

# THE MONITOR

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

Volume 8, Number 11 / 30 April 2002

A Campus Collective

## Hey! It's another issue of *The Monitor*!

### Over 75,000 march for peace in Washington D.C.

Story by | Andrew Kennis  
(with help from John Tarleton and Zoe)

Upwards of 75,000 people marched and rallied Saturday in downtown Washington D.C. for a number of causes, including opposition to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. Other themes included voicing dissent against the "war at home and abroad," a reference to the war in Afghanistan and in Colombia; problems with racism and discrimination against people of color (especially those of Arabic origin); and discussing corporate globalization.

All three major themes were addressed in their own respective "feeder marches" in the morning, which joined together later in the afternoon at the "Mall," the grassy park area between the Capitol building, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. However, it was the fighting in the occupied territories of Palestine that captured the attention of the day, and the protest was dubbed by organizers as the largest U.S. showing of solidarity with Palestinians in U.S. history.

"I have been living in the U.S. for 25 years and I pay taxes, and I don't expect my money to go to killing my people," said Fatina, a Palestinian mother of four who brought her

children dressed in traditional, colorful Palestinian garb along with her to the protest.

Fatina's sentiments were commonly shared by protesters from a diverse array of backgrounds. As Hajie Tunkara from the West African country of Gambia said, "We want our tax dollars to be used wisely, and instead the U.S. is using our money to butcher Muslims in Palestine. Look at Jenin," she said, referring to the refugee camp recently bulldozed and pillaged by the Israeli Defense Forces, resulting in dozens and maybe even hundreds of civilian Palestinian deaths (23 Israeli soldiers were also killed).

Besides the diversity of the marches, the sheer number of protesters was striking. While police put march estimates at around 75,000 people, organizers claimed that hundreds of thousands of protesters showed up in solidarity with the struggle against Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories. Indeed, groups from all over the country bussed themselves in overnight, clogging traffic around the city. Steve Gillis, 43, a steelworker from Boston told the *Washington Post* that he "saw hundreds of buses on the road. The rest stops were jammed all the way down." The groups

See protest, page 6

### Earth Day celebration unites University, community

Story by | Andr  s Delgado

Friday, April 17, the Environmental Community Organization staged an Earth Day celebration in the Square in front of a big building labeled "COURT HOUSE." The event began at four in the afternoon and lasted through eight o'clock. The many booths and lighthearted atmosphere drew together a constantly refreshed crowd of around 75 people at any given time under an overcast, 70-degree sky that smelled of rain.

Many University students and community children were among the crowd that moved about booths set up by ECO and other organizations while being entertained by music, weird environmentalists and an Earth Day clown.

Kids enjoyed decorating t-shirts at a table set out by the Green Party. ECO itself offered various crafts, a cakewalk, four-square, and a ball toss to the younger celebrants.

The older crowd meandered from display to display set up by organizations as diverse as the Feminist Majority, New Evolutions, The 'Ville, the University's Women's Resource Center, Kirksville High School, and Beta Beta Beta, the Biology Honors Association, which was selling plants from the university greenhouse that were in need of replanting.

"I liked the [booth] with the water thing. That was pretty cool," noted Skylar Sowder, a junior from KHS. Skylar was representing a KHS environmental science class at the event for extra credit. He was helping to man a booth themed on Hazel Creek, a local fishing treasure.

"The [booth] with the water thing" was similarly constructed for extra-credit in the KHS environmental science class. In addition to being pretty cool, it supported a groundwater model (the water thing) that Morgan Dwigings, KHS student, said used dye to demonstrate the seepage of pollution from one system, such as a river, to another, like a well. Dwigings and her classmates operated the model, which used

moving water, several times to stir the interest of the crowd.

Next to the model, the students set up a face-painting operation, which was popular with kids and simple-minded adults.

Dwigings' favorite booth was the New Evolutions stand, manned by Chris Humphrey, a student from the Moberly area. That booth offered hacky-sacks and hemp necklaces, among other things. Humphrey said the event was New Evolutions' first outing with the public. "We're a big hemp advocate," explained Humphrey of his store's appearance at the event. "Plus, I love nature."

Staci Imes, University freshman, voiced her appreciation for the celebration. "I think we do a lot for students, and it's nice to do something for the community, for the kids especially," she said.

As evening was setting in, a crowd began to gather around the music of two acoustic guitar players emanating from beneath the shelter of a green canopy. Bryan Rogers, University senior, took this opportunity to echo Imes' sentiments. "I think it's a good event for the community," he said. "People can meet each other, hang out, and have a good time"

Senior Theresa Conley, ECO member and main organizer of the event, expressed satisfaction at the popularity of the various crafts tables.

"It's a good way for [children] to relate to nature," she said. Conley said the celebration was bigger this year than last year, with more booths representing area organizations.

In addition to organizing the Earth Day celebration, ECO participates in bi-annual stream clean-ups through the Missouri Department of Conservation; has brought to campus a speaker from the Social Ecology Speakers Bureau; and works with Amnesty International to campaign on behalf of imprisoned environmental activists, according to Conley.

C O N T E N T S



See what Fancypants here has to say about Earth Day on page 9.

#### LIGHT SABER DUEL

Has it really come to this? Watch MastaKilla and DaBorggg duke it out, chat-room style on page 9.

#### TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY SPIN-DEX

Insulting the University community since 1909

Uh oh, today is the last day of April. And you know what April means, don't you? Find out on page 7.

# The Monitor

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

- Noam Chomsky



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For further questions call 785-4193  
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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](mailto:monitortrm@hotmail.com). Letters may be edited for length.

## Curling-haters best step off

Note to Andrés Delgado: Curling is not "shuffleboard." It is an ICE SPORT in which a 42 POUND stone is thrown (as opposed to 12 ounces). And a TARGET is used, as opposed to little straight lines on greased wood. GET IT RIGHT, CURLING-HATERS. And actually PLAY it while you're at it, if you can find a rink, which you can't.

David "Doogie" Dixon  
Curling Ultra-fan

## Java Co.'s new no-smoking policy ruffles feathers of former smoking patrons

What the fuck?! Why no more smokey smokey at the Java Co? First with the Laura Shley décor, then with the no smoking. Is the owner trying to drive the business away? Not only can we not smoke, we're forced to look at these ludicrous pink fucking signs that read: "Why did Java Co. Go Smoke Free? \*Complaints from our non-smoking customers \*Second-hand smoke concerns for employees \*Public image as a health-conscious café." The first two reasons are feasible, but the third one pisses us off. Why should smokers suffer because the owner is concerned about image? The distinct impression is that the non-smoking customers are more important than the smoking customers. Smokers were already shoved into the back of the store, hidden from view, as if smoking were some fucking contagion. Now we have to huddle in front of the store in the middle of winter.

Java Co. used to be a pimp-shit hangout off both smokers and non-smokers. Now it's a stuffy, intolerant establishment, ostracizing a portion of its customers, attempting to pacify smokers by putting up pink signs with sunshine stating, "While we apologize for the challenges forced on you smokers, we are excited to become a smoke-free espresso café." Java Co. always seemed to be the type of business that accommodated all lifestyles. What happened to that tolerance?

Where are smokers supposed to go to study now? There's no place within walking distance of campus where you can sit and chill and have a cigarette while doing some fucking STAT 190 homework. Pancake City and Country Kitchen are okay sometimes, provided one owns a car and can tolerate noise while studying. But a nice, quiet environment is preferable, whether studying or grading papers. It's inconvenient to get up mid-chapter of Middlemarch to go outside, break concentration and have a smoke. Most smokers are aware of the fact that smoking is a detriment to one's health, but shouldn't a smoker quit of one's own volition, instead of quitting because of "challenges forced" on smokers?

Smokers know not everyone smokes, but for fuck's sake, let's not turn Kirksville into California.

Erin Russom  
Kristy Tucker  
Denise Magditch  
Megan Dougherty  
Liz Foerstel  
Assorted former smokers of Java Co.

## Too many sects on campus

The issue that I would like to address in this letter is that of sects on campus. This issue is by no means a new one, but the effects of it are becoming more and more clear as each semester goes by. Every day, one can find sects everywhere on campus. Greek sects, dorm sects, teacher sects, and even Christian sects can be found in such places as the residence halls, the academic buildings, and even in the Student Union. To me, this is a very disturbing issue. Why can't people in different organizations and walks of life simply give up the specific sects they are involved in and form larger group sects with other organizations around campus? Why can't the sects in the dorms and the Greek sects come together? Or the Christian sects and the non-Christian sects? Or the students and teachers? To tell the truth, I believe that sects involving both teachers and students together would be very encouraging, as opposed to the exclusive student sects one sees every day. Unity is really what's at stake here, and the quicker we all realize that, the better off we'll be. I say give me sects involving huge groups of many different kinds of people, or no sects at all! To this, the objection is often raised that not knowing people is a deterrent to having larger group sects, but this is easy to overcome. One needn't be afraid of large group sects, and thus seek to protect themselves from such things. It is vital in our growth as humans, especially in this critical juncture in our lives, that we be involved in group sects expanding well beyond our comfort zone. This is really the only way we're going to be able to get to know people, and that is crucial in the culture we were born into. Also, as a result of having larger group sects, one can learn many skills which can be practical when applying for jobs in the future. The women at Truman especially benefit from large group sects because there are more men involved in such things, and such a group can help the women on campus find that special someone.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate that all of the sects on campus can be frustrating, because each group is clearly exclusive and closed to other people joining them. I think that if we ever want to see unity on this campus, we must begin to seek out large group sects, open to anyone and everyone. Ideally, we will someday see the sects on campus include every member of every group, but until we do, we should strive to have the largest group sects available to us. Then, and only then, will we truly promote diversity and unity, thus fulfilling the goals of our university, the premier liberal arts and sciences institution in the mid-west.

Sincerely,  
Vince Bissey

## Attendance policy no good

I have a strong opinion about mandated attendance policies and I've heard that there is this professor going around trying to get a university wide mandated attendance policies. So, I don't know how you publish opinions, but here's mine on the issue (by the way, I'm not a professional writer or anything):

One disadvantage of instituting a campus wide attendance policy is that the professor won't be as motivated to give a good lecture, or to do a good job b/c students are forced to go to class, it should be a choice, sure, in the eyes of administration, skipping is bad, but sometimes I personally don't want to waste my time and go to a dumb lecture, and even if that is "bad" it would be my choice.... how about no attendance policy so the professor has to work for his students, so he presents relevant things that would be on exams, so it would be necessary and worthwhile to go to class, the solution is not to force people to attend, the solution is to get better teaching, and make more learning possible, so leave the choice open to the student's that PAY for the education not the mandated policy to the professor's that would be required to do less if they got student's in there to hear bullshit and mindless lectures. So, there should not be a campus wide attendance policy, there should be a campus wide non-attendance policy and leave the choice up to the student's that pay for their own education and that can best decide how to allocate their time. Sometimes it is best to go to class, sometimes it is not, the only person that can make that decision is the student not some policy that would adversely affect the grade of the student even though attendance would no way show the student's understanding of the material or whether the student worked hard in the class.

