

The Monitor

Volume 9
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September 25, 2002

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

One year has passed...

Story by | **Andrès Delgado**

The anniversary of September 11 saw several campus-sponsored events share the attention of students and faculty with events organized by various student groups.

Sophomore Julia Davis, a leader of the campus Green Party explained, "Of course, student organizations are going to have more freedom than the school itself, because the government funds our school." Noting the effects of the current budget crunch, Davis added, "with the financial situation that our school is in, it doesn't want to piss off any of the state government." Accordingly, it was with varying degrees of license and accountability to school and government that the University's organizations reacted to the tragedy of a year ago.

Among the first groups to act on the morn-

ing of September 10 was Campus Crusade for Christ, with a small booth on the corner of the Quad in front of McClain Hall and Pickler Memorial Library. From this booth the organization offered lemonade, cookies and a brochure giving a Christian reaction to last September's attacks.

One student manning the table, senior Tim Roth, shared the significance of 9-11 to him. "It showed me we're sinful people, evil people," he said. Picking his words carefully, he added, "You can also see God's justice in it," being sure to clarify, he continued, "I'm not trying to say they deserved it more than us." "It made death real to us again," he finished.

Several hundred feet away, on the mall

Continued on page 10

Around the world in 500 words

Compiled by | **W. Aaron Wilson**

Recent stories gathered from news.bbc.co.uk:

Africa: Voter registration began in Nigeria amidst speculation of ghost voting and other forms of electoral dishonesty. Rebels in Sudan pulled out of peace talks with the government and occupied a southern garrison town soon after one of their most militant leaders was wounded by a land mine. Evictions of white farmers in Zimbabwe accelerate. Côte d'Ivoire forces suppressed a coup/mutiny, killing its suspected instigator. Rwandan troops withdraw from DR Congo after several years of occupation. Libya gains the exclusive development rights to the vast mineral resources of Central African Republic.

Americas: Paraguay president rides out violent demonstrations possibly orchestrated by exiled political rival. Falling coffee prices drive more Peruvians to cultivation of coca. United States threatens to prevent return of weapon inspectors to Iraq, continues to press for military action and regime change. Cuba weathered for Hurricane Isidore, hundreds of people evacuated their homes and headed for higher ground.

Asia-Pacific: The Indonesian government launched a fresh wave of attacks on the independence-seeking province of Aceh and detained foreigners for allegedly helping separatists. North Korea opened up to South Korean officials and railroad link, Japanese prime minister, and nuclear inspectors. China stepped up its campaign on ethnic-Uighurs in its western provinces after US designated them as a terrorist group, perhaps to curry Chinese support for a UN resolution to use force in Iraq.

Europe: Work continues to clean up following devastating floods in France and elsewhere in the continent. Macedonia's election gave power to the opposition party, and substantial political

voice to the party founded by former ethnic-Albanian guerilla leader. Sweden's elections gave the parliament to liberal parties, challenging the European shift towards more conservative leadership. Russia prepares a plan to invade the Pankisi Gorge region of Georgia in order to root out Chechnyan separatists who operate across the border, in a move that resembles the US's position towards Iraq. Spain banned the Basque nation party Batasuna, claiming links to the terrorist organization ETA.

Middle East: Israel demolished the compound of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, after another round of suicide bombings. Lebanon to open pump station on Wazzani river, causing Israel to threaten military action because of Wazzani's eventual use in Israel. Iraq agreed to unfettered access to UN weapons inspectors. Egyptian president Mubarak's son gained high level political party post, fueling speculation that he is being groomed to succeed his father. Saudi Arabia indicated support for military intervention in Iraq if UN Security Council signs a resolution authorizing use of force.

South Asia: The Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebels progressed through historic peace talks ending years of civil war and beginning a joint campaign to rebuild shattered region. Nepalese polls admitted 100 competing parties despite disruption of Maoist rebels. Polls in Indian administered Kashmir complicated by violence, political assassinations, and boycotting from separatist groups. Pakistan continues to apprehend important al-Qaeda operatives and other people accused of organizing terrorist attacks in Pakistan and abroad.

Small farm owner speaks about battle with Monsanto

Story by | **Todd Ruecker**

Farmers, students, faculty and other community members gathered in the Little Theater on the evening of September 18 to hear Percy Schmeiser speak out against the agribusiness Monsanto.

Schmeiser began by giving his background: he has been a farmer for over 50 years, spending most of them developing his own seeds using the traditional method of cross-breeding. He has also been active politically, serving as mayor of his town for many years and serving on various legislative assemblies. This all changed in 1998, when Monsanto filed a lawsuit against him accusing him of illegally planting their GMO Canola seed.

Schmeiser lost this case. "At the trial, the judge ruled on three or four points that are very important and that affect farmers all over the world," he said. "He ruled that it didn't matter how Monsanto's genetically altered canola got on my land. The judge went on to specify that if it blew in by wind, cross-pollinated by flood, birds, bees, animals, fell off farmer's trucks, or migrated from the neighbor who may be growing it in the field next to mine—even if it blows into my field against my wishes—it does not matter, I infringed on their patent. Number two, he ruled that if my field is cross-pollinated with Monsanto's genetically altered Roundup Ready Canola, my conventional plants would become their property."

As a result of this ruling, Schmeiser had to buy all new seed for the following year, his 40-plus years of work on his own seeds wasted, and had to give all his profits for that year to Monsanto.

Over the past 4 years, he said "Monsanto used every kind of delaying tactic to break me down financially and mentally." Percy has not given up; he has spoken around the world, telling people of his case and alerting people of its implications.

In his speech, Schmeiser attacked Monsanto on many fronts, one being the conditions of the contracts they make farmers sign when using their GMO seed. He said that these contracts "take all farmers' rights away." The contract prohibits farmers from reusing their seed, forcing them to buy more seed from Monsanto each year. In addition to this cost, farmers must pay a \$15 technology fee per acre. Above these costs, the farmer can only use Monsanto's Roundup on these plants; any other herbicide will kill them.

Another provision to the contract is that the farmer permits Monsanto's inspectors to enter his fields for 3 years after they stop using Monsanto seed. The contract also includes a



Percy Schmeiser was a recipient of the Mahatma Ghandi Award in 2000.

non-disclosure statement, which says that the farmer cannot testify or speak out against Monsanto if he feels he is wronged.

Schmeiser also mentioned two other practices of Monsanto. One is their encouragement of farmers to report those whom they suspect to be illegally planting Monsanto's product, the reward for doing this being a free leather jacket from Monsanto. Schmeiser explained the problem with this is that it pits farmer against farmer by encouraging them to police each other.

The other practice that Mr. Schmeiser mentioned is Monsanto's use of what he called "extortion letters." He said these letters were sent to a farmer, asking for a certain amount of money so Monsanto doesn't take him to court. As with the contracts, the letter has a non-disclosure clause. Schmeiser commented on this saying, "Imagine the fear that this type of letter puts in a farmer's heart. We have no idea how many of these cases there are out there, because people are too frightened to stand up to a multi-billion dollar corporation."

Schmeiser explained other problems with GMO products and how most Canadians are against them. He gave an example of the Canola super-weed, a Canola plant resulting from cross pollination of three GMO Canola plants, requiring the use of three types of chemicals to kill.

He also explained the damage to farmers in the form of market loss. Canadian farmers can no longer sell Canola to the European Union because they will not buy GMO crops, and it has been determined that all Canola fields in Canada have been contaminated in some way. Also, they have lost their market for honey, because bees get their pollen from these GMO plants.

Schmeiser, currently having lost twice to Monsanto, is going to take the case in another direction, to that of patent law. Regarding this, he raised an important question: "Can you patent a life giving form such as a gene? Could you patent a bird, a fish, or other animals? If you can, what could stop someone from patenting the human form?"

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

-- Noam Chomsky

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 25

The Division of Fine Arts and Dobson Residential College present American Film Classics 4:30 pm, Wednesday Afternoons in OP 2210. This week: **Broken Blossoms**, D. W. Griffith.

FMLA presents the **Pay Equity Bake Sale**, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm.

The WRC will present the "Clothesline Project" on the Mall from 10 am to 4 pm for Rape Awareness Week, and Prof. Al Weitz will speak on Date Rape at 7 & 8 pm in VH1140.

Community Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Aquadome, located at 121 N. Main: Bring a small donation or food contribution or pay \$20 to eat for a whole month! Call 665-8228 for more info about any listed events.

Thursday, September 26

Colloquia on Globalization: First film in an ongoing series of discussions and films about globalization. **The Magnificent African Cake** by Basil Davidson, 7:30 pm in VH 1000

Community Dinner at the Aquadome, 6 p.m. **Band booking meeting**, 7 pm.

FMLA presents the **Pay Equity Bake Sale**, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm.

The WRC will present the "Clothesline Project" on the Mall from 10 am to 4 pm for Rape Awareness Week.

Monitor meeting! 9 pm in BH 249

Friday, September 27

LIVE at the Aquadome: **Ivan Okay** (a.k.a. **Ivan Klipstein**) with **Sweetwater Abilene**. Hopefully

this show will be in the afternoon or early evening due to bad scheduling of SAB's Jimmy Eat World show.

Saturday, September 28

Dobson college and ENG 395 present "Inqueery: Truman's GLBT Film Series" at 7.00 pm in Baldwin Hall 252. This time, come see: **Get Real** (Simon Shore. England. 1998. 108 min.)

Sunday, September 29

Veggie potluck at 6 p.m. at the Aquadome. **General Aquadome planning meeting** at 7 pm.

Monday, September 30

Dobson college and ENG 395 present "Inqueery: Truman's GLBT Film Series" at 7.00 pm in Dobson Hall 247. This time, come see: **Ma Vie En Rose**, "My Life in Pink" (Alain Berliner. France. 1997. 88 min.)

