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# LSP committee works on changes for future

Story by I Andès Delgado

Big changes may be on the horizon for the University's Liberal Studies Program requirements. In response to dissatisfactions with the program dating back to its inception in 1998, an LSP Implementation Committee (IC) was given charter by the Undergraduate Council (UGC) on May 8, 2002. It was created for the purpose of bringing together representatives of every relevant facet of the University to "tweak" the LSP without "addressing any major changes in the underlying philosophy or structure of the LSP," according to the UGC resolution that created the committee.

The main task of the IC, which is chaired by Professor of Physics, Dr. Peter Rolnick, is to bring recommendations for changing the LSP to

the UGC throughout Fall 2002 to be voted on; suggestions passed by the UGC then will come up for consideration by the Faculty Senate. The vote of the Faculty Senate has the power to create policy, barring administrative veto. Actual changes to the LSP may come about as early as fall 2003.

The richly representative committee of 17 includes delegates from the office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Assessment Committee, the Registrar, the Library, and the far-sighted Institutional Planning Office, as well as every faculty division, with the exception of Military Science, who declined invitation, and two students. All members are assigned to consult their constituencies for information to generate rec-

ommendations at the committee's meetings, as well as to notify those same constituencies of recommendations under consideration in the committee.

So far, the IC has passed three recommendations to the UGC, all of which gained unanimous support in the IC but have yet to come up for vote by the UGC. The first, which Rolnick said passed with "much support," is to "eliminate the Communication Mode requirement for the Modes of Inquiry," and instead emphasize communication heavily within existing modes and majors. The second recommendation that has come out of the IC is to "allow Study Abroad programs to meet the Intercultural requirement in Interconnecting Perspectives," a recommendation Rolnick describes as mere "simplification." (Note to bored readers: KEEP READING, I'LL GET TO THE BIG STUFF.) Finally, the committee has recommended that the Writing Enhancement requirement be changed to require the completion of a WE course, beyond Eng. 190 and JINS, to be completed within the student's major. These recommendations change more in the way of procedure than in substantive material to be taught to students.

## Less boring part begins here:

The set of three recommendations which the committee discussed Monday, November 19 is much less innocuous, however, and could change the very foundation of the LSP system.

One of the recommendations taken up by the IC would remove the Math Mode from the BA modes requirement. The two other recommendations called for "collapsing modes in areas where more than one type of course is required to fulfill the mode," and, finally, the waiving of 1-2 of the Modes of Inquiry at the discretion of the student, although possibly with limitations on that discretion.

The proposal to remove Calculus from the BA mode requirement met particularly heavy resistance from the Education Division, the Science Division, the Math and Computer Science Division, and the Division Heads, represented by Jim Bailey. The most vocal supporters of the plan were the representatives of the Fine Arts and the Social Sciences Divisions.

The option of allowing students the choice of waiving 1-2 modes outright was decidedly the least popular, with most divisions expressing unequivocal rejection of it. The option that emerged as the most palatable to the various divisions was the collapsing of closely related Modes of Inquiry, an option which would have the effect of giving the student greater discretion in choosing the courses from the collapsed modes, while not allowing him or her to entirely forego a mode.

The Literature and Language Division expressed no strong conviction from its con-

stituency against any of the items.

Three important considerations form the basis of the committee's discussions. Firstly, the committee is operating under the knowledge that faculty cuts are looming. Thus, changes in the LSP that would shift emphasis from one division to another are stridently opposed by the threatened constituency. One estimate places current faculty numbers as 25 more than can be supported by current enrollment. On Monday, the Education Division noted that the option of collapsing modes may result in cutting faculty.

This leads to the second consideration, for attracting and retaining students to the University. Arguments for and against relaxing the LSP have been made on these grounds. One thing that recruiters can point to that distinguishes the University among its peers is that its graduates all have completed a course of Calculus, an enviable boast. The counter-argument is that the requirement in particular, and a strict LSP in general, scares off an indeterminate amount of potential undergraduates yearly, and that greater student choice would satisfy many currently enrolled students, thus increasing retention.

Finally, interest in the quality of the students' education has been brought to bear in the Committee's debates. The proper pursuit of this interest has been equated with remaining true to the advice contained in *The Report of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Task Force* of the summer of 1994, the highly-researched, highly-philosophical document upon which the University's LSP program, which was given final form in 1998, was based. Scott Thatcher, of the Mathematics and Computer Science Division, argued on Monday that any changes that would allow students to opt out of Calculus would ensure that precisely those most in need of the Mode's perspectives would miss out on them, contrary to the underlying philosophy of the *Report*. He also expressed the general desire of his division, "on principle," that the 1998 decisions of the UGC in crafting the LSP stand.

Several committee members likewise rejected any departure from the 1998 LSP on the principle that full consideration to all points had been made upon its adoption and ought not to be second-guessed now. However, in speaking to a Monitor reporter, Dr. Rolnick said, "No one [who created the *Report*] would sign their name to the current LSP," and in the Monday meeting, Dr. David Christiansen, who helped to forge the current LSP, rejected the notion that it held true to the 1994 *Report* and said the existing LSP should not be held sacrosanct. The proceedings that crafted the LSP in 1998 and gave

Continued on next page

## 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:** Peace talks in Burundi collapse after two Hutu rebel groups claim new coalition government just a smoke screen for continued dominance of Tutsi minority. Veterans of the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya suing British government for human rights abuses its military allegedly conducted during insurrection. Central African Republic retakes the districts of its capital held by rebels. Recent terrorist bombings in South Africa blamed on right wing white groups. Ivorian president announces amnesty to all rebels; thousands show support for move.