Jason Johnson

## Reader misses joke

Hey, I love reading *The Monitor*. I like independent people sharing their uninhibited viewpoints. I respect that you can and should keep your air of independence, but you need to make sure that whatever form your view takes, it must be something that I personally want to read (I would have said professional, but this is *The Monitor* we're talking about, not *The Wall Street Journal*).

A case in point is Mr. John O'Hara's whiny little letter printed in the March 6 issue. O'Hara has every right to say what he wants, but *The Monitor* does not need to print it. The last thing I want to read when I open up a campus newspaper (considering that it is necessary that I read every printed word and am incapable of preventing myself from doing so) is a collection of anal leakage (I would have described it as a sophomoric diatribe, but anal leakage is more colorful, and it sounds less pretentious) on how disrespectful, unprofessional, whiny, and immature Mr. Aaron Baker is and how unprofessional *The Monitor* is for having printed his letter. If you have a bone to pick with someone, get in their face and vent. Don't use the paper. *The Monitor* does not need to print that kind of stuff. Independent mindedness is admirable, unless it is obviously meant to be joke and I don't understand the humor behind it, in which case independent mindedness is sophomoric. Please do not print anything remotely funny ever again.

Sincerely,  
Raymond French

## Good ole boys dupe us again

Although I have been told I should not rock the proverbial TSU boat, and so be unstintingly "praising" of Manning Marable's lecture here at what should be Josephine Baker campus, I have a problem with him that surprises me! I understand and admire the Du Boisian oratorical, "roundabout" advocacy tradition he hails from fairly well. Working as an historian myself or our UK National Biography files in acceptance on Du Bois' white anti-slavery last century collaborator, Sir John Harris, one comprehends, of course, the benefits and the sheer eloquence of such forceful advocacy as we all enjoyed. But, please, not, when it leads to too much oratory at the expense of basic clarity. And dare I say it a certain whiff of elitism manifest beneath the undoubted charm even in chats I and wife and two Afro American students were kindly allowed with him after his first lecture!

This becomes crucial if as Marble self-intentionally was doing, you are trying to "reconfigure" to use his over-wrought tendency to jargonese the "world" Left in the debilitating wake of both September 11 white vengeance jingoism and Bush's TV aided amnesiacal success about his Floridian stolen presidential grab for the 1950's retreat male-Right corporate whites dulling and dumbing-down all our global lives! Who, truly, can thus dispute Marable's contention that we on the Left need to "rethink ourselves" to recapture this thus sadly forsaken lost ground? But, please, professor if doing so, do so, especially as an acclaimed newspaper columnist in comprehensible BIG CAPITALS, CLARITY LINES!

Let me encapsulate precisely what I mean. Responding to audience querying from certain well-known Monitor "third party" advocates, Marable denounced the "two-arty, big-money, lock-out" system in admittedly a compressed time frame (we were all meal-hungry for upstairs, YES!). But with incredible pompous lingo, he then threw out two suggestive explanations and perhaps solvents to overcome the two party exclusion, saying that the USA is "not a parliamentary democracy" and that he would prefer a "proportional vote and at least a second run-off election choice" alternative system in replacement for our existing male while Bush/Gore oligarchies.

AGREED! But as the brand-new US Leftist Magazine, Clamor, has astringently critiqued what we in the Left fail to do, hwy not put it in PLAINER fully comprehensible language? As I betcha Marable does on his on-day-a-year SAN QUENTIN prison lectures he cited to us all, so much more vividly in illustration of "western racism via incarceration statistical records."

IN CONCLUSION: LET'S SPELL IT OUT. MARABLE OLD BOY, DO NOT 'BAMBOOZLE' US AS YOU YOURSELF FOREWARNED THE "ACADEMIC" AUDIENCE FROM DOING BEFORE OUR EVENTUALLY ALLOWED, MEAGER, "Q AND A!" "PR" means the kind of fair voting system that actually operates today throughout most of my native Europe's parliamentary, not presi-

See Iles, page 9

## monitor opinions

## Colombia hosts world's worst human rights abuses

## Opinion by I Marc Becker

Last year in the South American country of Colombia there were 35,000 violent deaths; 530 massacres; 745 people disappeared; 172 labor leaders killed; 342,000 *campesinos* (rural dwellers or peasants) displaced; and about 3,500 people kidnapped. All of this makes Colombia the most violent country in Latin America and one of the most violent countries in the world.

In order to better understand the violence in this country, over spring break I traveled to Colombia with a Witness for Peace delegation. Witness for Peace is a politically independent grassroots organization led by faith and conscience and committed to nonviolence. The organization's mission is to support peace, justice, and sustainable economies in the Americas by changing U.S. policies and corporate practices that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Colombia, we interviewed members of civil society, refugees, human rights workers, government officials and U.S. State Department officials. We also visited Arauca, which is located on Colombia's border with Venezuela and is one of Colombia's major oil-producing regions. Battles over natural resources have led to exceptionally high rates of violence in this rural region, even by Colombian standards.

Colombia has endured almost four decades of brutal armed conflict between the national army, leftist guerrilla movements, and right-wing paramilitary forces. Overwhelmingly, the victims of this conflict have been and continue to be civilians—primarily church and community leaders, human rights workers, and local labor organizers. Into this situation, the U.S. government is now sending more than \$1.3 billion in mostly military aid, ostensibly to fight

the "war on drugs."

The roots of violence in Colombia run much deeper than recent problems with drug trafficking. The United States considers Colombia one of the oldest democracies in Latin America, but the system it seeks to defend is one of exclusion and oppression. Colombia is rich in natural resources, but 60 percent of its 40 million people live in extreme poverty. Democracy in Colombia is a hypocritical system that has become a genocidal regime in which any opposition is violently eliminated. Thousands of opposition political and labor union leaders have been killed for seeking to defend their civil and human rights.

Increasingly the United States is being drawn into this conflict, and its role is neither altruistic nor positive. Colombia has the third

largest (after Venezuela and Mexico) known reserves of oil in the Americas. Los Angeles-based Occidental (Oxy) Petroleum Corporation has significantly increased its exploration for oil in Colombia. In order to defend its economic interests from leftist guerrilla threats, it has allied with the right-wing United Colombian Self-Defense paramilitary group, which the

financial interest in the small Houston-based Harken Energy Corporation that is also developing oil wells in Colombia. Given these investments, it is no surprise that Bush wants to increase U.S. aid to the Colombian military. The problem, however, is that the Colombian military has proven links to the same right-wing paramilitary groups the State Department placed on its list of terrorist groupson Sept. 10. These paramilitary groups are often nothing more than retired or off-duty military officials or, in a type of shell game, a place to hide unsavory soldiers who commit human rights abuses so that they cannot be sanctioned for being part of the "formal" military structure. An unknown amount of U.S. military aid and training to Colombia ends up in the hands of these paramilitary forces. In a nutshell, U.S. tax dollars fund and support terrorist activity in Colombia.

Since Colombia gained independence from Spain in 1819, it has only known five years of peace. The roots of violent conflict in this country run much deeper than recent conflicts stemming from the illegal drug trade or oil production. Ending U.S. military aid to Colombia would not end the conflict. But when questioned about the proposed additional U.S. military aid to provide security for the oil pipelines, local citizens, elected officials, and human rights representatives all said that helping to build up the Colombian military will only increase the violence for civilians in their communities.

As the world's sole remaining superpower, the United States has the ability to be an actor for good or harm. In Colombia, U.S. military aid only contributes to cycles of violence, undercuts civil society's ability to build a strong and lasting peace, and acts as a force for great unspeakable evil.

## Last year in Colombia...

### 35,000 deaths

### 342,000 people displaced

### 3,500 people abducted

### 530 massacres

State Department has declared to be a terrorist group.

Furthermore, George W. Bush has a fi-

## "Castrating bitch" outclasses femme fatale, ditzy grandmother

## Opinion by I Dr. Linda Seidel

We all know that name-calling can be used as a method of social control. Thus, the boy who hears "fag" hurled his way on the middle school playground may, temporarily, adopt this year's version of pre-teen masculinity. The high school girl who hears "fat" whispered coyly by a "friend" may start a diet. And women, still often taught that they should aim to please, may fear to assert their rights, lest they be confused with those "castrating bitches," the feminists. Hence the notorious "I'm not a feminist but—" locution that prefaces so many feminist-sounding remarks.

As a self-identified feminist and a person with a professional interest in words, I have spent some time thinking about the metaphor of the castrating bitch. For, surely, it is a metaphor, Loreena Bobbitt aside (who may be the media's version of a feminist, but is just an angry woman as far as I can see). No man *really* expects his treasured part to disintegrate merely through proximity to a feminist.

I must conclude, then, that the castration threat presented by feminists must be symbolic; that is, we are "castrating" because we wish to undermine patriarchal power. We wish to dismantle male privilege and to assert that

men are not deserving of more respect simply by virtue of being men. In short, we claim equality between the sexes. Is that an impossible goal?

French feminist Monique Wittig argues that the sex/gender categories "man" and "woman" must go because man, labeled as such, will always define himself in reference to some subordinated woman. Apparently the critics who call feminists "castrating bitches" must also think that men need female underlings (at least one) in order to be men. But I am enough of an optimist to believe that men are not really so fragile and that equal rights with women will not produce physiological dysfunction.

Meanwhile, if people wish to consider me a "castrating bitch," I am happy to wear the label. Think about it: What are the available cultural images for women past 50? The sweet, somewhat ditzy grandmother? The aging, face-lifted femme fatale? I'm too old to play the ingénue, the sex kitten, or the ardent young wife (even if I wanted to). The castrating bitch is a woman not to be trifled with, a woman of power, a woman who might (like the witch she resembles) wave a magic wand and make your thing fall straight off!

## RU-486 obscures horror, gory truth about abortion

## Opinion by I John Hilton

Early one morning two years ago, over a piping hot cup of Sodexo coffee, I was dismayed to read in the newspaper that the FDA had approved the infamous RU-486 abortion pill for distribution in the United States.

Initially I was shocked, but I suppose that an abortion pill is the next logical step for our society to take in the march towards decadence. Like any other abominable act, killing one's children is easiest to accept when one does not have to witness the act itself. Wouldn't the evening news be easier to watch had Andrea Yates, the Houston mother who drowned each of her five children in the bathtub, found a less gruesome way to dispose of her unwanted children?

This is why people recoil so violently at the image of an aborted child on a placard at a pro-life rally. This is why Americans are so repulsed by the idea of partial birth abortion, where a baby is killed in the delivery room before the umbilical cord is cut. This is why it is

illegal for a doctor to show a woman considering having an abortion an ultra-sound of her unborn baby. This is why our society has invented euphemisms like "fetus" and "the termination of a pregnancy." The less one considers the very real, very permanent consequences of abortion, the better, right?

Wrong. Abortion is murder because life begins at conception. "The termination of a pregnancy" is homicide, and a "fetus" is a baby, as we all once were. But aesthetics take precedence over truth in 21st century America, hence the "morning-after pill."

So while for some the availability of RU-486 may mean a new height of civility for our society, in fact it represents a new moral low, where our own poor decisions yield no immediate consequences and an inconvenient human life is disposed of neatly and quietly, lest someone's conscience be troubled. For that is exactly what RU-486 does: it makes murder easier to swallow.

