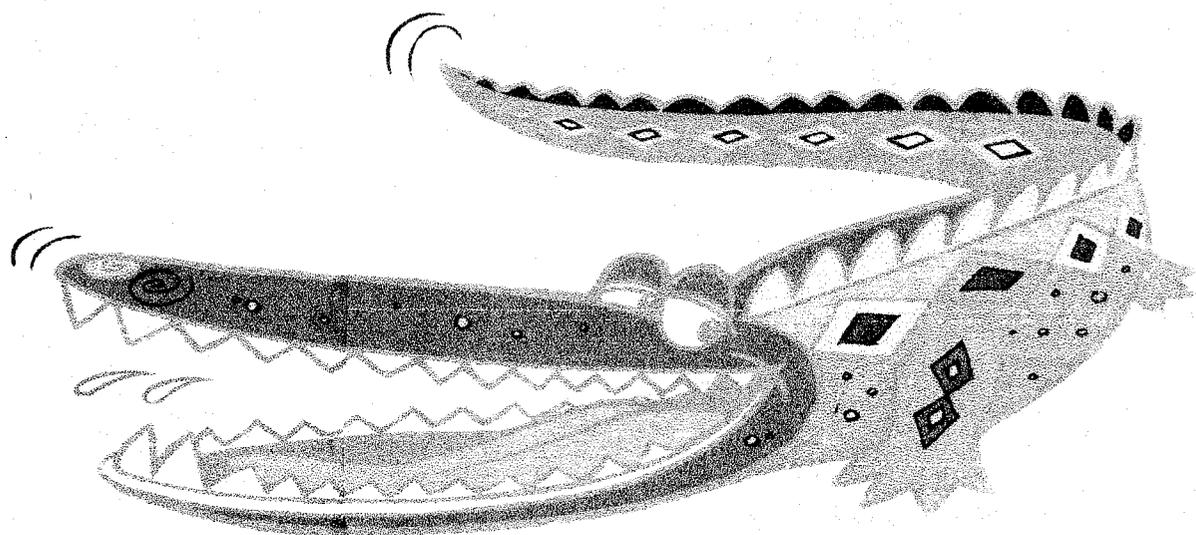
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Subscriptions are available to out of towners - you just pay for postage. Send a check or money order for \$10 to the address above for a semester's worth of *Monitors*. That's really cheap, huh?

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

- Noam Chomsky



Flippity flim flam, hot diggity damn!

The Monitor meets every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 9 p.m. in BH 346. Everyone is welcome to meetings and submissions can be dropped off on disk at our mailbox in the CSI or emailed to: monitortrm@hotmail.com

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monitor letters

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American movies hoodwink moviegoers

Something rather intriguing is happening on what might be aptly called the "truth" battlefield, courtesy of the freer-than-USA-bought-GOP-media here in this UK homeland. Very distinguished American film directors of the caliber of Missourian Robert Altman (the classic anti-war *MASH*) and Californian David Lynch have confirmed! In very worried interviews they have accorded the prestigious BBC TWO TV NEWSNIGHT current affairs programme what many of us, normally, back in America have felt. THEY ARE BEING "LEANED-ON" BY THE BUSH-GOP ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONSERVATIVE MOTION PICTURES ASSOCIATION USA ANTI-FOREIGNER WATCHDOGS LIKE FORMER LBJ PRESS SECRETARY, JACK VALENTI. TO, INDEED, MAKE THESE APPALLING GUNG-HO WHITE MAN'S USA ONLY! "PATRIOT" MOVIES LIKE *BEHIND ENEMY LINES* AND *BLAK HAWK DOWN*. That mid-western movie houses like our own downtown theater are inflicting upon you. The "sweetheart" approach Lynch and Altman are resisting takes the form of White House dinners. At which the suited conservatives there lecture the many wooed-in Hollywood on escalating a fortune in gimmickry once denied, if you in "co-operation" go for being a good American in your future "history pride," past movies!

Now in clashes with Jack Magruder's all too *Private Ryan* such tastes you have reported the direful effects on ordinary, if very affluent, Americans like him: of exposure to this patriotic muck in our less stressful times than Sept. 11 and the US/UK aerial and cluster bomb slaughter over Afghanistan. And, soon, over Iraq and Somalia if Bush junior gets his racist vile, black-bodies don't even matter way. Haven't you, sagely, *The Monitor*.

But just ponder, readers, how brain is being addled if unjustly you are ordinary father and son in the "mid-west" Hollywood "target audience" and by this unhistorical trash. If you peruse *Behind Enemy Lines* you see a clearly undefinable "European" French commando team, alone, racistly, blamed for supposedly frustrating Gene Hackman's efforts to "rescue" as purely USA air team. That have, themselves, gung-ho ILLEGALLY stopped some caricatured "nasty" Serbs from violating what is supposed to be a NATO cease-fire! ONCE IS THE USA AUDIENCE TOLD ABOUT THE THOUSAND PLUS SERIES AND BOSNIAN SHELTERLESS CIVILIANS WE KILLED IN OUR LONELY 70 days plus bombing-of-them-spree. Or our selective prosecution of Yugoslavia's leaders today but, never, the equally GENOCIDAL MURDERERS ON OUR "OWN" FREE MARKET FAVORED SIDE.

While *Black Hawk Down*, is even more of a Bush ignorant fantasy: in asking us to see literal thousands of Black "extras" Somalis gunned down while "Scotsman" marine, Euan, rescues them all from their country's folly. NO MENTION, HERE, FOLKS, OF THE WAY THE US OVERRODE PREVIOUS ITALIAN

FOOD AID AND NATO SHARED COMMAND. TO STUPIDLY TRY AND, LITERALLY, BOMB A RECALCITRANT, SOLE, MOSLEM WARLORD INTO SUBMISSION! So bad, of course, was the real USA self-racist disaster, Vietnam style, that even Clinton the ejaculator had to call a hasty US defeat pull-out. After enraged women villagers literally tore up some 15 U.S. troops they vengeance-for-the-bombing caught! All on "real" primetime US TV, too: Fine, so not even the Kirksville Daily Excuse and Suppressive could NOT unreport it!

It's time to say "Enough is enough" to an empire Bush "PLC" is trying to propaganda movie fill up at your expenses, *Monitor* students. Contemplate how little, and meager, the U.S. federal department of education gets compared with how much the Bush pentagon gets every time in your wasted dough you see such white-boy militarist celluloid trash. Undertaken by Hollywood quislings, not of, alas, Altman and Lynch's integrity as more decent internationalist-minded US genuine, authentic humane artists! "Reality" would be too much for the false Bush America white male flag dream! Heavens, hell, we might all learn some real history in victims of US/UK wars, if pray we did not go to their lucrative war movies.