**Americas:** Colombian president blocks the surprising release of major drug cartel leaders, and government forces rescue a prominent bishop from rebels. Argentina defaults on a major World Bank loan, foresees difficulty getting new loans and aid. Six Arabic linguists dismissed from US army for being gay despite government's need for translators. US authorities capture unidentified al-Qaeda leader; warn of "spectacular" attacks in near future.

**Asia-Pacific:** Indian fishermen in the Bay of Bengal are fired on by Thai trawlers. Arsonists and bombers target schools and Buddhist temples in Thailand. Chinese Communist government present new leadership; enlarge number of party leaders. Malaysian summit seeks to resolve the battle for dwindling fish supplies that pits poor populations versus wealthy ones.

**Europe:** Top EU officials deny that Turkey is a "European" country eligible for EU membership. Massive anti-war rally in Florence galvanized by UN resolution proposing Iraqi disarmament. Impoverished Ukrainian miners forced to work under hellish conditions within illegal mines. Bosnia ceases arms exports after sales to Iraq revealed. Mount Etna eruption and earth-

quakes strike Italy. Russia drastically limits press coverage of new wave of assaults on Chechen rebels. New UN program launched in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to ease poverty by promoting environmental protection.

**Middle East:** Turkey continues to refuse to allow displaced Kurds to return to their villages and homes. Iranian parliament approves bill expanding presidential power despite expected veto of hard line Guardian Council; students protest death sentence of Iranian academic. Iraq accepts UN weapons inspection proposal over "no" vote of parliament. Israel's coalition government nearly collapses after Sharon refuses to reallocate funds for settlement of West Bank.

**Science:** Researchers find that computer chip production damages environment more than cars on a weight-to-weight basis. Politics trumps science at international conference on endangered species. Global council on the ecological protection of mountains met in Kyrgyzstan.

**South Asia:** Sri Lankan peace talks proceeding rapidly, with Tamil Tigers allowing a plurality of views within party, as they become a mainstream political group. Prime Minister of Bangladesh calls for less harassment of innocent citizens as government continues major crackdown on "crime." Newly elected leader of Indian administered Kashmir looking to reform province in order to reduce violence. Nepal intensifies its efforts to locate Maoist rebels after a series of violent attacks carried out against civilians and security personnel. First Pakistani parliament since 1999 coup opens to protest over Musharraf's recent constitutional changes granting him more power.

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

-- Noam Chomsky

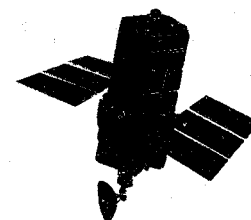
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shape to the University as it exists today were characterized by expediency, politics, and patchwork, rather than philosophy and coherent vision, he said.

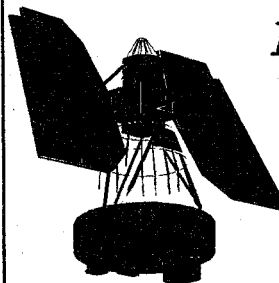
Hindering the committee's efforts is a prevalent lack of clear mandate from the faculty divisions' constituencies; the result of poor response to committee members' calls for feedback from professors. At the meeting on Monday, Dr. Rolnick reported about a 20% response rate from Science faculty to his inquiries on their opinions regarding the changes under consideration. The Literature and Language Division, represented on the committee by Dr. Arnold Preussner, fared similarly.

Students with concerns about or ideas for the LSP should see their representatives on the Implementation Committee, Jon Beckmeyer, '04 (c1665@truman.edu) and Shawn Doyle, '04 (c2398@truman.edu) or express their concerns to faculty members to relay to IC members. Thank you and goodnight, ladies and gentlemen.

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DO YOU READ ME?



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OVER AND OUT

# NEWS THATS UNFIT

Is it hot in here or 's it just me?

St. Louis-based rapper Nelly has been making headlines with his recent chart-topping single "Hot in Herre." Often with an artist of Nelly's caliber, it might be expected to see fans throwing themselves at his feet. Listeners of the song often find themselves completely bare upon its completion, without recollection of removing any article of clothing.

The recent developments have led national newsmakers to put the country on "high alert," coining the epidemic "Hot in Herre Syndrome." Late-breaking research indicates that the crude acts committed by listeners could be attributed to subliminal messages. Intrigued by the thought of subliminal messages, I headed to self-proclaimed Nelly expert Chris Matthews.

When asked on the subject, he offered to me a wealth of information. "If you listen real closely you can make out a voice saying, 'It's getting hot in herre, so take off all your clothes.' And then another answering back, 'I am getting so hot I will take my clothes off.'" It became apparent through conversation that behind Nelly's hypnotic rhyme scheme, his love for his hometown, and his awkwardly-placed facial bandage, there lurked a sexual monster.