**MORE WHITE SPACE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MONITOR!**



# Overspending fuels Missouri's budget woes

Opinion by | John Hilton

Gov. Holden's budget is a mess, in case you haven't heard. The University's administration would have you believe that "the budget crisis" is the reason the classrooms in McClain Hall are always unbearably warm, no matter what the season, and the hideous purple carpet in McClain has yet to be replaced. And to their credit, they may be telling the truth.

But Gov. Holden is not. Missouri does not have a budget crisis. We have a spending crisis. Over the last decade, the state's budget has grown by more than one billion dollars per year. Last year Missouri's budget topped an astronomical \$19 billion.

Gov. Carnahan spent the surplus revenue of the 1990s as fast as he could on a vast array of social programs, such as the infamous "Medicaid for Millionaires" program. Under this plan, a family of four with an income of \$50,000 would qualify for state-sponsored health care subsidized by your tax dollars.

True, the blame for the current spending crisis falls squarely on the late Gov. Carnahan's shoulders. The 1990s are over, and Holden is left with the awesome responsibility of paying for Carnahan's party. A real leader would accept responsibility for the tough decisions that need to be made and get the state's spending habits under control. But instead Holden has chosen to depend on superficial remedies. Holden's proposal to remove the loss limit at Missouri's riverboat casinos and to raid \$135 million from the state's Rainy Day Fund does nothing to solve the real problem with the state's budget: excessive spending.

The gambling industry preys on Missouri's most vulnerable and desperate citizens, the very people Holden claims to champion. In this sense, gambling is the most regressive type of tax imaginable because it depends primarily on the desperation of the poor in order to generate revenue for the state. Removing the loss limit at Missouri's riverboats to balance the budget is irresponsible and immoral. Just as many Missourians are addicted to gambling, Holden appears to be addicted to spending the taxpayers' money. Removing the loss limit is treating a symptom of the problem (lack of funds), not the problem itself (excessive spending).

The last time the state dipped into the Rainy Day Fund was to clean up after the floods of 1993. The Fund was established to pay for emergencies like a 500-year flood, not to help a governor shore up a shaky budget instead of making needed spending cuts. By law, any money Holden takes from the Rainy Day Fund must be repaid to the Fund within three years. If Holden raids the Fund and in the meantime continues to spend your money at the current rate, then the real problem has not been solved, only temporarily avoided.

Holden has the opportunity to curb the state's out-of-control spending habits and to put the budget in order. Instead, Holden seems to prefer quick fixes to avoid making hard decisions. Holden's budget is a fresh coat of paint on a rotten board and does nothing to solve Missouri's spending crisis in the long run.

# U.S. needs lesson in democracy

Opinion by | Dr. Marc Becker

On April 12, the Venezuelan military with the support of wealthy right-wing business sectors overthrew Hugo Chávez, the country's democratically elected president. Commander of Commerce leader Pedro Carmona declared himself president, dissolved the National Assembly, dismissed the Supreme Court, and abrogated a series of laws. Two days later, riding a wave of popular support, Chávez returned to power. Once again, Venezuela has functioning democratic structures.

The coup resulted from conservative reactions to Chávez' economic policies. Venezuela is Latin America's largest producer of oil and the third largest source of oil imports to the United States. Chávez, a nationalist leftist-populist who has significantly reshaped Venezuelan society in his three years in power, has become a leader of OPEC. He has successfully raised oil prices in order to fund social development programs in Venezuela. Higher gas prices at the pump in the United States translate into less poverty in Venezuela.

While other Latin American countries condemned the coup, the Bush administration, far from protesting this break in democratic governance, welcomed Chávez's overthrow. In embracing the coup, the United States violated its commitment to the Organization of American States' Democracy Charter which requires strong action against military coups. When Washington's glee turned to dismay as their coup collapsed, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice incredibly cautioned Chávez to "respect constitutional processes."

Without a doubt, the United States was a major force behind this coup. From criticizing Bush's terrorist war against Afghanistan, to being very friendly with Cuba's president Fidel

Castro, to refusing to cooperate with Washington's war on guerrillas in neighboring Colombia, to opposing U.S. economic domination of the world, Chávez has unquestionably alienated the U.S. government. The main military leaders of the coup had trained at the U.S. Army School of the Americas, which has graduated many of Latin America's dictators and has been implicated in extensive human rights violations throughout the Americas.

The United States desperately needs a lesson in democracy. It may not like Hugo Chávez or his policies that benefit poor people in Venezuela, but he is the president that Venezuelans openly, freely, fairly and constitutionally elected (which, incidentally, is more than George W. Bush can say about himself). Chávez also still enjoys a good deal of support in his country. It is not the role of the United States to go around the world and select leaders for other countries.

Many people have pointed to the strong parallels between Chávez and Salvador Allende in Chile. On Sept. 11, 1973, the United States helped engineer a coup that overthrew Allende, the democratically elected president, and ended a long tradition of civilian constitutional rule in Chile and implemented one of the bloodiest military dictatorships in Latin America. As in Venezuela, U.S. economic interests trumped its commitment to democratic values and institutions.

The U.S. government's opposition to democracy and civilian rule in Venezuela clearly reveals that it is not a force for democracy or justice in the world. Rather, it is held captive by a group of oil barons who freely and openly violate constitutional systems in order to advance their own economic agenda. The result is that the United States has become a destabilizing force in the Americas.

# Victimization complex impedes peace process

Opinion by | John Halski

Since September 11, Americans have become acutely aware of terrorism and the possibility of dramatic attacks on their existence. In Jewish culture, such attacks come not as a shock but rather as verification of their place in the world. On 27 March, Jewish families around the world sat at the Seder table to partake in the opening ceremonies of Pesach ("Passover" in Hebrew) to commemorate the many times that divine intervention prevented the annihilation of the Chosen People at the hands of their enemies. This year, suicide bombings in Israel on Pesach (later known as the "Pesach Massacre") added a modern theme to the holiday. An article which appeared in the *Ha'aretz*, a leading Israeli newspaper, made the historic link between Palestinian Intifada today and the persecution of Jews throughout history.

Steve Hoffman, head of United Jewish Communities in the United States said that when he got to the part in the Haggadah [the holy text read during Pesach] where it says "In every generation our enemies rise up against us," he couldn't stop thinking about the victims in Netanya or wondering how long it would take to overcome our enemies this time around. The fact that the attack took place at the start of the Seder, he said, imbued the act with symbolism. "It says that the murderers are acting not only against Israelis, but also against all Jews. They are saying by this that they have no respect for us, not as Jews, and not as human beings." ("Abroad, the news of the attack was part of the Seder", *Ha'aretz*, March 29, 2002)

Certainly, Jews living abroad (still in "Diaspora", or exile, according to common Jewish terminology) feel a distinct connection with

Israel, as the historic and Biblical home of their people. At the end of the Seder meal, observant Jews the world over say together "Next year in Jerusalem," as they have for centuries since the beginning of the Diaspora. The creation of a Jewish state in the land of their forefathers imbues many Jews with a feeling of pride that they do not otherwise find as a minority in the Christian West.

From the perspective of the Israeli government, as the representative body of the state, Israel and the Jewish people are in essence one and the same entity. Subsequently, any criticism of the state of Israel, its government or its policies is quickly labeled "anti-Semitism." It is telling that *Ha'aretz* journalist Eliahu Salpeter wrote an opinion piece on 10 April 2002 titled "Not all criticism is anti-Semitism", as if the very absurdity of the notion were not self-apparent. Yet, the association is clearly present and emphasized by the Israeli government. Thus, any and every attack against Jews, either physical or verbal, grabs the attention of Israel and solicits an immediate response from the government; conversely, any assault on the state, either against the Israeli people or the government, is interpreted as an attack on the Jewish people.

According to Jewish Israeli ideology, the state functions as a crucial refuge for the Jews of the world, forever at risk of extinction at the hands of their enemies. From this perspective, a demonstration against Israeli policies and the firebombing of a synagogue in France all stem from the same root cause, i.e. a new wave of anti-Semitism spawn from the hatred of Jews. Thus, even the truck explosion in Djerba near an ancient synagogue on 11 April, which the

local Rabbis declared an accident but the Foreign Minister of Israel declared an act of terrorism, amounts to the same existential threat against Israel and the Jewish people as a suicide attack on Israeli soil.

Cast in the most positive light, we can view this perspective as a collective cultural response to tragedy, meant to soften the blow of such losses and to provide community support for those in need. In this way, it may be argued that the Jewish people have been able to maintain a coherent society while living as a minority in disparate communities throughout the world.

However, given the presence of the Israeli government, which purports to serve as the representative body of the Jewish people, we can witness how the overriding sense of eternal persecution has led to a situation in which the government can justify any behavior as "self-defense." Indeed, if we accept that the Jewish people are forever victims, then we must also accept the efforts of the Israeli government to quell those responsible for the persecution, the eternal anti-Semite who will forever threaten the existence of the Jewish people. Who could possibly argue with a government striving to defend its people against blind and irrational hatred turned violent?

Simultaneously, we can witness the same mentality of victimization taking root in the Palestinians, who have grown up to believe that the Jewish people (and indeed the entire Western hemisphere) has a blind hatred for them as well. As a result, both in Israel and amongst the Palestinians, extremist movements have gained considerably in strength, relying heavily on the message that coexistence is impossible since the

enemy wants nothing but to eradicate them from the face of the planet. The political and historical background to the conflict fades as the two sides adopt a spirit of epic and eternal conflict that negates rational analysis and criticism. The potential for such a situation to lead to tragedy is high, since both sides will feel increasingly justified in doing whatever possible to ensure that they, and not the other, preserve their existence.

Waging War Against Hatred

On 31 March 2002, in the wake of the "Pesach Massacre", Sharon gave an address to the nation in which he declared war against the Palestinian Authority. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) prepared a massive invasion force and proceeded to enter all major Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank with the goal of destroying the "terrorist infrastructure."

Though President George W. Bush gave PM Sharon a green light to do whatever he wished with the full approval of the US, the tactics of the IDF immediately drew heavy criticism internationally from European and Arab nations alike, as well as a slew of human rights organizations. By the end of March, the IDF had demolished the Palestinian Authority (PA), holding PA Chairman Yassar Arafat along with several aids and foreign observers in his headquarters in Ramallah. Israeli troops prevented medical personnel from attending to those injured or killed during the assault, leaving thousands without even the most basic medical supplies or the means to dispose of the bodies piling up on the Palestinian side. Whole villages

See Israel, page 13

## Protest, from page 1

that packed the highways included Chicago Direct Action Network, Women in Black for Peace and Justice, and the MIT-based Nerds against the War.

There was a flurry of activity during the marches, which included drumming; chanting; marching; speaking; a punk rock band performing off a sidewalk; a slew of interviews taking place via independent media journalists; music performances (including a performance by relatives of victims of the Pentagon and WTC attacks, who are against an armed response); and Muslim prayer rituals.

In the midst of these activities, a number of cross cultural exchanges took place. During midafternoon, an adolescent Palestinian boy was overheard explaining the plight of the Palestinians to two African-American D.C. residents, saying "It's like the same thing as what the black South Africans were facing under apartheid man, it's like the same thing." Earlier in the day, a group of orthodox Jews showed support for Palestinians, with Rabbi Osher Zelig Estreicher talking about how the teachings of the Torah explain why the occupation is morally wrong.

