

THE MONITOR

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

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The Monitor returns with new look, old stories from last year

Story by | Cameron Moore

Hey there friend, boy do I have something in store for you. If you like fun stuff, and you look to me like you might like fun stuff, then this paper is just for you. We are *The Monitor* and we are here to rock your face. We are the University's only student-run independent news source.

The Monitor is a campus collective. It is a forum for the free exchange of ideas between students, professors or anybody else who feels like they have something to write about. We cover campus events and news, but we also have music reviews, comics, opinions and just about anything under the sun. Because of this, we don't assign stories, and we don't have a regular "staff." We make each issue from whatever we receive by our deadline, if we have enough room.

A lot of people think that *The Monitor* is some secret club that only a few people

have access to. This could not be farther from the truth. We are always looking for writers, photographers, copy editors, artists, cartoonists, satirists, or anybody looking for an outlet to wreak havoc on normalcy.

The best part about this paper is that we are free to cover and write whatever we please about campus issues and current events. This is because we currently receive no funding from the University, unlike the *Index*, which is obliged to be somewhat biased towards the University. In effect, we are our own gatekeepers at *The Monitor*.

It has become apparent, to me at least, that our standard sources of media are now obsolete. Our corporate system of media does not accomplish the media's supposed main objective: to inform the public.

More and more, this role of media has diminished to an embarrassingly childish scare tactic that has no intention outside of being a

means that will keep us ignorant of the truth. Real news is overlooked, as it would expose the real culprits of humanity, and in its place is a glossed over version of what they think we should hear.

For this reason, I think *The Monitor* serves an important role for communication in the community. Everybody that contributes has a different reason for participating in this free exchange, and that makes this publication a fairly diverse source for several points of view. I hope that I can encourage at least one person to find their reason for contributing to *The Monitor* this semester.

So please, take some time to flip through our special freshman week edition. This issue in particular is somewhat of a mixed bag of articles from last year. Our first meeting will be coming up, look for our table at the activities fair and on campus for flyers for more information.

Protesters paralyze SUB entrance

Story by | Cameron Moore

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

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

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

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

"Locking down the SUB was a drastic action, but a drastic action was necessary to make people think, question and start talking about these issues," University student Kathy Widitz said.

Widitz helped in the distribution of flyers during the lockdown.

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

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

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

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

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

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

All four students were charged with disturbing the peace.

Student art offers diverse works

Story by | Andr s Delgado

Art fans enthusiastically received cultural injections at two opening receptions Monday, Dec. 3. Baldwin Hall played host to a gallery of ceramics by Senior Liz Eggers and fibers by Amy Ray. Seniors Kjell Hahn, Jimmy Kuehnle and Phil Schiff, meanwhile, displayed their creations at Ophelia Parrish.

Soft melodies like Roberta Black's "Killing Me Softly" were provided by saxophonist Greg Erwin of Hazard to Ya Booty fame and nicely accompanied the show at Baldwin Hall, underscoring the subtle ceramics and the technically impressive fibers.

Eggers's ceramics were composed of separately thrown components molded into cohesive wholes. The show will be her last on campus, and marks the end of a progression that she says has led her to discover her artistic identity. "I've come to find what I want to express in my art," Eggers remarked at the gallery's opening reception.

Amy Ray's fibers evinced a remarkable talent for expression within her medium.

Line was prominent in every work, with mood expressed by rigid geometric forms and sweeping curves. A studied appreciation for color theory is presented for the viewer's enjoyment in works, in which complimentary and contrasting colors combine for a stimulating aesthetic.

The tone was different at Hahn, Kuehnle and Schiff's show, where an atmosphere of or-

chestrated chaos was accented by local heavy metal band Ded Gein. Kuehnle's dramatic bicycles succeeded at intriguing the crowd, which came in droves. The aesthetes and the merely curious were shown something new in the angular variations of the bikes. One bright-yellow star-shaped creation Kuehnle described as "almost gaudy." This show, one year in the making, marked his departure from figurative art.

Hahn's work displayed a wide range of human emotion in a themed set of paintings. Schiff described his busy canvases as each encapsulating "the experience of a lifetime." After pausing to think, he added, "Which most are not fortunate enough to have." Their inspiration came from history, and such events as the Inquisition. His canvases treated their human subjects with an immediately recognizable, volatile style. "People are sheep nowadays," he said, evidently expressing nostalgia for the past.

Nevertheless, the University's students have not failed to provide shows with audiences. Sophomore Megan Wiese described the University's art scene as characterized by "Unique shows with unique people."

The works of dozens of University artists are being shown at an open house at

Ophelia Parish beginning Tuesday, Dec. 11. Students can browse two stories of local creative endeavors and peruse prints, ceramics, Christmas cards, and other items for sale by the artists.

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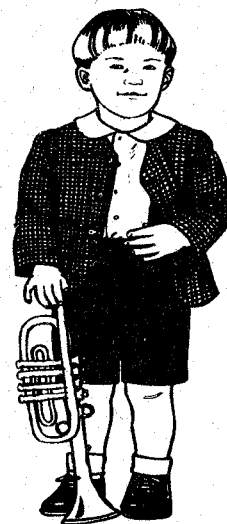
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The Monitor is published every other Tuesday. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 p.m. in BH 346. Each writer is responsible for his or her own work.

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

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

-- Noam Chomsky



THE MONITOR

the Index

**Guess which of these dudes wants
you to rock out with him.**

The Monitor is an open forum that welcomes submissions from all people in the community. Drop off your disk in The Monitor mailbox at the CSI in the SUB or drop us a line at monitortrm@hotmail.com!