Feeling a general sense of disgust from the recent developments of the story, I decided to phone Universal Records, Nelly's record label. Upon contacting the front office, I asked to be directed to Nelly. The receptionist sounded surprised and caught off guard by the query and told me that Nelly did not reside in the Universal Records business office building. A likely story.

I proceeded to ask why Nelly thought it necessary to include subliminal messages in the song "Hot in Herre," quoting to her the famous line urging listeners to remove clothing. Ignorance was abounding as she replied that the shedding of clothing was not a subliminal message at all but the central message and then found it necessary to question my knowledge of the definition of the word subliminal. It became clear the conversation was going south. I was not on a mission to thwart others with my intellect. With every passing moment a new case of "Hot in Herre Syndrome" was emerging and I had neither the time nor the patience to be involved in unrelated quarreling.

Here are a few safety tips to avoid catching the "Hot in Herre Syndrome." While there is no known cure for the epidemic, some preventative measures are being taken to see that elderly individuals, along with burn victims, midges, handicapped people, and obese persons do not catch the virus.

Public decency expert Matt Sonn added, "No one wants to see an old lady take her clothes off or a fat person, either, or any of those burn victims or midgets. Midgets definitely should keep their clothes on. I can't think of anything nastier than a nude midget. Keep Nelly away from the midgets."

Is an end to "Hot in Herre Syndrome" on the horizon? Nelly expert Chris Matthews seems to think not. "As long as the song continues to be played, people are going to end up naked. Stop, Nelly. Stop the nude insanity."

## Al-Qaeda suspected of vandalism on campus

Several University students, including myself, awoke to quite a shock on the morning of Friday October 18. Our dry-erase markers were stolen. That's right... all gone. Needless to say, the act of vandalism left quite a bitter taste in my mouth, and one burning question. Is al Qaeda connected? All signs point to yes.

The stealing of markers certainly reeks of terrorism and religious fanaticism. And the incident coincides nicely with the Bush administration's recent "connect everything that goes wrong in the world with al Qaeda" policy- a strategy that has linked the terrorist organization with such things as Iraq, the Bali club bombings, the D.C.-area sniper attacks, and Hurricane Lili. If members of al Qaeda are willing to carry out suicide missions that result in a catastrophic amount of loss, wouldn't it just make sense in the natural progression of things that they would hit us next where we are most vulnerable. Of course I'm talking about our dry-erase boards.

Among the victims was Jessica Zuke, a first year student from St. Louis, Missouri. When asked what her feelings were regarding the dry-erase board assault, she said that it was "probably just some drunk kids being goofy" and that I should "let it go" and that it "happens all the time." When asked if she thought al Qaeda may in some way be connected she said, "This is ridiculous," and started to walk away.

She then went on to say that "talk like this is like something straight out of the Salem Witch Trials."

Whoa, Jessica. I sure don't remember saying anything about witches. Is Jessica Zuke a witch? I immediately became suspicious and contacted local authorities. In a matter of hours, they had taken care of the problem, and nobody has seen Jessica in several days.

Another victim, Scott Dresser, a first year student from Kansas City, Kansas, was affected by the vandalism in an entirely different way, when someone left a pumpkin outside his door on the night of October 31 with the words "You're Fucked" written on it. When I questioned Scott about his feelings in regards to the incident, he looked at me blankly and said, "What are you talking about, I know you put the pumpkin in front of my door, man." He later went on to say that he had "seen me do it" and that I was just "looking for a scapegoat."

Hmmm... interesting, Scott. If by "scapegoat" you mean "the truth" I'd say you're absolutely right. Is Scott connected with al Qaeda? I contacted the DPS and they took care of that problem as well. No one has seen Scott in several days.

Suffice it to say, the mood in Centennial Hall as of lately has been quite tense. SA's and authorities alike advise all residents to be vigilant and immediately report anyone that looks remotely suspicious. I have also attempted to e-mail Tom Ridge regarding this issue. He has yet to e-mail me back. Is Tom Ridge a witch and/or connected to al Qaeda?

Short answer: probably.

## 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](mailto:monitortrm@hotmail.com). Letters may be edited for length.

**Cease the spread of ignorance**

When it comes to the variety of religions, contrary to what some may think, there is a lack of empathy on this campus. But that's not the real problem. Most of you are so unbelievably ignorant of history, philosophy, science, and even your own religion, that you don't accomplish much when you try to make a case for Christianity. Your arguments against others are limited to appeals to doubt, emotion, and fear. When someone says something that contradicts your religious beliefs, you are more likely to indignantly scream out "How dare you?" than offer any legitimate reason why their statement might be false.

Another common response is "Who are you to put down another person for their beliefs?" If their beliefs rely on a misconception, a historical falsehood, or a fallacy of logic, there's no reason to allow that person to cling to their beliefs just to spare them a bruised ego.

This is especially true if they are likely to vomit up their mistakes for someone else later on: a domino effect of false ideas. I've swallowed my share of ignorance from Christians seeking to educate me, and I'm never surprised by how much of what they say contradicts history or science or just reality as it exists.

That we have the right to believe and think what we like is an asset to this nation. But Christianity is hardly an asset to this university. Christians and masochists may say that it is, but the non-Christians have little to benefit from in this matter. And when I hear of how frequently the Muslims are harassed here, I am further inclined to believe that the largely fundamentalist incarnation of Christianity that exists on this campus is nothing but detrimental.