In addition to the Palestinian solidarity demonstration organized by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of Palestine, there were two other "feeder marches" that joined up later in the afternoon at the mall. One was organized by the Mobilization for Global Justice (MGJ), which stopped in front of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund headquarters. Rob Weissman from Essential Information, a group founded by Ralph Nader, pointed out that as a result of the global justice movement, the World Bank ended all "user fees" for education (or charges brought about by structural adjustment programs).

Local activists at the MGJ march also

made connections between international and local struggles. Vanessa Dixon, one such local activist, charged that D.C. Mayor Williams supports privatization and public disinvestment in community programs such as the city's only public hospital, which was recently closed. In the other "feeder" march, the National Youth and Student Coalition formed by Student Peace Action Network and the International Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) coalition organized the "A20 Mobilization to Stop the War at Home and Abroad." Protesters voiced opposition to the "Drug War" and the "War on Terror," which they see as a means to maintain U.S. economic and military power around the world.

Demonstrators criticized these military adventures as resulting in human rights abuses roundly condemned by international human rights groups. In Colombia, for instance, the army and paramilitary forces have been widely accused of drug trafficking massacres and other human rights violations.

Despite the presence of the two feeder marches, however, it was concern for the worsening conditions in Palestine that dominated the day's theme.

"I want to see equality for the Palestinians," said Cathy Bentwood, the mother of a 14-year-old son who accompanied her to the protest all the way from New Hampshire. Many others apparently wanted the same thing on a historic day that saw the largest public outpouring of support for Palestinians in U.S. history.

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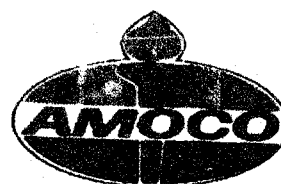
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# TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY SPIN-DEX

Insulting the University community since 1909

Volume 1, No. 1

Wednesday, April 30, 2002

Kirkville, MO 63501

## Inside this issue

NEWS

Some dude was on the square talkin' about peace and Earth and crap. There's some wasted space on the next page just for you, bud!

story on page 5

OPINIONS

Our editorial board discusses our quotation policy. Hey, if you said it, we can print it out of context!

opinions on page 2

WORLD NEWS

Thousands of children will die from AIDS around the world this week. Don't worry, though, Pokèmon 12 comes out on DVD today, so your children will be o.k..

story on page 7

OUTLOOK

Holy crap, you mean people actually believe that stuff about the potato

story on page 8

SPORTS

The University's newly acquired pocket pool team is set to chalk their sticks and rack their balls.

story on page 11

## Highway 63 to expand like rice in stomach

Story by I Andrès Delgado

Heartened by the popularity of the Highway 63 expansion plan, Kirkville City Council members are seeking to build on that success with a plan for a twelve-lane expansion.

Councilwoman Sandy Keifer, who leads the coalition, cited a study led by Jay Siegel from the University of California - San Diego that has shown a "definitive link" between the economic vigor of a community and the size of the highway adjoining it. Asked to comment, Keifer said, "Four lanes is a good start, and Kirkville will benefit greatly from the outflux of money to the contractors who will build the lanes."

She continued, "But this is a town on the rise. We need to take advantage of this momentum to make Kirkville the next Minneapolis."

However, with the current budget cut-

backs taking effect across the state, it is likely that any such expansion will be limited to roughly six miles on the approach to Kirkville from Macon, according to Bryan Arbuszewski, regional director of MoDOT.

The plan is not without its detractors. Councilwoman Brianna Reynolds has questioned whether Kirkville is ready to make the leap to small-city status.

"I've been hearing a lot of talk questioning about whether Kirkville should go the direction of a Kansas City or an Oklahoma City," she said.

Most of the concern, she said, centers on the pace of the expansion. She said, "People who have lived around trees and, like, dirt all their lives are apprehensive about the prospect of skyscrapers in their backyards. Many of the residents around here have never seen a bus except in 'talkies.'"

Henry Lee Smith, local resident, said his main concerns about the impending population boom are the increases in "crime and drug use" that were likely to follow the arrival of civilization in Kirkville.

Councilman Cody "Cody" McKedy echoed voiced these sentiments at a recent town meeting and stressed the need for good planning in anticipation of the storm of immigrants expected to follow the twelve-lane highway to Kirkville.

"I mean, you look at cities like New York and Paris, and what they have in common is that they all have great planning."

Accordingly, the council on Monday passed a morale-building resolution 19-0 mandating that future city planning be "first class."

Faced with the prospect of what some

See 63, page 9

## Campus News Briefs

These news briefs brought to you by Doritos™

liking the delectable corn chip snacks.

"For a long time, Jess used to tell us how gross and commercial Doritos™ were," announced top personal aide and roommate Sara Whitney in a prepared statement yesterday. "But she has seen the error of her past thinking and is prepared to enter the world of artificial nacho-cheese-flavor-loving people everywhere."

The international community has applauded Wilke's efforts and views this as the first step towards initiating crucial Doritos™ trade with her snack-impooverished body.

"We welcome Ms. Wilke into the greater Doritos™-based economic community," President Bush announced today. "But do not think we will not be vigilant against Doritos™ rights abuses, such as those she has performed in the past."

President Bush was referring, of course, to the infamous June 14, 1997 incident in which Wilke deprived partygoers of Doritos™ by purchasing locally manufactured "Chee-Z Chips" instead. This began a UN-sponsored embargo against Wilke that may now be lifted, pending investigation into the sincerity of her current claims. Ha.

### Vending Machine Saves Life

In what is becoming an all too common turn of events, a local vending machine saved the life of freshman Tyke Henderson.

"I was walking in Violette when I got this strange sensation in my stomach," said Henderson. "It was almost like it wasn't as full as it could possibly be or something."

Henderson had been looking around for some source of food, but there was none to be found.

"I was several hundred, maybe thousand feet away from the SUB, and I live off campus," said the lucky youth. "I never could have made it there in time."

Fortunately, help was at hand.

"When I first saw the vending machine, it seemed hazy, almost like a mirage," reported Henderson. "That's how far gone I was."

Delirious with hunger, Henderson stumbled to the nearby vending machine and purchased some life-saving Doritos brand snack chips. He revived immediately and resumed his daily activities.

Unfortunately, Henderson isn't alone in experiencing what doctors term "hunger pangs" at inopportune moments.

"The fact is that no matter how much people eat at meals, sometimes they get hungry in the time between them," said Tom Mitchell, president of the Universal Vending Machine Advocacy Group and author of *4-Life Now: Vending Machines for All*. "This is a very serious situation that can only be remedied by the immediate consumption of individually packaged snack foods such as Doritos™. Mr. Henderson was very fortunate to be near a vending machine at the time, but few are so lucky."

"Only when vending machines are found in every conceivable location will the American people be safe from the looming specter of brief, limited hunger."

### Critics Discuss Latest Edition of Science Building

The initial work on major renovations to the University science building has left many critics wondering whether the next edition will be an improvement over those past.

"I really thought they should have stayed with Science Hall, 2nd edition," said Sheryl Howard, building critic for the Missouri Architectural Society. "But the 3rd edition did show some facility improvements. I think this latest edition will probably be even better."

"Coming out with a new edition so soon after another one hit the shelves just shows that the University science building has sold out," disagreed Stan Pelski, editor of the underground journal *Alternative Architecture*. "I mean, they promise all kinds of new features, but what was special about the 'Golden Age Magruder' edition? Just a new sign. That's all. Science building's editors will have to do a lot more to convince me with this new 'Magruder Revised Standard' edition they have planned."

Neither the editors, nor the publishers of the University science building could be reached for comment

### Student Enjoys Doritos™ Brand Snacks

In a move that has been praised by international observers, longtime Doritos™ holdout Jessica Wilke recently admitted to

# OPINIONS

Spin-dex

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## Funky Winkerbean bland but well drawn

Story by | W. Aaron Wilson

Do y'all know what I'm talking about when I talk about *Funky Winkerbean*? You've probably seen old strips taped to the door of high school band directors. This is because one of the formerly prominent characters was a somewhat martial and sardonic band director. Once upon a time, I thought *Funky Winkerbean* was specifically about a band director. I also thought it was funny.

But the fairy tale's over, and I've kissed the toad that is *Funky Winkerbean* repeatedly with no effect. "Perhaps if I read just one more story arc it will suddenly become interesting and funny." Nope, I'm still peeling the warts off my eyeballs.

Perhaps some background is in order. *Funky Winkerbean* is a daily, syndicated strip that operates in real time. In other words, a day in the life of the FW characters is roughly the same as a day in real time (except my days never seem to end with a witty punchline... well, *Funky's* rarely seem to as well). The FW characters have gone through high school and are now one-lining their way through middle age. This works well and allows for story lines that deviate from the "temporal loop" limbo of many comic strips.

The only problem is that *Funky Winkerbean* should have stayed in limbo. The characters either should have remained in their high school setting with their high school problems, or Tom Batiuk, the strip's creator, should have gracefully stood down as a cartoonist.

Because in the past two years we've gotten to witness FW drama after drama, most so poorly foreshadowed that a new plot point can

be seen coming months down the road. Take Funky's recent bout with alcoholism. Suddenly a strip wouldn't go by without him taking a drink. Four months later he went into rehab (after uproarious drunken courtroom antics) and after a few weeks reappeared, apparently completely cured of his affliction, which lasted half a year.

The other thing that doesn't work about FW is that it's a serious strip posing as a humorous strip. So every weekday we get heaping doses of FW melodrama (with the occasional halfhearted joke) followed by a weekend strip that makes a hit or miss stab at humor.

Of course, FW does have its good points. The fact that Batiuk tackles actual issues such as alcoholism, teen pregnancy and breast cancer shows that the strip has potential far beyond that of ordinary strips. The same cannot be said for his recent "MIA in Afghanistan" mini-arc in which a friend of Funky's becomes one of the select few to be killed in Afghanistan. Wally sends Funky a prescient letter about stinger missiles, his helicopter is shot down, the main cast weeps, and by the next week we're back to the story about the lovable bag lady Apple Annie, all tears forgotten.

I could spend pages going on about the inherent weaknesses of Funky Winkerbean, but I've just hit the limit of my attention span. So I'll save the vitriol for a strip that truly deserves it, instead of picking on a mediocre strip with aspirations of high drama.

Strip: *Funky Winkerbean*

Type: Real time melodocudramedy.

Verdict: Bland but well drawn.

## My opinion is the right opinion

Story by | Doodie Plowser

Here at the *Spindex*, we provide an opinions section full of opinions that nobody could care less about. We just love to read ourselves in print, and the rest is just details. Continuing that tradition, my opinion for this issue is that my opinion is the only one that matters.

Lots of people have opinions about stuff. Some people like the movie *Titanic*. Others, like myself, have refused to see it on the basis that it is a ridiculous piece of crap. The difference between these two opinions is that the second one is mine, and my opinion is the only one that counts.

Opinions, you might argue, are a way for people to have constructive dialogue and are completely subjective. There are no universal opinions. Well, that's fine and dandy, but that's just your opinion. Your opinion is not my opinion. And it is my opinion that your opinion is stupid while mine is correct.