Jack Ricard, from International Enrichment, Inc. will be present to answer questions for students considering participating in the **Missouri-London program**.

Community Dinner at the Aquadome, 6 p.m. LIVE at the Aquadome: **Ten Grand** (formerly **Vida Blue**), amazing indie rock from Iowa City.

Tuesday, October 1

Community Dinner at the Aquadome, 6 p.m.

Monitor meeting! 9 pm in BH 249

Wednesday, October 2

The Division of Fine Arts and Dobson Residential College present American Film Classics at 4:30 pm, Wednesday Afternoons in OP 2210. This week: **Dr. Strangelove**, Stanley Kubrick

Women's Co-op Forum, 7:30 pm in SUB Activities Room

Community Dinner at the Aquadome, 6 pm. **Christian Underground** discussion group at 7 pm.

Thursday, October 3

Community Dinner at the Aquadome, 6 pm.

Monitor meeting! 9 pm in BH 249

Friday, October 4

The African Students Association and the International Club present "**International Idol**," in Baldwin Hall, to be judged by a panel of faculty.

Saturday, October 5

Dobson college and ENG 395 present "Inqueery: Truman's GLBT Film Series" at 7.00 pm in Baldwin Hall 252. This time, come see: **Fire** (Deepa Mehta. Canada/India. 1996. 104 min.)

Sunday, October 6

Veggie potluck at 6 pm at the Aquadome. **General Aquadome planning meeting** at 7 pm.

Monday, October 7

Dobson college and ENG 395 present "Inqueery: Truman's GLBT Film Series" at 7.00 pm in Dobson Hall 247. This time, come see: **Before Night Falls**, (Julian Schnabel. USA. 2000. 133 min.)

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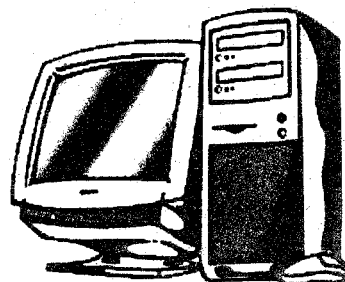
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L E T T E R S

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.

Poem disappoints, insults

In your recent August 22 edition, a review collection from 2000-2001, I read Mr. Chris Heosen's poetry piece, written in free verse. Most of the poetry in your newspaper is composed without the constraints of punctuation, formal style, or traditional poetical rhythm. Artistic and intellectual freedom is generally expected for the student and faculty contributors to your newspaper, including contributors from the Social Science and English faculties.

Although Lawrence Iles has made countless contributions discussing in-depth, substantive issues affecting the local, national, and international communities, it probably wasn't, from your perspective, considered "cool" to include one of his pieces, probably because of its controversial nature. That's really not a problem, as you have many contributors and you can't include everyone's sample writings. But it is saddening that, instead, you chose to include this cruel little piece of free verse. The poem explicitly names Mr. Larry Iles and could have been an opportunity to respond satirically or non-satirically to some of the ideas and positions he has brought up in the local media over the years. That would have been a response worthy of an alternative newspaper. Instead, your newspaper, which honors the intellectual freedom and views of a number of faculty and students, does not extend that same respect and dignity to someone who is not officially associated with the university but who has given tremendous support and input to your publication and to many other faculty and student expressions of free speech, multiculturalism and social activism.

No one expects you to agree with him. If you make the judgment that Larry Iles' articles and views should not be displayed in your review of the year's contributions alongside commentary by Dr. Seidel and Dr. Becker, that's not a problem, even though prestige shouldn't be a ruling ethic of selection in the press, especially in an alternative student publication. But have the decency to base your satire on some thought-provoking issue of importance rather than just anti-foreign jabs and petty critiques on style. And using the opportunity to make fun of Mr. Sterling Ruddy at the end of the verse was the most revealing of all. To some of those who are relatively new to this community Mr. Ruddy has, over the many years he has lived in Kirksville, taken great personal risks in his defense of working people and human rights. And he has paid for it, dearly. He doesn't deserve to be laughed at by a student newspaper, especially one that claims to publish the truth and identifies itself as "gatekeepers."

Frankly, this poem also frightens me, because it shows how badly we need to teach critical reading and thinking skills. Chris, if you don't understand Larry Iles' articles, read more closely and carefully, whether you think you would have to or not. Larry has an intense, substantive but liberating style which is characteristic of much of the popular press in Britain. In the popular press, I don't mean the formal style of the *London Times*, moreso rather that of tabloid magazines such as *Time Out* or *Country*.

quality popular press newspapers such as *The Guardian* and *The Independent*. Many American students are unaccustomed to this style, but some faculty are familiar with it. We need to encourage students to look beyond the cultural borders of our country and to value different ways of thinking, conceptualizing and creating. Not more than a year or two ago, I asked a friend of mine, a normally progressive colleague who had traveled abroad for the first time, if he had gone through a period of cultural adaptation as is common when one spends a period abroad for the first time. He responded, no, and he said that he had lived among ethnic minorities in America and knew all there was to know about cultural diversity. That, frankly, is exactly what is resented by many people of nationalities other than our own – the presumption that we have nothing new to learn from them, that we already know everything there is to know, even cultural diversity. We, as educators, shouldn't be encouraging students like Chris to be proud of the fact that he doesn't feel he should make the effort to read a style that is so different from what one reads in the media or in traditional American textbooks. We encourage him to find difference, non-traditional and intellectual challenge as "funk," and to xenophobically refer to it as "British funk."

I feel the publication of this piece, especially in a student newspaper unofficially mentored in great part by ourselves, is disappointing for the reasons which I have indicated.

Dr. McLane-Iles
Professor of French

Editor responds

First of all, with all due respect, I would like to apologize to Larry Iles for the poem that was published in our last issue. As a general rule, we do not censor our paper, but the one instance in which we usually try to censor is when personal attacks are submitted. Please allow me to explain what happened.

For the Freshman Week (now "Truman Week") issue, we generally compile stories from the previous year to give a sampling of pieces to incoming students as a reflection of the wide range of contributions we accept. This year in particular, I was the only editor in town to do this. That left me to: compile articles from last year, redesign the layout graphics, compile advertisements and then design said advertisements. In my own haste, instead of picking out poems individually, I picked one edition of last year's My Back Pages, and just transferred all of the poems without reading any of them.

As it was, the issue was already two days late, and I felt fairly confident that what had been already edited last year was fit for print. Unfortunately, I was wrong. I apologize for the lapse editing and will not allow any more personal attacks to be published in our community newspaper.

Sincerely,
Cameron Moore

A message of real love

Get set out for even the sunniest USA

taste is the real European reaction of non-support for Messrs Bush junior and Blair's second senseless war of vengeance. Vengeance for the action, in fact, of a few dead Saudi men against some poorly protected aircraft last September. A routine "other" terrorist act of the terminally frustrated such as has taken over 3,000 lives in Northern Ireland over the last 30 years with only the barest US media concern! A routine set of murders that, as Socialist German Chancellor G. Schroeder has well put it in his present election campaign, he sees no reason to plunge the whole world into "lackey" revenge. This for Bush senior's not toppling Saddam when he could have done so "years ago." A routine set of murders modeled on the worst type of US movies that now sees a record 71 percent of UK public-opinion polled saying that unless they see "convincing" UN support, they will not be war-endorsing your Iraq invasion or UK-ours, either!!!

The reasons for not embarking on yet another US-Vietnam engagement with the rest of us are as follows, and they will see thousands outside your London embassy in protest for this 28th, in demonstrations I have already seen poster-plastering the UK's 2 biggest cities – London and Birmingham.

One: The USA is an immorally right-wing nation, in its core, comprising realities of misbehaviour and not the model of democracy its mythologists paint. Its heroes, from John Wayne to "VP" Cheney, dodge a draft they impose on economically poorer Americans, who have often to join up via ROTC for a higher education. They would, more critically, get in the average Euro high school, therein enjoying far more subject depth and integrity!!

Two: The US, far more than Iraq, is a "rogue state," detrimental to itself and out planet on an even worse scale than the old colonialists in racial, pollutant, and dictatorial (selfish, non-standard) standards. Ones that, conveniently,

change whenever the male-oilmen and other elites feel a mite bit opposed, by guilt of hypocrisy! Thus who, with barely 4 percent of the population, takes 25 percent of the world's energies? Who gives the lowest overseas aid of any western state today, even to poor countries that have "democracies?" Who, too, dropped the world's only nuclear bombs on civilians, and used napalm over Vietnam and cluster bombs over Afghanistan most recently?

Finally, who has the arrogance, not only to go into a fantasy-land of "denial" about evils that even the world's most struggling, truer democracies like South Africa try to provide against in their constitutions? By hiding behind USA flags and slavery-condoning, eighteenth-century-written constitutions that they now try pathetically to impose, warringly, on the Middle East, even as the US has failingly tried their unwanted imposition on Latin Americans and in the war of 1812, even on, yes, far more democratic Canada, next door!

Yes, Mr. Bush, junior, to quote your baby-face, bullying speech today, to a UN to whom your nation has not even paid your full membership dues, in a basic lack of unforked tongue, a "defining moment" is forthcoming! Hell, no, we, the rest of the world, won't go the decadent "me-me," USA, "self-self" way. And as sadly as went the Roman Empire, this century will be about you lot's obese end, too. If more Americans don't really stand up to you, Bush, and say, "our grandchildren, at least, won't be silly fodder for your 'endless war' machine!" For a country that in the "West" lacks affordable health care and has the highest infant mortality rate and biggest incarceration and execution rates of any of its citizens, unhappily, in repression of all Western democracies in nightmare, is not any true "dream!"

Yours sincerely,
Larry Iles

STUDY
ABROAD

You are invited to attend an informational meeting about the Missouri-London Program on Monday, September 30 from 4:30 - 5:30 in the Alumni Room of the SUB. Jack Ricard, from International Enrichment, Inc. will be present to answer any questions regarding facilities, accommodations, cultural and social activities and on-site support services. Refreshments will be available.