Though the presence of religion may add flavor to any culture, ignorance is bitter, and the majority of religious people on this campus are more enraged than enlightened. Everything is dandy as candy until a heretic speaks up, in class or elsewhere. And then you just can't believe that someone doesn't actually consider Jesus to be the Messiah that the Hebrews expected.

Naturally, none of you will agree with me, but the heretic understands how you treat him better than you do. And the reality of the matter is that I do not care if you respect me or have empathy for me. I'm more concerned with the ridiculous arguments that are used against non-Christians and atheists. Only God knows why Christians keep using the same fallacious arguments. I always figured that there was a purpose behind education, but since coming here, I'm not so sure.

The best approach to matters of philosophy and religion is to avoid treating them as mere tosses of a coin. Subjects become a mere duality of opinions when you treat them superficially and fail to take details into consideration. In this country, you are mostly free to think what you like, but truth is not a democracy, and one opinion is not as good as another is.

Creationists often succumb to this pitfall when they talk about how evolution is "just a theory," like Creationism. Evolution is a change in allele frequencies across successive generations in a population of organisms, and although scientists say that no truth can truly be proven, such changes are not mere ideas or guesswork.

Creationism is not a theory, just an idea pushed by proponents of Christianity. People often say, "They're both just theories." That's not the case. Read a book written by someone other than Kent Hovind, Duane Gish, or Henry Morris. Consult the library for the details on history, science, philosophy, and other religions that your minister didn't give you last week.

Sigmund Freud said, "I think it would be a very long time before a child who was not influenced began to trouble himself about God and things in another world. ... we introduce to him the doctrines of a religion at an age when he is neither interested in them nor capable of grasping their import." Drug addict or not, it's a good point. That so few of the Christians here are capable of identifying the reasons for their beliefs without resorting to mindless, after-the-fact rationalizations and dead-end questions turned back on the other person is testament to the fact that those beliefs have more to do with learned behavior than reason.

But they do not realize this because learned behavior lies in the realm of the subconscious mind, inaccessible to the conscious mind or any personal search for an explanation of one's own behavior.

Forgive me if this letter offers a choppy read; there is too much that needs to be said in such a small space. Two things need to be clear: (1) Christianity is an asset to Christians and no one else, and (2) the arguments for Christianity aren't as successful as you think.

Of course, without a little knowledge of these matters, you wouldn't really know if what you were saying was idiotic, now would you? If you even have to ask if it's possible to take your beliefs too far, you probably already have. If you want to share your faith, then by all means, do so. But please cease your spreading of ignorance and dysfunction.

Sincerely,  
Chris Englebart

**Bush and Blair are the real threat to world safety**

A typographical error seems to have crept its way into my opinion piece you kindly felt of merit on the two Iraqi invasion TSU and Quebec debates I this, last issue, discussed. In fact, the TSU mass attendance one took place in the middle of the October; while Professor McLane-Iles's anti-war Quebec parliamentarians' conference "acclaimed" remarks the Saturday/Friday October, early beforehand.

As, unfortunately, now the US Congressional election farces are now over, invasion will be Bush junior and "Blair" imminent, to divert all our attentions away from respective

budget cuts in education public sector US and UK firefighters just strike, can I cover, briefly? Some other points I lacked space, and memory, to cover before US and the BBC ratings boys drown them out in a sea of Iraqi "atrocities" exaggeration stories, heedless our own incendiary (invulnerable) mass women and kids bombings over congested Iraqi cities for the Evil Oil thugs' empire!?

It is, emphatically, not true, as was claimed by the University "chicken-hawk" war side in that debate, that the Iraqis "have not co-operated," entirely, with the UN sanctions enforcement machinery since their, now temporary, abandonment of UN arms inspectors visits entry in 1998. In fact, it was a CLINTON US bombing at the time. Yes, Monica was assuaging his "cigar" needs that saw the inspectors US "advised" withdrawal last from Baghdad in strict historical verisimilitude!!

Secondly, Saddam has, in fact, been co-operating with the UN (NYC) food-for-oil revenue allowance program EVER since legally before the last inspectors visit, right up to our present time. If he had not done so, the Iraqi poor would have had an even less than the 50 cents of mere food and health care oil-earned revenue a day they, starvantly, sustain them-

selves on today, as you and I more comfortably read this lament.

Finally, lest the last real "fact," as opposed to the Bush-Blair false "hype" for their nasty way, be used, solely, to demonize a not much better (SICK, ALIKE!) Saddam, alone, most UN officials, "off" and on the record, have confirmed! IT'S WE, THE YANKS AND THE BRITS, who are sinistinely culpable for the 50 cent starvation allowance in the world's richest oil field country called Iraq! Ruthlessly, we have been obstructively insisting on "prohibition" of foods and medicines actually allowable under the UN's rules: on the concocted fiction they might be "weapons Saddam convertible." So, wait for it, "pencils" because of "lead," were "ruled out." And, this week, both Canadian Leftist Bloc Quebecois and socialist New Democrat MPS have been championing a Montreal firm, that is itself having its 40 ambulance van order, paid for by Iraq legitimately "blocked," by, you guessed it, the US: in that very same UN-FOOD-FOR-OIL-office, NYC, that wants to, humanitarily, properly permit their urgent delivery!!