What good are other people's opinions, anyway? I mean, they just open up their trap and start yapping like I care. Don't they realize that while they are just talking away about their own perspective on things and giving me not-so-exciting insights into their lame lives, I am completely ignoring them and just thinking about

how great my opinions are? Honestly, I feel kind of bad for them because they don't have my opinion. It must really suck to not be me and have all these really shitty opinions that nobody really cares about.

The thing is, it's not just that everyone else's opinions are stupid. No, if that were the case, then my opinion would be the best solely by default. The truth of the matter is that I just have all-around great opinions about stuff. I mean, does anybody else see things from my perspective? I'm afraid not. And boy, are they missing out. First of all, I'm really smart. Second of all, I've got great taste. And lastly, I kick ass.

Having an open mind is really overrated. That is, unless you are talking to me. You could learn a lot from my brilliant opinions about everything under the sun. But if you aren't talking to me, you're just as far from perfection by agreeing with somebody else's opinion as you are if you are keeping your own opinion. Either way, they aren't my opinions. It really is a lose-lose situation, so I would suggest just keeping a closed mind so you don't get confused. I myself keep a closed mind all the time. Who needs an open mind if you have the best opinions about everything? I certainly don't, that's for sure!

## Say "yes" to standardized tests

Story by | W. Aaron Wilson

Over winter break, President Bush signed into law his "top domestic priority." I am talking, of course, about the education reform bill. This bill not only provides billions of dollars in federal aid to schools around this country, it also links those dollars to the performance of the schools receiving them.

In order to assess the performance of schools, the government is going to mandate standardized testing every year from grades three through eight. If a school "fails" these tests by failing to improve once they've gotten the federal funding, the bill will then aid parents who wish to send their students to a private school or hire a private tutor (although the bill no longer contains a provision for school vouchers).

This law will bring schools into greater accountability to the parents of children. If the schools can't instantaneously use the new federal money to produce better test scores in math and science, they will see that funding given to schools that will.

The idea of accountability through standardized tests is truly one of genius, and I applaud Congress and the president for having the foresight to come up with it. In fact, I think it's such a great idea that it should be applied to other areas of government spending. Here's a list of some quick ideas:

1. Standardized subsidies. What better way to monitor the way in which government subsidies are being spent than with a series of multiple-choice questions? With this law, any

corporation receiving government subsidies must take a test once a year to prove they deserve to have them. Questions will be in the areas of business law, ethics, management, and civics. Corporations with failing scores more than two years running will have their subsidies repealed.

2. Citizenship tests. This way we can fight the war on terrorism using bubble sheets and number two pencils. Terrorists and other malcontents are sure to get weeded out with questions in American history, American geography, American pop culture and civics. Fail this one and you're back on the boat to Kerplopistan or wherever you're really from.

3. Presidential exams. Now not just schools, but presidents have to be held accountable for their ability to make educated guesses! The test can include questions in American history, world political leaders/systems, "What the American People Actually Think You Should Do You Idiot," and civics. If a president fails these tests two years running, he/she will begin to lose federal funding and perks until he/she can show a marked improvement on their scores.

Yes, finally schools will receive the aid they need in order to cynically teach students only the skills necessary to score well on a standardized test. Finally wealthy schools have a better means of siphoning funding from more impoverished schools.

But this law does not go far enough. Only by using standardized tests in all aspects of life can we ensure accountability, whether it comes from corporations, citizens, or the president him/herself.

## Earth Day

is the time of year when  
we should be more  
cognizant of our waste.  
This wasted space is for  
you, Earth, and all your  
trees that make such  
wastes possible.





# LIGHT SABER DUEL

\*\*Welcome to Episode 1 of *The Monitor's* chat-room Light Saber Duel\*\*

\*\*MastaKilla and DaBorgggg have entered the room\*\*

\*\*MastaKilla issued a challenge to DaBorgggg in last issue's letters section\*\*

\*\*Prepare for Light Saber Duel to the Death!!!\*\*

MastaKilla (Moore): Hey buttnutt. You ready to die by death? I shall now extract revenge for your thoughtless accusations and all-around smugger.

DaBorgggg (Baker): You better prepare to extract your thumb from your booty-hole. That is, if you think you can step to dis!

MastaKilla: <<Unsheaths Light Saber (Its green and has a smiley face on the handle)>> Admire my saber now because you won't be able to once I kill you to death with it.

DaBorgggg: <<Unsheaths Light Saber (This one is Red and looks really mean)>> Admire dis, biatch!

MastaKilla: Is that all you got?

DaBorgggg: Dat's all I need, motherfugger!

MastaKilla: << Does ultra-mega jujitsu flip over DaBorgggg's head>> Boo-yah!

DaBorgggg: <<Puts on cloaking device and stays really quiet, because really, he's invisible now, so MastaKilla can't find him, even if he tries really hard>> How you like me now, sucka? Oops, I guess you know where I am now.

MastaKilla: You idiot... I knew you'd make the first mistake. Revenge is mine!

DaBorgggg: But I can still run around really fast.

MastaKilla: Damn! <<Ruthlessly swings green light-blade of death in desperate attempt to accidentally hit DaBorgggg, and, in the process, knocks down a few tables and trips over the ottoman, only to dismember his own foot>>

DaBorgggg: <<Laughs really hard, which gives away his position once again, and, while laughing, swings his blade like a master ninja and accidentally cuts cloaking device in half>>

MastaKilla: Looks like your "master ninja" moves are no match for MastaKilla! Prepare to die to death by the Masta!

DaBorgggg: <<Takes a swing at head with Light Saber>>

MastaKilla: <<Blocks>>

DaBorgggg: <<Takes a swing at chest with Light Saber>>

MastaKilla: <<Blocks>>

DaBorgggg: << Takes another swing at head with Light Saber>>

MastaKilla: <<Moves out of way>> You don't play sports, do you?

DaBorgggg: <<Takes swing at bloody stump, which, just moments prior, had been MastaKilla's foot. This continues indefinitely for a really long, boring time, as MastaKilla blocks all of DaBorgggg's attacks>>

MastaKilla: Tired yet, Benicio?

DaBorgggg: <<Drops light saber from exhaustion, and accidentally picks up light saber by the "light" end, as opposed to the handle, disintegrating his hand instantaneously>> Time out dude.

MastaKilla: Ok, that's cool. I needed to go to the bathroom anyway.

DaBorgggg: Just give me a call when you're done with your BM (that stands for bowel movement, stupid).

MastaKilla: Ok, but my mom said she needed to use the phone, so it might have to wait until... next issue!

\*\*DaBorgggg exits room\*\*

\*\*MastaKilla exits room\*\*

# Bigotry runs rampant at University

Story by I.W. Aaron Wilson

A recent study published by the university's Science Fiction Awareness Council shows that students at this university are hopeless, callous bigots. The recent survey of University students shows that the campus is a hotbed of senseless hate and anger toward certain groups based on subtle differences.

"Hell yeah I would fight against space aliens if they ever tried to conquer the earth," said Ken McKennit, summing up the stance of most University bigots. "Did you ever see *ID4*? I'd go all Jeff Goldblum on their ass." McKennit punctuated the statement with "fighter pilot" sounds. "Kerzow! Zam!"

"I'm not really all that surprised," said Greg Allerman, president of SFAC. "I mean, I personally would use my encyclopedic knowledge of *Star Wars* trivia to aid in the war effort against alien invaders."

"We were primarily interested in the most prevalent attitude that most University students had toward aliens. Can you believe they [a majority of University students] thought that Sigourney Weaver could kill the Predator the way she killed the Queen Alien? That's totally whacked."

The study showed that 43 percent of students thought that aliens were slimy and bestial "like the ones from *Alien*" while 26.7 percent thought they were humanoid and intelligent "like in *Star Trek*" and 16.4 percent opted toward grey and fetal "like in *X-Files*." However, almost 0.738502 percent agreed with incredibly lame and hairy "like in *Battlefield Earth*."

But the most interesting result of the survey was definitely that the overwhelming majority (95.8 percent) of University students said they would indeed fight against alien invaders, thus showing the degree to which preju-

dice runs on this campus. Even faculty members are not immune to the anti-xenomorphism that pervades this university.

"I don't think that we would have to worry much about aliens attacking. They'd probably die off from the common cold, like in *War of the Worlds*," remarked Dr. Joseph C. Wales, English professor, illustrating his belief that biological weapons should be used on aliens but not on humans. "Or chickenpox, like in *The Martian Chronicles*."

The statistics have even statistically shown the cause of these biased attitudes towards xenomorphs. The survey showed that 88.7 percent of students got most of their exposure to aliens from movies, while 8.3 percent got it from anti-alien video games such as the universally reviled "Space Invaders" of the '80s (Which drew fire from critics when it first came out and said "Man, this is tough. I can never kill that last one. Let's play some more *Missile Command* instead."), with the other 2.9 percent getting it from books.

"I don't really watch science fiction much," said sophomore Melanie Guest. "Actually, I... hate... aliens... you know? I guess I'm... into... [treating] them [as second class citizens and denying them basic rights]. I'm more a 'chick flick' kind of person [who has an unfounded prejudice towards aliens]."

So, these shocking statistics have shown that crass bigotry is alive and well at this university. Hopefully, with the aid of these statistics, the University administration will one day find a statistical way to statistically deal with the problem of hate and xenomophobia.

"And 75 percent thought that Darth Maul was a cooler evil Jedi than Darth Vader," said Allerman. "Vader could make you stop breathing. Darth Maul glues two light sabers together and that makes him cool? Come on."

## 63, from page 7

are estimating to be a seven-fold increase in population, city planners and common residents alike are considering erecting a landmark to distinguish Kirksville from other midwest cities.

Kirksville's answer to the St. Louis Arch is still in its embryonic state, but one idea that has grown popular is a large bronze statue of a farm animal, possibly a goat, smiling and defecating.

The statue would reference Kirksville's humble beginnings as a country town even as it burgeons into a thriving metropolis. The imagery is devised to evoke the fertility of the town and the as yet untapped wealth of its soil.

"We believe it can be tastefully done," said McKedy of the project. "It is very modern in its thinking and has been a source of unity for the community. It really seems to be drawing a lot of support."