Sincerely,
Larry Iles

Editor is a jerk

Let me tell you something. This entire college campus is living in a fantasy world. I can't go anywhere anymore without someone saying something about how great of a guy Cameron Moore is. "Yeah," they say, "He's such a great guy. He's the co-editor of *The Monitor*, he's a full-time student, he's an active member of Alpha Tau Omega, and if that isn't enough, he still has time to give to his girlfriend. I think we can all learn something from Cameron Moore." Yeah right. If by co-editor you mean he craps on a piece of paper every two weeks, and more often than that he doesn't do it on time. Then fine, he's the co-editor. And if by full time student you mean full time janitor. And by active member of ATO you mean full time janitor. And if by girlfriend you mean he keeps a few dirty old promotional stuffed Sonic the Hedgehog dolls in his closet. And if by such a great guy you mean such a treacherous jerk. I'm writing this now in hopes that this campus will wake up and realize that Cameron Moore is a vermin among us. Why, only yesterday, and by yesterday I mean Halloween, Cameron said to me "Anyone who disagrees with me is a f***ing a**hole." He then proceeded to throw candy at me and my friends, trip me, push me, and he when I politely asked him to stop, he said "If you don't shut up, I'm going to spit gum in your hair." What a great guy, huh? And just last week, and by last week I once again mean Halloween, he dressed up like George W. Bush and looked at me. Now tell me, does this sound like an all-around great guy? No, it doesn't; it sounds more like a prehistoric Tyrannosau-

rus Jerk brought back from the Meso-Jerkic Era. I can remember one instance during Christmas, and by Christmas I mean Christmas, but we'll pretend I mean Halloween, he splashed a glass of egg nog all over everyone's favorite rodeo clown, Rory Rhorer-ton.

Aaron Baker

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monitor opinions

Leftovers: Patriotism vs. nationalism

Opinion by | Ed Jenkins

Passing through the checkout of your favorite supplier of gratuitous possessions, you can find various bastardized emblems of patriotism like flag lighters for your cigarettes and suction flags for your SUVs and in some cases the flag itself. Next time you encounter a flagged item, I encourage you to investigate its origin. You will find that the "American" flag is inevitably made in China.

This confuses a variety of problems that exist with patriotism and nationalism. To me, patriotism maintains a devotion and enthusiasm towards one's country that could be positive or negative. For example, Rep. Barbara Lee's solo vote against the September 14 bill to grant Bush complete power to go to war could be patriotic because she did what she felt a person who loves her country should do.

The problems with patriotism occur when it becomes nationalism. Nationalism implies a loyalty that includes the belief that one's country is superior to other countries. This is what happens when "Americans" hold that people who live in Iraq or Iran are inherently less important than people who live in this country.

Status quo "America" is filled with nationalistic citizens who accept the death of Iraqis at our hands and the deaths of AIDS patients in Africa, many of which we can also prevent. It is acceptable for us as humans to concern ourselves with the suffering of close friends and family, but it is silly to exclusively care for people who directly affect us. I will

Waiters, waitresses depend on tips to live

Opinion by | J.J. Pionke

Ok, several friends of mine who are waiters and waitresses said they don't get tipped very well by college students. I thought about this for a moment and decided that if you have enough money to get a soda, you have enough money to leave at least a buck for the waiters and waitresses. Let's face it: There are some of us here that have to work to make the bills, and servers are some of those that do need the cash. Whether you realize it or not, many of those people that serve you a drink or bring out your food from the kitchen rely on those tips to pay for their food and gas or pay their bills.

I know, the definition of a college student is synonymous with poor; but really, if you can afford to eat out, you can afford to leave at least a buck or two (or more) for the person who has waited on you. Put yourself in their shoes: You just worked for five hours on 50 people and you only made \$10. How do you think you would feel? Especially since you are being paid minimum wage or in some cases less than that. Remember that the next time you go out.

always place more priority on the well being of my mother, for obvious reasons, although her life is not inherently more valuable than that of a child in Guatemala. I am not suggesting that we have to forfeit any efforts toward helping people close to us, but instead that we have to at least equally recognize the needs of others around the globe. And it is obvious in our culture that we often do not care about the lives of foreign people.

The problem is not as much that we are bad people but that we are mostly good people who happen to be wrong. One reason that we may be wrong is because we are suckers for our nationalistic government. By its nature, the role of a government is to serve its citizens. But when the U.S. government is the most powerful human force in the world, it has constant opportunities to harm or help various non-American peoples. In many cases, it chooses to harm foreign peoples for no reason other than to give more power and wealth to a small group of Americans who already have too much power and wealth. This is actually deeper than nation-state chauvinism, but is an ingredient of it, because our government will pass off this injustice as patriotism and distribute fascist propaganda in order to scam support from its citizens.

There is no doubt that our government has gone on a nationalistic propaganda frenzy since Sept. 11. As a result, it is important that we be careful to continue working for our country without crossing over into nationalism.

Fundamentalism, not moral relativism

Opinion by | Cameron Moore

Periods of progressive social change come in waves. As more people become aware of a cause, it builds momentum until it breaks. Giving women suffrage was long overdue when it happened in the 20th century. Slavery was used as a means of free labor and social control. And cries for representation with taxation echoed to cause the avalanche of power that created this nation.

In our minds, when thinking of the colony of America breaking from England over 200 years ago, we envision something quite removed from what we experience in our everyday lives. Powdered wigs specifically come to mind, for me at least. But the pictures in our head, leftover images burned in from a high-school textbook, are not complete representations of this situation. These were real people, just like everybody on this campus, in an oppressive situation.

What then followed is also burned into our heads from a high-school textbook. The glorious Americans triumphed over the evil British by declaring independence and freeing themselves from tyranny. The Fourth of July is our yearly reminder of this event, providing an outlet for the pride we have for our forefathers' accomplishments.

When the colony of America decided that the oppressive government at hand was no longer theirs, they forfeited any rights and responsibilities to the British. They no longer paid taxes because, well, they weren't British anymore; they were American.

Now, to make this relevant in today's media circus, let's consider our good friend John Walker. Here is a young man that left a country that he felt was unjust. Now, many will disagree with this claim and many others will agree,

Term limits ensure democracy

Opinion by | John Hilton

In 1992, the people of Missouri overwhelmingly adopted a constitutional amendment in the form of a referendum to limit members of the state House of Representatives to four terms and members of the Senate to two terms. The term of a state representative is two years, and a state senator's term is four years, meaning that no one could serve in either chamber for more than eight years. The term limit amendment took effect in 1994, and so the first large turnover will occur at the end of this legislative session, with 73 of 163 representatives and 12 of 34 senators being forced into retirement.

The concept of term limits strikes some voters as anti-democratic and potentially unconstitutional. After all, our republic is based on the idea of popular sovereignty. The argument goes that if the people don't approve of how their elected representative is doing his or her job, then they will vote him out of office. Further, lawmakers acquire knowledge and expertise by staying in office, making them more effective legislators and better representatives of their constituents. Many opponents of term limits fear that lobbyists and bureaucrats will easily manipulate the inexperienced class of freshmen elected this November.

Until recently, I had always been staunchly opposed to the idea of term limits, for the reasons already stated. However, serving as an intern in the state capitol this semester has forced me to rethink my position. I have

come to realize that legislators are not the philosopher-kings we often think them to be. Most of our lawmakers are regular people, no more intelligent, learned or erudite than many voters. Neither chamber of the General Assembly is such an august body that it must be filled with incumbents of long tenure. There are many, many citizens who are as capable of serving in the assembly as most current members.