**Come to our table at the Activities Fair on Wed. August 28.
Our first meeting will be on Thurs. August 29 at 9 p.m.**

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Putt-putt Golf on the Mall - Mon, Aug. 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.;

Devo in SUB Spanish Room (next to Main Street Market) at 8 p.m.

Activities Fair - Wed. Aug. 28, Ice-cold watermelon under the Tent on the Mall, noon - 4 p.m.

Labor Day Cookout at Enclosed Shelter and Pontoon Boat Ride. Mon. Sept. 2 at 6 p.m., Thousand Hills State Park.

TGIF Devotional Lunches - Open to Students, Faculty & Staff - Starting Sept. 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the SUB Spanish Room. Join us for devo and meal. Noon Educational Program: "Understanding Stress" with Dr. Teresa Heckert.

Greg Hudson Speaks at Church - Sun. Sept 8. Greg is a Junior from St. Louis and a member of True Men.

Church Meets at 1302 E. Fillmore, 2 Blocks East of KFC: Sun. Bible Study 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

For student car pools to church, call x5016 or email elgreggo11@hotmail.com

LETTERS

monitor

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 email us at monitortrm@hotmail.com. Letters may be edited for length.

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

Curling-haters best step off

Note to Andr s 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

Take responsibility, ask God for forgiveness

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

for justice and outrage?

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

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

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

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

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

Amen,
Paul Moore

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O P I N I O N S

monitor

Walker learns hard way

Opinion by | John Hilton

Republicans are almost as fond of boasting that our philosophy is the one of individual responsibility as we are of telling Hillary where she and her precious village can go. Indeed, the tired "I-had-a-bad-childhood" defense lately popular in court is offensive to clear-thinking people for the same reason: it absolves the criminal of any blame on the propositions that immorality is nonexistent and that all human behavior is the direct result of environmental influences.

Likewise, I am just as eager as anyone to see individuals take full responsibility for their decisions. But something about the case of young John Walker (the American citizen caught fighting for the Taliban) gives me pause. Now, this column is in no sense a defense of Walker. He is an adult and should have to live with the consequences of the several poor choices he has made. Those consequences are not going to be pleasant. Blame it on a bit of residual holiday spirit, but a small part of me feels genuinely sorry for Walker because, like so many other members of his generation, John Walker was lied to: by his parents, by his peers, and by society in general.

Somewhere along the way, John Walker got the impression that there are no absolutes in life and that words like "right" and "wrong" are nothing more than constructs of language, a terrible falsehood. Given this extreme form of moral relativism prevalent nowadays, Walker wrongly concluded that no single belief system is any more valid than another. When Walker embraced

fundamentalist Islam in the 10th grade, his parents certainly didn't make things any better by telling him that whatever religion he wanted to follow was fine and that they would support him no matter what. Walker's parents were trying to avoid being judgmental, the one mortal sin of moral relativism, and they succeeded.

Ultimately, the well-intentioned Walkers entered the world as a young man with an intellectually neglected mind and a spiritually neglected soul, a man who was desperate to believe in something, *anything*, to fill the void that accompanies the relativistic philosophy he learned from an early age. Unfortunately for Walker, the Taliban took advantage of the opportunity to stuff his empty head full of visions of paradise gained by martyrdom in a holy war. The rest is history.

Parents aren't doing their children any favors by preaching relativism and telling them that they'll support them regardless of what they choose to do or believe. There are absolute truths in this world, eternal and inflexible. Among these truths is the commandment *Thou Shall Not Murder*, an absolute somewhat at odds with the Taliban's goals.

Everyone needs to believe in something, and if children aren't given the proper moral compass to guide them through life, then parents may not be pleased with where their offspring end up. That John Walker now has to answer for his mistakes is not tragic. On the contrary, it's just. The tragedy is that John Walker is learning these truths the hard way.

Fundamentalism is problem, not moral relativism

Opinion by | Cameron Moore

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why I am not a Republican

Opinion by | Justin Kempf

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

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

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

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

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

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

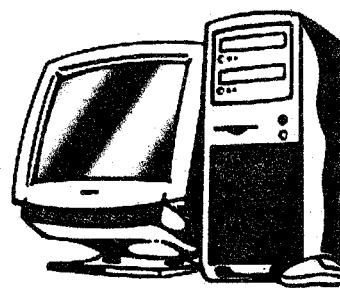
and the line is blurred between activist and terrorist. Anyone who disagrees with the government's or military's actions are seen to be unpatriotic, and their rights are trampled upon to ease the public's sense of fear.

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

Hilton's assertion that "his parents certainly didn't make things any better by telling him that whatever religion he wanted to follow was fine and that they would support him no matter what," makes his argument guilty of the very fundamentalism that plagues the Taliban.

Keeping an open mind, empathizing and maybe even sympathizing with other religions is far from being a problem. To think that the divine is to be looked at from one "right" perspective is to be hopelessly misled. It is the very egoistic practice of fundamentalism, the assertion that I have *THE* truth, which keeps people from tearing down the outer layers of ritual to see the ground that unites them all.

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



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Liberal studies major should be an option at liberal arts university

Opinion by | Dr. Linda Seidel

A little booklet called *Inventories of Good Practice in Undergraduate Education*, a checklist of teaching virtues, is routinely distributed to the University faculty preparing for promotion or tenure review. Do you know the names of your students? Have you asked your students "to explain difficult ideas to each other?" Have you encouraged them "to design their own majors when their interests warrant doing so?" Often? Sometimes? Rarely? Never?