O P I N I O N S

Baseball strike avoids solution

Opinion by | Josh Sisson

Anyone who closely follows Major League Baseball knows about the problems it has. Competitive balance is nonexistent. Some teams have twice the payroll of others. Revenue is not distributed evenly between the 30 teams, making it more difficult for small markets to battle the large ones.

These issues are threatening the integrity of baseball, but surprisingly, the owners and players came to terms just hours before what would be the ninth labor stoppage in the last 30 years or so. Most people said, "Cool, no strike. It must be fixed." Guess again. The agreement is garbage and it doesn't change much of anything.

On the part of the owners, there were two points of emphasis: a salary cap, which would limit spending by teams, and revenue sharing, which would ensure that revenues are more evenly distributed between teams. I will say they got what they were looking for in the revenue department. The agreement states that 25% million dollars of revenue will be evenly split between all 30 clubs for the duration of the agreement, which expires December 17, 2006.

However, the salary cap, or "Competitive Balance Tax," as it is being deceptively called, may be the biggest load of crap I have ever heard. During the 2003 season, the maximum

spending limit is 117 million, which is better than nothing, although the owners were pushing for 98 million.

The cap doesn't stay at 117 million, however. In 2004 it increases to 120 million, then 128 million, and finally, in the last year of the "agreement," it goes to 136.5 million. What the hell's the point of a salary cap that annually increases? The only team that spends 136 million is the Yankees, anyway. And, get this, the penalty for exceeding the threshold can be as low as 12 percent of the amount it was exceeded by. I'm sure this will work just fine.

There were some meaningless parts of the "agreement," also. Players will be tested for anabolic and androgenic steroids throughout the agreement. They will not be subjected to testing for recreational drugs. Maybe that's why the players are so delusional: they're all allowed to be on crack. Also, just to make sure nobody goes hungry, the minimum salary was increased by 100,000 bucks. Wow! That might prevent the owners from staying under those devastatingly low cap numbers. Right.

The bottom line is this. The players are greedy. They should be thankful because they had to concede nothing. On the other hand, the spineless owners should be ashamed for caving on everything they believe in.

United States not always international good guys

Opinion by | Dr. Linda Seidel

I do not condone terrorism of any kind. You need to know that, hold it in mind, when I also say that the mindless patriotism which requires us to demonize enemies and critics (rather than understand them) cannot help but cost us dearly in the long run. Don't get me wrong: I am not in favor of killing innocent civilians, whether they live in New York City or Iraq. But to dismiss such actions as *merely* evil (and thus unworthy of further analysis), makes a carefully considered response impossible.

Instead, I propose to offer several reasons why some citizens of the world may dislike us. I leave it to you to decide whether putting on another big display of military might is the best way to win them over (because killing them all is not feasible).

First, our unconditional support of Israel appears to have increased the virulence and duration of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Although we say we support a two-state solution, we have done little to bring it about. Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers use American weapons to help keep colonized Palestinians in a state of subjection described recently by Bishop Tutu as a kind of apartheid.

Second, while we relentlessly export images of the good life available in our land of opportunity, we do little to relieve the sufferings of those who are losing the global economic race. *The New York Times* tells me that over 80 nations are more impoverished now than they were ten years ago. -U.S. grain subsidies to our biggest farmers have helped depress the prices for agricultural goods in countries where most people are farmers. The policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, largely controlled by us, have actually exacer-

bated, rather than alleviated, difficult economic conditions in many countries (see Stiglitz's *Globalization and Its Discontents*).

When delegates from around the world, including more than 100 presidents and prime ministers, met recently in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the UN conference on sustainable development, George Bush did not attend. Clearly, poverty, the environment, and the connections between them are not our top priorities; never mind that approximately 13,000 people a day die because of dirty water. Colin Powell made a brief, token appearance.

Our neglect of the Johannesburg conference brings me to my third point: we generally act as if we are oblivious to the concerns of the rest of the international community. For one example, we are not sure we want to support the international punishment of war crimes because we think we might be accused of some.

For another example, we are one of the few countries that have refused to sign the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), maybe a small thing in the overall scheme of things: I know I am better off than most of the women of the world. But what kind of example does it set? (And could we so cavalierly cut funding to international family planning clinics if we had signed?) Worst of all, we still think it's our right to "take out" another nation's leader, no matter the cost to that nation, ourselves, or the rest of the world.

We ordinary Americans should not support the overweening arrogance of some of our leaders. We are more generous than that. Smarter, too. Let us not fight George Bush's war or follow his lead in dismissing the humanity of others.

Multi-party system means lots of partying

Opinion by | W. Aaron Wilson

I've become addicted to the BBC. Apparently, all my life I've had this inner need to know everything about world politics and just couldn't find a good source of information. Now that I've finally found a news agency that is not malnourishing in its global coverage, I am glutting myself like the all-you-can-eat-catfish-and-fries kind of American that I am.

Every trip to the BBC website is like belying up to buffet and adding another plate to the pile on the table. There's always something new to discover nestled between the mashed potatoes and succotash. I was recently most impressed with their coverage of elections in foreign countries. They treated the elections in Sweden and Macedonia as if they mattered! It was amazing.

At first I wasn't sure why this world of non-American politics intrigued me. After all, who cares what party has a majority presence in the Macedonian parliament? What has the Macedonian parliament done for me lately? But then it hit me. These elections interested me because of two words: multi-party systems. Wait, is that... But it's hyphenated... Maybe, it counts as two and a half words...

The black and white (or dark gray and slightly lighter gray) of American politics just seems so boring. It's like watching the same two football teams play each other over and over again. And who would be satisfied just watching the Cincinnati Bengals and the Detroit Lions play each other in the Super Bowl every year?

So here's what I propose. We need a massive voting overhaul, and I think the format of national sports teams is definitely the way

to go. Every year, instead of primaries we have playoffs. Instead of general elections we have championships. Instead of debates we have pre-game press conferences.

See, every few years we start out with a group of parties (exact number to be worked out later) who have attracted a large enough fan base. These parties have a month or so to develop their offensive and defensive strategies and assign players to different positions (i.e. different states).

Then, in a series of electoral, single elimination playoffs, we pit the parties against one another. It's like doing those NCAA Tournament pools, but with your vote influencing the outcome! (Do I favor Republicans over Libertarians? Greens over Democrats? And what about the Prohibition/Whig match?) The final two parties make it to the Super Bowl of elections, with the winning party placing one of their starters in the White House.

But wait! Just because one party wins the Super Poll (yes, I know I'm brilliant) doesn't mean they have complete control. Based on how far they progressed in the playoffs and point spreads of the voting, the other parties will get a percentage of the seats in Congress. So, even if you don't make it to the Final Four, you'll have a voice in making decisions.

Yes, under the new system, things might be more confusing, time consuming, and chaotic, but at least it will be interesting. And we won't have to choose between the Brussels sprouts and canned peas in the buffet of politics (Ha! You thought I'd forgotten about the buffet metaphor in favor of the football one, didn't you? Didn't you?).

Pledge hooks them young

Opinion by | Sam McPherson

Recently, the *Index* reported on a law mandating public schools to make time for the Pledge of Allegiance every week. When asked about the mandate, State Sen. Ted House responded that it is the responsibility of the state as it is a way to teach children about their country.

I also support schools teaching children about their country, but I do not think that this is the way to go about it. For one thing, the Pledge of Allegiance is not an education program. It is a tool used both to show patriotism and to make young children feel good about their country; to hook them while they are young, like tobacco companies and religion.

For another thing, even if the Pledge were an education program, it would not teach the children anything. Random memorization of specific words and phrases has never been a good way to instill ideals. Dialog and explanation are needed to truly understand the ideals behind the words.

In addition to the above arguments, it is getting hard to know what kind of patriotism this supports. Many people would automatically say that it is belief in America that this supports. I want to ask, support for the current government and legislation, or support for the

ditional American freedoms and liberties.

Recently, the attitude has been that patriotic American citizens will support the reduction of freedoms for security (e.g. detaining suspected terrorists indefinitely without trial, military censorship of CNN, etc.). This serves as an example of the change in attitude since Patrick Henry spoke the words, "Give me liberty or give me death."

Even worse still, many people who would say that they agree with those words would turn right around and start restricting the rights of others. This kind of an action is dangerous since the minute the rights of some people are restricted, the rights of others are put in jeopardy. Do you seriously think that the restrictions are going to stop here?

What I'm trying to say is the kind of patriotism that is being endorsed now is more like the kind of patriotism that occurred in Germany when Hitler was rising to power, where people are willing to sacrifice liberty for strength and security, than the form of patriotism that this country was founded on.

So, the next time you say that you are patriotic, consider what kind of patriotism you are speaking of: the kind that puts life in jeopardy, or the kind that puts liberty in jeopardy. Because I can assure you... can't have both

What CNN forgot to mention

Opinion by I Cameron Moore

"Our deepest national conviction is that every life is precious, because every life is the gift of a creator who intended us to live in liberty and equality."

These words were spoken on the one-year anniversary of the most shockingly violent and devastating attacks to happen one our soil in the lifespan of our nation. These words were spoken by "president" George W. Bush. These words, "every life is precious," were spoken on a day to a grieving nation, a nation whose cries into the night reverberate with anguish that echoes to this day. These words were followed by a call for war (synonym: systematic murder) that supposedly has no end in sight. Am I missing something, or is this blatantly absurd hypocrisy?

Politicians don't exactly have a reputation for being honest or straightforward. Really, they just point fingers and spend money to get elected. Whether a Republican or Democrat, these are the sole goals of politicians, who are willing to lie through their teeth for more power.