Term limits will not necessarily give lobbyists more power in the political process. On the contrary, new members will probably be less susceptible to special interests, considering that they haven't been in office long enough to forge a deep relationship with the lobbyists that roam the halls of the capitol.

There are compelling arguments against term limits, and perhaps someday the people of Missouri will decide that they would like to modify or abolish the amendment. Only time will tell, but I do not believe that the immediate impact of term limits will be nearly as negative as people expect. After all, politics should not be a lifelong career. A public servant should have a livelihood aside from politics in order to gain life experience and good judgment. A limited term of service reminds politicians that they will soon have to return to private life and live with the laws they have created. Term limits encourage legislators to focus on how to make good laws instead of how to get reelected *ad infinitum*.

but both views are irrelevant. The fact is that the man left. He apparently followed the very patriotic advice of many Americans: "If you don't like it here, you can leave." Upon leaving the country and making subsequent decisions, he put himself at odds with the country from which he originated.

He no longer considered himself an American and forfeited his rights and responsibilities as a citizen of this country. And now, this man who chose to heed the advice and leave the country, is being brought back and tried by the same people who told him to leave. He committed no war crimes, he never once faught against Americans, and yet he will suffer the fate of a treasonous war criminal.

We've seen the headlines from the very start, "John Walker, American Taliban," reinforcing the idea that Walker is still an American. From the beginning, it was assumed; it was not even something worth questioning. It seemed irrelevant to ask the question. But I don't really think it is. If you look at a passport, you will notice that one of the listed actions that will forfeit you U.S. citizenship is joining another nation's army. While it is true that the Bush administration does not recognize the Taliban as a government, it is curious how the Bush administration did give them millions in supposed drug relief money just this past spring. Also curious are the years of business partnership between the Bush family and the bin Laden family. But I digress. The point is, we can't have it both ways.

John Walker is being used by the government and the media as an example. He is an example of a soul led astray, a traitor and an ungrateful kid. "This is what happens if you turn against us," is what the headlines imply,

and the line is blurred between activist and terrorist. Anyone who disagrees with the government's or military's actions are seen to be unpatriotic, and their rights are trampled upon to ease the public's sense of fear.

Now, to clarify, this is not a defense of the Taliban. It is, in fact, a defense of John Walker, though. When John Hilton wrote of Mr. Walker's lessons learned in the last issue of *The Monitor*, he pointed to a moral relativism instilled by Walker's parents as the root of his problems. But after reading and rereading that article, I still can't connect the fundamentalism of the Taliban to moral relativism.

Hilton's assertion that "his parents certainly didn't make things any better by telling him that whatever religion he wanted to follow was fine and that they would support him no matter what," makes his argument guilty of the very fundamentalism that plagues the Taliban. Keeping an open mind, empathizing and maybe even sympathizing with other religions is far from being a problem. To think that the divine is to be looked at from one "right" perspective is to be hopelessly misled. It is the very egoistic practice of fundamentalism, the assertion that I have *THE* truth, which keeps people from tearing down the outer layers of ritual to see the ground that unites them all.

If John Walker is guilty of anything, it is of succumbing to the egoism that we all fall prey to. Fundamentalism fuels self-importance and feeds on the desire to "have" the "truth," no matter which religion. John Walker will go down in history as a traitor and a backstabber; in reality, he is a man who left our fast-paced culture to for something much simpler, only to have his soul swindled by people offering something that doesn't exist.

Giving up Wal-Mart not very difficult, saves on unneeded extras

Opinion by | Dr. Linda Seidel

On Jan. 18, 2002, at approximately 9:30 a.m., the University's chapter of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance staged a peaceful demonstration outside Wal-Mart. We were protesting its corporate policy against filling prescriptions for emergency contraception (EC). We took this action to support the statewide campaign of Missouri NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League) to educate the public about EC (which is *not* a form of abortion) and to chastise Wal-Mart for its retrograde views. Our group lasted all of 15 minutes on the Wal-Mart premises before the management asked us to leave (and we complied).

Of course the Wal-Mart managers were within their rights. Of course they did the only thing they could do and still keep their jobs. But, for me, being thrown off the property has had a radicalizing effect: Once a regular Wal-Mart customer (even as I watched Pamida, K-Mart and Easter Foods disappear), I no longer shop at the local incarnation of the world's largest company. For, masquerading as public space, Wal-Mart is clearly private property where my First Amendment rights do not apply.

Now, you might tell me that Wal-Mart is so large that objecting to its practices is futile. But I maintain that Wal-Mart's size is all the more reason that local customers must demand accountability—and shop elsewhere if they do not get it. Accordingly, I wrote a letter to the local Wal-Mart manager asking him to reconsider the corporate EC policy. Not surprisingly, I received no answer. Fortunately, though, the last three weeks of Wal-Mart abstinence have not been difficult, and I look forward to many more. Maybe I pay more money for diet soda now, but I save by not buying all those unneeded extras that used to call my name in the big store.

I understand that giving up Wal-Mart may not be for everyone. You may well question the purpose of an abstinence that strikes you as quixotic—since I have neither the energy nor the will to organize a boycott. All I can tell you is that it's not about keeping my purity. (It's too late for that in any case.) It might be more accurate to quote Thoreau and talk about how good it feels to "simplify" my life. But, really, it's just that the romance is always over when someone tells me, however politely, to get lost.

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Jazz fest to provide culture, good music for town

Story by | Nick Johnson

Perhaps you think that Kirksville is reminiscent of that old, scary episode of the *X-Files*, where Mulder and Scully go into a little town devoid of culture or anything to do, and they have to hunt and kill the mutated inbreeders that are killing the tourists to feed to their moms and sisters. Well, for the most part you're right, except for that no culture, nothing to do part, once you consider the 34th annual Phi Mu Alpha Jazz Festival on Feb. 23.

The festival annually features not only the best jazz musicians in the area, but also some of the biggest names of jazz in the nation. This year's special guest is trombonist Wycliffe Gordon. In addition to being an extraordinary conductor, composer, arranger and educator, Gordon enjoys an accomplished career as a solo artist and as leader of the Wycliffe Gordon Quartet. He is a veteran member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. Gordon has released multiple solo CDs, and will soon be releasing an album of previously unrecorded songs by Louis Armstrong.

Gordon will be performing Feb. 23 at 7:30 with a combo featuring the University's own Jazz director, Pavel Wlosok (who is himself a jazz great who recently won the IAJE Gil Evans Fellowship Award) on keyboard, James Ward on bass and Todd Strait on drums. Gordon will also be performing with the University's Jazz Lab Band and Jazz Ensemble,

both under the direction of Pavel Wlosok. The concert is free with student ID, or six dollars without. Considering that a concert with the same musicians in St. Louis or New York City could run as high as \$25-50, it's really a damn good deal, and definitely a rare opportunity to hear great music in Kirksville.

Andrew Coon, head of jazz fest committee for Phi Mu Alpha said, "This really is one of the biggest musical events to happen in Kirksville. To have musicians of this quality play for, and work with Truman students is really an honor, and a wonderful opportunity."