What was that last item? Design their own majors?! Nearly everyone knows that this university has no mechanism whereby students can design their own majors. A few years ago, aopian advisee of mine, at her own insistence, met with the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs to ask whether she could declare a second major in Women's Studies. After all, she pointed out, she would easily be able to pass 30 hours in the field. Regretfully, said the associate VP, the answer was "no." My student was proposing a new major, and all new majors had to be approved by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE). It would take years.

Now, far be it from me to suggest that the *Inventories of Good Practice* constitutes any sort of guide to institutional reform and innovation; rather, it represents conventional wisdom about what universities and faculty members are supposed to do. But conventional wisdom is not always wrong, and most of us live by it much of the time. My point here is that instituting a mechanism that would allow students the freedom, within some agreed-upon constraints, to design major programs suited to their particular dreams and needs, would not be a radical move but a way to join the mainstream. I would call such a mechanism a Liberal Studies major and, yes, the CBHE would have to approve it. But, given that the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) is currently in the process of soliciting advice from all of us regarding institutional aims and priorities, I believe the time is right to propose such a move.

What might be the advantages of a Liberal Studies major? First, it would promote interdisciplinary learning. Under the rubric of the LS degree, students could pursue African Studies, Women's Studies, or Asian Studies as majors, putting an interdisciplinary approach at the heart of their undergraduate experience. A cohort of Women's Studies students, for example, could be expected to draw connections routinely between, say, their learning in Women in American History, Feminist Criticism, and the Anthropology of Gender. The instructors of those courses might be encouraged to compare notes more often as well.

Second, a Liberal Studies major would allow student rebels to go their own way—if they are disciplined enough to find or clear that path. Maybe some students see no major, minor, or area of concentration that intrigues them but can manage to put together a package of courses focusing on, say, Environmental Ethics, or Marketing Health Care, or Art and Propaganda. Why deny such students their well-earned adventure? Couldn't we all learn something through the choices they make?

Third, a Liberal Studies major would give all students, whether LS majors or not, more responsibility for choosing their own course of study. No longer would students be limited to the faculty's vision of what is good for them if they could produce a coherent plan of their own. For the imaginative student, there would always be another option.

Of course, there would have to be an oversight committee. And presumably students would need faculty mentors to guide them through the process of submitting proposals and negotiating with the committee. But I believe that many faculty members would be willing to take on such tasks—ones that are not busy work, but which go to the heart of teaching and learning.

If the Liberal Studies major sounds like a good idea to you, consider telling the SPAC you think so. Their website can be found at <http://academics.truman.edu/SPAC>.

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. Chamber 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's 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.

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

Opinion by | Dr. Linda Seidel

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

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

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

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

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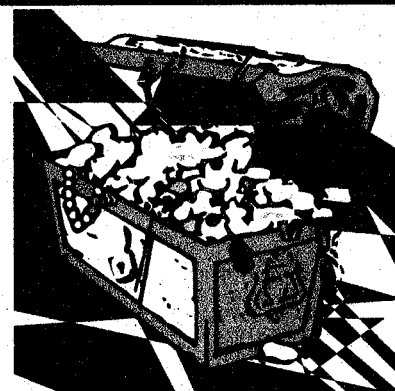


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F E A T U R E S

monitor

Kirksville's
Hidden Treasuresan ongoing series devoted to
discovering the wealth of Kirksville"Booty-licious
Culinary Delights"Feature by | Olivera Bratich,
Marie Montano and Leslee
White

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jesus appears in urine-stained pipe:
You be the judge

Vincent Van Gogh



The Shroud of Turin



Urinal Jesus??

Feature by | W. Aaron Wilson

Every couple of days (MWF 10:30, M 7:00, Th 10:00) I make a pilgrimage. Yes, my trips to Barnett Hall, made necessary by my physics course, have recently taken on a spiritual as well as physical and academic aspect ever since the fateful day that, while paying obeisance to the porcelain altar of convenience, I looked down and noticed the image.

Now admittedly, at first glance the image appears to be merely a stain in the drain-pipe of an ordinary urinal (the one on the right on second floor Barnett, to be precise). But after repeated visits one begins to notice features in the rich mosaic of tans and umbers.

That dark spot gradually becomes an eye, while the fuzzy patch at the bottom becomes a mouth and beard. In the center there is a slightly curved smear that resembles a nose. A face has become painted on this humble urinal pipe by some unseen artisan. A face- but whose?

At first, the full beard and high forehead reminded me of one of Van Gogh's self-portraits. After looking up these portraits to see if they might resemble the face in the urinal, I found that the unruly beard and fuzzy sideburns could not belong to the crazy but well-groomed Dutch Impressionist.

Then it hit me. Whose face, if tabloids and local tourist industries are to be believed (and who doesn't trust the wisdom of local tourist industries? When they tell you the world's

largest prairie dog inspires awe and majesty, you'd better believe them), appears on ordinary objects the world over? That's right, I'm talking about the man himself: Jesus Christ.

What do traditional images of Jesus look like? He has solemn but loving eyes, massive beard n' burns and deeply weathered skin. All of these components are true of the face in the urinal. Could I have discovered a holy image inscribed by a divine hand?

This then leads to a theological quandary: should I continue to...do my business on the face of my personal savior? It seems wholly and utterly sacrilegious to do so, and yet, if years of urinal usage had not occurred (in concurrence with some ineffable plan), the sacred visage might never have appeared in the first place.

Another question arises: what is so special about this urinal that this blessed image has been placed upon it? Could this portrait herald some miraculous happening to come in the second floor Barnett men's bathroom? Or could the mere fact that students make pilgrimages to Barnett every day be enough of a reason? Could their treks to the outer reaches of campus and their use of its facilities generate some kind of spiritual energy?

