

# The Monitor

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October 30, 2002

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



The late Sen. Paul Wellstone. Photo courtesy [www.wellstone.org](http://www.wellstone.org)

## Around the world in 500 words

Compiled by I W. Aaron Wilson

Recent stories gathered from [news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk)

**Africa:** Eritrea accuses the United States, CIA of fomenting unrest and supporting a possible coup despite Eritrea's support of the war on terror. The leader of Zimbabwe's striking teachers' union freed for lack of evidence after being jailed and beaten. Attacks from Muslim militants and rioting Berbers mar Algerian elections notable for "voting caravans" sent to poll desert nomads. Sudanese government retakes southern town from rebels, resumes peace talks under shadow of Bush's threat to impose sanctions if government does not treat rebels fairly. Nigeria, native Efik fishermen, refuse to recognize International Court's decision to award oil rich Bakassi peninsula to Cameroon. Ceasefire talks in Burundi begin. South African charter will begin transferring gold mine control to black owners.

**Americas:** Columbia's civil war moves to urban centers during police crackdown in major cities, report confirms drug war's crop spraying initiatives hurting nation's poorest. Massive protests, military officers, call for resignation of Venezuelan president; counter protests, military officers back presidency. Chilean general arrested for obstructing human rights probe into Pinochet era. US authorities capture East Coast sniper and possible accomplice.

**Asia-Pacific:** Bombing in Bali, Indonesia kills nearly 200 people at nightclub frequented by Western tourists. Bombings in Philippines attributed to Muslim and Marxist rebels. Bangladesh cracks down on "crime" in massive wave of arrests, including those of ruling party leaders and the feminist-writer Taslima Nasreen's sentence for making "derogatory" comments against Islam. Radical Muslim jihad group claims to have "disbanded," leaves Moluccan Islands and Sulawesi, Indonesia after conflict claiming up to 10,000 lives.

Myanmar accused of regularly conscripting children into army.

**Europe:** Terrorists claiming affiliation with Chechen rebels seize theatre in Moscow, hold hundreds hostage for several days before authorities storm building and kill terrorist leader. French troops continue to observe ceasefire in Côte d'Ivoire. Art and artifacts found in Ukrainian electrician/possible KGB spy's house go on tour. Turkey, Greece, US push for inclusion of Turkey in upcoming EU expansion, EU critical of human rights record.

**Middle East:** Bahrain's first elections in 30 years have high turnout despite boycott calls from religious groups, as well as featuring female voters and candidates. Conflicts between Palestinian farmers and Jewish settlers intensify as Israeli government continues crackdown on suspected militants. Iranian minister says government will accept any UN action in Iraq, welcomes "change of tone" since Bush's Axis of Evil speech.

**Science:** Lemon juice and cotton could provide contraception, prevent aids in poor countries. EU scientists call for ban on all North Sea cod fishing to protect population.

**South Asia:** Tamil Tigers call peaceful strike in protest of deaths caused by Sri Lankan police, while refugees risk drowning and land mines to return to Sri Lanka after historic peace talks between rebels and government. Indian begins withdrawing troops from Pakistani border despite PM's demonization of the Pakistani government. Ruling, pro-Delhi government upset in Kashmiri elections amidst boycotts, violence. Pakistan claims fair and impartial elections, Musharraf's supporters retain power.

## Sen. Wellstone dies in mysterious plane crash two weeks before crucial election

Story by I Cameron Moore

Last Friday, October 25, Minnesota Sen. Paul Wellstone, a Democrat, died in a mysterious plane crash en route to a funeral with his wife and daughter. A total of five are dead, including crew members and staff members.

This sudden death of a Democrat in a plane crash just before elections eerily echoes the similar fate of former Missouri governor Carnahan just two years ago, who was campaigning against now Attorney General John Ashcroft, a key player in the Bush Administration's implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act and the war on terror.

At approximately 10:30 on Friday morning, reports came streaming into news media sources about the crash of the small plane, a Beechcraft King Air A100, and immediately cited the cause of the crash to be a result bad weather.

But a CNN reporter on the scene said that there was no apparent weather to have caused the plane, which was found in two separate pieces, to have crashed the way it did.

Newsroom reporter Wolf Blitzer, however, reiterated that the cause of the crash was bad weather, despite the firsthand testimony of his colleague.

While CNN reported that the plane was found in two pieces, and that the debris from the crash was localized in a small area, other news reports varied from saying the wings were sheared from the fuselage to the crash area being littered with debris that appeared to have resulted from an explosion of some sort.

Other news sources also indicate that Doppler reports from the time of the crash showed that no precipitation was present, contradicting claims that the crash resulted from icy rain.

CNN reported in the following days that the plane appeared to be off trajectory from the landing site, as though the plane was turning away from something.

NBC also reported later in the weekend that there was an apparent fire in the cabin before the crash. According to the world socialist website, the engines suffered from blade damage,

suggesting they were still running when the plane crashed, and also that the fuel tanks were not damaged by the cabin fire, ruling out both of those as the cause.

Internet conspiracy theorists have been quick to conjecture an assassination plot is involved, pointing to the discrepancies in media reports and the odd coincidences between this plane crash and Carnahan's, as well as the plane crash that killed John F. Kennedy Jr.

Said theorists also point out that very limited photos of the crash site have been released, furthering speculation about what evidence the crash site may contain.

Wellstone, considered to be one of the most liberal democrats in the Senate, was involved in a tight race in a state considered key to both parties looking to control the Senate. The death has upset the balance such that a Republican-controlled Senate is almost sure to follow.

Wellstone was well known for "championing the little guy," having stood behind unions, small farmers and health care.

He was also considered a threat and an adversary to the Bush administration, much as Carnahan was while running against Ashcroft. He also voted against President Bush's measure for a preemptive strike on Iraq.

Fellow Democrats expressed grievance for the man that they say really believed in what he stood for.

Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont voiced his condolences while crying in a news conference, stating "He was a good man, and his wife, too."

President Bush, however, said very little of the tragic loss of life, stating briefly that Wellstone was a "plain-spoken fellow who did the best for his state and for his country."

Bush was seen later in the same press conference joking with reporters, obviously not too terribly concerned about the death.

It is now very likely that all three branches of the government will be Republican-controlled, giving President Bush free reign to do what he wants with his party's control of the entire government.

# The Monitor

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

-- Noam Chomsky

# Queen Astra



the Queen

*Let the  
stars be your guide!*

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)  
7

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)  
3

Cancer (June 22-July 24)  
sponge

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)  
23

Taurus (April 21-May 22)  
1/3

Pices (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)  
88

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)  
fortitude

Gemini (May 23- June 21)  
3

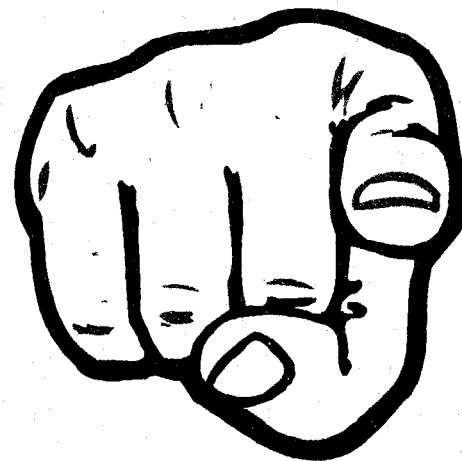
Leo (July 25-Aug. 23)  
4

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)  
aeiou

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)  
11

Aries (March 21-April 20)  
sorry

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# LETTERS

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## Sanatize the unsanatizable?

Alan Thomas ("Damn the arms inspectors; full speed ahead: Leftists should call for regime change in Iraq," October 8) today need possess no apprehension that his "non-right wing credentials" will be challenged. His viewpoint is all too typical, though, of those homeland Labour MPS signing up for what has been aptly, derisively called Tony Blair's "Tonto" to Bush junior's Lone Ranger stance to Iraq. And to apologies for Missouri Democrats here in the States like strictly defeated, incumbent federal Senator Jean Carnahan, who herself is actually running more HAWKISH ads "in support of President Bush" on foreign policy than her Talentless, Clark Kent look-alike Republican opponent!

I, also, accept Alan's assertion that unless there is a totally "pacifist" conviction being honourably advanced, that there are times like World War II around when real democracies must unsheathe their own literal defence swords, or perish. But if one is an authentic progressive (let's leave that enfeeble word "liberal" out), I agree, too, that the presumption let alone the actual historical evidence as he concedes it does not even begin to justify Thomas's chickenhawk white-washing of the Bush-Blair coming aggression towards Iraq and any other of the states Bush revealingly, in dictatorial-selectivity, labeled "axis of evil" foes of his notion of western civilisation.