All during the day of Feb. 23, high school jazz bands from around the Midwest will be competing in Baldwin and the SUB. The students not only get a chance to play and compete, but they are also given feedback and tips from the judges, who themselves are jazz musicians. Tickets can be purchased to see all of these high school bands for two dollars.

This jazz fest is organized completely by Phi Mu Alpha, the men's music fraternity, with sponsorship from organizations such as Multi Cultural Affairs. Phi Mu Alpha also sponsors many other musical events on campus, and regularly brings composers and professional musicians to work with students at the University.

So come take up this wonderful opportunity to hear great music in Kirksville, and we'll even make sure you are safe from crazy, inbreeding murderers.

TWEAK YOUR MIND

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blows your
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-Joe Ruth



"A paradox, dude."

-Paid Paul



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-John Gramb

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Stimpson addresses genius

Opinion by | Andrés Delgado

Catharine R. Stimpson came to speak to the University with an overwhelming list of credentials, of which only some of the highlights can be listed here. She has been director of the MacArthur Foundation Fellows program, is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, earned a doctoral degree with distinction from Columbia University, founded the periodical *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, holds 12 honorary doctorate degrees (which she held over her head, wrestler-style, at the faculty welcome reception (not really)), and serves as dean of the graduate school of arts and sciences at NYU, where she is also a professor. She appeared here from Monday Feb. 4 through Thursday Feb. 7, during which time she made scheduled appearances daily. However, the Monitor, being neither a Phi Beta Kappan, nor female, nor faculty, nor having read Jane Eyre, felt most competent receiving her talks on Genius, given Monday and Tuesday.

The public lecture Monday was peppered with humorous remarks that were well-received by the enthusiastic audience. There were a few surprises in it, as well. One student commented afterward that, "It wasn't exactly what I expected. I expected her to talk more about the values and the motivation behind the evil genius." Yes, that student was us. Also unexpected was Stimpson prefacing the lecture by saying "I'm not a genius." At this point, *The Monitor* sighed a (premature and mistaken) sigh of relief that perhaps our secrets were safe. The audience was then let know that a primary concern of the lecture would be to examine "the need for genius, even after demystification." First, however, was to come context.

A. N. Whitehead, Pablo Picasso, and Gertrude Stein were identified as perceived geniuses. Stimpson then demonstrated the cheapening of the word in modern culture by noting the existence of 58,100 genius websites turned up on a search with Lycos, and referring to "Challenge of the Child Geniuses," a show which pitted gifted children in a contest of their mastery of semi-obscure facts and mathematics (at times in combination) and that aired in May on Fox. Stimpson noted that, in addition to causing its devaluation, the overuse of the word also showed its great appeal.

She then moved on to discuss the etymological evolution of the term and its different perceptions over history. She traced the word from its Greek incarnation, when it meant flashes of brilliant intuition, through Roman and Renaissance times to the present. In the end, she concluded that creativity was a "state of action, not being," which she illustrated with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "To genius must always go two gifts, the thought and the publication," which, translated, means that she who claims to be a genius without demonstrating it in tangible work is most often lying. We aren't decided as to how the profound silence of J.D. Salinger fits in with this idea - write us with your opinion.

She spoke briefly on the transition of genius from its past connection to the humanities (e.g. the reputations of Socrates and DaVinci) to its current association with the Sciences (e.g. people's reverence for Albert Einstein).

Along this same vein, she put forth Hitler as a modern evil genius whose medium for terror was technology. Osama Bin Laden, she argued, was the latest evil genius in the perception of the West.

The topic of the lecture moved to the demystification of genius, which began in 1869 with the anthropometric research of the then-influential Sir Francis Galton. His determination to subordinate the hazy concept of genius to

Science was the seminal idea that would later lead to Alfred Binet's IQ test, originally devised to identify children with mental difficulties severe enough to warrant specialized instruction. It was the IQ test that gave rise to the democratization of genius, and to the current focus on "The Gifted Child," whom we perceive, maintained Stimpson, as "that salutary creature who will save us

all." (And we'll get around to it, too, just be patient.)

She gave a word to the social advantages enjoyed by many intellectuals of prominence (such as those who had traditionally been awarded the Nobel Prize) and the lobbyists, networks and superior schools they had working for them.

She also noted the attention and funding given to some gifted students while others were forced to attend crumbling, underfunded schools.

Most recently, she said, a smart-assy, "debunking" sentiment of skepticism had taken hold of the general populace, of which Conan O'Brien was only one representative. One of its manifestations, she said, has been the calling into question of the very existence of originality. (Dr. Robert Graber, University professor of Anthropology, can recall a colleague who once praised a book of his, saying "It's great that those thoughts happened to occur in your head.")

As for O'Brien, we feel that if his comedy represents a new sentiment of debunking over tradition, we'll drop tradition like a whiny baby, in a heartbeat. We'd very much like to know what you think; write us a letter.

The audience sniggered derisive giggles when Stimpson alluded to a "Genius Issue" of *Esquire* with Charlize Theron wearing an Einstein shirt on the cover.

We don't believe this was Stimpson's intended reaction to the allusion, since we believe there is at least as great a truth to the sexual motivation of humanity as there is to any abstract idea. Critically acclaimed author John Updike has been its greatest modern bard. Write us to tell us your opinion.

Stimpson concluded the night by asserting that the need to hold onto the concept of genius, even after its demystification, and in our age of debunking, arises out of a need to express both our wonder at human creation and also the fear and helplessness of being the target of an individual's destructive wrath.

The second night began with Dr. Linda Seidel comparing *The Monitor* to the Chronicle of Higher Education to the laughter of all present. Thereafter, the lecture was drowned out in our mind by the internal tears we were crying.

However, afterwards someone told us that the intelligence of computers had been one topic of focus, particularly with regard to the victory of the chess computer Deep Blue against International Grandmaster Garry Kasparov. Bobby Fischer's brilliance versus his sociopathy was also discussed, along with the nature of creativity and the current emphasis on the genius of groups as opposed to individuals (as was epitomized by the victory of the group-engineered Deep Blue over Kasparov). Finally, one individual (us again) asked in nearly incomprehensible gibberish something about whether the MacArthur fellows generally had more of a mind to public recognition or whether they created for their own sakes. The answer was "no."

Whether you attended the lecture or not, we'd very much appreciate your thoughts on the subject.

Queen Astra



the Queen

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Aries (March 21-April 20)

You will one day taste the sweetness and bitterness of coffee.

Taurus (April 21-May 22)

There are great opportunities awaiting you in the field of law.

Gemini (May 23- June 21)

Bad luck and extreme misfortune will infest your soul for all eternity.

Cancer (June 22-July 24)

An eventual lawsuit will make you wish you understood to what that girl was really referring when she said, "I'll show you mine if you show me yours."

Leo (July 25-Aug. 23)

His ability to recall painful memories from your childhood concerning your family will make you wish Jeff Foxworthy "would just shut his goddamn mouth."

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

You are a caring, intuitive person, with many things to offer those around you. Your "man love" is not one of them. Give it a rest.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Sooner or later, you're going to have to face the facts: Hitler's Brain is totally gross.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

The steady Taurus man doesn't like to be cornered. Instead of asking him to the Prom, let him know that you are interested by suggesting that he save a dance for you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

If you ignore those sores on your genitals long enough, they won't go away.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

Remember that time you kicked that guy in the balls because you were really drunk? Boy, did you get him, huh?