Not being privy to the plans of the Almighty, I cannot answer any of these questions. All I know is that I walk towards Barnett each day with a little more peace in my heart, knowing that no matter where I am, the face of the Lord is ever watching over me.

NEWS THATS UNFIT

Those little stickers will cost you some knowledge

New special elections are scheduled to take place immediately. The recent FAC election has shed light on a number of issues which are in desperate need of attention from the student body. The following elections are set to have taken place by the time you read this paper.

Over one thousand signatures were gathered on a petition that requested that all advisors be required to complete some form of training before they are put in charge of the futures of their advisees. The exact language on the petition was, "My advisor is a big fat terd." Student Senate added an amendment that would require advisors to be available more often than never.

Almost 3000 signatures, and a good amount of controversy, were collected by a petition having to do with the election of Student Senators. The petition accused that students were not well-enough informed about candidates upon reaching the voting booth. The main evidence presented was the common understanding of the Bulldog Party's stance on issues: The Bulldog Party stands for issues. The items on the ballot, if passed, will ban the party system and encourage knowledge of individuals up for election. While most of them support the changes, one senator reacted, "We'll be lost without the party system! We'll be forced to have stances on things, and will have no mysterious ambiguities to hide behind!"

But there is no decorative fountain...

The new Ophelia Parrish building has been a popular spot for dogs and homeless people alike. It has been reported to *Monitor* staffers that the building is the new favorite public bathroom in the neighborhood. "Apparently there's something really attractive to dogs and hobos about peeing on a brand new building," stated Randy Wiffle, foreman of the OP construction and witness to many urinations.

According to the contractor, the increased frequency in peeings will not affect the final stages of construction on the building. It might, however, stain certain parts of the building a dirty yellow. Dogs are reportedly looking forward to the completion of the building moreso than hobos.

Celebrity visit brings excitement, pot stickers

Anticipating the visit of celebrity Woody Harrelson, many of the folks in Kirksville are making special preparations. Before speaking as a part of the Spitfire tour, he is scheduled to be a part of the groundbreaking for the University's new Greenhouse and Hydroponics Center.

He will be spending time in and around the town square, and it is expected that he'll enjoy lunch at the China Palace. Chefs told *The Monitor*, "We made special recipe 'Smokin' Pot-Stickers' after we read in a magazine that they are his favorite thing." It is also expected that Mr. Harrelson will make a stop at the Courthouse. It is unsure how long he will be staying there, but it is likely that he will make a contribution to local law enforcement if things go as projected by event organizers.

Urinal Jesus vanishes from shrine after *Monitor* article

Feature by | W. Aaron Wilson

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

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

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

Why has the urinal Jesus chosen to leave us? Where did it go? Will it ever return to us? Did I do something to cause its disappearance? Did my original article, which had only hoped to bring its presence to the attention of the student body, inadvertently cause it to remove itself from our world?

These questions, such as those surrounding the reasons for the appearance of the urinal Jesus in the first place, may never be answered. I can only take comfort in knowing that everything that happens is part of some ineffable plan.

But, I'd like our readers to be on the lookout for the urinal Jesus and any manifestation it may choose to come to us in later. He may come again, and we must be ready for His return. Do not confine this watch to urinals! His next incarnation may be that of a lichen pattern on a tree trunk, a burn mark on a tortilla, or an oddly shaped M&M.

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

Leftovers: why we believe what we believe

opinion by | Ed Jenkins

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

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

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

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

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

stated generally:

DuPont donate a million dollars to both Bush and Gore, they are essentially buying the politicians, and the elected individual will consequently work to give that business breaks restroys our democracy. A corporation or an individual has the right to spend their money however they like, even if it sacrifices the well-being of the people. If they really think a candidate deserves to win, then they may invest in that candidate's campaign; or, if they think that both leading candidates are adequate, they have the right to give both candidates money just for the hell of it.

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

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

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

Discover nature at Gatorland

Feature by | Aaron Baker

While vacationing in Florida, I heard a tale about a great outdoorsman who journeyed through the swamps of Old Florida, capturing and taming the wildlife. I knew I had to travel to Orlando to see the swamps for myself. The legends are all true: the wildlife is still there for all to see! And now, 50 years later, Gatorland has evolved into a rare and exciting adventure known internationally as the "Alligator Capital of the World." With no long lines to wade through, Gatorland is an exciting journey through wooden boardwalks hovering over 110 acres of Florida swamp.

I saw birds by the thousands! Wild and free, they came and went as they pleased. With no nets to prevent their flight, they nested within arm's reach. Egrets, herons, ibis and more call this native bird rookery home!

Rain fell and the tin roofs kept me dry. The swamp absorbed the falling waters and the sparkling sun brought nature humming back to life. This half-day journey was like no other I had experienced. This theme park is worthy of exploring for many hours—and I did!

A massive gator exploded three feet from the water for his lunch. These ferocious predators demonstrated their awesome power in sudden mighty blasts. Calm one second, chaos the next! Then I traveled down the boarded walkway into the Land of the Crocs. As I wandered, I could hear the legend in the pines. I discovered four exotic and exciting species lurking in the

waters.

The fear in his eyes was matched by the force of his grip! Gator wrestlin'! Man vs. Reptile! I had my photo taken riding the ornery gator at the wrestlin' station. It should be done by all—if you dare!