Sincerely,  
Larry Iles

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## O P I N I O N S

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# Easy-going Left needs to become relentless

Opinion by Linda Seidel

In a recent TV interview, filmmaker Michael Moore said, "Most people in this country are liberals, and liberals are willing to compromise, to go along with almost anything. Conservatives have an advantage because they're *relentless*." In Moore's view, liberals need to become equally relentless if we are to regain influence in the American political arena.

It's not bad advice. Think about our current situation. George Bush has got his Republican Senate, while Democrats scramble to find a new strategy rather than to stand up for their convictions. Already, one of the contenders for the position of House Minority Leader has warned his Democratic colleagues not to move left lest they become a "minority party."

How have we reached this point—where dissent is unpatriotic, where the status quo is just fine (but the past is even better), and where equal rights and economic justice have become distant dreams? Surely we cannot blame all our woes on the hysteria produced by 9/11 and its magical transformation (in some people's minds) of George Bush into a great leader.

Those of us on the left have to take some responsibility for this state of affairs. We have been too quiet, well behaved, and easygoing. We have assumed that things would just get better somehow without much work from us.

# I might be pro-murder, but I am also anti-banana

Opinion by W. Aaron Wilson

Let me tell you about something that upsets me. Banana flavoring. I mean, come on. First of all, it doesn't even taste like bananas. Secondly, with the exception of banana bread, there should be no reason for eating anything that contains bananas, even if Curious George is on the box (Now, I'm cool with Curious George. I'm just saying that no monkey, cartoon or otherwise, is getting me near one of those nasty "Banana Twin" things.).

Let me tell you about something else that upsets me. Those shirts that say: "Abortion is Murder." You know, the ones that are black with the big white lettering. They tick me off almost as much as banana flavored snack cakes.

Why does something as seemingly innocuous as an "Abortion is Murder" shirt get under my skin so when the world is full of banana crème pies? I know it may be hard to understand, because the reason is a lot more intangible than a nasty aftertaste. The reason I get upset whenever I see these shirts is because I think they imply murder is a bad thing, while I am staunchly pro-murder.

To clarify, I'd like to say that I am definitely against the kind of illegal, "under the table" kind of murder that goes on all across the country. The sniper shootings? Terrorism? Schoolyard violence? I definitely stand opposed to these acts of murder. I do, however support murder when it is strictly controlled and regulated by the government.

Abortion is just one example of state sponsored murder that I support. I also think that maintaining the death penalty is a good idea. The methods may be different, but the end

We are not satisfied with the way things are, but maybe we have not wanted to insist.

Now is the time to change our ways. Now is the time to become relentless. If, for example, we regard war with Iraq as unthinkable, is it not our task to help others come to view it as such as well? Should we not organize letter campaigns, hold teach-ins, have peace rallies, stage street theater—in short, do everything in our power to reach beyond our own leftie networks into the broader community?

And war with Iraq is not the only thing we have to worry about. There are other great struggles ahead: protecting reproductive rights, preventing the privatization of Social Security, reducing the number of people (especially children) living in poverty. The only way to reverse the fact that Ralph Reed apparently has more influence now than Ralph Nader is to work patiently and persistently at moving the center.

Walter Mondale, in an eloquent concession speech, said to the "young people" in his campaign: "Your principles are better tested in defeat than in victory. This is not the end for you, but the beginning. Your voices are needed more now than ever." Some of us lefties are no longer young, but our voices, too, are needed now more than ever. We cannot afford to be still.

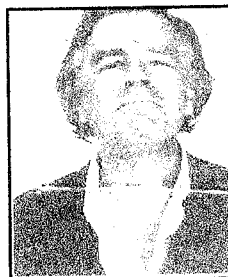
result is the same: a human ends another human life. In the case of the death penalty, the act of killing one person may have the psychological effect of crime deterrence on a large number of other people, thus benefiting society. Yes, the court system is not infallible, but the appeals process helps insure that we do not murder too many innocent people.

Another hallowed institution of murder that I think should be maintained is the military. What is war but a giant form of mass murder? What's more, this form of murder is not only provided with the latest technologies, but also cunningly premeditated in the form of extravagant strategies. I believe that maintaining a strong military for our defense as a country is important to our security and continued freedom. Should the anti-murder zealots get their way, we would be reduced to using only fire hydrants and pepper spray on forces that threaten our democracy.

In conclusion, if you own an "Abortion is Murder" shirt, bumper sticker, or button, think about what message you're sending. By equating abortion with murder, you are equating any human's loss of life due to another human with murder. This means you either fall into one of two camps: pro- or anti-murder. Maybe you should think about what message you're sending more closely before you decide to buy something sporting trite political slogan that does nothing to advance public discourse.

Also, think twice before you get those tropical Life Savers. Trust me, you'll eat all the fruity ones and end up with nothing but coconut and \*shudder\* banana.

# Administration plays "power politics" at expense of community, students



Opinion by Larry Iles

You would have had to be truly blind to ignore it, all there for sheer plaintive woe depiction, in cry-face inducement! There was the last *Index* of writing, with frontispiece photo of the newest young University English professor, looking like the end of his world had hit him! And the report within was Magruder's all but anointed Presidential successor, VP "Mister" Gary Gordon and current VP of Academic Affairs, lament he was "at his wit's end" about how to future, and present, deal with "budget cuts."