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Sure it's really impressive that you can stick your entire fist in your mouth. I'm not disagreeing with you. But you're still never going to hold down a steady job.

Pisces (Feb. 20- March 20)

This is really just a continuation of the Scorpios: If that cute Taurus guy doesn't catch onto the "save me a dance" thing, try kidnapping him, torture him in some way (I recommend the Chinese water torture method), eventually breaking his will, and in the end he will have no choice but to go to the Prom with you.

Valentine's Day

Feature by | Jami Burns

"Why think of marriage when there is so much good sex yet be had?" My friends gave this wonderful bit of advice to me this week when I was yet again bitching about being single and hating the aisle at Wal-Mart commonly called the "Devil Aisle of Hell." Valentine's Day is a safe haven for those rare, happily committed couples, but to the single, burned out, and slightly bitter like me, Feb. 14 will be a dark Thursday.

If Valentine's Day was more than just a commercial holiday it might not be so bad; but when you live in a society like we do, not getting anything but a 10-cent valentine from your best friend makes you a loser. I suggest that we just cancel Valentine's Day. I'm sure that card, candy and flower companies make enough money the rest of the year to cancel this worthless holiday!

Okay, I'll stop being bitter long enough to say that if you're in a relationship, I'm happy for you. Guys, buy your girlfriend a bouquet of her favorite flower; girls, make

him dinner or do something fun that he wouldn't expect. If you're single, be bitter. It's your right! Or stop being a whiney-ass and get yourself a Valentine's date. Actually, don't do that. Going on a first date on what is supposed to be the most romantic day of the whole friggin year is just setting yourself up for failure. Pity party—that's the best bet for the singletons of the world. Grab a beer, some chocolate and a great movie and then move on to Friday. If this is your option of choice, I recommend *The Smokers* for girls that aren't easily offended by drugs, cigarettes or horrible endings. It's the best movie I've seen in a while that deals with the evils of men.

In conclusion, all I have to say is "Screw You St. Valentine!" Your damn nicety has now turned into a day most known for self-esteem drops! Wal-Mart, damn you for making me want to cry every time I walk in your doors. Hallmark, you can stick your crown where the sun don't shine. Kay Jewelers, every kiss does not begin with Kay. In fact, it usually starts with a couple of beers.

She said, He said



A two-sided look at relationships

Feature by | Adam IX

Ah, Valentine's Day. A day of romantic cuddling and movie watching with your significant other. Unless you don't have one, of course. Then all that awaits you is another bitter day of listening to relationship philosophy from Matchbox 20 and Ani with the volume up or watching Hedda Gabler or the Vagina Monologues in order to keep your spirits high. But seriously, if you're not involved, I can't think of a better time to start if you're interested in someone. If there's a lady somewhere in this iceberg that you want to help keep warm, just go up to her, tell her "Hi" (and your name if you've only been stalking her so far), and suggest a dinner / movie idea for Feb. 14. Being direct is the key, and it opens the door marked "go for it."

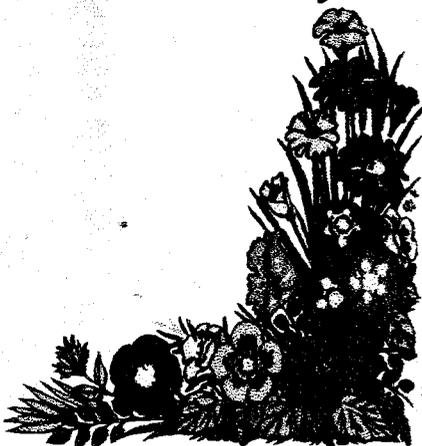
Some great ideas for black Thursday? Well, if you're not involved and you don't want to be depressed, I'd suggest reading a bit of Dostoevsky, which I am sure can in no way make you lovesick. If you're looking for something to do with your sweetheart, your options are wide open. Musicwise, I'd hit Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole, with a little Billy Joel thrown in for good measure. You could stay in and watch a classic Audrey Hepburn movie, and while Kirksville isn't in the lead for the most exciting town in history, you can still hit Leisure World for a great time. Columbia's open 24-7 if you want to get that required fancy dinner out of the way as well. Whatever you decide to do, just remember that Valentine's Day is just a day like any other, and it only and depressing or romantic as you decide to make it. Just relax and have a good one, hoots!



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Valentine's Day!



Verbosity

Feature by | J.J. Pionke

In this edition we celebrate sexuality! Since Valentine's Day is this week, we thought we would include a rather larger list than usual to commemorate the *Vagina Monologues*, couples, and the act of self-love. These words were lovingly researched and for a time made their way into our daily vocabulary.

The *Vagina Monologues*

For those of you unfamiliar with the *Monologues*, go see them!!!! They are a wonderful assertion of what it means to be woman and the taking back of woman's powerful sexuality.

Vagina- (in a woman or a girl) a tube leading from an outer opening to the womb. We say this definition bores us to tears. We also say that the vagina tends to be a source of great pleasure for many women.

Cunt-(Vulgar)1. A woman's genitals 2.an unpleasant or stupid person. We say, "Take the word back! Have yourself a Merry Cunt day!"

Pussy-a cat, also a slang term for vagina. We say, "Stroke that pussy!"

Snatch-seize quickly in a rude or eager way; also a slang term for vagina. We say, "A furry snatch is a happy snatch!"

Twat-yet another slang term for vagina. We say, "Twat you're talking about?"

Coochie-yes, you guessed it, another term for vagina!!!! We say, "Coochie-Coochie-Coo!"

Downunder-if you were thinking this is another slang term for vagina, you would be right. We say, "You'll never think of the SUB's Down Under in the same way ever again."

Go see the *Vagina Monologues*, and may the Pooki be with you!

You read about the vagina, now lets read about that thing couples do: ah yes, love.

Love-1. A very strong feeling of affection 2.a strong feeling of affection linked with sexual attraction. We say, "Love is great, everyone should experience love, but man does it hurt when you break up."

Valentine-a sweetheart chosen or complimented on Valentine's Day. We say, "Will you be my Valentine?"

Passion-1. A very strong emotion 2. Intense sexual love. (Yes, there are other definitions of passion.) We say, "Passion is often the fire of a relationship, sexual and otherwise."

Besotted-so much in love that you stop acting sensibly. We say, "This wouldn't be a very healthy relationship if you were besotted with her/him."

Canoodle- (informal) kiss and cuddle lovingly. We say, "We love this word. We wish we had someone to canoodle with."

Copulate-mate or have sex. We say, "Couples often do this, thereby making us singles insanely jealous."

Okay, so we've covered the Vagina and the couples thing, but what about us bachelor(ette)s? This Valentine's Day, practice some self-love.

Masturbation-stimulate your genitals with your hand for sexual pleasure. We say, "Why stop with your hand? Get a vibrator!"

Jerking off- (slang) male (or female, but principally a male term) for masturbation. We say, "A commonly used term, but we can get more creative than that!"