Animals everywhere! Tortoises, iguanas, emus, fish, baby chicks, goats and more. Loriekeets landed on my shoulder. Lambs nibbled from my hands. The deer were spry and playful. Just beyond the llama with the smile, I met Judy the Bear! Hungry from the journey, I stopped to try the Gator Nuggets at Pearl's Smokehouse. They had hot dogs, burgers and other all-American favorites on the menu, but I was in the mood for adventure! I actually saw other travelers wrap a python around their neck and hold a gator in their arms! Still others rode on the back of a gator! When it comes to exciting photo-ops, there really is no place like the Alligator Capital of the World!

The laughter of children drew me closer! Cool water drenched and tickled their souls. Next time I'll bring my bathing suit! What a great place for birthday parties! Youngsters of all ages splashed and let off steam at Lilly's Pad while Mom and Dad sipped lemonade in the shade! That's family fun!

Anybody who loves to explore nature needs to visit Gatorland to discover the low-tech side of Orlando. This is definitely Orlando's best half-day attraction—and affordable, too!

REVIEWS

monitor

Film club debuts *Thomas*, to launch series of student films

Thomas

Directed by Cynthia Rahn

Score by Tim Scott

Review by | Nikki Rainey

Everybody has secret basement dreams of turning their little closeted Fellini fantasies into sordid reality, and two Saturdays ago, the University's Filmmaker club did just that. *Thomas*, a short film and the debut production of the newly formed club, turned out lovely.

Taken at surface value, the film depicted Thomas, an evidently socially inept novelist (featured in the traditional nerd-boy sweater and awkward smile), in a mostly wordless battle against Yvonne (his downstairs neighbor), over noise in his apartment. However, after a little analysis—and, in my case, after chatting with the screenwriter—the gentle viewer realizes that Yvonne is a written character in Thomas's novel and stands as a secret manifestation of Thomas's desire to have a normal life. Inevitably, Thomas's character enters his reality in an attempt to better his social skills. The whole idea was interesting, and though the technical work was that of beginners, it turned out well.

My favorite part of the flick was the score. Written specifically by Tim Scott, it brought the entire movie together. In the begin-

ning, the sounds were pretty subtle, consisting mostly of the clicking of Thomas's typewriter. However, as the plot progressed towards the climax, the music got more and more frantic and worked well with the images on the screen.

Though their end goal is to produce a quality cinematic work (once a semester, every semester, 'till death do us part, forever and always), the club's major concentration is on education. In the case of their first work, it was namely self-education.

"The fact that no one else knew what we were doing either, meant it would be a learning experience for everyone," director Cynthia Rahn said. "If anyone has any interest in making movies, we're here, and we'll teach you!" Rahn added. Nothing says badass like self-taught film nerds.

They began with just a script, a handful theater majors, and a little bit of digital camera know-how, and were forced to completely school themselves on the technicalities of continuity in sound and lighting and non-linear editing.

If you're interested in working on the next project that Filmmaker's club plans to take on (no experience necessary, baby), or submitting a script, feel free to email Adam Hardin at C1314@truman.edu. They are making another film next semester and plan to make three next year—one yearlong feature length film, and two shorter ones that will take a semester apiece.

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Radiohead might not be wrong with *Live Recordings*

I Might Be Wrong: Live Recordings

Radiohead

Capitol

Review by | Zach Lechner

Let's be honest: the heaps of acclaim that rock critics have pored over Radiohead recently are kind of embarrassing. But let's also be clear: Radiohead is one of the most interesting bands working today because they dare to be artists. They are pretentious, yes, but they have a right to be so. The experiments on their previous two albums, last year's *Kid A* and the recent *Amnesiac*, owe much to musicians such as Brian Eno, Aphex Twin, and Pink Floyd. Yet Radiohead always retains its separate identity that was established on *The Bends* (1995) and the classic *OK Computer* (1997).

I Might Be Wrong: Live Recordings is a welcome addition to the band's catalogue. Recorded during last summer's tour, the disc offers fans an opportunity to hear Radiohead reinterpret the blips of *Kid A* and *Amnesiac* on live instrumentation. The band demonstrates that it has not abandoned the three-guitar attack of Jonny Greenwood, Ed O'Brien and Thom Yorke. The mini-album starts off appropriately with the tour's standard opening selection, "The National Anthem," a song about living in a claustrophobic society that was bolstered by a jazzy horn section on *Kid A*. Here that element is absent. Instead, Colin Greenwood bass buzzes even more sinisterly, as vocalist Thom Yorke's percussive breaths punctuate the otherworldly noises made by O'Brien's and Jonny Greenwood's electronic devices. A good, albeit bass-light, rendering of *Amnesiac*'s "I Might Be Wrong" is followed by a strong performance of the *Kid A* version of "Morning Bell," a song about divorce that is one of the highlights of Radiohead's experiments with minimalist electronica.

It is difficult to describe just how good the next track, "Like Spinning Plates," is. This is surprising because on *Amnesiac* it comes off sounding a little too busy (Nigel Godrich's layered production is to blame). But live, stripped

down to Yorke's piano and vocals (with bass and effects accompaniment), the song is immeasurably improved. It reinforces the fact that Yorke's voice has always been one of Radiohead's most valuable instruments. The performance is one of the most expressive and emotional pieces of music in the band's catalogue.

Another song that benefits from the live atmosphere is "Idiotique." Although a strong studio track, it comes off more intense outside of the studio. The staccato computer beat erupts at the midway point into the pounding of Phil Selway's live drum kit, and the crowd roars with approval as the band engages in an electronic freak-out at the conclusion.

Perhaps the most interesting track in this collection is a six-and-a-half minute version of "Everything in Its Right Place," complete with a false start. As Yorke sings, Johnny Greenwood records his voice and loops it, so that even after Yorke has exited the stage, his vocals spin and echo around the keyboard riff and drum beats.