Iraq spends, at worst, an estimated 4 million bucks on its arms machine, the USA wait for it, a world-record 400 billion annually, with literally hundreds of nuclear missiles capable of blowing up this benighted, and blighted thereby, planet 20 TIMES over. The US has military presence in bases et cetera in 130 of the 180-plus UN NATION MEMBERS. And including many unfit, aging, TSU, white male weekend faculty, a reserve "guard" way numerically surpassing the doomed boy Iraqi soldiers your picture showed the same issue. Granted, this inequality, this overwhelming brutality of sheer brute force on the white US side, how plausibly, can "Leftists" like Alan maintain what they do? That there is going to be any legitimate "regime-change" acceptable to an outraged Iraqi population; IT REALLY, BEGGARS, BEING OF LITTLE MATTER, TO THEIR BOMBED SELVES, BE IT BY "REPUBLICAN" BUSH OR A RESURRECTED "DEMOCRAT," FELLOW TEXAN SWAGGERER, LBJ!

So can, and does, Thomas give us any notion of the kind of anti-Saddam regime change he "progressively" wants? Well, he implies "Haiti" was an acceptable Clinton-Democrat invasion outcome for him, WHILE CONCEALING UNSPECIFIED "problems!" Let's look at this just a little more closely, as, in fact, the sheer awfulness of what that great southern Democrat and former History prof. William Fulbright called "the arrogance of power" is in reality exemplified by Haiti. As much as anywhere else where an unequal power, racistly, thinks it imperialistically knows superior to the locals themselves!

Despite Clinton, despite Thomas, Haiti TODAY remains the poorest country in the

Americas by any measure of endemic poverty, violence and infant death chances. And, wait for it, who's leading the anti-American, anti-capitalist denunciation, even exposure of this US-condoned, even still-force-present state of affairs? Why, you guessed it, again ousted Father Aristide himself, who found the US dominated banks and middle class, creole-backed elites defaulting on their taxes and loan duties. Precisely when he failed to get Clinton's endorsement for his temporary-officed Christian Socialist "wealth-redistributionist" programme!

I rest my case. Imperialism, whether Bush-Blair's flawed cruel oil-grab kind or some Thomasian philanthropic fantasy, rarely behaves benignly when it violently "regime-changes." TODAY'S RESTART OF THE AFGHAN DEADLY HEROIN TRADE UNDER THE FREE-MARKET TALIBAN REGIME, US PHD ELITE SUBSTITUTES, SHOW THIS IRONY OF UNEQUAL OUTCOME, THERE, TOO!

One has to concludingly ask, too, Alan and his "progressive" chicken-hawks in their naiveté, the ensuing point. Where, on earth, do they think the money is going to come from if Bush-Blair let it go up in ruinous 2002-3 bomb smoke? You cannot get America's approaching-50 million under-health insured citizens or Britain's soon-to-be-striking firemen, 30% BEHIND in pay the rate of inflation, COVERED with a freer system and pay awardings if you are trying to invade abroad every time militarists and oilmen identify a bogus threat and tv whips up the flag-fervour to get ratings. Someone has to pay for the real evils to be non-regime change soberly tackled. It ought, Alan, to be your and my country's tax-sheltering rich, not wasted on these destructive, crony regime establishments unworkably, by force, abroad. "Progress" should not be a dispensable mirage every time the Hill and Knowlton advertising agency is hired on Capitol (DC) Hill, as it has been on "the war on terrorism," as it was on the first Bush "Gulf War." Hired to lazily pour out falsely "liberal" slogans to suck in the Thomas's of this world to sanitise the unsanitizable!

Fraternally and in sisterhood,  
Larry Iles  
Soc. Party Org. MO  
(NYC)

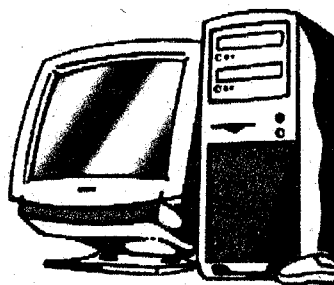
## Bush is the man for the job

Well let me start by letting you know Alan I am a strong conservative Republican. I want to make very clear that you only said two things of any consequence in your recent editorial. The Iraq regime should, and will be removed from control. In addition, you are not only a liberal, but are as far left as they come. You said and I quote, "George Bush is an idiot and a liar who stands for tolerance and corporate greed. And he stole the election." After the last eight years under one of the most deceitful, lying, conniving, and embarrassing presidents in our great country's history, the truthful and courageous leadership shown by George W is exactly what we need. If going by the Constitution is

stealing the election, then I think you need to take a history class or two. You are right in the fact that we do need to take Saddam out of power. You yourself in the article implied that by opposing the potential war, Democrats would be looked poorly upon. You said they should support Bush, mysteriously like they have in the past few weeks to remove Saddam. That right there is using the war against Iraq solely for political gain, and just because of the potential loss of the respect and votes from the 66% of the American public in favor of the war,

people such as Dick Gephardt and others, are only in favor for their own personal interests. It took a man of integrity and courage like Bush to challenge this once touchy subject, because it was not looked at for the last eight years while our former President used our tax money to receive pleasure in the Oval office!! The good news is you agree with me on the war, and trust me, Bush is the right man for the job.

Jason Bertram



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# OPINIONS

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## Bush's posturing belongs in pulp novel

Opinion by I Dr. Linda Seidel

This semester I am teaching a course called Writing About Literature, in which new English majors are socialized into the process of applying theories of various stripe to fiction, poetry, fairy tales, and plays. Students learn to deconstruct "Snow White," historicize Ralph Ellison, queer theorize Joseph Conrad, and analyze the rhetoric of Flannery O'Connor.

But the neat thing about theory is that you can apply it to any cultural phenomenon. Whether or not all the world's a text (as post-structuralists would argue), many current events seem to follow the conventions of pulp fiction or melodrama, complete with swaggering protagonists; risky, daredevil adventures; and invocations of God and country to sanctify the desired epic conquest. Take, for example, George W. Bush's insistence that he be allowed to make war on Iraq. After all, Saddam Hussein was the guy who "tried to kill my dad!" A Freudian literary critic might suspect unresolved oedipal feelings in our protagonist. How dare Saddam seek to rob the Father of his potency when it is clearly the role of the Son to do so? At the same time, Saddam remains the dragon the Father could not slay, the antagonist in conflict with whom the Son must establish his manhood.

Meanwhile, I hear a feminist critic ask in exasperation, "What do you expect of the patriarchal nation-state?" Virginia Woolf opined that women have no country since most nations are structured to preserve the privileges of upper-class men: she irritated her male friends by pointing out, in *Three Guineas* (1938), that British expectations of womanhood were little different from those in force in Nazi Germany. (But another kind of feminist signs up to become a fighter pilot, determined to crack the male-dominated structure from within.)

The gender critic, sympathetic to his feminist pals, wonders whether the current national storyline might be improved by a revision of

the way we think about masculinity. Could it have less to do with raw power and size, more to do with negotiation and diplomacy?

As David Henry Hwang puts it, "I think the reason we fight wars is because we wear clothes. Because no one knows . . . who has the biggest . . . But, see, it never really works, that's the problem. I mean, you conquer the country, or whatever, but you're still wearing clothes, so there's no way to prove absolutely whose is bigger or smaller."

One reader-response critic is impatient by now. "What's my role in making meaning in this plot? Does Bush simply want to scare me silly? Am I missing something here?" To which another replies, "We're not the only target audience. Maybe it's Saddam who is supposed to be scared silly. Maybe it's all a crafty rhetorical device to win concessions from the opposition."

Savvy op-ed writers have urged that point of view. And it's what they used to say about the "evil empire" rhetoric of Ronald Reagan: the Soviet leaders would backpedal because they were less crazy than he was. But (to paraphrase Tom Friedman) is Saddam less crazy than George?

The deconstructor smirks. "George has demonized Saddam to the point that the real Saddam, tyrant that he is, has vanished behind the smoke. George's construction of Saddam as the principal purveyor of evil in the world has become absolutely necessary to George's own success.

Take Saddam out of the picture, and what on earth would George Bush do? Work on the economy? Seek funding for education reform? See to it that every school child has adequate nutrition and health care? Propose sane gun control laws? Seek cleaner forms of energy? In other words, become someone we could vote for?"

"Naw," says the genre critic. "Transformations like that only happen in fairy tales!"



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## Lack of library sex disappoints first year University student

Opinion by I Ratty Cravat

As an incoming freshman, I was prepared to be surprised by many things. I felt that I was prepared for anything. That was until I found out that there are apparently no active exhibitionists on the campus. While my friends at other colleges are talking about people having sex in the library, at the flagpole, and other places around campus, I was stuck with nothing to say. This is unacceptable. At first I thought that I wasn't talking to the right people, but I have now come to the sad conclusion that all of the public places on campus are, for the most part, celibate.

When I say that it's celibate, I don't mean in the dirty priest sense. I am saying that nobody is getting laid in public. And this is surprising since the twin beds that we have are

barely big enough for one person, let alone two. Besides, how can we be sure that our roommate or roommates don't walk in at an extremely inappropriate moment? Are we going to use magic? Personally, I would prefer for a perfect stranger to catch me in the act than someone that I have to see every day.