Choking the chicken- (slang) male masturbation. We say, "We'd really like to know the origins of this term. It just invokes some bored farmhand being bored and verbose at the same time."

Double clicking the mouse- (slang) female masturbation. We say, "We got this term from the film *American Pie*. Ladies, have you double clicked your mouse today?"

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FINGER

The importance of reading the right review

Feature by | the Finger

She's a feminist who wears lipstick. Catharine R. Stimpson, professor and dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at New York University, challenged stereotypes about femininity Monday and Tuesday night, drawing a tie with stereotypes on Monday, before coming back strong on Tuesday with a 12-round decision over the concept.

Stimpson was the third Distinguished Visiting Scholar to visit campus this school year, and the second to arrive here on purpose.

Stimpson said she doesn't appreciate the negative connotations associated with feminism, although the Finger encouraged her to give the connotations time to endear themselves to her.

Stimpson quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson and made audiences laugh with references to "The Royal Tenenbaums." On a completely unrelated note, with so much knowledge and so many interests, what does Stimpson want to do each day?

"Be alive," she said. This has been a popular response to our question, and its poorly disguised sarcasm hasn't left us unhurt. Freshman Some Student said she was intrigued by the title of Monday's lecture and the idea of genius and evil intermingling. "I thought it was interesting how she went into the overuse of the term genius. Now leave me alone," Student said.

Stimpson also had a public colloquium on "Jane Eyre" on Tuesday. She discussed the text in terms of its ground-breaking discussion of battered children in addition to the importance of saying "no" and Christian virtues. "No, no," we had to break in, you're thinking of *The Monitor*. "Oh, yeah," Stimpson remembered. "Good call." (ed. note: this didn't really happen, although it should have).

With all these discussions on genius in the world and in literature, what's the final word?

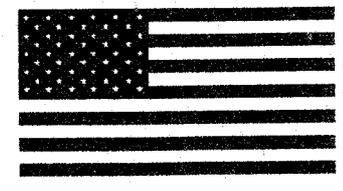
"I think if you're truly wise, you always think you're pretty dumb," Stimpson said. "Whew," we said.

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Eight easy steps to becoming more patriotic

Opinion by | Afro Mike

1. Eat more meat. I can't stress this enough. In these times of economic downturn the growth hormone and antibiotic industries are starting to feel a little sag in sales, and it's up to us as Americans to personally make sure that cows never have to take a single step outside their stalls or catch a disease from the ankle-deep piles of feces surrounding them. Coincidentally, this also is the answer to future upcoming social security problems, as you will die of clogged arteries long before you hit 65.

2. Drive a bigger car, or just drive more often. The forests, plains and marshes that once covered our great nation have been turned into superhighways and parking lots for a reason: for you to operate an automobile wherever the hell you feel like it. Take up more space and consume more gasoline, because after all, the sooner we use up the finite petroleum supplies, the sooner we'll convert to alternative energy sources, right?

3. Buy more stuff, even if you don't need it. In fact, you should buy things especially because you don't need them. After all, what good is your spending money doing sitting in a bank, or in the hands of some stupid charity? The American answer is none. It's doing none good. And the resources it takes to create those unnecessary goods you're buying? Fuggeddaboutit. Let the later generations take care of it.

4. Watch more TV. Listen to more top 40 radio. Read more *Index*. Just stay indoors more in general. Wrinkly brains that think all the time are unattractive and Un-American - Communist, even.

5. The next time you're at a gas station, get something with an American flag on

it. It doesn't matter if it's a lapel pin, a bumper sticker, a cigarette lighter with a fireman on it, or a framed picture of a bald eagle crying. Buy it and show the other Missouri residents that you're an American to assuage doubts they might have had to the contrary. Also, if someone isn't wearing anything with an American flag on it, kill them immediately, because they are obviously a terrorist.

6. If you know anyone who was a par-

ticipant in the civil rights movement, was involved in a union labor strike, or boycotts certain companies for any reason, and you live in Utah, call the police. Utah House Bill #100 says that anyone who interferes with the operation of a business for any reason is a terrorist. And we all hate terrorists.

7. While you're killing all the non-Americans who aren't wearing American flags, you might want to go out of the way to also kill

movie directors John Carpenter, Wes Craven, and writer Clive Barker for all those times they scared Americans with their "Terror"-fying films, including, but not limited to, five *Halloween*s, six *Nightmare On Elm Streets* and *Hellraiser*.

8. Do your part in the war against terrorism. Start up a "two minute hate" group in your dorm, apartment or church. All you need is a big picture of the face of a well-known terrorist, like maybe Martin Luther King Jr., who was notorious for waging economic terror on department stores and public transportation systems. So anyway, get a big picture of Mahatma Gandhi or Malcolm X or Bobby Seale or Leonard Peltier or Mumia Abu-Jamal and hang it on the wall, and get a big banner to hang above the picture that says, "TERRORISTS HATE FREEDOM." After all, why would Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal be in jail unless they hated freedom? Then once you get your picture and banner set up, have everyone in the room suspend reason and logic (if they haven't already) and work themselves into a blood-mad anti-terrorist frenzy. Once two minutes have passed, thank everyone for their intense hatred and tell them you hope to see them next week. Serve cookies with little frosting stars, or maybe bananas from Wal-Mart with American flag stickers on them and a big tall glass of Victory Gin.

In conclusion, I would like say, "God Bless America." I would also like to point out that "God Bless America" is not a request, due to the absence of preceding or succeeding words such as "may" or "please," respectively. So yes, God, America is demanding that you bless us. And only a terrorist would refuse to cooperate in our war against terrorism.

I said, Me said



A one-and-a-half sided look at becoming an upstanding member of society

monitor reviews

Dive in with Allette Brooks

Swim with Me
Allette Brooks



Review by I.W. Aaron Wilson

I just got Allette Brooks' latest CD, *Swim With Me*, in the mail yesterday, and I've already listened to the third track seven times. I haven't been able to listen to the CD straight through without repeating that track, and if I'm interrupted while listening to the CD, I start it over on that track.

The song in question is called "Driving," and there can be no adequate description of it beyond the fact that it is about driving. The quiet transition of scenery outside the car window; the serenity of driving alone on an empty road; the anticipation of meeting new people at the end of a journey; and the relief of heading home all entwine and mesh with the restless commutes of the migratory caribou and their tenuous position in a world maddened by a lust for oil.

This depth of lyrics and imagery make not only "Driving" but also the entire album a monumental natural wonder in a musical landscape of urban sprawl and gated subdivisions.

The title track, "Swim With Me," is a series of interlocking images filtered down from the sunny world of light and air into the mysterious, shifting underwater depths. "Ice Age" is almost a combination of a geology and astronomy lesson, evoking the scrape of glaciers on stone and the gentle insistent tug of gravity on every aspect of life.

And of course, the popular "Okavango" not only calls up images of twisting rivers and shifting sand bars, it also reaffirms the connection between people and the natural world.

In other songs such as "Driving" and "Rolling Blackout," Brooks takes this connection to the next level and defends nature against the selfish rape of modern technology. "Driving" comments on the absurdity of opening the National Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration. "Rolling Blackout" presents a picture of suburban California in the wake of power loss,

revealing a people who don't need electricity all the time to be happy but who are still at a loss without it.