All this undignified panic, after the administration had "EMERGENCY" summoned (with an *Index* reporter and photographer, more calmly, evidently also there!) the largest employer they boss, University Division of Language and Literature faculty: to berate them, yet more, concerning a "budget crisis" that has frozen your teachers and my friends' pay, wholly inequitably.

Yet for all the flowing tears, those I have heard from that actually attended this fêted gathering, barely half of those strictly so entitled, tell me a more angry, familiar story: of the Magruder-Gordon administration's love of "hollow hype in non-substance." The administration was totally blind, too, to the teachers offered solutions, from the democratic floor, for genuine economy in meaningful areas you as students, too, can see cry out for "fat-cats" cuts! In short, as Clinton was, less lazily than usual, once caught opining at the national level, some people are looking everywhere but themselves, or its YOU the administration, "the ECONOMY stupid," who needs to be curtailed in real "fat" severance, for your own costly "power-politics" and ongoing excesses at this community's expense, to the students' detriment.

Indeed as Speech Professor Rao has long, lone-voiced, public contended in characteristic gustiness, it is this basic top-down flawed "structure" of the University that is uneconomically lopsided in costly imbalance failure. It needs urgent reform! Not "freezings" out of Hebrew studies, British history, and French grammar faculty. Nor library cuts of foreign newspapers, which, in crocodile savagery of watery tears, is what the Magruder-Gordon lot have, really, been doing hypocritically by not "filling" these vacancies.

Instead of all this faculty scapegoating, there should be clear, modestly paid, subject departmental heads with the administration designating the present faculty elected "conveners," currently unpaid, interimly for these tasks.

They should ENTIRELY abolish their own "perquisiters" of non-teaching division heads of entirely overpaid selves!

Indeed this whole silly structure derives from the teacher-training college school model origins of the University, when they were not interested in "subjects" in their own right. Posts like these ones and their useless adjuncts, like "Directors" of Development and Study Abroad, are costly anachronisms, regardless of who is presently in occupation of their roles. Their salaries and, in the case of the campus President, the free local \$150,000 minimum sale house he gets, are the BIGGEST DRAINS ON THE UNIVERSITY, your education; NOT THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS BEING TOLD TO MAKE ENDLESSLY UNFAIR SACRIFICES, while the "admin's" hollow tear "outputs" of yet more car parks, and name-blocks, for grandeur!

Oh, and lest somebody says I am being too "personal," can I say this? No one could be happier than me to see administrators who once were hired as teachers like Mr. Gordon, Drs. Patterson and Woehlk, or Dr. Lecaque back in the classroom, enduring real fairness of budget ordeals in real jobs: in the real Josephine Baker classroom workplaces. As Tony Blair, no less (his wife earns more as a lawyer than he as UK premier), said at the last Labour party conference, "Why should once-teachers be paid more," conditional in idiocy, on how much "they remove themselves from being in the classroom," by their becoming unquestionable, all but their own eyes, "administrators?" Why, indeed?

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# Democrat loss ensures erosion of equality, freedom

## Opinion by I Kevin Chase

For better or worse, the middle two percent of America spoke in one voice two weeks ago when they decided that it would be the Republicans who would control not only the House of Representatives, but the Senate, as well, for the next two years. With many Democrats siding with Bush on the tax cut and the possibly upcoming war with Iraq (likely to be called *Operation Enduring Oil*), party control of either chamber won't really affect those issues. War and taxes seem to be issues on which, while the bases of both parties seem to differ on, moderates seem more and more inclined to vote with the Republicans.

Nonetheless, other issues clearly matter to the American public, or at least the thinking public. If there weren't other relevant topics, these elections wouldn't have been so close. This sort of begs the question: what really matters to the voters (and those too disillusioned with the moderate Democratic party to vote), and why didn't the Democrats make bigger hay out of it before everyone went out and cast their ballots?

To focus on what we can expect to see happening when the Republicans have control of Congress for the next two years would be sort of roundabout and make the same mistake that the Democrats made in the elections, but you have to start somewhere.

First, changing party control of the Senate from Democrat to Republican also shifts all the committee chairmanships from Democratic to Republican hands. This is especially important in the Judiciary Committee, where Patrick Leahy has done an excellent job of keeping the committed ideologues that Bush has nominated out of committee hearings. Now that Orrin Hatch controls the committee, we can expect to see considerably more conservatives with stripes like George Bush's (haven't read or didn't understand the Constitution, very anti-abortion) being approved by the committee and sent to the Senate floor.

This wouldn't be all bad if the federal courts were balanced as they stand now. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court has a 5-4 conservative majority, the appeals courts tend to be at least as conservative, and the federal district courts are becoming more conservative, but are still fairly moderate. What all this means for average people is the continual erosion of very basic civil rights in the name of fighting terror-

ism or whatever the excuse of the day may be.

We can expect to see further degradation of environmental and safety protections under a Republican Congress. All of this will of course be handed to the public and the press wrapped in the guise of deregulating businesses in order to "unleash American economic muscle" or some other made-up bullshit excuse like that. The Republicans will undoubtedly claim that the slight cost savings made by getting rid of those pesky regulations will result in more reinvestment in the economy. The reality is that most of the shavings off the bottom line tend to be either stowed away or donated to the Republican Party. Whatever millions gets reinvested is too puny to have much effect on an economy that is measured in the trillions of dollars.