However, there are apparently too few people who share this opinion. Otherwise, more people would be seen or caught in various places. For instance, a bench in the sunken gardens is good. Under a table in a group study room of the library would not be out of the question. And there's always the old classic "up against a tree" maneuver. Hey, what else is there to do around here? You would also be doing other people a favor by making sure that they don't have to pay for their amateur porn.

## I'll stop eating meat when you start making sense

Opinion by I W. Aaron Wilson

Ah, the taste of meat. How I savor the feel of tearing into muscle and sinew, blood rolling down my chin and coating the broken bones surrounding me as I sit cross-legged amidst the carcasses of those animals I have slaughtered. Yes meat, whether in patties, filets, or nuggets, is a pleasure of mine I like to indulge on a regular basis.

Of course, there's a problem with that. The meat industry has me right where they want me, brainwashed and pacified by their propaganda about meat's good qualities. Meat, as we all know, is really just artery cement foisted on a clueless society by an industry that pillages the land and discriminates against those without the ability to walk upright and use opposable thumbs. I would be much better off if I broke the corporate umbilical cord and filled my life (and stomach) with nothing that could not at one point cluck, oink, or moo.

For the most part I agree. I've made the decision to gradually work towards a more vegetarian lifestyle. Note I said *more* vegetarian, not completely vegetarian. I won't be going cold turkey any time soon. This is because I don't agree with most of the arguments that have been used to try and convince me that vegetarianism is not a personal choice, but a social responsibility.

So here's a few suggestions for vegetarians who want to convince people to change their lifestyle (besides the obvious "don't, it annoys me" suggestion)

1. There is a distinction between a diet that is centered on meat and one that includes meat in its proper dietary amounts. Just because someone isn't vegetarian doesn't mean they eat their weight in the other white meat every week, and it might just be easier to con-

vince them to cut back on meat, rather than abandon it altogether.

2. Most of the environmental arguments for vegetarianism are based on current agricultural practices. Yes, meat uses more water and grain, if you assume that you are grain feeding your cattle. Primarily grass fed cattle provide leaner meat and don't require as much grain. Perhaps we need to think about how we produce our food, rather than what we are producing.

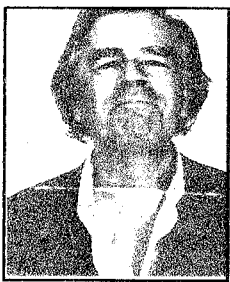
3. Not all meat providers are factory farms. True, the factory farm is rapidly putting out of business the small providers, but this is true for farmers as well. You're just as likely to be eating factory-farmed wheat as you are factory-farmed beef. Going vegetarian without also going strictly organic, small farm, will still mean you are supporting a large corporate entity responsible for destructive pollution (albeit pesticides instead of poo).

4. If you are vegetarian because you "respect life," be specific (otherwise some wise-acre will say "plants are alive too"). If you feel it's morally or spiritually wrong to kill another higher vertebrate, that's fine, but say so. Saying you can't stand to kill "animals" doesn't mean anything. More animals die for your bowl of cereal than for my steak (See, insects are animals too, and every cornflake is veritable invertebrate holocaust. Which leads me point out that we eat tons of animal matter in the form of insects killed and accidentally included in "vegetarian" products like bread.).

In conclusion, I respect and in many cases agree with the vegetarian movement (except for the fact that it is a movement), but I think we all need to be accountable for the "information" and "facts" we spout off.



# "Blood and iron" rhetoric disgusts University students, Canadians



Opinion by I Larry Iles

No, honestly, I rally want to write about something *other* than Iraq. Especially since as I was "subversively" handing out copies of the last Monitor near the army HQ at Lambert airport, I could not help reflecting, rather like a character in a Jean Genet French novel, on the sickening contrast.

Here I was, confronting handsome, well-fed young US marines, proudly flexing their biceps for us as they changed their uniforms in the out extremities of the men's rest rooms, while the nearby Monitor showed photos of Iraq's under-fed, boy soldier draftees that they will soon be killing. It makes you want to puke all over the popular vote un-elected boy Texan president and his flags when you think about such shocking discrepancies. But puke one must not; write constructively, "manfully" instead.

In the space of barely one week I have now seen two debates, better than anything CNN, US-led TV has done, to bring home to all of us what is at stake in such a vile contrast of a war that Bush, *Bliar* and Pentagon silence of the war productions will be mounting for us powerless spectators.

The first was a debate just held by our very own properly titled North East Regional Missouri and Josephine Baker International University (alias TSU) Speakers Forum Monday, October 7. A debate this community's free-speech only, with global student and faculty all on our victorious side against war with Iraq. It was one of the most memorable I have ever been privileged to be in on this often isolated campus.

At this debate, the most startling revelation was that the war side have an almost Neo-Nazi belief: If "President" Bush and "Prime Minister" Blair tell us it is in our patriotic interest to wage war, then me my-country-is-always-right so!

This is a degree of nationalism that I find repellent. As it was, of course, such "Western" loyalty is blind, but gun sales cash values have stood approvingly by. Saddam used chemical weaponry sometimes bought from us, against both Islamic Iran and insurgent, sometimes Christian, Kurds: in wars when he was clearly on the Bush/Reagan/Thatcher "regime approval" side.

But soon, at last, the mask of such contrived "sunshine" patriotism was dropped by our at least honest debater, student antagonists. It was on at least two occasions young, handsome, male TSU war hawk orators proclaimed the "desirability" of we Americans keeping our "own" gas prices way down below those of Europe. And since we have the world's largest military, why not use it in so-called "preemptive" strikes?

Gasps of horror arose, all too understandable ethically, from the massed ranks of war protesters behind me. But in fairness, these war guys, I have to say, were being candid. As this is what the US's, and for that matter the UK's, daily war sales commercial TV is more coyly selling day in and day out, however sick it is.

True, the response one wants to give such barefaced rationalization of real-politik might be exactly what German liberals and socialists wanted to give against German chancellor Otto von Bismarck when he justified such "Blood and Iron" war policies against Denmark, Austria-Hungary, and France in wars he pretexted in just one decade: you are ill, Sirs, and obviously care not one whit about democratic consent!

Or, as an African speaker more eloquently put it, nearly breaking down in outrage, "It's simply not the right way to treat people globally, these threats!" Or, as a female Nicaraguan student, also nearly in tears, expostulated, "How dare you talk to me, pro-war Americans, like this, given what your Reagan did in rape and so on in the villages of my Sandinistas democracy in wholly illegal Contra funding."

Or, more worryingly still, the young Japanese student who came up to professors McLane-Iles, Harmon and debate organizers to tell us he felt "torn" as he wanted to answer these pro-war US realpolitikers, but was "scared" of "Pearl Harbor" shouts back.

Yet, let's accept this rationalization, deeply fascist if honest, for a moment. Was the kind of German empire that collapsed in 1918 durable? Was it secure by inciting so much indignation? Of course not! As two things ought to be taught, even that Dick Cheney himself dodged the Vietnam mess from such all too real history.

One, you can have all the "Blood and Iron" hardware: today's silent stealth bombers, soon annihilating Baghdad villagers in their vulnerability. But your enemies to be do not need hardware to take *you* out! With mere knives and do-it-yourself fly kits, officially Saudi citizens so primitively "took out" 3,000 lives of mostly white, "high-techs" last September with total ease.

Alas, now in Indonesia around Bali, using primitive explosives, other enraged Muslims, frustrated with the "Blood and Iron" status quo have done the same! And it was the supposedly "inefficient" democracies which in the ghastliness of WWI ended Bismarck's creation as it over-extended its dastardly imperial tentacles.

Bush and Blair are now doing the same everywhere they see a selective "axis of evil" foe that's after "their" oil. Theirs unnaturally, as it is not off Florida's protected coral reefs or Norway's UK-shared North Sea.

But it was the other debate, up in Quebec City two days before, of global politicians I and the spouse attended, that provided yet another answer to US "sunshine" pro-war TSU chicken hawks. In many ways it was not as representatives of the TSU affair with people like a young left-independent Northwest Territories elected representative, Sandy Lee, complained to me.

She was "tired" as an Inuit married feminist with the pretentious, long-windedness of some of the more elderly, suited, male parliamentarians there. After all, it was a conference that was supposed to be about solutions to apathy, not compounding it. It also at times exasperated my elected Saskatchewan socialist, new democrat, female ex-minister, and MLA friends by its failure.

To answer how is it that un-elected officials like Condoleezza Rice in the US (ex-CEO of Chevron oil) have so much power? Or, the Canadian Trudeau Liberal, feminist, federal senator who told me she nearly "walked out" when

on official US political science professor from the wealthy Rutgers campus tried to justify America's lobbyists as "ordinary vox populi." This was especially telling as she had just come from a border conference where her US counterparts complained about having to raise money to survive, besotting their mandates against real citizens concerns.