And while Brooks' lyrics contain a wealth of images and messages, they are not the only depth to her work. In contrast to her previous work, *Silicon Valley Rebel*, which featured Brooks' vocals and acoustic guitar with occasional percussion and additional string, *Swim With Me* does not so much explode with additional instrumentation as it gently simmers.

An almost subliminal harmonica creeps through "Driving" and "Okavango." Slide guitar and violin lend a country flavor to the beautiful Midwest-inspired ballad "Fireflies;" and electronic noises foreshadow the content of "Rolling Blackout."

Still, the album is in essence a one-woman show, with Brooks' guitar and voice taking center stage. As hard as it is to believe, her vocals and playing have improved since *Silicon Valley Rebel*, and they continue to be two things that most bring her songs to life.

In the end, *Swim With Me* is a CD that must be listened to if you are a fan of folk music, especially poignant, politically motivated folk from a female vocalist.

CD at a Glance

The Good: "Swim With Me;" "Driving;" "Never Was;" "Rolling Blackout;" "Fireflies;" "Same Room;" "Ice Age;" "Okavango;" and the pirate imagery in "Refuge." Pirates are always good.

The Bad: Um, well, there's nothing really bad about this album. Any tracks not listed above just are as amazing as all the others.

The Strange: I've now listened to "Driving" eight times in 24 hours, and I am certain I'll listen to it at least once or twice before this day is over. But then again, that shouldn't seem so strange with an artist as talented as Brooks.

Cunt is gloriously fun

Cunt

Written by Inga Muscio

Review by J.J. Pionke

You've just got to love a book with a title like *Cunt*. Inga Muscio's work is, well, about the word and the anatomical part of a woman also known as "cunt." Muscio discusses her chosen subject matter with a good mix of humor, swearing and honesty. She looks at her own confusion and history with both the word and the body part.

Her book talks about reclaiming the word and glorying in the body part. Her book is as much about those things as it is about women being women. (Actually, this is a rather hard book to describe.) Other than that, it is about the word "cunt" and the vagina. It's a fun book that is also very funny. Muscio draws on both academic sources and more accessible literature, such as childhood favorite Pippi Longstocking.

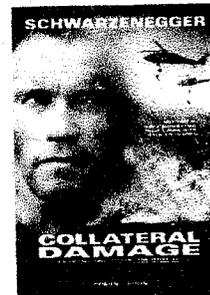
It is easy to see why Muscio likes Longstocking. After all, it seems that both of them have a lot in common. They share the kind of no-nonsense attitude and honesty that is the call sign of a very peculiar kind of woman. Muscio draws on experiences from her childhood and adulthood to round out the narrative and for her ideas about definitions and anatomy.

Personally, I really liked this book. But then again, it's me. I like her no-nonsense attitude and the fact that she swears. She lays it all on the table and lets it all hang out. Any woman out there should take a few minutes and read a chapter out of this book. If that doesn't convince you to read the whole damn thing, I don't know what will. I would say that this book has the potential to change your life, if you let it.

Collateral piece of crap

Collateral Damage

Directed by Andrew Davis
Starring Arnold
Schwarzenegger



Review by I Dr. Marc Becker

The appearance of Arnold Schwarzenegger's new vigilante action flick *Collateral Damage* in movie theaters last week made the news because the studio had delayed its release for several months for fear that the portrayal of a terrorist bombing of a high-rise building would offend public sensibilities in a post-Sept. 11 world.

Critics have greeted the film with the retort that Hollywood should have been more concerned about insulting the public through the film's implausibilities and plot holes big enough to drive a Mack truck through. As a Latin American historian, I am much more troubled by the film's a-historic portrayal of U.S.-Colombia relations.

For those unfamiliar with the film, a Colombian guerrilla leader nicknamed "El Lobo" (Cliff Curtis) bombs U.S. officials at the Colombian consulate in Los Angeles to force the U.S. to get out of his country. Schwarzenegger plays a firefighter who watches as his wife and son are killed in the explosion, and subsequently vows to revenge their deaths. Schwarzenegger, in an act of vigilante justice, kills El Lobo before he is able to carry through on his plans to blow up a State Department building in Washington, D.C. From the beginning, this scenario is fraught with problems.

First, such terrorist attacks on the U.S. from a Latin American guerrilla movement are unthinkable. Almost universally, political activists in Latin America responded with horror to the Sept. 11 attacks. Even such hardened communists as Fidel Castro, who have been the victims of terrorist attacks from the U.S. for over forty years, denounced the attacks and expressed sympathy for the victims.

Second, the film's title comes from a political activist who sympathizes with the goals of the Colombian guerrilla movement and disregards the deaths of Schwarzenegger's wife and son as "collateral damage." This term and concept, of course, comes from right-wingers like Oliver North who were not bothered by civilian deaths; few leftist activists in the U.S. share such a similar disregard for human life, and it is disingenuous of the film to imply that they do.

Much more troubling about the film is its (intentional?) ignorance of U.S. support for an anti-democratic and unpopular regime in Colombia. Through Plan Colombia, which purportedly was intended to attack drug trafficking, Colombia has become the third largest recipient of U.S. military aid. This war on drugs becomes a thinly veiled attack on 50-year guerrilla insurgency that is fighting against a wealthy and exclusionary government that ignores the needs of the majority of the people.

In Colombia, the U.S. continues to fund a military that is closely allied with right-wing paramilitary death squads that brutally massacre civilian populations. The drug war does not

target wealthy drug traffickers, but instead focuses on spraying Roundup herbicides on poor peasants who are forced to grow coca leaves as a cash crop because neo-liberal economic policies have made their traditional lifestyles unviable. In a final absurdity, this biological warfare does more damage to legal food crops than to the coca plants. This also causes health problems, robs farmers of their livelihood, and further forces them into the hands of the guerrillas.

Politically, the film *Collateral Damage* argues against negotiating with Colombia's two leftist guerrilla movements, FARC and ELN. These are not small, shadowy, easily defeated groups like Al-Qaeda, but rather large, well-funded organizations that control significant parts of Colombian territory. Excluding these groups from political negotiations only ensures the continuation of an endless and increasingly bloody civil war, which threatens to engulf the entire region. In Schwarzenegger's world, a *Terminator*-style global apocalypse is preferable to peaceful co-existence and social justice.

Before Sept. 11, many of us worried that Colombia would be the next arena of overt U.S. military intervention. Already, the U.S. has a significant number of military trainers in the country and "contract employees" have been killed in combat. Now, with Bush looking to expand his ill-advised war on terrorism, the possibilities appear larger than ever before. The result would be a disaster on the order of the Vietnam War, if not larger.