After a solid version of "Dollars and Cents," the album concludes with a performance from Yorke, accompanied only by his acoustic guitar, of "True Love Waits." The inclusion of this song is a real bonus for Radiohead fans because, although the band has performed it in concert for years, *I Might Be Wrong* marks the first time that it has been officially released.

The only gripe I have with this record is its length. With eight tracks clocking in at 40 minutes, Radiohead has offered only about a third of the content of one of their concerts. Also, the only tracks included are those from the last two LPs. The reason for this is understandable. The band probably wished to demonstrate that they still know how (and have the desire) to rock out. It would have been nice, however, to hear material from *The Bends* and *OK Computer*, two albums that the band drew upon heavily during their recent tour. Still, *I Might Be Wrong* offers fans that missed seeing the band in concert a glimpse of the live grandeur that is Radiohead. After hearing this disc, they will be sure not to miss the opportunity again.

Swim with a great CD

Swim with Me

Allette Brooks

Review by | W. Aaron Wilson

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

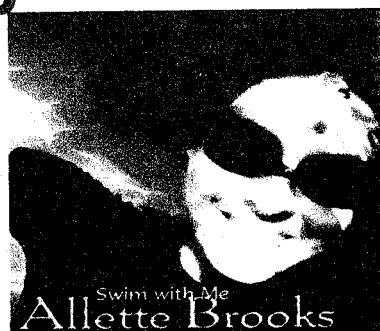
The song in question is called "Driving," and there can be no adequate description of it beyond the fact that it is about driving. The quiet transition of scenery outside the car window; the serenity of driving alone on an empty road; the anticipation of meeting new people at the end of a journey; and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

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

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

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

In other songs such as "Driving" and "Rolling Blackout," Brooks takes this connection to the next level and defends nature against the selfish rape of modern technology. "Driving" comments on the absurdity of opening the National Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration. "Rolling Blackout" presents a picture of suburban California in the wake of power loss, revealing a people who don't need electricity all the time to be happy but who are still at a loss



without it.

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

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

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

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

CD at a Glance

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

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

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

out Anthrax, where would Ebola be today?

Anthrax first gained some popularity in 1982, but their debut wasn't as killer as some would have hoped. Although they had few hits in the 80s, Anthrax still seemed to pop up all over the place. And when Anthrax popped up, you can be sure hysteria ensued. It seems that Anthrax is synonymous with fear these days. Every time Anthrax shows up, it is almost guaranteed to make the front page. With the over extravagant, almost painful, live shows, Anthrax is hard to top. And to those who are in the front row, my heart goes out to you. Although Anthrax seemed to be dormant in the late 90s, I have a feeling you'll be hearing a lot about Anthrax in the future.

With fame comes controversy, and who can forget *Spreading the Disease* back in 1985? Although not Anthrax's best work, it certainly holds true today that it is what Anthrax was made for. Bottom line: The future is looking good for Anthrax, and I can't wait for Anthrax to visit my town. Until then, I'll be content with building up my own Anthrax reserves; only 3 more albums and I'll have them all.

Harry Potter movie honors book

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Directed by Chris Columbus

Review by | J.J. Pionke

Ask nearly any child who Harry Potter is and more often than not you will get a very long answer from a very excited child. For those of you out there who have not yet read the books, go read them! Many non-reading children have become at least marginal readers because of J.K. Rowling, author of the *Harry Potter* series. For those of you who are too lazy, there is now a movie out that concerns the first book, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

The movie, like the book, is fantastic and well worth a good watch (or multiple viewings). The characterizations are right on and the special effects are dazzling. My favorite scene by far is the Quidditch match. For those of you who aren't familiar with Quidditch, it is a mix of football and rugby played with four balls in mid-air on broomsticks. I highly recommend reading the novel before seeing the movie. It will help make some of the transitions easier.

Particularly, I really liked how the adaptation handled Harry's time at the Dursley's. We are made to know in the movie that Harry's life there is miserable, and getting him to Hogwarts is tastefully done. Basically, a series of quick scenes moves him from point A to point B. I am glad that it was dealt with, as it would have seemed strange for Harry to just

start at Hogwarts without any of the background knowledge. The movie tended to stay very true to the book (as it should have since Rowling had creative control over the movie and many of the things in it were designed by her or based on her ideas as to what people/places/objects should look like).

However, if I have a beef with the film: I was not impressed with how the last section of the movie was handled. SPOILER ALERT! If you don't want to know the difference or have not read the book and don't want to be spoiled, skip to the next paragraph. In the book, Harry must pass through five obstacles to get to the sorcerer's stone. In the movie, he only goes through four, and the **potions** portion has been cut out. That really **ticked** me off. It took away from Hermione's character as well as from Snape. While we all feel Snape is a slimy kind of guy, we also know he is a good guy and it didn't seem fair that his section of the challenge would be hacked off. I will take a sentence here to say that Alan Rickman, who plays Snape, was brilliant.

Spoiler aside, the look of the film is incredible and a second viewing is almost needed to catch all of the stuff going on in the background. The film was shot on location in England, and the sets are spectacular.

Finally, I would highly recommend this film. While I am not fond of some of the things that were hacked out for the sake of space, I do understand the need to keep the running time to within reason. It was a great film and an even greater book.

Anthrax: good or bad?

Review by | Justin Anderson

Anthrax is one of the best bands ever. Send some to your senators, spread it throughout the nation, because Anthrax rocks. I can't get enough; I want more.