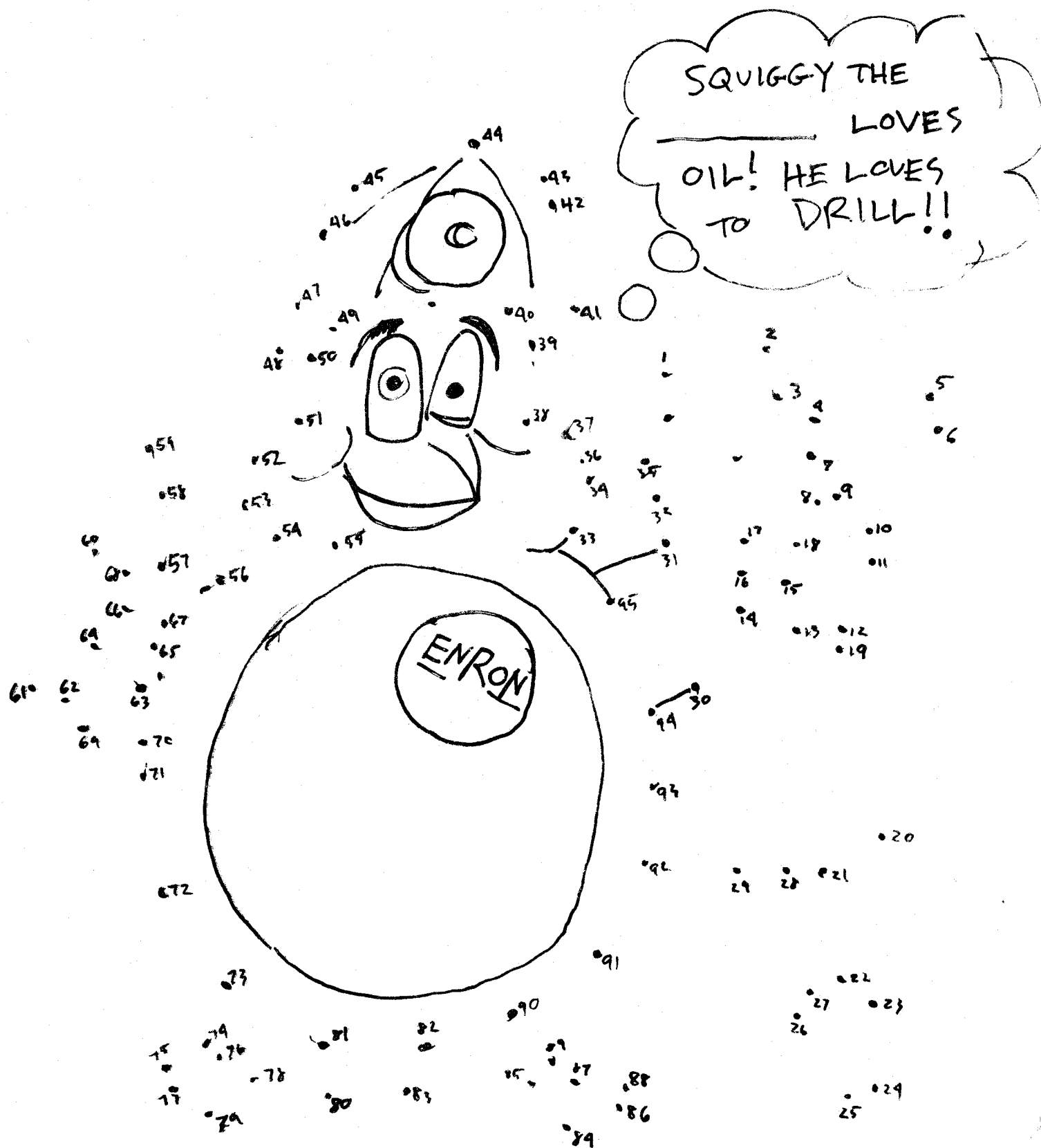
## Iles, from page 2

dential, figurehead democracies. At perhaps its most arithmetical perfectionist, in Eire, the Irish republic it means you vote by SIMPLE preference "1," "2," or "3" for up to five or six Congresspeople, with usually clear party or independent labels, installed with strict campaign expenditure controls to stop US-style overspend scandals. Like the last Missouri Senate Kirksville "special" election races ONE MILLION BUCKS PHONE CALLS ETC THE COLUMBIA TRIB AND QUINCY WHIG HERALD, bravely alone, exposed:

surely, in funds denied our school board! "Runff" voting is less statistically fair in still forcing you, in the END, down to essentially just TWO final candidates and operates most recently in Conservative "Liberal" ruled Australia's parliament. While the French coming second round presidential impending contest will thus be forced down to my own Socialists and the conservative-liberal Gaullist middle classes. ITS STILL FAIRER THAN THE "US WINNER-TAKE-ALL" AND "ELECTORAL COLLEGE SYSTEMS" MARABLES, TOO VAGUELY, MOCKED. As it usually is impossible under affectionately the "Oz" and "frog" systems for anyone to finally win with less than 50 percent of our "real" vote!

If Marables had got down just a little from his own US professorial esoteric lingo high horse in order to, in his own lecture words, be "LESS ABSTRACT" and truly "internationalist," he could have more succinctly embodied his reforms far more clearly for us! And sorry TSU lang and lit gushers in non-excessive praise you, as educator and leftists alike, should all be telling him so yourself in required greater LUCIDITY. You would not tolerate over-loquacity and extreme, esoteric rhetoric from any affrighted TSU student, so why from Manning? Even if, yes, he did, I concede, earn all our Josephine Baker guest lecturer bucks last night in enjoyability for those of us who could UNDERSTAND HIM. Still, in the future, we need a fleft wing US "Oliver North" without the latter's rich-man oath-breaker, traitor's dumbness in invitor preference.

Larry Iles



## monitor reviews

## Ween rocks just as hard sans drug use

Ween  
University of Iowa  
Thursday, April 25, 2002

## Review by | Zach Lechner

Recently, one of my friends and I were discussing Ween, the rock band. "Why do you like them?" she asked. It was a hard question to answer. I think I came up with the lame response, "Uh, because their good." She then said something about having to be on drugs to like them. This is a common misconception, and I am here to correct it. Take it from me, a person who has never done a drug in his life (I don't think the addictive Harry Potter books count).

Like a lot of good music, Ween's tunes might have resulted from drug experimentation, but it is not necessary to be high in order to appreciate their music. After all, the Beatles' late period work is still pretty impressive without drugs. Evan and Jaron's, on the other hand, is not. I'm not going to go so far as to say "The Drugs Don't Work," but then again, I've never been "Eight Miles High" while hanging out with the "White Rabbit."

Dig this: On the evening of April 25, 2002, I arrived in Iowa City, hotly anticipating the Ween concert that would soon take place in the main lounge of the University of Iowa's student union. I spent a little time before the concert checking out the venue. It looked rather

odd and quite un-rock 'n roll to this reviewer. My companions and I managed to nudge our way to a position 30 feet or so from the stage and slightly to stage left.

The rock began at approximately 8:15 and lasted approximately two hours. This is a short concert by Ween standards, I am told. It impressed me, however, as I'm used to artists like Alanis Morissette's cabana boy, Ryan Adams, going through the motions for less than two hours. The proceedings got off to a somewhat rocky start as a burst of feedback greeted Gener as he began the vocals on "Exactly Where I'm At," from Ween's latest studio album, *White Pepper*. But the soundman corrected the problem quickly, and the rock proceeded unfettered. The set relied heavily on *White Pepper* and 1994's acclaimed *Chocolate and Cheese*. The band was tight—Gener on vocals and guitar, Deaner on lead guitar, and their backing band consisting of bassist Dave Driewitz, keyboard player Glen McClelland and drummer Claude Coleman.

I have to confess that I didn't know a lot of the tunes, primarily the older stuff. But I was impressed nonetheless. The set featured several of my favorite Ween tunes, including "Piss Up a Rope," "The Grobe," and "The Goin Gets Tough from the Getgo." The highlight of the evening had to be the mind-blowing rendition of "Dr. Rock." A more apt title for a song there has never been. For those who think Ween

is a joke band, seeing a live performance will surely change their minds. They use humor in their songs, but they are just as serious about their music as any other band, save Creed.

My sole disappointment of the evening was the absence of a cover song along the lines of "Ohio" or "Band on the Run." The guy who called out repeatedly for "These Nuts" was also sadly denied. The concert ended with an encore that included the unreleased song "Someday" and a stellar version of "You Fucked Up."

To bring things back to the "point," I don't think I lost anything from my lack of drug use. God, at least I hope not. I can't help but think how much I would have had to spend for a night of enjoyment that included not only a ticket and t-shirt but also hash or any other drug of choice. It's not my intention to criticize drug users. I've found that druggies are some of the most generous, albeit shift, people I've ever met.

Just realize, folks, that Ween can rock your socks off without the use of narcotics. This is not a drug band—this is a nasty ass rock band that blew me away (but enough about my time spent with the band in their tour bus [rim shot—ooh, you're a good crowd!]). Feel free to take it up to Ween. Just realize that it's not a vital part of the listening experience. Be like me, and do what you want.

## Saddam not so great a guy

## Opinion by | David Dixon

In the March 6 issue of *The Monitor*, Ed Jenkins wrote an intriguing editorial about U.S. policy in Iraq. "Cleanse them of their culture," eh? Yeah, come to think of it, how dare we? What gives us the right? Why do we in America have to remain racistly bigoted towards other countries, especially in the Middle East? Why can't we realize that deliberately gassing your own civilians *en masse*, violating the Geneva convention against using chemical weapons in warfare, forcibly resettling civilians right next to military bases and bloodily suppressing the clergy are part of Iraqi culture and tradition, which we have no right to mess with? What right do we have to interfere with a sovereign dictator's right to rule his people with a bloody fist? Can't we realize that Kuwait was meant to be conquered, by the natural, compassionate way of the world? Who the hell do we think we are, the freakin' Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers?

That was all sarcasm, folks. The point is that Saddam Hussein, contrary to the party line of the entire Green population on campus, is

See Hussein, page 13

## Mentis reveals ignorance of history

Non Campus Mentis

Compiled by Anders Henriksson

## Review by | Cory Milles

Did you know that "Pythagasaurus" fathered the triangle? Or that the ancient Greek mathematician Archimedes invented the first steamboat and power drill? It's true! So is the fact that Christianity was just another mystery cult until Jesus was born.

Well, at least some college students thought it was true. After all, they stated it so eloquently in their papers and essays. The results of these last-minute cram sessions are found in a new book called *Non Campus Mentis*, a huge compilation of students' statements on the vast subject of history. *Non Campus Mentis* captures the humor in students who try to "BS" their way through an exam or paper. Some of these errors are hilarious. Others make the reader wonder if there is any hope for the future of human intelligence.

Of course, what student hasn't conveniently "added" material to an essay or blue book exam in order to fill up pages? In *Non Campus Mentis*, we see the folly of such space-filling tactics. Students combine historical periods, mix up individuals, and plainly demonstrate that they don't know squat about geography. At the end of the book are several maps that are drawn from actual student statements, making the reader glad that these individuals don't work for Rand-McNally.

This book is totally hilarious. I couldn't put it down and was often surprised at what some students wrote. And I guess I also learned a lot, too. I didn't know, for instance, that the "historicle" period came to an end after World Wars II through III. I was always taught that there were only two World Wars. *Non Campus Mentis* makes me wonder what else my teachers and professors haven't taught me.

But amid the hilarity, there are also some real lessons that we can draw from this book. In many passages, words are spelled correctly but used incorrectly. For example, one student wrote that monks "preyed" by day instead of the actual "prayed." Of course, spell checking on computers won't catch this, and it changes the whole meaning. This book is not only entertainment but also a huge "caution" sign warning against trusting spell checkers when writing papers.

At the end of *Non Campus Mentis*, Professor Anders Henriksson, who compiled the book, draws the conclusion that history can be very enriching, but it can also be confusing when unfamiliar names, dates and countries are jumbled together. In a sense, he warns teachers and professors to make sure that the information has a context and is meaningful rather than just being passed on to see how much can be covered in a semester.