You might liken them to a dog chasing its tail and barking like he knows a pile of crap from his food dish, when really, we all know he doesn't, because we just saw him digging into a fresh piece of doo-doo pie in the backyard yesterday. But we don't want to hate him, he's a cute puppy and all, so when he brings his chew toy over and offers to play fetch, we can't help but remember that he's only a dog and forget about all that time he spent pawing at and eating his own stool. Well, to be quite frank, I'm sick of my dog's breath stinking like shit all the time. He obviously never learns, and I think he gets a kick out of pissing me off. It's time to get a new dog, folks.

For instance, just a few weeks ago, Bush produced satellite photos which, according to him, were taken in 1998 by the U.N. These photos, he said, were accompanied by a U.N. report that verified the pictures as proof of Iraq's ability to produce nuclear weapons anywhere within six to 24 months. And, obviously, if that was the case in 1998, then Iraq must have nuclear weapons by now. Fair enough, I'll concede that it makes a good point, that is, if he weren't lying through his shit-stained teeth.

First of all, the satellite photos were from a commercial satellite, not the U.N. Now, you might be thinking, "OK, that's only a minor detail; that desert freak still has nukes, so let's get him before he kills the... largest military in the world." Not so fast, Tonto, we haven't even gotten to the delectable center of this doggy treat.

Second of all, the buildings in the picture that the "president" brandished were at no point in time thought to be housing nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction according to the U.N. report. The report the "president" referenced in fact said that the buildings in the photos were of no significance.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, said U.N. report *actually* said that BEFORE THE GULF WAR, Iraq was six to 24 months away from nuclear capabilities. Indeed this report was written in 1998, but the state of affairs to which it refers is SEVEN YEARS PRIOR. Only after the Washington Post ran a story calling the "president's" bluff did the administration concede that they were wrong and that they were "just drawing their own conclusions from the report."

Therefore, we have two conclusions to pick from: (1) The Bush administration cannot read a simple U.N. report. This conclusion is one of those things that is funny, sad and scary,

all at the same time. I mean, just look at the photo at the top of this page. George W. Bush, the man in charge of the largest arsenal of military might in the world, is holding a book UP-SIDE DOWN!

Our second possible conclusion is: (2) The Bush Administration, so full of rhetoric against Iraq, has to fabricate the only evidence they have to justify making a preemptive strike. Is it just me, or is this about as transparent as... well, a transparency? I mean, just last week, our "president" actually said that Israel and Palestine need to start talking and working towards ending the violence. Later that same day, he starts talking more rhetoric about how Saddam must allow weapons U.N. weapons inspectors with "unfettered access," or else he will charge in with the cavalry and blow Iraq to bits. So much for "talking and working towards ending the violence."

As if this weren't enough, later that very day, Iraq agreed to the weapons inspections, and Bush's response was that he doesn't trust them and then changed his rhetoric from wanting weapons inspections to wanting complete disarmament, at whatever cost. This whole time, he has been claiming that he hasn't made a decision to go to war, but he keeps steamrolling through whatever obstacles are in his way to do just that, no matter how unnecessary it obviously is.

Speaking of Bush claiming that he has no plans to go to war, on September 15, the *Sunday Herald*, a British newspaper, ran a story on a "secret blueprint for US global domination" that they uncovered. "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategies, Forces and Resources For a New Century" is the document to which they refer, and was penned by (yep, you guessed it) several key players in the Bush Administration, and well before Bush was "elected" to power. Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz (Rumsfeld's secretary), Lewis Libby (Cheney's chief of staff) and none other than Jeb Bush all contributed to this document.

According to the article, the document outlines how the US will come to have a world-wide military presence to maintain US interests (oil, anybody?). Among other things, it says that the US has planned to take control of Iraq, regardless of whether or not Saddam Hussein is in power. The document specifically says, "The United States has for decades sought to play a more permanent role in Gulf regional security. While the unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification, the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein." The document continues, calling for the US to "fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theater wars" as a "core mission," according to the *Herald*. Not decided to go to war yet, eh W?

Here are some of the more outright disgusting suggestions made in this document that were included in the article:

- The need for the creation of "US Space Forces," to dominate space, and the total control of cyberspace to prevent "enemies" from using the internet against the US.
- The need for a "world-wide command-and-control system," justified by the existence of dangerous regimes existing in North Korea, Libya, Syria and Iran.

- Suggests that advanced forms of biological warfare that can "target" specific genotypes may transform biological warfare from the realm of terror to a politically useful tool.

Good God, help us all; with this crap-eating poosh in office, I can't pray enough.



The "president," sitting with a child and "reading." (Look at his book!)

Men deserve say in abortion decision

Opinion by I Kevin Chase

No matter what you think about the legality or morality of the medical procedure known as abortion, you can realize, when thinking about the concept strictly intellectually, that it is used in this country today is primarily as a form of family planning for women. Abortion serves as a way for women to end pregnancies that are unwanted or come at an inconvenient or improper time (spare me the self-righteous letters that I am condoning some form of infanticide).

The key concept that I want to focus on in this opinion piece/philosophical editorial/Monitor pseudo-article is that abortion is a form of family planning in which the mother, not the father, has sole control over whether or not her pregnancy is taken to term.

By looking at abortion from that angle it eventually appeared to me to be patently unequal for one of the two parents involved to have all the legal authority over whether a pregnancy is terminated or brought to term. In an ideal world, both parties should have some measure of control over whether or not, and when they will have a child. After all, under American law and almost any given person's system of ethics, both parents have a responsibility for their child after it is born (barring adoption, etc.).

An example of when this concept—let's call it legal male abortion—would be viable is probably in order. Say two people conceive a child and the father wants to keep it but the mother doesn't. Let's say that the mother involved doesn't have a good job, has no job skills, and very little education.

She is not in a good position to raise a child. Obviously in the current system (given the mother has no moral objections to abortion), she could abort her fetus. The man involved would have no control over the situation.

Now let's turn the tables to reflect what is more frequently reality. The woman involved wants to bring her pregnancy to term. The man involved doesn't want to see her pregnancy come to term because he isn't able to pay child support, since he doesn't have a good job, has

no job skills, and no education.

Although it is easy to dismiss him as a deadbeat dad who wants to avoid child support payments, it takes a little more thought to realize that, ideally, he should have just as much a right to decide when he will have children as the woman in the previous paragraph.

Obviously we don't live in an ideal world. The reality of the situation is often that the woman involved wants a child, or at least goes through with the pregnancy and labor and has a child. The man involved frequently doesn't want a child and would rather avoid child support payments if at all possible. (Of course this isn't always the case, but this is most often what happens when parents disagree on whether or not to bring a pregnancy to term and raise a child.)

Since we don't live in an ideal world, we have to deal with situations where a child will be born and financial support from his/her father will be a necessity. Obviously it is impossible to look out for only the prospective parents' best interests. In fact, it would be a horrible shame if the court system didn't look out for children's interests in child support cases, etc. The system, as it stands now, is not ideal, but it does an excellent job of protecting the most vulnerable of the three people involved in this hypothetical family.

My interest in writing this article is not to make a serious proposal of public policy. My interest here is simply to get people thinking about a concept (I'm sure someone, some "men's rights" group, has thought of this idea before, so I won't dare to take credit for it) that is intimately related to the concepts of equality and protecting the interests of those who cannot stand up for themselves.

I don't intend to get people mad (although that may happen, and I frankly don't care). Instead, I hope that the small amount I've so ineffectually written on this topic will challenge what you have previously believed and facilitate thinking critically about fairness and equality. Who knows, maybe someone will actually see this article and actually talk about it with someone else. I can only hope.

F E A T U R E S

The Potato: questions answered

Feature by | Greg Brenner

Returning University students received a shock as classes began this fall semester. The Potato, an integral part of campus tradition, superstition, and lore was missing—paved over.

For the freshmen who have no idea what I am talking about, The Potato was an irregular slab of concrete that vaguely looked like a potato in the middle of the sidewalk between Violette and Dobson Hall. Rumors and superstitions about the mysterious concrete slab had been passed down from year to year. I am sure there are some who thought The Potato was an ugly aberration in the sidewalk and did not shed a tear when it was paved over. For others however, it was a piece of the University experience that was callously thrown away and cannot be replaced.

Losing The Potato brought up a swirl of questions. Why was The Potato replaced now? Why get rid of such a piece of history? Why would the university spend money to repave this section of concrete in this era of budget cuts? Was this some vast conspiracy? The truth must be known!

I needed answers in this quest for truth. Searching for enlightenment, I headed to the Physical Plant office in Kirk Building. I met with Karl Schneider, one of the directors of the Physical Plant, who was gracious in sparing a

few minutes of his busy schedule to help the overly curious. Instead of Sphinx-like answers that take years to ponder and solve, Mr. Schneider was very straightforward in answering all my questions.

Sidewalk repair is work that goes on continuously on campus. There is always a sidewalk to fix or repair. Everyone sees this ongoing struggle throughout the year as various sections of sidewalk are blocked off as workers repave them. Therefore, the Physical Plant is allotted some money each year from the university budget for sidewalks. Just like everything else, the Physical Plant has also had to deal with recent budgetary constraints. Despite budget cuts, the Physical Plant's war against sidewalk cracks will continue.

I also found that the Physical Plant does not actually replace sidewalks. Rather, Mr. Schneider and the Physical Plant select the sidewalks that need repair and contract the job to a local company that does the work.

It was decided this past May that the section of sidewalk with The Potato would be repaved. The cost for such a job comes to around \$3.70 per square foot of concrete. A normal job would then cost several hundred dollars.

So why was The Potato targeted? According to Mr. Schneider, it was not malicious intent that destroyed our beloved hunk of con-

crete. Instead, the deterioration of the concrete led to the decision to replace that section of sidewalk.

As Mr. Schneider explained, they chose to replace that section because it was becoming a "tripping hazard". Apparently "tripping hazards" are deadly things around campus that jump up and attack unwary pedestrians.