Yet it was McGill University law professor, Will Tetley, who, although having "given up on the US, as you can't even establish democratic health care there," who gave the best riposte to TSU's and Bush's war side. He, of course, does not know how I'll use it here (I'll have to send him a copy of the Monitor!)

He said, in effect, look at Quebec's history, and indeed "herstory," in just the last 40 years. Three political parties alone have grown, died, or flourished as people have stopped accepting macho establishments, be they Cr ditistes, the Party Qu b cois, our hosts, and now the rising Action Democrats! Because Quebec imposes tight anti-big-money laws (and has automatic voter registration, unlike the US), it has not, in short, been necessary for the oil men to be allowed to steal US politics and now wage war with the Moslem world.

No answer, though, to professor Betty McLane's feeling of "abandonment," or to speaker Louise Harel's congratulations to her for her "courage" in speaking thusly. Or for all those Americans now having Bush and Blair's "boys" declare war against your name, for endless selective targets and US profits!

No answer, sadly. J'ai triste! Pourquoi, mes amis, les Am ricaines? Pourquoi?

## E.C.O Fact:

The United States makes up less than 5 percent of the total population on Earth. Yet, we currently consume over 30 percent of all the resources.



## Sniper questions go unasked

Opinion by I Andres Delgado

This opinion regards the appearance of a psychiatrist and a speculative question she was asked during FOXNews' programming on Thursday, October 24, the day John Allen Muhammad, the alleged sniper, was apprehended. After weeks of knowing almost nothing about the elusive killer or killers, over the course of a night two individuals were named and apprehended, and news centers went about gathering, disseminating, and analyzing what new information could be tied to the killings.

One fact that rose to prominence was that John Allen Muhammad had changed his name from John Williams in conjunction with his conversion to the nation of Islam in 1985. Another was that he enlisted in the Army the same year.

Can you guess which fact the psychiatrist was asked to comment on by the news anchor? If you guessed Muhammad's Islamic beliefs, you guessed right. She was asked if it were valid to analyze Muhammad's actions as connected to his religion and name change. She answered that it was, and went on to elaborate about why such a connection was warranted and what the nature of the connection might be, exactly.

Right, so that's justified. His religion was significant to him, and these were significant actions that he took. But what drives this opinion is the lack of attention given to the other fact that came out in the early development of the story: his military experience. When it was mentioned, it was usually to flesh out the name of John Allen Muhammad, or, if

it was tied to the shootings, his military experience was analyzed only insofar as it might have been the source of his proficient marksmanship.

What the analyst wasn't asked was whether she felt the military philosophy could be tied to the shootings. The idea of violence and murder as acceptable means to an end is the premise of armies and war. John Allen Muhammad may well have picked up the justification for taking his victims' lives from the US military.

If this could somehow be proved to be the case, although it wouldn't be nearly an indictment of national physical assertion, it would nevertheless cause people to look at their armies through a new, disturbing prism. Asking the military question would have been at least as justified as the question actually posed to the psychiatrist dealing with Islam. In fact, that the psychiatrist was asked to speculate about the influence of Islam on Muhammad's actions necessitated a similar inquiry as to the influence of the Army and its willingness to use lethal force to achieve its ends.

Whatever may be the conclusions of such inquiries, I would have FOXNews and associates ask them. We'll soon be deluged with information about the two suspects' private histories and stated beliefs, and avoiding difficult questions will become much easier with the availability of easy questions. But in those early hours of knowing so little about the two and having comparably few questions to ask, the glossing over of a troubling subject was made very clear.

F E A T U R E S

monitor

# African musician plays jali tunes for University

Story by I W. Aaron Wilson

On Tuesday, October 8, Truman played host to a visitor of unsurpassed musical talent. Jali Morikeba Kouyate, a Senegal native, made the journey from his current home in Chicago to put on a performance for a large group gathered in the Activities Room of the SUB. In doing so, he gave those present a rare opportunity to listen to the traditional music of West Africa and watch a performer of consummate skill.

Kouyate is a jali, a professional singer/historian/songwriter of Senegal, who plays the kora: a traditional stringed instrument made out of a gourd. He spent much of his childhood learning the music of his homeland, starting at the age of eight. He called learning how to play songs on the kora his, "Second homework every night."

The choice to learn the instrument was not his to make. Jalis carry a hereditary position within West African society. Being born into a Jali family carries with it the expectation that you too will become a jali. So it was for Kouyate, who learned to play the kora from his father, and learned how to sing from his mother. His numerous siblings were likewise trained in the art of the jali.

If Kouyate was ever upset that his future livelihood had been chosen for him, it is impossible to tell from his playing. From the moment the recorded background started, his entire focus was with the music. When he launched into one of his numerous improvisa-

tional sections, his face scrunched up with concentration and ecstasy.

The music itself was nothing short of mesmerizing. It demonstrated both a comfort with well-worn riffs and melodies, and a penchant for improvisation and experimentation.

Kouyate's music conveyed a sense of personal connection that transcends national boundaries. One song was written to a friend that Kouyate had not seen in twelve years, while another, called "Shake My Left Hand," was a traditional song one would sing to departed guests, with the hope that they return. One song was even a song young children who had gotten in trouble would sing to their mothers in order to avoid punishment.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the show was the way the singer involved the crowd. After learning some rudimentary phrases in Mandinka, the crowd was instructed to sing along as well as clap, challenging those of us who have trouble keeping a beat. However, the assembled group was more than up to the challenge, gamely clapping and singing along in their best Mandinka.

After an hour and a half performance, the Kouyate ended the performance, but the music continued, echoing in the minds and the hearts of those present. Having made his third appearance at Truman, one can only hope he will journey here again for performance number four.

# Plant away this spring

Feature by I A Hostess Fiend

Okay, so here's the thing, I can't find any pot right now. And it's not 'cause I ain't lookin'. No one can find any pot right now. I mean it's a fuckin' desert out here. And not just Kirksville. Columbia's dry. So is St. Louis and KC. It sucks.

God I fucking hate the DEA!  
But enough. Now's not the time to go into just how stupid our nation's drug policy is. I'm not here to talk about how the original reason for making weed illegal was to drive out cheap Mexican labor in the depression, or that the Marijuana Stamp Act was found to be unconstitutional in 1967, or the many medical uses of pot. I think we all know the illegality of weed is and always has been a farce. Our drug law has always been stupid, but it wasn't always that big a deal. We had most of our civil liberties, so our ridiculous drug law was pretty unenforceable.

But now, we got this whole "War on Terrorism" bullshit goin' on and one by one, these rights are being taken from us. End result: the fact that dope is illegal is actually making it hard to get. So right now, I'm talkin' to you dipshits who're keeping me from my grass.

Listen, you're sort of getting away with trampling on our rights in the cause of stopping terrorism. But it's a little too early to start branching out with your Gestapo tactics. Now I know you're thinking, "but we wanna win the war on drugs." So let me try and explain where you're mistaken.

First of all, the war's over and you guys lost. You see, the war on drugs was failing, not because you didn't clamp down enough, but because the people saw through it as a flimsy excuse to slowly erode our rights. Now with terrorism, you have a new excuse and it doesn't seem quite so flimsy (It's still pretty fucking flimsy). But if you don't let those of us who see what you're doing keep ourselves too stoned to care, you're only forcing us to actually do something about your oppression of the poor. So trust me. You wanna back off on this drug enforcement shit.

That's it for you. Bye.  
Okay, stoners, now I'm talkin' to you. I know it's hard right now. I feel your pain. And I just have this to say to you: Don't give up hope. It won't be this dry forever. We will find weed again. Be patient and keep the faith. And when we do, I want you to save all your seeds. For it is in these seeds that our hope lies.

Wait until spring. Then plant, plant, plant. Plant on campus. Plant in your neighbor's yard. Plant at thousand hills. Plant along the highway. Plant everywhere. By the end of summer, I want to see pot growing everywhere. I want it to take over. I want to see so much weed growing, that they can't get rid of it all.

And then, my brothers and sisters, we shall all join hands and proclaim: "Weed at last! Weed at last! Thank God almighty, we have Weed at last!" (No disrespect to Martin Luther Kind Jr. intended).

# The Aquadome provides service to community

Feature by I Sam McPherson

Hidden behind the movie theater in downtown Kirksville is an activities center seldom thought of among much of the student body. It is a place that highlights local bands, art shows, and student discussion groups on a semi-regular basis. It is a small, pseudo-clean place called the Aquadome.

It all started in April of 2000, when a campus music club decided to rent a place for local rock concerts instead of holding it at Why Not Tat2's as usual. It later became the site for most of the local band concerts brought to town by that group. Despite these simple beginnings, the purpose of the venue evolved into an attempt to create a semi-socialistic community centered on University students.