Sometimes disturbing, always funny, *Non Campus Mentis* provides a refreshing look at academics and history. While I think world history is an interesting subject in and of itself, I think that world history according to college students is far more amusing.

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good jokes?  
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couldn't think of  
any.

# Alcohol: friend or foe

## Feature by | Jami Burns

He's a two at 10 and a 10 at two. That's how alcohol works, or so it seems. Booze is a great thing in meeting the guy or girl of your dreams. I mean in what other state of mind could you just walk up to someone and be all "Hi how's it going wanna make-out?" and have it work? Alcohol can also be the worst thing ever for a couple that is already in a committed relationship.

The reason most people go to parties is to have a couple of drinks, have fun with friends, and hopefully hook up with someone or at least attract some attention from the opposite sex. The problem with hooking up after you have been drinking though is most guys are more likely to make out with you when they are drunk than when they are sober. Sorry, it's the truth. I don't know of many or for that matter any strong relationships that came out of a drunken meeting. I do know, however, of dumb mistakes made while under the influence of love serums such as wine or beer.

As much as alcohol hooks people up, it also has a great tendency to break couples up. With its ability to be a truth serum as well as a love serum, booze can transform that little incident that annoyed you to into the biggest event since Vanilla Ice made a movie. My favorite of these incidents and the best lesson for the day goes as such: My friend (lets call him Mark) drives three hours to surprise his girlfriend on their six month anniversary. They have a great day together and go to a party that night. Johnny and his girlfriend (lets call her Kat) get more than a little drunk. Kat turns and asks Mark if he likes her new haircut. He responds no, I hate it, it makes your face look fat as hell. Needless to say, Mark and Kat fought like cats and dogs for several hours, or until they sobered up.

Moral of the story: Don't make out with a tool or break up with your significant other if the Captain is makin' it happen.

## Feature by | Adam IX

Alcohol can be your friend or enemy where girls are concerned, depending on how you use it. Alcohol has a tendency to lower a person's inhibitions, and girls go to a party in order to have fun and be with other people. These two things working together can be a great help to you lonely guys out there. Girls who normally would be too conceited to even give you the finger and a dirty look are now all over you, complete with heavy breathing and lust in their eyes. While your first instinct might be to take her out for a cup of coffee and get to know her better, I suggest you seize this moment of passion. The reason: the "lust effect" initiated by the alcohol (and of course, your irresistible machismo) has a rather short half-life of a few hours, and when your time runs out, she most likely will run out as well. I'm not suggesting that you get a girl drunk just to take advantage of her (the legality of that might be fairly hazy). Instead, I'm suggesting that alcohol can be an aid or a crutch to your efforts at creating a long-lasting relationship.

In general, alcohol also has the tendency to make you feel invincible, making you go after girls that you normally wouldn't. This can mean two different things: either you wouldn't go after the girl because she intimidated you, or you never went after her because you thought she wasn't good enough. This can become a real problem in the first case because one of the biggest complaints girls have about guys is that we're so into them when we drink, but we get scared off once we sober up. It's tough to fake confidence with a girl if you don't think you have much of a chance with her; but if you are worried about your chances with her, a girl will usually be able to tell. And if they do find out that you're not completely comfortable with the situation, it will most definitely make them feel uncomfortable around you. It's much easier to deal with the second case, however. If you had no intention of getting with this girl because you were never interested, just tell her that you'd rather simply be friends with her than get into a relationship. Problem solved. Just pray that she takes it well and don't ever imply that you weren't interested from the beginning.

## She said, He said



## A two-sided look at relationships

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## Hussein, from page 11

NOT the Great Moral Pooh-bah of Iraqi culture. He's a monster, to put it very lightly. If the United States were not against him, then it's quite likely he'd be dead by now, overthrown or deposed by his own neighbors. As I recall, left-wing activists made quite a ruckus over our support of him back in 1980, because of all the horrible things his army did against Iran and his own people. But now that the United States actually hates him — well, surprise, surprise, the left wing and most of the common folk of the Mid East think he's a misunderstood genius

and the "victim" of colonialist aggression.

Ed Jenkins, you can talk all you want about helping the people of the world. We're on the same page. But if you want to actually help in a constructive way, stop talking about The Great Saddam as if he were identifiable with the "culture" of Iraq. He's simply a petty thug who happens to be targeted by the most powerful country in the world. What we should have done — in fact, the very thing that could have saved most of those 500,000 Iraqi children — is deposed him when we had the chance, right after the Gulf War. Then Bush and Clinton

wouldn't have kept the damned sanctions up, the world wouldn't hate the U.S., and most importantly, the Iraqi people would be much better off. Instead, we took the easy path and hid behind murderous economic blockades. And we're paying for our mistake as we speak. Thanks a lot, Colin Powell.

I admit it; it's our fault. We should have sucked it up and done what we needed to do — and, in fact, still need to do. I don't buy any of this crap that says one day we'll have "weapons of mass destruction" raining down on us from Baghdad. I care about the people of other

countries more than I care about our frickin' cultural dominance in Oil Country, for cryin' out loud. But if you want to actually help those people, don't glorify a dictator just because Bush, Jr. hates him, for the love of Christ. Think about what would actually work, rather than just condemning every policy that involves military action. And don't pretend Saddam Hussein is a fixture of ancient tradition. He was a thug when we supported him, and he's a thug today. Keep that in mind.

## Israel, from page 4

turn to political negotiations. Secretary of State Colin Powell was sent to Israel to negotiate a cease-fire between the two sides, raising all manner of protests from Jewish communities and the Israeli government.

The retorts from the Jewish community, both in Israel and abroad, reveal the overriding conviction that there is no purpose to returning to negotiations with the Palestinians. They claim that Bush simply cannot recognize the blind anti-Semitism that fuels the Palestinian resistance. As described by political commentator Cal Thomas, Palestinians act from "religious and fanatical zeal to achieve their self-anointed objective of eliminating every Jew they can get their murderous hands (and bombs) on." ("The Middle East fantasyland", 2 April 2002). End of story.

As sure as the hate crimes in France or the truck explosion in Djerba, the "terrorist infrastructure" in the Occupied Territories exists purely out of hatred for the Jewish people. From Pharaoh Ramses II to Hitler to Arafat, the Chosen People will forever face the forces of evil wherever they go. Obviously, one cannot strike a political agreement with an eternally present entity bent on the destruction of the Jewish people.

Muslim Fanaticism or Palestinian Resistance?

A common perspective in the West paints the conflict as one between religions, as if Israel and Palestine were picking up where Cain and Abel, or perhaps Isaac and Ishmael left off. On the one hand, this view allows the West to write off the conflict as irrational and unsolvable. It also fulfills a certain romantic view of Israel as the Holy Land, scene of epic, divine struggles.

In contrast, from the perspective of the Palestinians, their struggle stems directly from specific historical wrongs committed against them. These wrongs extend as far back as 1948, when an ethnic minority, largely of European descent declared independence and claimed over ten times amount of land than they previously held after winning a war against the surrounding Arab neighbors. The War of 1948 (dubbed the "War of Independence" by Jewish Israelis and "al-Nakba", or "catastrophe," by Palestinians) created approximately 780,000 Palestinian refugees who have been denied the right of return ever since. Many Palestinian inside Israel have not seen their relatives since then.

The next great tragedy experienced by the Palestinians occurred in 1967, when the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by Israel began after Israeli forces repelled an invasion by Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Although Palestinians inside Israel enjoy a minimum of basic rights (though disproportionately provided in contrast with Jewish citizens), Palestinians in the Territories have lived under military occupation for over 35 years. The dramatic defeats

engrained in the Palestinians a sense of shame and helplessness, as their Arab neighbors essentially abandoned them to a life of military occupation at the hands of the Jews.

The pressures of living under military occupation led to an uprising (or "intifada" in Arabic) in 1987, which in turn led to the historic signing of the Oslo accords. Although the event momentarily brought a heightened feeling of optimism for all involved, the actual effect of the Oslo Accords increased the sense of defeat in the mind of the Palestinians. The PA achieved some sovereignty over a portion of the West Bank, yet the construction of decadent Jewish settlements on their land continued despite the prohibitions outlined in the Accords. Instead of genuine sovereignty, Palestinians saw the keys to their prison handed over to their own leaders, who remained otherwise ineffective in combating the Jewish encroachment on their land.

After the collapse of the Camp David talks in 2000, a new Intifada began. Demonstrations led to harsh military responses from the IDF, which in turn led to the emergence of the suicide bomber. Although inspired by the militaristic aspects of Islam, which glorify the martyr and promise rewards in heaven, their sudden growth in popularity stem most directly from the overriding sense of hopelessness in the Palestinians.

The Palestinians do not have a recognized army, nor could they ever hope to match the sophistication of the Israeli army in terms of technology or competence. Consequently, only by targeting citizens inside Israel can they strike a blow against their enemy. The attacks achieve a climate of fear amongst Israelis, for better or for worse, but more than that, they promise a meaningful death for a people who have lived for decades under the surveillance of Israeli soldiers and die from random assaults launched anonymously from helicopters and tanks.

Although political leaders from throughout Europe, the US and even Sharon himself have advocated the creation of a Palestinian state in the Territories, there have been no substantial discussions between the two sides or any progress to suggest that the present generation will see an independent state in their lifetime. In fact, the damage wrought by the latest invasion all but ensures that a feasible government structure will not exist for several more years as efforts are made to rebuild what was lost.

In the meantime, Arafat has had to compete with extremist organizations like the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, which promise to alleviate their victimization by sponsoring and openly celebrating the terrorist attacks inside Israel. The leaders of these factions take advantage of the situation, playing off the utter desperation experienced by Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and encouraging them to seek revenge against the occupier. As Dr. Eyad El Sarraj, founder and director of the Gaza Com-

munity Mental Health Programme, recently wrote in an opinion piece, "The struggle today [for Palestinians] is how not to be a suicide bomber." ("Wounds and Madness: Why we've become suicide bombers", 6 April 2002)

Yet, beneath the veneer of victimization and martyrdom, there are clear and reasonable demands for national sovereignty and political independence, a message that is sadly lost amidst the explosions.

When Everyone's a Victim

The Israeli government, particularly the Sharon administration, has a difficult time recognizing victims outside of the Jewish community. Conversely, it readily recognizes any attack on Israel as an attack on the Jewish people *en total*. Ironically, Sharon may in fact desire the emergence of extremist Palestinian factions, as it would fulfill the self-conception held by the majority of Jewish Israelis that they are the Eternal Victim, whose very existence is ever-threatened.

For this reason, every suicide bomber is more than a tactical loss or human tragedy, it is rather a grandiose statement of the world against Judaism (which admittedly may be the opinion of many who perpetrate these attacks). The actual motivations behind suicide bombers are not of great relevance, for they stem from the same spirit of anti-Semitism that results in hate crimes and terrorist attacks wherever there are Jews, from France to Djerba.

What ought to distress us equally, however, is that the Palestinians themselves may have lost sight of their actual political aspirations, losing themselves to the same mentality of eternal victimization. Again we must ask, who can argue with the tactics of a people nearing extinction?