Witnesses have described vicious attacks by these "tripping hazards" and the resulting trauma from embarrassment to succumbing to these pitfalls.

In all seriousness, the Physical Plant determines the sidewalks to be replaced by looking at sections that are cracking, deteriorating, and could trip someone if they weren't paying attention. Sadly, The Potato was judged guilty of the above criteria and sentenced to execution.

What about tradition? What about history? Mr. Schneider claimed he did not know of any tradition involving The Potato. To the Physical Plant, The Potato was not a spot of concrete to avoid or walk across for good luck; it was just another section of sidewalk.

My quest for truth regarding this matter ended. All my questions were answered, and I found some truth. Traditions, even those that have been around for ages, cannot stand up to ignorance. RIP Potato.

Reactions to campus loss

Feature by | Sam McPherson

Incoming freshmen in Missouri Hall were accosted by bizarre mental imagery during a Truman Week welcome meeting this year. Speaker Alana Pruessner, College Rector for Missouri Hall, spoke on the issue of the missing potato that was removed from the sidewalk in front of Violette Hall this summer.

Students responded to this with confusion in many cases, as freshman Chris Mathews expressed in the statement, "What potato?"

Though the reason why it was removed is uncertain, the solution of the missing potato seems obvious for some students: to chalk it out in its former position in front of Violette Hall. However, some students fail to see the logic behind this.

An example of this is sophomore Catherine Zivnuska, when she said, "I think that it was stupid to get rid of it because it's fun to have campus quirks, but it's silly to draw it in chalk; it's gone."

The potato in question was a disconnected, potato shaped concrete slab in the sidewalk in front of Violette Hall thought to cause bad luck, usually in the form of test failure. According to legend, the only way to undo the bad luck was to walk backwards over it while naked at midnight.

Despite the legend, some students were unconvinced of its potency. This sentiment is incarnated in sophomore Collin Ashmore, who claimed that walking over the potato never affected his performance.

Others do not share this viewpoint, as is exemplified by sophomore Adam Mutz in his statement, "I'm glad [the potato] is gone. I failed my first College Algebra test because of that motherfucker."

Despite all of these opinions, the average reaction of students at the University seems to be that they just do not care. Senior Kathy Widitz seemed to sum up many of the reactions when she said "I don't really think that it matters."

Others, like sophomore Eric Null, give monetary reasons as to why it should have stayed out in front of Violette Hall.

Whatever the reaction, it seems certain to most people that the potato is not coming back.

Appearance trends of the Nacirema

A Supplement to Horace Miner's *Body Rituals of the Nacirema*

Feature by | Adam Petry

A recent trend among the Nacirema has been to idolize the quintessence of appearance. Commonly portrayed through spiritual garb, the Nacirema are wholly self-conscious about themselves when around others. It has created a hierarchy based on wealth, also known as social stratification, in which the more elaborate, eloquent garments are treated with more respect.

Whether it be to satisfy a higher-up in the civilization or a soul-mate, apparel is becoming known to personify a person's beliefs and place in their respective communities rather than serving its purpose: to protect the body, or to some, hide it from excessive exposure to others.

Newly exotic colors, fabrics, and shapes have advanced their textiles. Evolving from the traditional animal furs (which now, ironically, show a sign of extreme prosperity), the Nacirema will hunt for clothes for hours, even days sometimes. This laborious process is extremely energy consuming as well, as many opt to search for food after a generous period of failed hunting. Once the hunt is successful, a gift is always given back to the empire that supplied the object. Barrows are often utilized to ease the transportation of the hunted. Some trend fanatics will even travel great lengths to hunt, and at times spend hefty portions of their savings. The exchange of goods is an immense sacrifice, yet the satisfaction and possibility of success is unparalleled.

Basis for approval in society depends on the first presentation of the individual. Physical attraction will assure the success of any person, despite their reasoning skills and maturity. It is detrimental for empires to recruit specimens of prominence, trained in effective hygiene and who have knowledge of the recent

fashion trends. It is also mandatory for the recruit to dress in full, covering his body, putting an emphasis on muscular proportions. If female, the objective is to do the opposite: showing the legs and accentuating the breasts is of peak importance to successful communication. These gender specific commonalities have become assumed requirements throughout all of the Nacirema's business and economic endeavors. If a lower ranked member dresses in ripped, dirty, or smelly clothing, they are pre-judged and degraded, assuming that the individual is disorganized, unkempt, scary and sometimes violent. If this were the situation, chances of acquiring a job would be extremely unlikely. Unfortunately, nearly all empires will deny people of muddled appearance, making life's inalienable truths realistically void.

The multi-layer style is a staple among the Nacirema. It usually consists of tight fabric concealing the waist region, followed by layers of various textures, most often masking the entire body. Even domesticated animals are periodically veiled in raiment by elders to show appreciation for the friendship they provide. Nowadays, the Nacirema wear fewer layers, whether it be for the purpose of coping with warmer weather or to attract a possible significant other. (The initial layer is sometimes revealed in tribal meetings. This ritual is considered sacred and beautiful, and is cherished by the devout worshipers.)

One of the more unique qualities of the Nacirema is their obsession with nudity (Researchers believe it is a primary cause for the drastic decrease of layers being worn). Women practice a ritual often referred to as *pirtsing*, where their bodies practice a series of gyrations, sometimes using tall polls as an aid (consecrated behavior of this manner is a concern

among some elders and females in most societies.) Mainly males gather to pray for the spirits of human perfection, while it is considered taboo for females to indulge in any such activities. More and more rituals are being performed where nudity is believed to ameliorate the struggles of daily living. Masses of people gather to honor the sacredness of the human in its purest form, and often rely on it to satisfy their sexual drive.

On the contrary, practices are performed for those who appreciate and value the importance of high-quality costume. All of the cloth presented in these rituals is prepared for an immense amount of time: prepped for cleanliness and abstractness of design. After provisions are made, the divine females* are chosen to wear this spiritual garb to showcase the importance of clothing and the ideals that accompany it. They walk back and forth down an isle, using serious facial expressions and hip gyrations to further enhance the quality of performance. It is done in the most intimate of environments, yet numerous image-capturers are present to procure the beauty and sacredness of this trapeze. The images are then reproduced and are intended to diffuse throughout all societies. Some even go as far as compiling these pictures into a portable collection to offer a wide variety of the clothing available and to, once again, express the significance of valuable materials and a healthy lifestyle. This showcase has progressed into an irreversible practice, led by cloth-hunters that create raiment not even worn by people other than the holy women. (*A majority of sacred females train their bodies to abstain from food substances in hopes of achieving a healthier lifestyle. Showing ribs and other bones is a sign of ex-

treme beauty and respect, let alone representing the epitome of health.

In recent reviews of this intriguing society, a consensus has been reached by all researchers: excessive pursuit lies in the impeccable appearance of the individual. Despite several contrasting rituals, clothing has recently drowned out the aspect of civilization and averted attention to the individual. Some feel it as a better expression of what they believe and are extremely image-conscious for the latter years of childhood. When they become an adult, less importance rides on clothing but rather a combination of how you portray yourself and communicate with civilians.

Persisting to fathom the new essence of appearance, many sociologists fear this concept will snowball and eradicate the already limited civilizations which pride themselves on their relationship with actual people and non-image-conscious ideals; yet how society has used modernity to suppress poverty and sickness is a comforting sign of things to come.

Farmer's Market definitely *not* worth your time

Feature by I zach jackson

If you're like me (and hey, in today's homogenized world culture who isn't?), then maybe you're *not* looking for a new shopping experience that *isn't* fun and *doesn't* support local economy and *isn't* good for healthy living because you're *not* going to the Farmer's Market that's *not* every Saturday at the Courthouse which *isn't* on "the Square" and *isn't* running through the end of October, and it definitely *doesn't* run May through October every year, which *doesn't* mean you've already missed most of it, but that also *doesn't* mean you should go this Saturday to scope out a bunch of home grown produce which *isn't* organic and it's certainly *not* cheap and the people are definitely *not* friendly and it's *not* a positive alternative to supporting the slave labor that's obviously *not* endorsed by Wal-Mart, so *don't* go to the Farmer's Market, because it *doesn't* start at

seven a.m. (that's *not* on Saturday recall) and *doesn't* go until twelve noon, and you should definitely *not* go early, because it *doesn't* get crowded later, and there's certainly *no* fresh honey or honey combs, and there's *no* home baked pies and *no* home baked bread and *no* hand made soaps, and *no* nice girl selling zinnias that she *didn't* grow herself, and there's *no* home-made jams and *no* pumpkins and *no* squash and *no* corn and *no* tomatoes and *no* cute Amish ladies and *no* fresh herbs and *no* exotic greens and *no* farm fresh eggs and *no* students to talk to, and there's *no* getting a fresh perspective on Kirksville and there's definitely *no* fresh air and *no* good karma. Remember that it's *not* on Saturdays and it's *not* on "the Square" and so you should obviously *not* go to the Farmer's Market whether you're *not* waking up from a good night's rest or just plain haven't gone to bed yet. Like me.

hey kids!

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Our meetings are still @ 9 pm in BH 249 every
Tuesday and Thursday. Drop in and say hi!

Queen Astra



Let the
stars be your guide!

Aquarius [Jan. 21-Feb. 19]

The dreaded "I'm going to punch you in the back of the head and run like hell" bully will think about punching you in the head, but then he'll decide that you seem like too nice of a guy to punch.

Pices [Feb. 20-Mar. 20]

Naked is the man who steps outside without any clothes...

Aries [March 21-April 20]

After watching a half hour interview with Enrique Iglesias, you will become inspired to wear tight pants and take Spanish classes.

Taurus [April 21-May 22]

Women will begin to find you more desirable when you start brushing your teeth after eating cheetos.

Gemini [May 23-June 21]

You will make local headlines when David Letterman reads your extremely witty letter on air, naming you and your hometown.