In addition to the afore-mentioned services, the Aquadome has accrued a lofty list of offerings to the community. One is that they rent out space on the upper level for art stu-

dios, storage space and band practices. On Monday through Thursday evenings at 6 pm, they serve a vegan dinner free of charge (a small donation is recommended) from dinner guests. They also hold other events throughout the year including rummage sales and a Halloween Haunted House. The entire idea behind the center is to serve the community in as many ways possible.

In spite of all these services, a large proportion of students either do not know of its existence, or don't bother to go there. There seems to be little appeal to a great number of students who are turned off by veganism or small-time rock bands. However, those who are interested can easily become part of the community and help change it for the better. Though the group that currently runs it is very close-knit, the goal is to create an open community.

Upcoming events include a haunted house on Halloween night.

# homeless people dos and don'ts

by Andres Delgado

Many of the students here in Kirksville are farm-beast-children who have never seen an actual homeless person of the cities. Their great-grandparents may have told them stories of the Great Depression, when drifters would show up at their doorstep looking to do work for money. Unfortunately, the bum of yesteryear bears only a slight resemblance to his wily modern-day counterpart. There is, then, a widespread ignorance among today's six-toed farm creatures of Modern Vagrant.

Also, many students at the University are borderline retarded. They may have seen bums before, but mistaken them for some kind of delicious new food or a parking ticket, say. Consequently, their encounters with the homeless man or woman have been less than savory, and probably went more in the bum's favor than anything. For these students as well I have compiled the following list of Dos and Don'ts to deal with the homeless.

DON'T

Perform a magic trick for the benefit of the bum  
This is a common mistake; many people naturally respond in this way when approached by the destitute individual. While this was once considered the appropriate social response, it has become more and more frowned upon by the general public, who are just in a pissy mood because their dog outsmarted them again this morning.

Steal from the bum  
This is a less obvious don't. It would seem to make perfect sense to steal from a bum; after all, who's going to believe the bum? But consider that his clothes probably are from last year's line, and the alterations needed to tailor his garb to your size then become not worth it.

Point out that if they had just stayed enrolled for a couple more years they wouldn't have had to take LSP Calculus anyway  
This will only anger the bum.

Ask the bum to impersonate Oscar the Grouch for a dollar  
This would appear to be funny and mutually beneficial for you and the bum, but consider that when it comes to impressions, most bums are disappointing at best. Also consider that in the present metal garbage pails are becoming more difficult to find as they are widely being replaced by rubber canisters, making this even less practical an endeavor.

Whisper to the bum  
This is likely to creep you out just as much as the bum. Especially if you haven't whispered to strange creatures before, I would suggest you start out small and work up to whispering to the bum, if you must do it. Try it first on a book or a bench, then move on to something organic but not technically "living" like say a tree or a corpse. This should somewhat prepare you for the disturbing experience of whispering to a bum.

DO

Engage in a "money-fight" with your companions in front of the bum by throwing various coins and wadded-up dollar bills at one another.  
This will show the bum who's in charge. Unlike bums of the past, many of today's bums are under the impression that their innate humanity imbues them with an abstract, inalienable value. This, of course, is absurd.

# Handrail shimmers, we all rejoice

Feature by | Cameron Moore

Just over three weeks ago, parents visiting the University for Family Day were greeted with a surprise. Earlier that week, the handrails in front of Centennial Hall were repainted, breathing new life into University balance supports.

University students were abuzz immediately. Many noticed the detailed craftsmanship that was employed to create what some called a "glossy, colorless" finish, while others maintained it was "black." Despite these differences, all agreed that it was a welcome change.

University sophomore Andrés Delgado stated that the peeling paint that had been a "blemish on this campus and a disgrace to handrails everywhere" was rightfully abandoned for a classier look.

Within minutes of being discovered, the news of the handrail-repainting hit the newswire and *Monitor* reporters were dispatched to the scene to confirm the reports and further de-

velop the story.

A meeting was scheduled with somebody in the Physical Plant, the division of the University in charge of such operations. Among the questions to be asked echoed those about The Potato, the concrete slab in front of Violette Hall that disappeared over the summer in a covert construction operation.

Questions such as "Why the Centennial handrails?" and "Why now?" racked reporters' minds, eager to question officials over the matter.

Instead of going to the Physical Plant at the scheduled time, a *Monitor* reporter went and spoke with Dr. Michael A.

McManis, who maintains the Planning and Institutional Development office.

"I don't have you written down to come in here," McManis said.

Frustrated with the correctness of McMannis' response and a rash of supposed handrail-paintings around campus, *The Monitor* decided to leave speculation open to its readership and pursue the story no more.

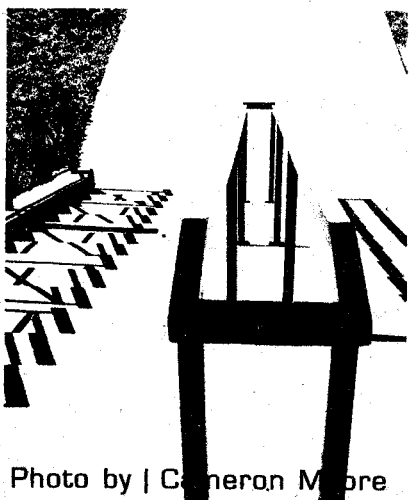


Photo by | Cameron Moore

## POINT : COUNTERPOINT

Arranged by | Chris Scott

"Pro-Choice" by Jeff Clyatt

Undoubtedly one of the most heated debates in the last century has been over the issue of abortion. Creating a fair amount of frenzied discussion among multiple generations, abortion has proven to be a tough topic to take a stance on, especially with fair arguments from both sides of the issue.

I, however, choose to argue in favor of pro-choice for several reasons. For one, I have always been a person to give people the benefit of the doubt, whatever the reason may be.

Because of this, I feel that I am hardly in any position to tell women that they can't choose to have an abortion if they feel that it is right for them. In fact, I don't believe that anyone is in the position to make such a judgment. After all, who are we to tell people what they can and cannot do in a given situation?

Is abortion irresponsible? Aside from such a case as rape, yes it is. But abortion is by no means an "easy way out," and one has to wonder why anyone would put one's self in a position to become impregnated if they were not willing to "see it out," so to speak.

It is because I am still very much unconvinced that abortion is homicide, as some claim, that I support a woman's right to choose.

Give people the benefit of the doubt, don't pass judgment, and let the chips fall where they may.

"Pro-Quesadilla" by Clark Philips

Holy fuck, I am so hungry right now. No seriously, you don't understand. I haven't eaten anything in the last 18 hours. I would sell my soul for a steak, or hell, even some Ramen Noodles. Yeah... that'd be sweet. Oh wait, shit! You know what would really hit the spot? A quesadilla. Ah hell yes - that's what it's all about - a quesadilla. You know the ones from Taco Bell? Yeah... that's what I'm talkin' about. If I could just get a hold of one of those right now, I'd be made. Man, I think my stomach's like pissed off or something. Yeah, I'm definitely going to Taco Bell. You're welcome to come with, dude. Yeah, so anyway... about abortions...

## NEWS THATS UNFIT

Mysterious toilet bomber plagues campus

University students around campus have recently complained to *The Monitor* about a recent rash in, for lack of better words, "leaving really long pieces of poop in the toilet and not flushing."

"The un-flushed 'bombs'," as one student who spoke on the condition of anonymity put it, "are really kinda funny, in the sense that that much poop came from one person."

Other anonymous witness reports share a few common themes: 1) Each sighting consists of only one long poop. 2) Sightings occur in public men's rooms all over campus, hidden behind a half-closed stall door.

From the preceding two commonalities, we at *The Monitor* have deduced this much: 1) We are forced to accept the possibility that the perpetrator flushes unless the specimen remained completely intact during discharge. 2) We are also forced to accept the possibility that the perpetrator closes the door just enough so that an unsuspecting visitor will walk in and witness the glory of his unbroken poop.

DPS has also reported anonymous phone calls that are suspected to be from the perpetrator himself, saying, "Library men's room, handicapped stall. Spinach and corn, made this one stand tall," followed by abrupt laughter and a dial tone.

Authorities speculate that the perpetrator, much like some serial killers, is taunting them and wants to be caught. *The Monitor* will cover this story as it develops.

Giganta-huga-thon coming to University

A week from this Saturday, University insiders have revealed to *The Monitor*, a spectacular jamboree will be held in Pershing arena, starring Yakov Smirnov, Paula Poundstone, Dom Delouise, Cher, Christopher Walken, Barbara Streisand, Gary Coleman and Soleil Moon Frye.

The University says that Soleil Moon Frye, a.k.a. Punky Brewster, will likely be the biggest draw, but is making preparations to deal with the riot that ensues after all the fraternities realize that she had breast reduction surgery several years ago.

The gargantuan jamboree will be hosted by Jim J. Bullock, of *Alf* and *Hollywood Squares* fame, and will include some "sing-songy dance numbers and a rooty-tooty good time," according to Bullock.