The support for Sharon since his landslide election at the onset of the current Intifada has stemmed primarily from his image as a nonsense force against the Palestinians, routinely described by his Cabinet members as "mosquitoes", "a cancer on the Galilee" and other such terms. The Israeli government, presenting itself as the spokesman of the Jewish people *par excellence*, has assumed a policy in which the Palestinians constitute a unwanted presence at best and a collective threat to Jewish existence at worst. This policy, admittedly fueled by acts of desperate and extremist Palestinian resistance forces, has come to an apex with the latest invasion of the West Bank. Without establishing clear goals (other than "ending terrorism", of course), the IDF will likely leave the Palestinians wondering if anything but blind anti-Palestinianism motivates the Jewish Israelis.

On the one hand, the most popular movements amongst the Palestinians under Occupation have adopted a hard-line position against the Jewish Israelis. Moderate leadership is not in sight, despite the optimistic projections of those pushing for the expulsion of Arafat. Op-

position leader Yosi Sarid recently asked the Knesset whether the death or arrest of 100 terrorists will simply create another 1000, which we must also ask. The IDF may be doing little more than breeding terrorists by treating all Palestinians, young and old, male and female, by the engrained assumption that Jews everywhere will always be the target of irrational hatred.

In turn, these Palestinians will grow up with the like-minded assumption that Jewish Israelis (an possibly all Western nations, who have largely appeased Sharon's administration) want nothing but to eliminate them, without rhyme or reason. The conflict will become nothing more than the endless struggle of victims, both convinced that the other has no intentions beyond extermination.

While Powell brings the hope of reaching a political solution, echoed by the European Union and the UN, Sharon pushes forward with a military solution. The solution has involved any number of questionable tactics, including massive home demolitions and blocking medical aid to hundreds, which has human right organizations in Israel and abroad building accusations of war crimes against Sharon and the Israeli government. (Most likely, these accusations will lead many to cry "anti-Semitism", as any challenge to Israeli policy is inherently a denunciation of the Jews' right to exist.) The Palestinians, in the meantime, will grow increasingly difficult to support as radical movements promoting the spirit of victimization and the glory of martyrdom will continue to capture the spirits of the downtrodden Palestinians.

Regardless of what immediate solution is reached by the two sides, the next generation will undoubtedly grow up with the scars of victimization either to ingratiate into their psyche or resolve and grow beyond. Once the feeling of victimization combines with military might, the effects are devastating and potentially long-lasting. If the Israeli government cannot grow past the fear of extermination and adopt a reasonable policy of coexistence and mutual justice, there is no reason to suspect that the Palestinian state, should it ever form, would bridge the gap — certainly not with so many wounds to lick.

The only other possibility, then, aside from reconciliation or eternal conflict, is genocide. We cannot afford to sanction massacres any more than we can allow terrorism to go by unanswered. Yet, history will judge us by our response, and the next generation will not forget the choices we have made.

John Halski graduated in May 2001 with a BA in Philosophy and Religion. He currently lives in Haifa, Israel, where he works for Adalah: The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel. John Halski keeps an online journal of his experiences in Israel, including political updates, historical notes and more at [www.johnhalski.com](http://www.johnhalski.com). The site is updated weekly.

# Queen Astra



*Let the  
stars be your guide!*

## **Aries (March 21-April 20)**

You will spend your life trying, but you will never understand lava lamps.

## **Pisces (Feb. 20- March 20)**

Despite what your heart tells you, you're entirely too fat to ever be a gymnast. I'm sure there is a seven year-old girl who would love to have your leg warmers and your bag with the teddy bear and the leotard on it.

## **Gemini (May 23- June 21)**

You've kept that secret long enough. The time has come to let it out, even if you become a social outcast. Who knows, maybe you're not the only 22 year-old who thinks Delta Burke is really hot.

## **Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)**

It seems like it would be lots of fun, but in the long run you're going to regret joining that lawn bowling league.

## **Leo (July 25-Aug. 23)**

Your crush is going to suspect something when he catches you rifling through his garbage. You'll be able to make the situation less awkward, though, by mumbling incoherently and ripping your clothes off. You'll ruin your chances with him, but this way he will think you're actually crazy, not just super creepy.

## **Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)**

It's true that Drew Carrey seems funny on TV, but you'll realize how horribly wrong this is when he shows up at your house after a five day drinking binge and all he wants to do is sleep in your bath tub.

## **Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)**

It seems a shame that the Canadians lost to the Norwegians in curling, but take comfort in the fact that all winners get their heads cut off by ninjas.

## **Taurus (April 21-May 22)**

It's high time you listen to your friends and do something about your long, filthy hair.

## **Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)**

Boys hate girls that play games, so you're going to have to make a choice: Hi-Lo Cheerio or that cute boy in your math class.

## **Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)**

Your excessive drinking will seem amusing to your friends until you rub a wet broom in their face and start hitting on 12 year-old girls. Then they'll realize you have a problem.

## **Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)**

Your creativity will take you far in life. Then it will beat you senseless, take your clothes, write "wiener" on your chest with an arrow pointing to your face, and leave you stranded in the middle of nowhere.

## **Cancer (June 22-July 24)**

Keep your eyes open. The dreaded "I'm going to punch you in the back of the head and run like hell" bully is coming to a town near you

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**LÉ COMIQUE DRAMATIS**

Groovy man!

Yeah, man. Groovy, man

And in the cold, Dark, Lonely Existential night...

I feel the groovy grooves.

Like a jalapeño sandwich cat.

Yeah man. It's like...

And in the rising Sun

I feel them Super Psycho Solar grooves, man, ya dig?

Do ya man?

Well, do ya.

I'm talkin' "Doctor said I need a groovytag" groovy.

Ga-Ga-Ga

G-G-G-G-Groovy

When the comic ends... ya know, its cool cats. I can dig it. I'm hip to that. I'm talkin' hot concrete groovy man...

JOE MOZZIA

**MAGIC COMIC**

Paw says uh... thousand words

Thayats whah I been doin' this little siyama see.

See - I been drawin' these little pictures - see

An then I takes um awn up to a paper shop whar they has words.

An I sez here, some pictures - gimme some words

An he says

Okay - but its gonna take ya one picture for a thous and words and that's final

So I agree a kourse - make ~~say~~ omda thar with sim words - an presto!

Amb Rich.

Then ah git lazer beam guns.

And a helicopter pack

**MAGIC COMIC** It tastes good in a box!

**WWKD?**  
WHAT WOULD KITTY DO

**HEY KITTY, WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO EAT THE PINK TACO?**

**UMMM, MIDGETS!**

**HEY KIDS - COME TO MONITOR BAND FEST THIS SATURDAY OR ELSE!**

BY: RORY RHORERTON

# MY BACK PAGES

## Intro to My Prose Piece

This prose piece I'm about to read to you will be fascinating. It will incite, it will ignite, it will have the punchy coolness of ... a beer commercial. It will be original, or at least I'll make a show of it, it will seem original. And that's what counts, correct? I'll be here, selling you a moment of your life, the perfect moments that you'll remember: with your friends, the deeply intellectual time that you had before you went and wasted it all at the bars. You'll be hugging the girls, when you wanna get in their pants. You'll be holding their hair back when they're puking their guts out, you'll be the nice guy. You'll seem like it, and that's what counts.

This prose piece I'm about to read to you will make you life feel complete, as if it fits into a thirty second Gap commercial, with plenty of dancing and white backgrounds...with a cool catchy song, it's only thirty seconds, so it will only have the best parts, the crème de la crème. Or, for you more dark types, you'll fit in a wider space, you'll be some concept art from a Smashing Pumpkins cd booklet. Sorry, you won't be making out on grassy fields while James and Billy swing by in an ice cream truck. Please, with the way you look, it's a wonder you've ever made out with a girl.

This prose piece I'm about to read to you will secretly infect your mind tonight. "Oh, it was good, I suppose," you'll think to yourself. But you'll look into the eyes of your girl, and her stars will be stolen. You'll wonder, as you "make love" to her, if I have them now. You'll wonder because you heard her say "That guy, with his prose piece...he's really deep, you know?" And you'll wonder, and intellectualize, and burn with fury. Where are the stars in her eyes?

And now, for my prose piece, entitled:

## Poets That Fuck

-Jesse Pasley

## To a soldier:

Jubilant revivals inspire the preaching of  
Old Testament mythology like...  
never touch a woman who's bleeding, and  
anything with a vagina is a malicious whore.  
Twisted morals mixed with bad poetry,  
hung over from the school of misogyny,  
abjectly frustrates my already  
nebulous faith in that same holy spirit. Instead,

offer to me thoughtful musings, but  
try not to spit with so sharp a tongue,  
or make such archaic assumptions of my sex.  
Odd, that you should be so careless as to  
let yourself bludgeon this faith to a pulp, for we are not the  
evil Jezebels in your sordid, "Army of God" mind.

-Suzanne Chappelow

silent space invasive  
self-interest persuasive  
silly plastic facelift  
gratuitous metal spaceship  
grimmy, gritty, snotty spit  
toddler tantrum hissy fit  
stuffy, rigid, smelly Brit  
broken bone, ingrown and split  
hapless corporate cog, "I quit!"  
dusty, worn-out, leather mitt  
never-ceasing faucet drip  
red sparkle bicycle handle-bar grip.

THE END

-abstract nomad

Don't know  
How you do  
The voodoo  
That you do  
So well  
It's a spell  
Hell  
Makes me wanna  
Shoop  
Shoop  
Shoop!

-Anonymous

**POETRY READING:** Look for flyers SOON! Poetry reading at the  
Kirksville Post Office Lobby (it's on Jefferson Street). Be there, tell  
your friends, bring some poetry, law enforcement officials not  
welcome. Then we make love with all the happy people of the  
world, or not.

## The Poem That Will Win Me the Nobel Peace Prize

And the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress  
400lb homosexual orangutan seeks  
tall slender, heterosexual giraffe to take part in  
consensual face sex  
must not be: a smoker  
must only eat: prepackaged, pre-peeled bananas  
must share similar interests:  
(not smoking, eating pre-peeled bananas,  
consensual face sex, orangutan historical fiction  
and jokes that start with "Stop me if you've heard this  
one...")  
please do not make any inquiries if interested in hetero-  
sexual  
marriage in order to obtain a green card  
orangutan has serious issues concerning self-loathing  
and still lives with his mother  
if intrigued, send twenty seven \$'s to:  
1717171717171717171717171717171  
W.C Fields  
Third stall from the left  
Underneath the seat

-Aaron Baker

So I was walking leisurely  
around campus on a sunny  
afternoon last tuesday  
and all of a sudden  
this lanky, pasty kid  
comes haulin ass across  
the quad to turn in an  
already late term paper  
and his whole life  
lay before me  
so I hollered,  
"You'll never be able  
to run fast enough  
for them!"

And it's true.

-Noway, Jose

## The Rebellious Haiku

What is it with bricks,  
always wantin' to fly through  
big windows and shit?

-zj

## I Got Your Poem Right Here!

Little Katie Tucker  
Married to a trucker,  
Umm, I wanna fuck her  
Now she's got a baby  
What will the name be?  
Purgatory? Maybe?  
Shopping cart baby!

-Turd Ferguson for Rep@Large!

Send all submissions to: [y096@truman.edu](mailto:y096@truman.edu)