Cancer [June 22-July 24]

Things will begin to clear up for you when you realize that you really have no reason to hate yourself.

Leo [July 25-Aug. 23]

People like you.

Virgo [Aug. 24-Sept. 23]

You're going to get an A in every class you are taking this semester.

Libra [Sept. 24-Oct. 23]

Your life will become more and more pleasant as you surround yourself with caring people.

Scorpio [Oct. 24-Nov. 22]

You will be delighted, though not surprised at all, when you learn that this seasons Real World cast will be the sauciest EVER.

Sagittarius [Nov. 23-Dec. 21]

Fuckit, I cant think of anything to write for this one.

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 20]

Your peers are going to begin laughing at your jokes, and honestly find them amusing.



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R E V I E W S

monitor

Wilco delivers new, old material to appreciative Kansas City audience

Wilco

The Beaumont Club

September 15, 2002

Review by | Zach Lechner

At one point during Wilco's September 15 performance at the Beaumont Club in Kansas City, a fan hollered for the band to play the Uncle Tupelo classic "The Long Cut." "No, we are not going to play 'The Long Cut' tonight," Jeff Tweedy replied. He also explained that another request, "Hotel Arizona," from Wilco's 1996 double album *Being There*, was not on the set list. I'm not exactly sure what these exchanges signified—maybe it's that Wilco is very serious about their music—or perhaps it's that people in the audience should keep their song suggestions to themselves. Regardless, the band scored high marks for playing an impressive concert on its own terms.

Wilco's main set focused mostly on songs from its latest release, *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. The understated nature of the album's songs could have made for some very dull live performances. For the most part, however, this was not the case. Songs like "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart" and "Kamera" retained their subtlety, and were aided especially by the animated drumming

of Glenn Kotche, who has proved to be a welcome addition to the band since Ken Coomer's exit (read: firing) last year.

Pre-recorded sounds helped to fill out the otherwise sparse instrumentation of Tweedy's acoustic/electric guitars, John Stirratt's electric bass, Leroy Bach's keyboards, and Kotche's drums. A roadie recreated many of *YHF*'s electronic blips and white noise on a computer with effects pedals that looped sounds. One of the concert's more humorous moments occurred when a drum machine failed to work during the introduction to "Heavy Metal Drummer." Tweedy assured the audience that the band was capable of playing the song without it.

While most of the band's repertoire came off well, some slower, more atmospheric songs did not work so well in the live setting. "Reservations," for instance, is compelling on disc, but it came off a little sluggish at the show. A revamped version of "Sunken Treasure," in which Tweedy drew out his singing seemed to go on forever and had me waiting for the next song.

Despite what Tweedy's comments during the show might have suggested, Wilco actually played a generous selection of older material. They let loose with several *Being There* rockers, including "I Got You (At the End of the Century)," "Outtasite (Outta Mind)" and

"Monday," as well as the gem "Casino Queen," from their debut, *A.M.*

The band appeared quite energized during the harder driving numbers. Leroy Bach (dressed very much like a *Four*-era Huey Lewis, sans the skinny tie) bounced excitedly between songs. John Stirratt even executed an enthusiastic, albeit somewhat awkward, jump kick during the galloping rendition of "Outtasite (Outta Mind)."

The inclusion of "Hesitating Beauty" and "California Stars" during the first encore, with opening band the Boas providing additional guitar and percussion on the latter song, drew much appreciation from the audience. For me personally, it was nice to hear the lovely "When the Roses Bloom Again." Recorded during the Mermaid Avenue sessions, Wilco and Billy Bragg shelved the song when they discovered that Woody Guthrie had not written the lyrics. The song surfaced last April on the Jeff Tweedy-scored soundtrack to Ethan Hawke's film *Chelsea Walls*.

The Beaumont Club show was the best of the three shows I've seen on the *YHF* tour. For me, it surpassed slightly Wilco's Blue Note gig the following evening, despite my meeting Glenn Kotche and overhearing John Stirratt tell an obsessive fan that he was not Jeff Tweedy's "fucking secretary," when the guy asked Stirratt to pass on a message to the singer.

Aside from Tweedy's clipped responses

to the requests in Kansas City, he displayed a dry wit throughout the show that indicated he does not take his music too seriously. Apparently, he has left that job up to rock journalists who have given the impression that *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* is some kind of latter day *Sgt. Pepper*. Don't get me wrong, *YHF* is one impressive album, but so are *Summerteeth* and *Being There*.

Regardless, Wilco is a great rock and roll band. I think that's compliment enough for now. Only time will tell whether they achieve the respected status of groups like The Band or The Velvet Underground, both of whose influences are evident on *YHF*.

The most satisfying aspect of the Kansas City concert was the realization that Wilco will continue to mine the sounds of their past work while also making use of a continually expanding musical palette. Despite the band's much-publicized "turmoil" of the past year, which included the dismissals of both Ken Coomer and Jay Bennett and the its exit from Reprise Records (only to later be picked up by Nonesuch Records), Tweedy and Co. have kept their focus on making interesting music that ranges from delicate and beautiful to ragged and rocking.

As a final point of interest, it should be noted that Wilco dusted off a couple of Uncle Tupelo numbers the next night at the Blue Note. "The Long Cut" was not one of them.

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Epoxies recycle punk

The Epoxies

The Epoxies

Dirtnap records

Review by | Ryan Kelly

My punk rock pin-ups pose as scavengers on the August 2002 cover of *MAXIMUMROCKNROLL*, ankle-deep in celophane as they stagger through the snapping brush. Plastic seals the planet like a leaking left-over. And they can count on another ice age before the stuff starts decomposing.

Roxy, the singer, hangs to her bandmate's back like a dead tick while the others burn their last calories with blank stares. As the group submits to the suffocated land, guitarist Viz Spectrum spots the blinking bulb of a buried radio tower just outside our crop line.

We're left to imagine the gang limping to the antenna and spinning their latest release in a rescue plea, thus making the album an artifact of new-wave holocaust.

The newsstand gimmick came off fresh and hungry next to whatever starlet tease *Rolling Stone* happened to be offering.

But their apocalyptic-bubblegum songs convinced me that the number of sourpuss axioms in punk has hit critical mass. The Epoxies want to let us know that they don't really matter, you know, in the whole scheme of things. And life is a game...and life isn't "real," etc...

all hollered over the sci-fi keyboards.

The result is a protest record that can't come up with a decent complaint. The only content is naked angst. Even their nod to the current terror sex epidemic (I refer you to *Cosmo*) is more about leaving a pretty corpse than it is delaying doom. This is the kind of dreck that makes nihilists blush.

The Epoxies have inherited the mantle of Public Punk by gracing the scene's most loved rag, *MRR*, further evidence that its audience is warming up to manic creative inbreeding. This band's attitude has been passed down through generations of acts like great-grandma's moldy wedding dress. When did punks stop slaying tired traditions and start recycling them?

It takes too much research for newcomers to even bother getting a handle on this crowded, decentralized scene. All the self-promotion ads bleed together when I flip through the zines. But if anyone can harvest some pink-gummed upstarts from the ink tycoons, get The Word out! I'll gladly carve tombstones for self-righteous politics and shallow negativism in return.



Biography sheds light on Churchill not seen in United States media

OF Winston Churchill

By Roy Jenkins

Farrar & Co.

Review by I Larry Iles

So in a first blast, why should your average radical *Monitor* reader type be desirous of picking up a book on a Conservative by a UK Liberal Democrat peer (centrist fudger in US terms) WITH A FLORID, LONG SENTENCE STYLE enough to give the editor of *My Back Pages* nasty, merited "crap" for two days on his toilet seat for comparable, all-American illiterate tenseness!

Well, firstly, the US ESTABLISHMENT does not like this book, with that embodiment of US historian's snobbery Gertrude (the-Victorians-were-really-"nice"-folks, you know!) Himmelfarb detesting it in one of the New York book reviews.

Evidently, and she was quite explicit about it, Roy Jenkins' "Churchill" is emphatically not the one she and her elitists want you reading about. They prefer the defense-rouser and the "aboriginal Tory," as Charles Masterman described him, who fought even limited Indian self-government under that "loincloth faker" Gandhi with all his early 1930's press might.

Now as JENKINS' ACCOUNT of the really more attractive Winston than this US bully character illustrates, more complexly, there is a big problem galore with this clichéd reactionary farce of current Bush types "Churchillian" – apart from its basic half-only truthfulness!

Firstly, for over 18 years formatively of his politically lengthy life, "WC" was not even a Tory party member, but as any visitor to his portrait in London's National Liberal Club could tell her patronizing ignoramus, a LIBERAL party member! This, at a time when it was pulling my country to its reformist Left only to be equaled by Jenkins' father's later 1945-51 Labour generation (Lord Roy's Dad, yer see, was premier Attlee's personal parliamentary secretary).

Not only that, but "Winnie," as his wife Clem called him, was, all his life, proud of his considerably state-interventionist economic achievements as one of their senior economics ministers. Notably, with his journalist East End London-elected MP Charlie Masterman's help, the setting-up of the country's first STATE employment help bureau as far back as 1909, today called "Job Centres" (and not just for college grads you privileged Yanks!).

Further, to Masterman's amusement, Churchill swallowed his "natural class" loyalties sufficiently strongly. To actively campaign, despite his expressed fears of "REFORTLUTION" as Masterman mocked affectionately his speech lisp, for the first "SUR-TAXES" on millionaires the same year!! Indeed, Jenkins is so full of such info that he barely has time in even 800 pages to once mention Churchill even published a book, *THE PEOPLES BUDGET*, arguing therein that it was

the social "duty" of the "rich" to repay the wealth they take from our fees and taxes at our studious labour exploitation cost; in exploitation!