The University is the last stop of the tour, with a closing night "mega show-ending encore" rumored to climax with Dom Delouise eating Gary Coleman while Christopher Walken beats the crap out of Yakov Smirnov and Paula Poundstone makes out with a 10 year old.

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## R E V I E W S

monitor

# Nelly song guaranteed to keep us hot in winter months

"It's Hot in Here"

Nelly

## Review by John Becker

You've probably already heard this catchy new tune in clubs, at parties and on the radio — it's probably even in your little sister's CD collection by now. What song is it? It is "Hot in Here," the summer's hottest tune, and it's guaranteed to keep us all hot through the long winter months here in Kirksville. Performed by hip-hop giant Nelly (yes, our very own Nelly!) the lively beat and original lyrics set this one apart from the other mundane club songs plaguing the airwaves. This little gem is truly one that we'll all treasure for years to come, as we croon to a loved one (a great throwback to the romantic dating scene of yesteryear) "It's getting hot in here — so take off all your clothes" and the object of your affection croons back, breathily, "I am getting so hot I want to take my clothes off."

# Doug Bradley visits campus with mediocre jokes, provokes thought

## Review by Cameron Moore

"From the moment you are born, you are dying." This is a quote from both *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* by Sogyal Rinpoche and a recent speaker on the University's campus, none other than the actor who played Pinhead in the *Hellraiser* movies, Doug Bradley. And as ridiculous as it may sound, it was no less a profound statement coming from the latter than from the former.

I'll be the first to admit that the appearance of Doug Bradley on campus did little more than make me snicker with delight at the thought of heckling some washed-up actor whose only conceivable audience is college kids who have nothing better to do than rent and laugh at terrible horror movies from the 80s.

I'll also be the first to admit that, when Doug Bradley appeared on stage dressed in all black and accompanied by creepy music, containing the laughter that was welling inside me was a near impossible task. Reconciling the absurdity I saw before me and the fact that this man was obviously serious about what he was doing almost made me lose it completely.

Further, I will be the first to admit that most of what this man had to say was fairly trite and mostly unfunny. Doug's performance consisted of a few scary stories that he told as narrator, and he also played the parts of the characters. Interspersed with the storytelling

were some tidbits and factoids about death and some famous quotes concerning the matter, the whole show making points ranging from the inevitability to the true mystery that lies in death. And here is where this man caught me off guard.

Granted, his anecdotes seemed like they were cut right out of a sitcom script. And granted, I think I laughed about three times, two of which were at him and the other with him. But in all honesty, I don't think Doug Bradley came to entertain students at the University with shitty jokes (I may be giving him the benefit of the doubt, but I think he must have known how bad some of that was). But what I think Doug Bradley did come to the University for was to provoke some thought about a much avoided subject: death. And in this respect, it still could have been better, but I think that it was a successful effort even if only a few people gave the subject some of their honest attention.

It's funny how the subject of death is avoided, and yet so much of our culture is saturated in it. Our corporate news media portrays a world overflowing with death, and most of the entertainment industry relies on death (and the fear of it) to create all kinds of movies and television shows. In fact, I recently read a statistic that claimed that over the last decade, the homicide rate in the US has dropped, while the percentage of news coverage devoted to homi-

cides is up 600 percent.

All this coverage does is promote fear of death without ever truly dealing with it. But life doesn't exist without death; the two are inseparable. And the objectification of death in the media and entertainment industries only makes it easier to treat it as though we can just ignore it until it happens to us, while at the same time putting us in a perpetual fear of it because we know somewhere in the back of our minds that it will eventually come for us.

I find this to be particularly precarious situation, given the universal importance of the subject at hand. We are being fed conflicting signals from all directions, simultaneously being urged to fear death and to avoid thinking about the inevitable end that we all must face. It makes it really hard to make any sense of death, and it makes ignoring it the easiest way out, without any true reflection.

I'll be the first to admit that ignoring death is a lot easier than trying to accept it, but I feel confident that understanding that it is unavoidable is the first step to acceptance. And in expressing this sentiment, I think that Doug Bradley touched on something truly and universally important last week, overshadowing his shitty jokes with the bravery it takes to look death in the face. Even if he did star in three *Hellraiser* movies.

## Eclectics

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# Flaming Lips do it again

*Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*

The Flaming Lips

Warner Bro. Records

## Review by I Cameron Moore

"The test begins... NOW." And so begins the opening track, "Fight Test," of the Flaming Lips' gloriously orchestrated new album, *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*. This latest effort from the Lips is perhaps their best to date, combining stuttering drumbeats, acoustic guitars and electronic melodies as the psychedelic icing on a wonderfully harmonized cake of pop music.

After recording music together for nearly 10 years, The Flaming Lips first broke onto the popular music scene in the midst of the "alternative revolution" that rewrote the rules of radio airplay for a few years, before booty rap and watered-down imitations of "alternative" innovators became better investments for record execs.

The Lips' enjoyed their time in the alternative spotlight for their hit "She don't use Jelly," a goofy song about Vaseline, tangerines and blowing your nose with magazines, but before long were labeled one-hit-wonders bound for a "Where are they Now?" segment on VH-1. They were, however, privileged enough to appear on *Beverly Hills, 90210* before this descent into obscurity.

Led by singer Wayne Coyne, the Lips' went on to record 1995's *Clouds Taste Metallic*, with nearly no response from America's fickle music trends. The album, a noisy excursion into poppy distortion hooks and cosmic sounds, is, in this reviewer's opinion, the pinnacle of alternative rock's glory days. Despite the creativity prevalent on this record, the lack of attention for their efforts led then guitarist Ronald Jones to leave the band, and the band's signature distorted space-pop guitar riffs were traded-in for a symphonic sound that leaves all traditional instruments left grasping for significance.

What followed was a four-disc release, titled *Zaireeka*, which required fans of the ambitious group to secure four CD players and play all four discs at once in order to experience the album as intended by Coyne, now only backed by drummer Steven Drozd and founding bassist Michael Ivins. The set was the end result of an experiment the band took on the road, in which audience members were participants in the show by playing pre-recorded tapes by the band at Coyne's cue, creating a unique timing and sound every time.

The group's creative antics continued, and Coyne earned a reputation of a drug-damaged loony tune, as he arranged a parking lot orchestra in which over 40 cars blasted their stereos playing tapes that Coyne recorded. He conducted the car orchestra by instructing different sections of the parking lot to turn their volume up and down. To this day, Coyne defends himself, maintaining his drug experiences were very few and well in the past, and that he just likes to come up with zany ideas and make them work because Warner Brothers Records

will pay for him to do so.

Coyne's explorations into uncharted creative waters culminated in the release of one of the most critically acclaimed albums in the past few years, 1999's *The Soft Bulletin*.

Abandoning their noise-rock roots for a more orchestral sound, the Lips threw out the guitars and continued looking to everything and anything in the studio to create a new sound completely their own. The result was an astounding redefinition of the possibilities of musical creativity, and really catchy too. An overall optimistic mood permeates this album from start to finish, and Coyne's lyrics have, since his father's death, changed from lightheartedly absurd to introspective and serious. This trend continues in the band's most recent release, *Yoshimi*.

While not as overtly and reassuringly happy as *The Soft Bulletin*, *Yoshimi* has its sun-drenched moments of bliss while maintaining a wider variety of musical exploration of mood and feeling.

The opening track, "Fight Test," starts the album with a catchy acoustic diddy garnished with an electronic bass riff. The song explores themes of standing up and fighting for what one believes in, growing up and accepting responsibility for oneself, and finding true mystery in life.

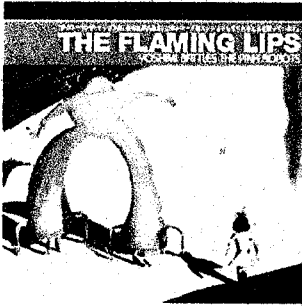
"I thought I was smart / I thought I was right / I thought it better not to fight / I thought there was a virtue in always being cool," Coyne sings.

The song continues, voicing the regret of a missed chance. "For to lose I could accept / But to surrender I just wept and regretted this moment." Oohs and ahhs paint a backdrop of pure pop brilliance, as Coyne croons "I don't know where the sun begins and where the starlight ends/ It's all a mystery / I don't know how the man inside decides what's right for his own life / It's all a mystery."

Track three, "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots Pt. 1," is definitely the most catchy song on the album. Again incorporating acoustic guitars with syncopated electronic drums, this song is a true gem. In it, we follow the story of Yoshimi, a Japanese girl, who is training to fight against evil pink robots vying for control of her life. "Those evil natured robots / They're programed to destroy us / She's gotta be strong to fight them / So she's taking lots of vitamins." Confident in his protagonist, Coyne sings the chorus, "Oh Yoshimi / They don't believe me / But you won't let those / Robots defeat me."