Now, certainly you might be saying, "Justin, won't Anthrax hurt me?" My response is, "You are not a man." I will say that even if it's a man asking me. Granted, Anthrax could hurt you psychologically, as they are pretty powerful, but that is no reason to shun them. I embrace Anthrax with open arms. While they may be difficult to carry around with you 24-7, I'd recommend you try them. Bring Anthrax to the office to share with your work buddies. Bring some to class for show-and-tell. Once you get a taste of Anthrax, you'll want some with you at all times.

With today's modern technology, it shouldn't be a problem to transport Anthrax, say, for example, onto an airplane. You need something to pass the time on those long flights, don't you? To say that Anthrax hasn't influenced others would be a dirty, dirty lie. With-

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Unplugged night fills Aquadome

Story by | W. Aaron Wilson

On Oct. 13, a group of students celebrated a little known holiday in an innovative way. Gathering at the Aquadome as evening settled over downtown Kirksville, they turned the fluorescent lights off, lit some candles, and celebrated Unplug America Day with an "Open Not-Mic" night, which lasted for over three hours.

Unplug America Day was established in 1992 by Indigenous Peoples in order to encourage all Americans to "give Mother Earth a rest." The proper way to celebrate Unplug America Day is to unplug appliances, turn off the lights, leave the car in the garage, and break out the acoustic version of your favorite instrument.

The event was organized by ECO, the University's Environmental Community Organization, in conjunction with the Aquadome. "Our goal was to raise awareness of the extent of energy use and misuse in the US and of the simple ways that each person can reduce their energy use/misuse," Theresa Conley, one of the event organizers, said.

"Knowing the success of the Aquadome in recent years and the great creative outlets open mic events provide for Truman students, ECO thought that an unplugged event would be a great way to recognize the day."

ECO also recognized the day by posting fliers on electrical outlets, televisions, and switches. These fliers warned about excess energy use and gave tips on how energy consumption could be easily reduced.

The open not-mic began with student John Nguyen, who refused to play until the electric lights had been turned off. Rocktober (soon to be Rockvember) followed Nguyen, per-

forming two-person acoustic versions of classic rock songs. Johnny Comrade and the Sovietettes, minus the Sovietettes, came next, providing a mellow contrast to Rocktober's wild energy. Dr. John Rutter of the University biology department next performed a mix of covers and originals, including a tribute to summer in Kirksville.

Rutter was followed by Todd Rocket and the Get Well Soons. This band opted not to perform completely unplugged by including an electric keyboard in their ensemble. When asked what penalty should be imposed on the band for using electricity, a chant went up for, "Plugged in, plugged in...no pants!" Despite the urgings of the crowd, the musicians kept their pants on.

"I think it's cool that we got everyone to come out," Todd Baran, a member of Todd Rocket, said about the evening. It brought together a kind of diverse group to play and watch."

Rayna Matczak and Sarah Stanze continued the show with a selection of songs by Dar Williams and other female artists. Cameron Moore and Will Worden finished the show, having decided to play at the spur of the moment.

"Sometimes I just like to chill and listen to some good acoustic tunes," Karli Kujawa, a student, said. "I think they should do shows like that more often."

Between the magical atmosphere of candlelight and the talent of all the musicians involved, the open not-mic proved to be a huge success, promoting its message of energy conservation and providing everyone who attended with rocking, unplugged music.

photo by | Kathy Widitz



Rayna Matczak and Sarah Stanze play a tune at unplugged night

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Stephen Gaskin will be on campus

Story by | Ed Jenkins

"I was a good shot at 18. With the M1 rifle I was able to put 10 shots out of 10 into a 20-inch bull's-eye at 500 yards," reads a line from *An Outlaw in My Heart*, Stephen Gaskin's most recent book. "With the Thompson submachine gun, the M2 carbine and the A-6 machine gun, I could fire off one shot at a time while set on fully automatic and I was very accurate firing bursts of two and three from the hip."

But when Gaskin saw combat in Korea, he found himself shedding the guns and carrying stretchers. It is with this kind of attitude that the 66-year-old political "beatnik" and religious "hippie" leads his life. He has gained experience from war, prison, service, travel and a variety of other ventures.

The most recent venture of his was in 2000 elections, when he ran for president of the United States with his own Outlaw Party. Gaskin attempted to run on the Green ticket, but Nader dominated the voting, with Gaskin and Jello Biafra tying as runners-up. His 10-plank platform included a lot of common Green values in addition to issues such as the decriminalization of marijuana and improvements in veterans' benefits.

So why did Stephen Gaskin want to be president? "I wanted to be president because the country that I've lived in for 65 years is not as free as it was when I was born, and it's gotten less free all my life." But what qualifications does Stephen Gaskin have? Some argue that he does not have the political preparation for leading this country. But others make a case for him by citing his various experiences.

Aside from serving in Korea, Gaskin spent time in San Francisco in the late sixties teaching the weekly Monday Night Class that

began with 6 attendees and swelled to almost 1500 by its third year. Then Gaskin and supporters took the class on the road and spent several months on a U.S. speaking tour with a caravan of 60 campers. In the end the natural thing to do was to park the caravan in rural Tennessee, buy 1750 acres of land, and found The Farm, the largest intentional community in the world, which still operates 30 years later, free from alcohol, tobacco, animal products, and welfare. The Farm itself, which popularized soy products and established an unprecedented mid-wifery program, is the subject of a own book. But there is still more to say about Stephen Gaskin.

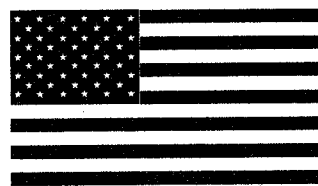
In 1974 he founded an international relief group called Plenty International, which rebuilt 1200 houses in Guatemala in 1976 among other projects. In New York, Plenty formed the South Bronx Ambulance service, which had a response time of 7 minutes as opposed to 45 minutes for the status quo service at the time. Gaskin also served two years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary when some members of The Farm decided to grow marijuana in the mid-seventies.