Finally, in information Himmelfarb does not want you to ponder about, University children at such impressionable ages, Jenkins does what most more "approved" American biographers of "warrior" Churchill DON'T do! He does NOT exaggerate the trans-Atlantic establishment, "half-American" old codger! True, says Roy, his mother was in Jennie Churchill, a wealthy turn-of-nineteenth-to-twentieth last century USA socialite. But Winston, like her, took her LEFTwing Tory "one nation" father, Lord RANDOLF'S part in his famous resigning bust-up with the official UK Conservatives of Lord Salisbury's laissez faire "anti-government" sort! In other words, they both, USA and UK, supported his protest against excessive arms expenditure as destabilizing their tense world and insulting the impoverished of all races!

Furthermore, while thank God not salaciously titillating the way some crazed modern biographers are (like, for instance, Charles Masterman's turd of a latest Royal Historical Society one bigotedly is) Jenkins is sexually candid about both Winston's parents and his own marriage. They were; wait for it, US Attorney General "moralist" throwback J. Ashcroft, both in OPEN marriages. This has long been known about Randolph, who got himself syphilis, tragically mortally! But Jenkins herein reveals Jennie had many husband-known "lovers," and that supposedly not factual interview scene with ANNE BANCROFT as her, in the epic film *Young Winston* was not so "fanciful" after all. She gloried in her eroticism, while even the more uptightly "feminist" Winston's wife Clementine had enough of "WC's" own narcissism to have passionate lovers in the 1930's with his knowledge!

Indeed, if Jenkins is to be plausibly credited, "WC's" outspokenly brave, almost lone Tory public support for Edward VIII's love for US divorcee, Wallace Simpson, that was to cost the latter his throne and Paris, West Indina-exiled ostracism was thus entirely predictable in such openness by the also talented artist!

So, rare as it might be, this book (despised by its US reviewers but adored by those of us of the Left) is worth your persuading your own richer relatives come this Xmas, start forking out upon. It is a literal mine of sheer subversive "will," shedding new light for US (otherwise naïve) readers on a man who, between 1908 and 1922, alone represented some of the poorest parts of the Scots city of Dundee, and was self-educated, although not quite the dunce the movie mentioned tried to make out.

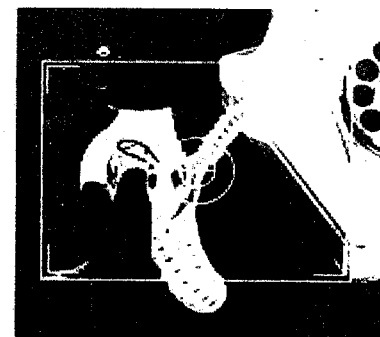
In fact, Masterman used to "marvel" at how he, a Cambridge poor scholarship Wimbledon boy himself, was expected in an instant's notice, to "provide" the very learning-retentive "WC" with the "latest" books and "academic training" on all manner of subjects in his love of the proverbial "limelight" that was to serve us bravely so well when, alone, we faced Hitler while American Right-wingers in particular, selfishly, isolationistly, made money, or "grub" as "WC" might have said!

Sparta forces a closer listen

Sparta

Wiretap Scars

Dreamworks records



Review by I Chris Scott

In the late '90s, anyone lucky enough to be turned on to the band At the Drive-In was almost unanimously addicted from first listen. But just as the band's fan base began to grow, their music started getting airplay, and airing on (gasp) MTV, they broke up, much to the disappointment of their fans. Before long, they had formed two bands: one being the highly experimental Mars Volta, the other being what is now the texan quartet, Sparta.

For those addicts hungry for more At the Drive-In, fear not; *Wiretap Scars* proves to be the quintessential fix of the year. Coming off tours with both Weezer and Jimmy Eat World this summer, Sparta appears primed to take center stage.

With the current state of rock and roll seemingly fixated on simply rehashing tired and familiar formulas, Sparta is at the very least a breath of fresh air. Never afraid to occasionally incorporate electronic beats into their songs (a big no-no by punk standards) and never overdoing it (a big problem for Linkin Park), *Wire-*

tap Scars never fails to keep the listener interested.

Most surprisingly, Sparta seems less concerned with trying to distance themselves from their past than they are with creating fresh, exciting music, an admirable exercise in musicianship. They actually manage to create smart punk, considered by many to be an oxymoron, and perhaps rightfully so.

"Glasshouse Tarot" packs more emotion than Dashboard Confessional could muster up in an entire album, while "Assemble the Empire" manages to rock harder than Limp Bizkit could ever possibly conceive (without once slipping into the now-defunct rap/metal hybrid). Jim Ward's vocals take on a life of their own on "Echodyne Harmonic" with the utmost passion and sense of desperation.

The militaristic rhythm of "Cut Your Ribbon," a clear highlight, jump starts *Wiretap Scars*, an album bent on splitting your ear lobes, while forcing you to listen closer.

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University students protest white supremacy rally

Story by I Suzanne Chappelow

On Saturday, August 24, a small group of University students caravanned to Topeka, Kansas to protest a rally held by the Minneapolis chapter of the National Socialist Movement.

The unassuming reader might wonder, "What's so threatening about socialism?" Nothing really, but behind this seemingly harmless name lies something far more disturbing and menacing than a small group of socialists.

The National Socialist Movement is really a euphemism for the neo-Nazi white power movement (and is in NO way related to the Larry Hies brand of socialism).

The Nazis came to Topeka to get some press and perhaps some new recruits, and they succeeded on both counts. However, their fifty-some-odd supporters hardly held a match to the 500 protesters. For two hours, the leaders of the rally babbled nonsense about the Jews taking over "our" businesses, black welfare mothers mooching off the government, and the 500 hateful "communists" shouting at them.

I am sure that they raved on and on about many other things, but I could not really hear them over the yelling coming from my own mouth and from the mouths of those around me.

The protesters' signs ranged from "STOP HATE NOW!" to "YOU CAN WEAR MY NUTS ON YOUR NAZI CHINS" (courtesy of Kirksville's finest...). We also chanted various phrases, "Go home!" being the most



University student Suzanne Chappelow giving some Nazis a middle finger salute

frequent. My personal favorite, however, was "One goal! One fight! Human freedom, equal rights!" Also, many of the protesters began returning the Nazis' "Sieg Heil" salute with a proud middle finger in the air.

Looking back on the protest, I can say that nothing huge and earth-shattering was accomplished. However, the sense of unity among such a diverse group of people was particularly reassuring to me. Perhaps the presence of such an opposition got one or two fledgling Nazis to think about how ridiculous and shameful their movement really is.

Finally, I learned that what they say is true — hate really does breed hate. Standing there, looking at that group of bald, angry, white men with swastikas on their sleeves filled me to the brim with hate. For the first time in my life, I was consumed with pure hatred for another human being — 50 human beings, to be precise.

Continued from page 1

in front of the SUB, the campus Greens began their two-day rally for peace in Iraq.

Activists for the Greens collected 200 signatures on a petition sent to President Bush decrying aggressive action in Iraq and "[the use of] crisis as a justification for war."

Cabell Gathman, senior, said she signed the petition because, "I think unilateral action in Iraq is just going to encourage international hostility against the US." The disadvantage of this hostility, she elaborated, is that "It doesn't encourage other people to work with us and sets us up as an international bully."

Lt. Col. James Dirkse, campus ROTC director, was among the observers of the rally in front of the SUB. Asked his position on war with Iraq, Dirkse said, "That's political," and that his personal opinion "doesn't matter because the politicians will take care of that." Dirkse said he was in audience of the rally because, "I'm curious to see what the students are thinking," although he said signing the petition was a precluded possibility because, "I represent the government while in uniform."

By noon, Dumpster Dive Bomber, a student band with punk leanings, began blasting away at students who gathered in front of the Greens' booth. Keyboardist Kathy Widitz read a statement to the crowd between songs.

"We're playing at this rally because America sucks," she began. "America does not encourage strong communities and personal relationships," she said. Widitz later clarified her statements by explaining that she objected to the individualist nature of America's capitalist culture, which she said found basis in "putting everybody down" in order to get ahead.

Rachel Datsch, a member of the Dancing Rabbit eco-village, identified herself with one name only, like a Brazilian soccer star. She addressed the crowd of about 20 concerning lobbying efforts to create a peace fund to which one could divert that portion of taxes usually given to the military.

Afterwards, Dr. Rutter serenaded the crowd with songs chosen seemingly at random. His solitary protest song, "For What It's Worth," by Buffalo Springfield, was part of a selection of mostly original songs peppered with a few covers such as "hangin' around," by Counting Crows.

The Greens wrapped up their September 10th rally in the early afternoon.

The eleventh began with about 170 people gathering on a chill Quad, still in early morning shade, for the 7:46 raising of the American flag. Total silence, broken only by the commands of Master Sergeant Scott McCranie, held the scene.

Mike Denham, senior and ROTC Cadet Command Sergeant Major, acted in the ceremony. He said it was "a way to honor the people who died. It's a tradition to honor them." "Today is mainly a day to remember. Because it's really the most you can do right now, in this position," said Denham.

Following the flag-raising ceremony, at 8:30, students came together for a Green-organized multi-faith vigil, which included words spoken by Catholic and Jewish practitioners and a specialist in the Yoga tradition.

At 10:00 the Greens set up on the Quad, garnering more signatures for their petitions and allowing students to design squares for a large peace quilt. One such square read, "War is a phallacy, and Washington is getting hard."

At about 12:30 faculty speakers called together by the Greens sat down on the lawn to speak on war with Iraq and other issues. Dr. John Becker began by explaining the conflict as an issue of access to resources. His focus was

on the individual's role in global conflict. He cited poets Naomi Shihab Nye and William Stafford, whose poem "Objector" was read punctuated by Becker's expression of pacifist conviction.

Dr. Linda Seidel followed, drawing the attention of the audience to the conference on sustainable development held in Johannesburg from August 26 through September 4, but which was not prominently featured in American media and unattended by President Bush. Seidel also mentioned the devastating effects of American grain policies on small farmers in poor countries.

Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele then drew a distinction between attacking Iraq and combatting terrorism. Our dual goals, delineated last September 11th, of fighting terrorism and bringing terrorists to justice will not be furthered by entering into conflict with Iraq, he said. Hoeschele said that, although he's read of terrorist cells in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, France, England, and Germany, he hasn't read a report alleging Al-Qaeda activity within Iraq. In addition to the strain an attack would bring upon US relations worldwide, Hoeschele warned the war might aid the recruiting efforts of organizations such as Al-Qaeda.

Dr. Becky Becker finished with a talk on the importance of remaining conscious in times of crisis. She spoke of "[being] fully alive, free as a means to avoid feeling helpless."

At 4:30pm, President Magruder presided over the campus commemorative service, which featured a moment of silence.

Around 6:30, the Newman Center conducted a service on the Quad, in front of the Kirk Memorial. By this time, the Quad was once again ensconced in shade. The gathering began with hymns, including "Amazing Grace" whose human chorus was briefly and poignantly overpowered as the clock tolled time. Quiet reflection in human circles followed the singing.

The final event of the day was advertised as a "broadcast" of President Bush's address in the Ryle and Centennial Hall lounges. In Centennial, only about eight or so people sat around the lounge TV as the President spoke, and the majority of these did so in fulfillment of a communications class requirement. A worthwhile dialogue ensued after the conclusion of the speech, however.

Christy Dicks, a senior observing the speech, concluded that, "it further reiterates that we are not done with the conflict." However, Anne Wagener, a junior, disapproved of the president's invocation of war. "Today of all days, he could have left that we're fighting back out of it.... Today is about the victims and their families," said Wagener.

Fatima Smith, junior, accepted a connection of Iraqis to the terrorists who attacked America. "Iraq was just a part of these people, of that world, who were burning the American flag."

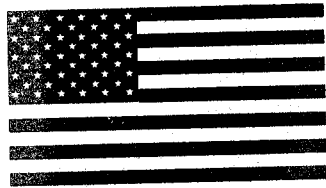
Ben Millet, senior, commented, "It was good [Bush] expressed his faith in God, and how God was helping."

Disagreeing with him was Jodie Webster, a sophomore, who said, "I don't like that he tried to superimpose his religion on us to try to make us feel better." Webster was displeased with the speech, which she said overlooked the important issue of the terrorists' motivation. "People don't just bomb us like that for no reason. By ignoring why they did that we're just inviting it over and over again," she said.

Sophomore Julia Davis, junior Kristen Haley, sophomore Nicole Rainey, and senior Nick Kuntz were the chief organizers of the events held by the Green party. Their petitions will be sent to Congressman Kenny Hulshof, Sen. Kit Bond, Sen. Jean Carnahan, and President George Bush.

Eclectics

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THE ADV

TSU GRAD J
IN ENGLISH TO JOIN THE WORK
FORCE.

THANKS
FOR THE JOB.
I ALWAYS IMAGINED
TO STUD UP HOMELESS
AFTER COLLEGE GIVING
HAND JOBS PER CRACK.

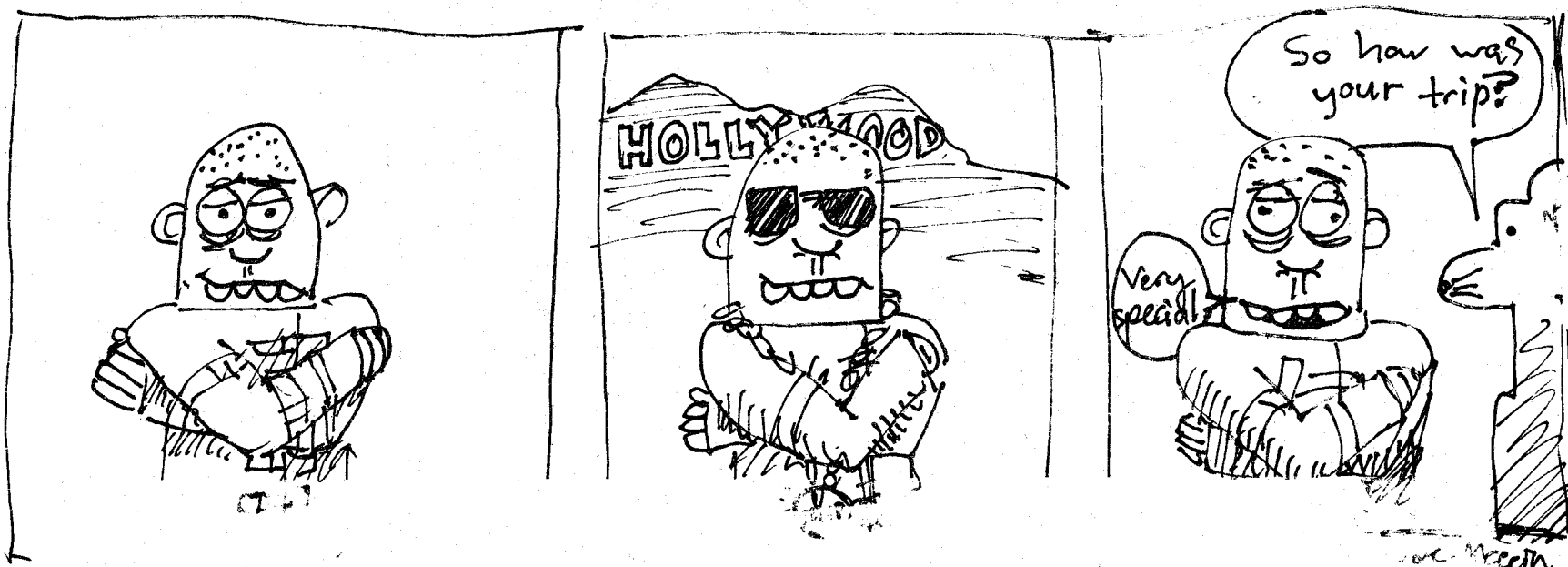


EXCUSE
ENTHUSIASM, OH
BUT WE DON'T CALL THEM
"HAND JOBS" HERE, WE CALL IT
CUSTOMER
SERVICE..



MENTAL

CBS "HOLLYWOOD"



My Back Pages

Hola, kiddos. This is a brand new school year and I'm a brand new back pages editor (zach). So here's the big shout-out to all you burgeoning poets/authors in the local area. You can send poems, short stories and any other creative pieces you deem worthy to countzachula@hotmail.com or drop a hardcopy in the Monitor mailbox (that's in the CSI office in the basement of the SUB you SOB!) Stand tall and holler! Your voice counts! Remember people—we gotta Think, it's not illegal...yet.

Uncle Shane Sonnet

Uncle Shane was on the roof, drunk no less,
with a BB gun, shooting up old cans
when he shot my cousin Josh in the face.
The worst things he ever did though was get
himself hit by a train, dead instantly,
leaving my Aunt Eunice with nothing but
8 kids, breast cancer, and a single wide.

You might wonder if it was suicide,
we say don't think, what's done is done is done.
Dad gave a brief but perfect eulogy:
"he was dumb as a shovel but you bet
he could work one for decent pay.
I hope the damn fool had life insurance."
Forever and ever Amen, I guess.

-Dana Kuhnline

Crimsonlust

"Nothing is so seductive
as a gift casually possessed."

Watch me disrobe
translucence
while I smirk
at frail moonlight,
tracing my pale
construction around
dimly lit craters
afraid
of my own stark power.

Watch me cringe
wistful splendor
while I sear
my own sad stink
through my toes,
crimson whispering
secrets
to a drain with opened arms.

Watch me shave
blinded essence
while I savor
the sweet flavor
unloosened
at the nape of my neck
with the smeared
courage
of a superhero.

Petals

(Like sakura)
there are no words
(for such a fleeting emotion)
to express
(just a drop of rain)
a flower
(blooming)
with open arms
(and petals—falling)
Gone.

-Keith B.

Crush

One day I told my best friend you were the *one* because
I walked down the hall behind your saunter and my eyes twisted
trying to figure out how your hips moved like that.
Later, I saw you in the snack aisle at Wal-Mart
buying Orange Crush, and suddenly you were my new
favorite thing about an old favorite —

imagining the bottle in your hands, even though
I had to make up what your hands looked like.
It was you, me, and a six-pack of saccharine ambrosia
sent by the gods themselves, beach shimmering and waves
rolling through our heat, sitting under the sun in a carbonated
simmer, hot bubbles through cold crush, relaxation, and condensation.

The snack aisle consumed me until the day
I saw you in front of a nearly empty shelf, one six-pack left,
telling the How-May-I-Help-You that your girlfriend
would squash your insides into outsides if you didn't get some for her,
and suddenly my bubble head burst into rising red heat
as you sauntered away with my crush.

-Laura Lash

Naked and Hungry

"Don't shit where you eat,"
Or so they say;
Well, for the past twenty years
I've been crapping on my dinner plate.

I hid it under the couch
So nobody would see it,
But my dog dragged it out,
And he started to eat it.

He ran around the block
Proclaiming to the world
That I am not a man
Who stands by his word.

So now I'm naked and hungry
For the things I took for granted,
Such are the fruits that grow
From the black seeds that I planted.

But you know I won't give up
In fact, I'll beg your pardon;
If I could only borrow your plow,
I'd grow quite a luscious garden.

-Cameron Moore

Glass Vase

Spinning webs of deceit
Entangling me deeper with everykiss
Taking my trust and shattering it
Like a glass vase that's been dropped
The pieces are everywhere
Lost in corners and darkness
Never to be complete again
Pieces forced together
Warped into a new shape
An ugly masterpiece of pain
But some are missing
Lost in shadows
Glue is everywhere
Huge globs like calluses
And fill the wholes my heart
Because I can never be the same again.

-Clarissa Kaehlert