Other highlights of the disk include more juxtaposition of electronic sounds and beats with acoustic guitars, as on "In the Morning of the Magicians." This song creates a nice contrast between a groovy bass line with catchy drums and a breakdown into a slow acoustic verse with more watery psychedelic sounds. "As the dawn began to break / I had to surrender / The universe will have it's way / Too powerful to master."

The first single for the album, "Do You Realize??" speaks for itself: "Do you realize / That happiness makes you cry? ... That everyone you know someday will die? / And instead of saying all of your goodbyes/ Let them know you realize that life goes fast/ It's hard to make the good things last / You realize the sun doesn't go down / It's just an illusion caused by the world spinning round."



# Beck's sorry eyes cut to the bone

*Sea Change*

Beck

Geffen Records

## Review by I Nikki Rainey

Whether you've been listening to Beck since your babyhood or not, *Sea Change* will make you feel like you've grown up with the kid. The tired passion in his voice and the slow guitar picking (or soft—not corny—cello sounds), give way to a young man suddenly gone real old.

The album's conception seems a little cheesy—his lady left him, so he spent a couple of days writing a slew of songs, went through studio-catharsis, and came out with an album. But, the product couldn't really be any lovelier. Overflowing with *Let It Be* Beatles-esque orchestration, and naked (but driving) poetry, the

album renders the listener sad-smiling and curled up in bed.

Usually Beck songs sound like manic pop collages—he seems to get off on taking genres of music and mutating them to fit his mood—but, aside from "Round the Bend" (track eight), which is pure Nick Drake, these songs are too simple to be stolen. Mixed a little lower than usual, his voice slips and stretches around lyrics like "the sun don't shine even when it's day/ drive all night if you feel like yr okay." The album may be too sad and pure for everyday listening, but in Kirksville this time of year (yeah, it's been raining gray the past four days), *Sea Change* rings golden.

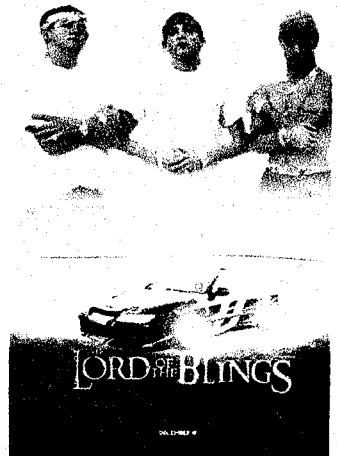


## ICY HOT STUNTAZ

<http://www.compearth.com/stuntaz/>

## Review by I Cameron Moore

Dis website here iz the shiznit. Itz about a hot new group, the Icy Hot Stuntaz. "We just doin our thang fo shizzle my nizzle," sez da website. Dey'z jus' three white kidz who grew up in the suburban ghetto, tryin' hard to make it in todayz hip-hop world. Da thing about deez homies, iz they just rap about what dey know: workin' in the rim shop ("For all da hataz sayin da rims isnt 20's you gotz to be blind. Demz is dubs, I work at a rim shop.. I should know. Everyting you suckaz say juzt makes me laugh cauze you have no clue about deez stuntaz."), and having girls write "Icy Hot Stuntaz" on their flesh ("Ladies if you want to have ya picture posted on da stunta page, write on your skin with a marker, or hold a sign on paper dat says 'I LUV STUNTAZ' or the stunta you luv da most."). So you bes' git yo azz ova to the stuntaz page, cuz if you ain't, you a chump (fo shizzle my nizzle!).



## PLUMB THE DEPTHS OF THE INTERNET

<http://www.plumbingworld.com>

## Review by I Aaron Baker

"under promise...over perform"

I think [www.plumbingworld.com](http://www.plumbingworld.com)'s slogan easily sums up the entire page. You can search this page for products that start with the letters A-G, H-O, and P-Z. Seriously, what more can you want? Seriously, I'm only one man. What, do you want to be able to search the page for numbers to? Letters aren't good enough for you? Hey, maybe you want to search the page for equations with letters AND numbers. Is that what you want? Fuck! You're smothering me!

[<http://www.webstereviews.monitor>]

# Green party candidates offer only real chance for change, because we can do better than republicrats

Story by/ Nikki Rainey

Teetering towards the end of this election season, everyone seems to be on the verge of indifference or despair—swamped with glossy mailings, patriotic calls to arms, and hews of camouflaged political bumper stickers, our lines of vision seem to be getting blurry (especially lines between Democrat and Republican). But, before you stay home on voting day, or become a fan of Jimmy Talent just to be cute, there are several Green options that must be considered.

## Greens Racing Senate

The thread between Democrat and Republican control over the senate remains wickedly tenuous, and the winner of the Missouri seat could possibly be the deciding factor. As a result, Jim and Jean have both (understandably) been sneaking closer and closer to the land of moderate, and have pointedly focused their campaigns on easy things like "common sense values," patient's bill of rights, and lowering prescription drug costs for seniors.

To be fair: though both candidates are similar, there are some important things that even passionate progressives must recognize about Carnahan. First, despite her rightward leanings (i.e. the shameless pro-war stance) Carnahan remains nicely environmentally conscious. She voted to save Yucca Mountain from

radioactive waste earlier this year, and has been supporting alternative fuel sources (Missouri's ethanol). She's also pro-choice, which Talent decidedly is not. Most importantly, if Jean loses then conservative republicans will have immediate control over the senate, 50 to 49. Vermont's independent Jim Jeffords will vote Dem., and nasty Cheney will be breaking any ties.

Though I had been reading his articles in the St. Louis *Confluence* since I was a kid, I first met Daniel "digger" Romano earlier this year when he helped bring Percy Schmeiser (the Canadian farmer battling Monsanto) to the University. An ardent activist for 20 years, and a teacher in St. Louis public schools, Romano is *actually* passionate about real progressive issues, and has dedicated his life to helping better the lives of individuals in the communities around him.

## Greens Racing House

It's unfortunate that Republican Kenny Hulshof has the incumbent advantage in the race for the house's 9<sup>th</sup> district seat, because the two candidates running against him are both focused on important progressive issues. Don Deichman (equipped with a floppy blonde Don King coif), the Democrat's candidate, is running on a passionate pro-farmer, anti-globalization, anti-war platform. It seems like a shame that the Democratic party only lets folks take real progressive

stances when they are destined to be underpublicized and fundamentally ignored. The second largely ignored candidate is Columbia's own Keith Brekhus. A really sweet and sincere guy, Brekhus is passionately anti-war and anti-US Patriot Act, and interested in creating a living wage.

## Auditor fun!

Finally, the race for state auditor is the third race that includes a Green option. Although this position may seem somewhat uncontroversial, it's actually very important. Because the auditor reviews the finances for the state, an individual who is both honest and unfettered by private interests must fill the position. Al Hanson, a two-time felon, the Republican candidate for State Auditor (though not actually endorsed by the party) created incredible controversy when he won the office, making life sweet and easy for Claire McCaskill (the democratic candidate), and possibly Fred Kennell, the Green candidate. Although both candidates are equally trained for the job, because McCaskill is entrenched in Democratic Party politics and Kennell is running on a platform of commitment of objectivity and fairness, Kennell seems like the more qualified guy.

For more information about Missouri's Green candidates, check out [www.mogreen.org](http://www.mogreen.org)

# Let me tell you a thing or two about my sink

Feature by/ Aaron Baker

About a month ago, maybe it was a month and a half, possibly even two months...I'm not entirely sure...it was more than a week ago, I can at least tell you that much, the sink in my bathroom was getting really clogged. It was getting kinda frustrating, you know. I mean, when you brush your teeth, you don't want to have to look at the toothpaste water for like a half an hour after you're done...it's pretty sick. So anyways, I went and bought some of this stuff called, like, liquid pipe snake or something, which I picked because it was the self-proclaimed best solution for slow drains, but it totally lied. It really didn't fix my slow drain at all; it just rendered me incapable of using my sink for an hour while I waited for it to do its *magic* (note the italics, which I used to point out my sarcasm). So I eventually just went and talked to my landlord, and he came with a plunger, because he said that he knew the trick to plunging slow drains, and he, unlike the pipe snake, was telling the truth. So my drain has been working fine in the bathroom, but now I've got these fruit flies thriving in my kitchen. They are all over the place, and I'm not kidding at all. In the garbage, flying in the air...and I'm pretty sure they're coming out of the sink also. I mean fuck.