Collateral Damage is also morally flawed. One scene has Schwarzenegger claiming that El Lobo wants to kill many people, while he wants to kill only one person (El Lobo) in revenge for the deaths in his family. What this glosses over (and what is difficult to verify without the precise body counts a la *Terminator II*) is that Schwarzenegger ends up killing more people in his blind pursuit of revenge than do the Colombian guerrillas. The moral is that U.S. lives count, while those in other countries do not. Perhaps this only mirrors reality, as the U.S. has now killed more civilians in its bombing of Afghanistan than were killed in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Theater audiences cheer Schwarzenegger's murderous rampages and extra-judicial executions, which in real life lead to W.'s call to capture the Bad Guys "dead or alive, preferably dead," without bothering with the inconveniences of international law. In reality, El Lobo's son would hardly gravitate to his parents' murderer as *Collateral Damage* portrays, but instead would probably return to Colombia to continue the struggle against U.S. imperialism. The endless cycle of violence has not ended, but simply reached a new and more dangerous stage that will bring neither peace to Colombia nor security to the U.S.

Mystic Rose headline

Mystic Rose

Written by Stephen Lawhead



Review by I W. Aaron Wilson

For anyone familiar with Stephen Lawhead's work, it should come as no surprise that he can write a kick butt book of historical pseudo-fantasy. After the tremendous Pendragon Cycle (well, the first three books, anyway) he clearly established himself as a giant of Celtic/Arthurian literature.

What should come as a surprise, however, is that *The Mystic Rose*, the third book of the Celtic Crusades, isn't all that great. After the tremendous *Iron Lance*, the series' opening book, I expected the following books to be just as good. After I bought *The Black Rood* in paperback, seven dollars lighter, I realized that might not be the case. So I wasn't too surprised and disappointed when *The Mystic Rose* proved to be exactly what *The Black Rood* had been: a mediocre filler novel rounding out a trilogy.

The Mystic Rose is not a bad book. It has some great moments and ends on a triumphant note, but everything that worked in the previous books (though only moderately well in *The Black Rood*) comes out as overblown and as subtle as a broadsword.

The anger against a distant, greedy organized church that propelled the first novel has coalesced in the stereotypical evildoer Commander de Bracineaux, the head of the Knights Templar.

Once a somewhat complex, vaguely malign character from the second novel, de Bracineaux is transformed into a bitter, vengeful megalomaniac in *The Mystic Rose*. Lawhead has gone to such lengths to make him seem evil that even the gluttonous, materialistic Archbishop Bertrano hates him on sight.

At the same time, the moments of mystic revelation that seasoned *The Iron Lance* have grown into Biblical epics, probably starring Charlton Heston. In this book, revelatory experiences seem to have become the latest medieval plague, infecting every possible character at the slightest provocation.

On top of all this, the book is riddled with countless plot holes.

Several good things do come out of *The Mystic Rose*, however. The imperturbable Baron d'Anjou replaces the stereotypical boot camp sergeant Gislebert as de Bracineaux's lead flunky, and while Lawhead hands out holy relics and revelations right and left in the book, he manages the same soft touch when dealing with Muslims as he did in the other books. While this book does come through as a little bit more heavy-handed about Christianity than the previous books, he makes heroes and brothers of several Muslims, including the intriguingly characterized Prince Hasan.

Overall, as a sequel to *The Iron Lance* and other great Lawhead books, *The Mystic Rose* falls far short of the precedent set by its forebears. However, as a bit of light reading with some spiritual overtones, it is entertaining and engaging.

Book at a Glance
(Contains spoilers)

The Good: The Baron d'Anjou; Prince Hasan; kick butt battles teaming Moorish bandits and Christians knights together; the last sentence of chapter 47; and Vikings. Vikings are always good (even if they don't get to do much looting).

The Bad: Commander de Bracineaux (he's one bad mother); plot holes; characters becoming nuns for no reason; fat archbishops suddenly becoming heroes when they've been making peasants slave on a cathedral; and plot holes.

The Strange: Those dang nuns. How could they introduce so many plot holes by themselves? If they're Cele De (apparently left Ireland for Spain), how is the Pope their spiritual superior? And if no man is allowed in their little nunnery, how did that priest first see the grail? Agh!

New Evolutions

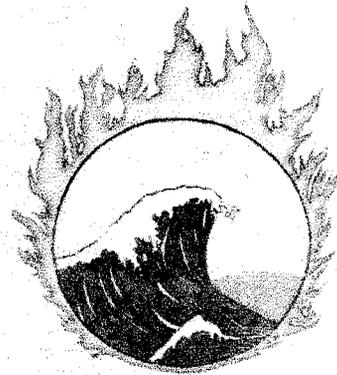
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A Poem Describing a Young Man's Troubles With Two Things At Once

"You make me feel alive, alive, alive..."

And never once did I mind her cold clutch at my foot
Stealing away blue hues of humility
Interlocking segments of analog emotions
And the brief thrill of youth.

The blood stands on the doorway above my mouth
At the nose, the gills of "half-man, half-shark, all gentleman"
Divots of flesh plucked out at some microscopic level, by ducks
Drilling down, sleep overcomes the fibers of skin.

The field before me, capitalizes existence with breasts
As a portal to the heart, ushering in the Primordial Vibration
Fluttering beneath the hell-bent sky...and it tends
To sing.

-Jesse Pasley

An Inside Joke

The gophers intricate billing systems with regards to
Donald trumpet and Elvira Melhorn and Spunky the Squirell
Lack respect towards the effect of Stalin and his wallet
"We're the flies in your soup. We wont stop until the fall of the
Holy Roman Empire!" The only appeasement that I see pertains to the
Allignment of your chin and my balls. "Go fuck yourself with your atom bomb"
We have something to be feared eternally: manners
The Great American Novel, Clifford the Big Red Dog
Written by Aaron Baker and Steven Montague in Perkins, passed back and forth, written
with a ball point, on a note card, copied onto a blank ticket, after a blueberry muffin and
cheese sticks, ranch and marinara sauce. p.r Steven Montague, photography Steven
Montague, the man who brought Aaron his scarves and his water, Steven Montague
Inspired by the power of the mullet

-Aaron Baker

POET PAR-TAY!: The Revolution starts at my house Saturday, 2/11/02 when we drop a
bomb of color and rhythm upon our dystopic landscape. Make sure to bring poetry to
read. Refreshments will be provided, the "drinks" will not (that means bring yer own).
Poetry reading will start at 10:00 PM and will be followed by fun music and good times.
My place is located at 410 S. High Apt 2, two blocks north of campus. It's a purple house.
Write me at y096@truman.edu for more information. Law enforcement officials not
welcome.

Phantom Voice

"wishing you were somehow hear again,
wishing you were somehow near . . .
wishing i could hear your voice again,
knowing that i never will . . ."—Phantom of the Opera

Act 1: The Opera With You

I could sense your body tense
with the waves of sound
and each crest of the immense voice.
Her song made me cry,
I didn't know why then -
must've missed you already.

Act 2: The Opera Without You

and, so, now . . .
This intense song lays siege to me.
I find I can't breathe,
I can't purge the tears
that I've willed into flooded, exiled memories.
Oh, how I wish you were here again,
What I would give to relive so many moments,
or just hear your voice again.
Knowing that I never will
is what breaks the levee,
kills my will,
and wills the desert:
flood again.

-Annie Coleman

Soda

Coca-Cola... Pepsi
Sprite... Mountain Dew
If you don't drink soda...
What the fuck's wrong with you?!

-Dustin Hotz

Now That's REAL Ultimate Power!