Listing his occupations as Hippie Priest, Spiritual Revolutionary, Cannabis advocate, shade tree mechanic, cultural engineer, tractor driver and community starter, Gaskin never believed that he had a shot at presidency. But he stood up for his beliefs nonetheless. "I still believe in the Constitution that I learned about in third grade, and I would like to see that be what we live under, and not this patched-together thing that the corporations have bought."

Stephen Gaskin will be speaking at the University on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 9 p.m. in Violette Hall 1000.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Taurus (April 21-May 22)

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

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.

Aries (March 21-April 20)

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

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shhh....my back pages

La luna,
my moon, a
soft white lantern
guiding me home.
A porthole window to paradise.
A dusty pink painting,
on circular canvas,
hung snugly on a vast,
washed blue wall.
So close to me,
nearer than Africa, it seems
I could ascend a velvet staircase
and embrace you,
pulp and flesh
to my milk-white breast,
and rest my cheek
in your satin crevice

-Rachel Carrico

MI3: Change in the House of God

subconscious/overweening
hand reaches out to bring about a
change, but gets pricked
by the felt-tipped needle, desirous of
finding a middleground vein
and is disgusted cold-dead in a midrealm
of confusing counter-logic and
mindful of the subconscious
it moves and stops, moves and stops on
sideways mirror

-Russell V. Disbro

A TASTE OF FAITH

i feel like im standing in traffic
knots in my throat make me red,
(nothing was really there).
i never learned to escape
until tomorrow,
optimism was pessimism
until i tasted condensation.
the glass was filled with us.
now stick your tongue out and close
your eyes
and walk home with me.

-anon.

send submissions to
monitortrm@hotmail.com

I WISH I WERE A REAL POET

I wish I were a real poet,
Then I could smoke clove cigarettes
And claim I'm Ms.understood

I wish I were a real poet,
Then I could be sad.
Using my vocation as an excuse for
depression.

I wish I were a real poet,
So when a boy me
dumps
I'd write fancy sonnets to insult him.

I wish I were a real poet,
So I could h with Alanis Morissette
a

n
g
Pretending I know what she's talking
about:

But, if I were a REAL poet,
I'd probably die lonely,

And of lung cancer.

-Akela Cooper

An October Afternoon

Out of class early,
strolling leisurely
in the sun and breeze
beneath and over and through
swirls and scatterings
of red, yellow and brown.

A thought
prods at my mind
of a task I ought to be doing.
I close my eyes
and let it drift, fuzzy.
I've lost it again,
and I smile.

-Michelle Lilly

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7	1839000	HUCKLEBUCKE
8	17990 10	SHUCK N JIVE
9	1430020	LEET DOOD
10	1300 120	TENACIOUS D

-found by Peter Vella

A Haiku to the Guy in the First
Floor of the SUB who always has
the TV on the WB Matinee at noon
on Mondays, Wednesdays, and
Fridays

Change the damn channel!
You are the only one who
Likes those lame movies.

-Bill Walton

British Funk

Mindless gobbledygook
Words without meaning
CAPITALIZATION FOR EMPHASIS
I read and read and read.

AND READ.
Punctuation; not a right
Making no sense
What a sight

Rec Center BAD!
Just like fire
If I said he was rad
I'd be a liar

Larry Iles
A hero to all
For writing so muddy
Reminds me of Sterling Ruddy

Chris Foosman

Childhood

You can try to recapture your youth,
And act as if you're young.
You can wax nostalgic about the things
you did,
The friends you had, and the games you
played as a kid.
But that was long ago,
And at a different time in your life.
But it doesn't matter what plans you
begin,
Because you can never go home again.

Another day has passed before us,
And another one lies ahead.
Another day over, another day older,
And one day less to live.
And we never seem to have enough time,
To do everything that we want.
And even though we need it the most,
We can never go home again.

Many miles away,
And too many years ago.
The last time that I was there,
Was the last time I saw home.
I've been gone too long for words to
explain,
And so long that I don't know where to
begin.
I guess it's true what everyone says,
I can never go home again.

-Michael Harris

Imagine yourself confronted by a
sorcerer who stares you down balefully
& demands, "What is your True Desire?"
Do you hem & haw, stammer, take refuge
in ideological platitudes? Do you
possess both Imagination & Will, can
you both dream & dare—or are you the
dupe of an impotent fantasy?

Look in the mirror and try it...

-Go Roke!

So I find this kid sitting, not laying, sitting, on a park bench, doing his best
to take up all the room

So I says to him, I says, I says to him, I says
-Excuse me, my grandmother has a broken hip, would you mind it terribly if I
asked you to cut off your legs so she can sit down?

I thought it was reasonable....

Well he went berserk. Gets up and starts breaking shit, throwing rocks at my
grandmother, ripping trees out of the ground, turning green like someone we
know

-So you think you're superman or something do ya? Well you're not, I got a dog
back home who can eat pie faster than you could read War and Peace, jerk.

Didn't phase him....

He starts painting pictures of JFK and punching children in the face and yelling
something about Cubans. I tried to calm him down.

-Excuse me, if this is a problem I could just rip your arms and feed them to the
squirrels or something, all right fatso?

Then I realized something....

-Excuse me sir, just remembered, my grandmother moved to Alaska two years
ago.

So he sits down and we eat ice cream together.

-Aaron Baker