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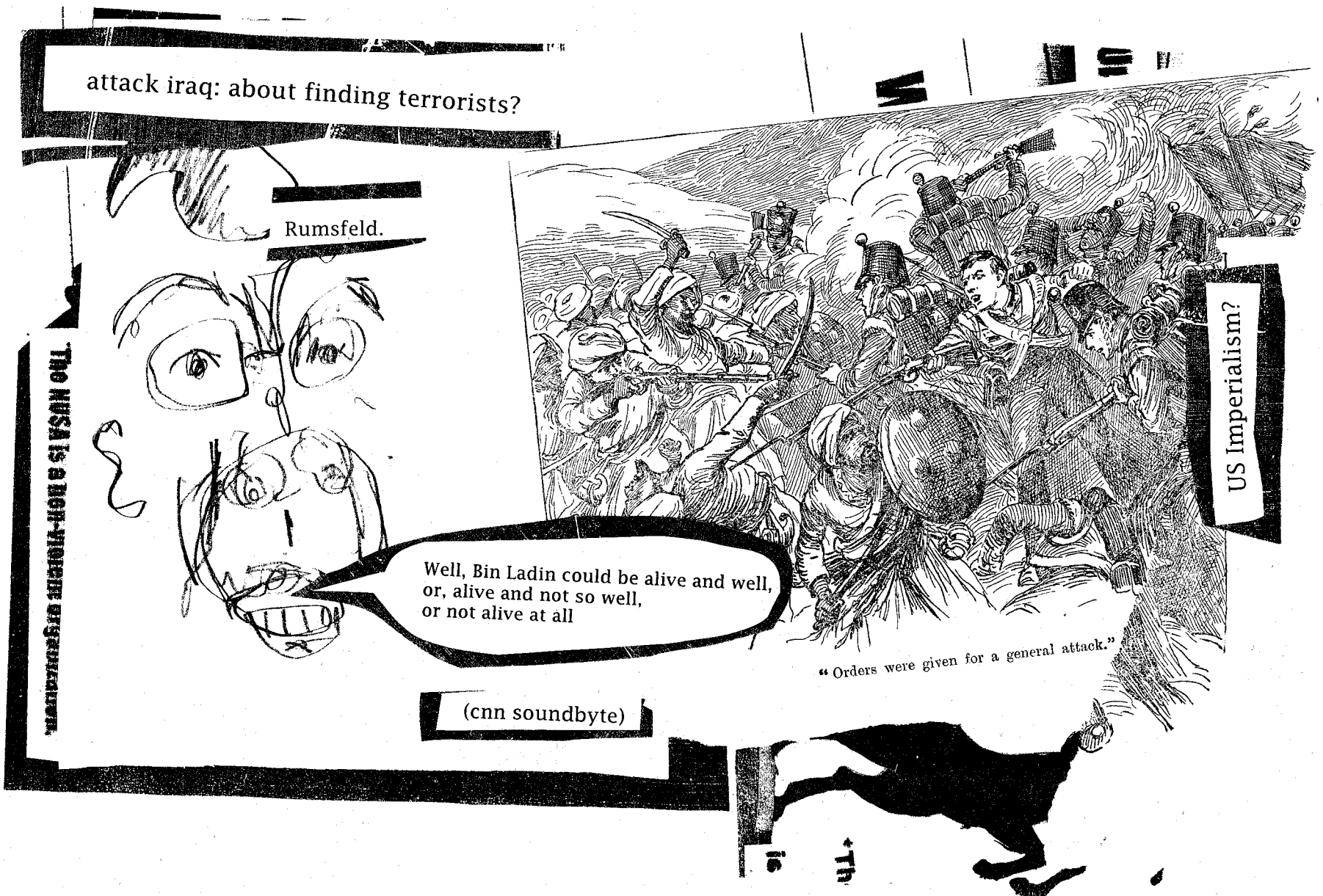
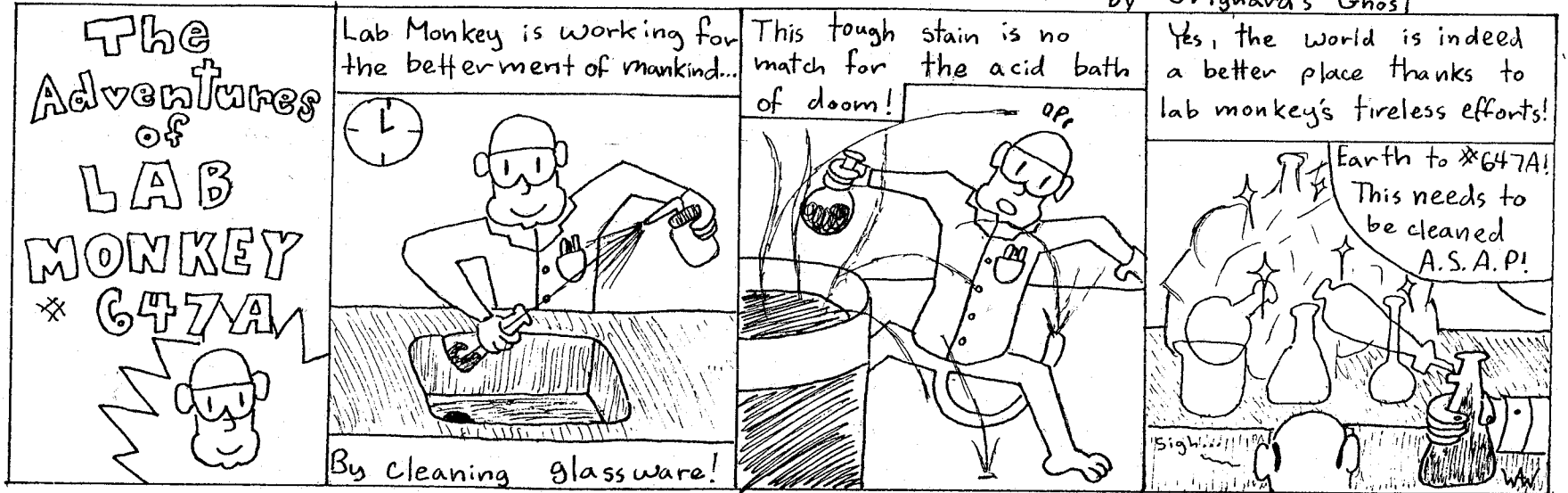
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# Comics for Chemists

by Grignard's Ghost



# My Back Pages...

Hurry! Quick! The Open Mic at Java Co. is Wednesday, October 30 from eight to eleven. Poems/songs/other creative works will be welcomed! Remember, i'm still accepting all creative work at countzachula@hotmail.com, or you can drop off a hard copy in the monitor mailbox, in the basement of the sub. Keep truckin!

Eastwards, A Eulogy

east of town, a woman in her fifties died  
on her farm. Dolores left in silence  
amidst the leaves of soy, and the sheaves  
of corn and rye  
having vocalized a struggle, a small cultivator  
against blind trusts and against  
disdain for the lost communities and depleted strengths  
of dispersed caretakers of land, in the  
heart of the corporate seed producing giants

east of town, a farmer seconded by her  
now widowed mate. mass produced her own  
letter campaigns to deaf indifferent  
networks of power and in the mornings  
just after dawn nurtured and experimented  
and walked and shielded and smiled over  
her fields

east of town, a community of organic  
growers gathered in her parlor  
and moved through time together  
sharing anger, fusing the lights of communal support,  
refusing to let their lives and their livelihoods be  
diminished, asking to know to lend a chapped, sinewy  
hardened and reddened open to those  
frightened but still clinging to a  
shattered dream and a crysalized lie.

east of town, Dolores died.  
She left us. A survivor in a sense  
of the ruthless murders of the American dream  
a survivor in a sense of the breast cancer and  
the feminine strength that inspired commitment  
and social action that suspends her  
still beyond well beyond the role of the vanquished  
victim of disease and disenfranchisement.

B.L. McLane-Iles

A Kind Smile

Thought of you standing alone  
alone in the room of four walls  
waslls with no doors or windows  
windows to the outside  
outside there is nothing for me  
me and you, I want this  
this is what drives me mad  
mad that you don't see it the same  
same thing has happened before  
before you there were others  
others who stood in the corner of my room  
room of four walls and nothing more  
more would distract me from you  
you smiling at me  
me too foolish to realize  
realilze that I am crying  
crying from my own eyes  
eyes that know the greatest joy  
joy to see you standing  
standing in my dreams  
dreams of us flying  
flying to be together  
together in this room of four walls  
walls made by my mind  
mind that remembers only you  
you giving me a kind smile  
smile as time goes by  
by the wall you stand  
stand with me in my room of four walls  
walls made by my mind  
mind that knows only you  
you are my only thought

-andre

walk through the brain  
space left gaping  
from cereberal clutter  
splattered all over  
a cement sidewalk walked on  
over and over and over and  
now a pair of vacant eyes  
pierce right through me  
like a fast charging lance  
shimmering over black hooves  
that glare at green grass  
about to be trampled but  
dreaming of the traipsing field  
the frolicking foliage  
that never was breathing  
-too busy with pretty  
sidewalk living.

zach

Make It Mean Something

eat	sun	sand
drink	horizon	later
die	fuck	sooner
sink	poop	hours
fly	sleep	upon
fall	filthy	minutes
moon	clean	running
purple	bricks	our
	water	lives.

-Sterling Brown