There will undoubtedly be another push for more tax cuts, or perhaps to make the latest round permanent. Again, this will be targeted towards those who are either in the upper tax brackets, or towards big business so that they may trickle down the economic benefits to those unfortunate enough to make less than \$1 million a year.

That's right, despite its dismal failure in the past, we can expect to see the return of moronic Reaganomics! Only an economic theory that is not really an economic theory but a throwback to wealthy campaign donors would survive this many abysmal failures.

Certain parts of the federal government will further be gouged in the budget: Welfare, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Education (Remember the last time you thought about how long it will take to pay off your student loans? Add two more years!), basic science research, and anything having to do with the arts. All of this will of course be packaged in the rosy idea of cutting the size of the federal government.

Of course, the Republicans have no qualms about increasing the budget and size of the military, various intelligence and law enforcement agencies, etc. All of this will undoubtedly be under the guise of fighting terror. I sure felt less terrified when Bush was ranting about bombing Baghdad. (But this is another article, undoubtedly found elsewhere in this issue of *The Monitor*.)

So where do the Democrats stand on all this, and why don't the voters know this soon directly after an election?! Why have the Democrats absolutely failed to find their voice since the terrorist attacks took place? Clearly fear of

losing too much of middle America has made Democrats petrified of questioning Bush on any of his handling of relations with Iraq, let alone the war on Afghanistan. Nonetheless, this seems to me to be no excuse not to focus on other issues that are so near and dear to much of the Democratic base's heart.

The problem, in my opinion, is that the Democrats haven't had a new idea for the past 12 years beyond turning more and more to the center in order to win elections. The party has no vision. While most Democrats outside of the East Coast and West Coast have focused on winning elections, the party has lost its base to various third parties and to general apathy and displeasure with its simple opposition to the Republican agenda.

For whatever reason, the party has forgotten that there are genuine issues out there besides the very next election and playing dead to the Republicans when they squeal that Democrats are being unpatriotic dissenters by daring to question the logic of Dubya or the rest of his party. Fuck that foolish idea.

Only if the Democrats wake up and realize that there are real problems in the United States that demand genuine, well thought out, long term solutions will they re-energize their base and begin to win elections. There is no shortage of problems to focus on:

Within the next 15 years, more than half of the teachers in the US will have retired, with very few people coming forward to take their places. While the profession becomes more stressful due to higher class size and ridiculous testing, sees wages continue to fall, and the cost of higher education makes a teacher's salary that much less attractive, the Republicans do nothing good. Instead, Bush and his cronies chip in to make teachers' lives harder by encouraging the development of stupid standardized tests that are created and graded by the private sector, where accuracy in grading is less of a concern than the looming bottom line.

Within the next 50 years, considerably greater effects of global warming will be felt. Global temperatures will continue to rise, resulting in higher ocean levels, lower overall crop yields, etc. No more important, but certainly more visible, will be the fact that we will have used another 50 years of the world's oil and gas supplies. Eventually it will become a matter of actually using alternative sources of energy and

actually investing in mass transit, or drilling for oil in the middle of Yosemite and Yellowstone.

While it was permissible to mourn the deaths of the 3,000 innocents killed at the WTC attacks, it has been deemed out of bounds to question why someone would hate the US that much and why that hatred is so widespread throughout some of the world. Asking such questions may be painful, but confronting the actual consequences of a foreign policy consistently based on increasing oil imports and increasing oil companies' profits will undoubtedly lead to better understanding of the interrelations between the US and the rest of the world. Refusing to acknowledge that US foreign policy is based largely on oil and not on compassion can only lead to more trouble. The Democrats should wake up and draw a contrast to Bush on foreign policy. It won't be hard.

Under the friendly-looking label of increasing efficiency, an unprecedented series of mergers and acquisitions has taken place in the last half century. This has resulted in considerably higher profits for industry and business alike. It has resulted in less competition, which means higher prices, and fewer choices. Consumers have also been gouged by considerably lesser quality products.

After all, why pay more to make a decent product when a consumer will buy something crappier for the same amount of money because they can't get it from anyone else? To top it all off, increased consolidation has led to huge advertising budgets, deluging American consumers with more ads and considerably less real information. The Democrats could make real efforts to limit the continual monopolization of key industries.

And so on. I don't claim that winning elections again will be easy. But it won't be impossible either. However, in order for it to happen, the Democratic candidates must focus on issues, instead of trying to appear as conciliatory, rubber-stamping moderates. Furthermore, actually regaining control of any part of the government will be impossible if you the voter don't get out and vote next election day, and vote for the candidate who has a vision for the future, and doesn't want to bring back the wretched days of the past. I hope that candidate is on the ballot in 2004.

# "Bomb one country, then bomb another" strategy will not stop, but only encourage terrorism

## Opinion by I Paul Kingston

Okay, I'm sure we can all agree that terrorism is bad, right? Good. So do we wanna stop terrorism? Of course we do.

HOW?

Now that's the point at which some of us start to disagree. According to our nations wise and noble, democratically elected leader, we stop terrorism by giving rich people tax cuts, arresting foreigners without charge, and most importantly, by bombing other countries. Maybe I'm just missing something here, but I don't see the connection.

In fact, this approach seems dead wrong to me. Isn't the slaughter of innocent civilians basically how we define terrorism? So doesn't that mean that we're trying to stop terrorism

by being terrorists? Is the fact that this is a bad idea really that hard of a concept to grasp?

Apparently, yes, for some it is.

So allow me to continue. For starters, let's take a look at terrorists. After all, they're the people we want to stop. So what exactly is it that motivates your typical terrorist?

Oh yeah! Terrorists hate freedom! That's right!

No, hold up a second. Terrorists hate freedom? Then wouldn't they be perfectly happy under the oppressive rule of those dictators we put in control of their countries? No, it seems like maybe there's something else going on here.

Now I got it! Jihad!

Terrorists hate Christians!

Wait, wait wait. What about all those Catholics just across the Mediterranean? They're closer. They are less adequately defended than us. We're getting closer, but I don't think we've got it just yet.

Of course! They hate Americans!

Hmmm, now why would terrorists hate Americans? What problems could the people of exploited third world countries possibly have with America? Hey, we're the good 'ole U. S. of A. Didn't we just send them something like 50 pounds of rice just two years ago? And what kind of jobs would their children have without benevolent American corporations like NIKE?

Naw. I guess that's not it. But just supposing they do, how can we stop terrorists from hating America? Maybe if we tried not to ex-

ploit the people and resources of their homeland so much. Or what if we let them pick their own leaders instead of installing our own puppet rulers? Possibly, we might even try not dropping bombs on their heads. But that's way too crazy an idea. We'd never do that.

Which is kind of sad.

Because one thing's for sure: This "bomb one country then bomb another" strategy we're using certainly won't stop terrorism. You see, terrorists are desperate individuals who have nothing to lose. And all this bombing does is create more desperate individuals with nothing to lose.

Bummer, huh?

## F E A T U R E S

monitor

# Brought to you by the letter "Q"

Feature by I Quam Queggers

Question:

What's in the middle of an earthquake,  
Invents spy toys,  
Gives Picard a headache  
And leads you to all kinds of joys?

Answer:

The quaint, quotable, unquestionably  
quick and quippable Q!  
By the Qua'ran, what a great letter.

It just won't quit. And while all those quintessential letters fly solo, Q knows quite well the uses of a quality partner like U. I have no qualms saying I quibble with E, who quite frankly can be too quiet. And I'll quarrel with O, he's just a quirky imitator who makes me feel queasy and queer. But Q is the Queen of my quest for quality. If I see a quadrillion, or even a quintillion, I still won't have filled my quota. My quenchless thirst makes me quiver for a quaff. From the smallest quark to the farthest quasar, in any quantity and for any quandary, it's clearer than quartz that Q is the answer to your most querulous query. So with my quill, I put to you this quiz:

Does my Quixotic obsession with Q  
make me a quack to be quelled?

# "Pay for play" still exists today

Feature by I Greg Brenner

Finally, after months of campaigning, the elections are over. There is no more of the ugly political mudslinging badly disguised as political ads choking the radio airwaves. We can go back to enjoying our favorite radio stations as they churn out broadcasts that are as bland and uniform as a Happy Meal. Wait a minute! That's not how it's supposed to work!

It has become a cliché that radio, especially Top Forty radio, sucks. If you ask anyone why this is, most people shrug their shoulders, complain about Boy Bands and Britney, or mumble something about large homogenizing corporations that rule the world. One common criticism of radio is that radio determines what people listen to and what people like. This criticism underscores the power of radio. If radio has the power to shape musical taste, then the current state of radio is terrifying.

It was not always this way though. Radio at one time was filled with colorful disc jockeys like Alan Freed and Dewey Phillips who decided which records got on the air. Local radio stations could vary widely according to what each station's DJs were willing to play.

The way for a new artist to get a song on the air was to present themselves and their music to a DJ. If the DJ liked the song he would play it. If his listeners liked the song he would keep playing it, which forced other stations to play it too. This is exactly what happened one evening in Memphis when Dewey Phillips

played a song called "That's Alright Mama" by an unknown Elvis Presley.

Since DJs had the power to put songs on the air, artists began to pay them for airtime. "Pay for play" became common practice as artists and their record companies had to give important DJs cash or other payments to get their songs played. In the late 1950s Alan Freed and other disc jockeys were indicted when the public found out that they basically were accepting bribes for airtime. The "Payola" scandal brought down the career of Alan Freed, one of the first DJs to play rock and roll. After Payola, laws were put in place to make sure DJs could not legally accept any form of payment for airtime.

Today, according to several big news agencies such as ABC News, record companies are shelling out millions of dollars to radio stations to ensure the stations play songs by their artists. If this sounds like Payola all over again, it is, but with a twist. Since record companies could no longer pay DJs and record stations directly, independent record promoters came in to pay the radio stations for play.

These "indies" are middlemen who are paid by the record companies to promote songs by artists on the label. These middlemen in turn shell out money, gifts, and favors to radio stations. In the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, indies would lobby on behalf of the record companies and occasionally provide DJs with drugs and other gifts, according to Salon News.

Since then, promoting artists for record companies has become a multi-million dollar business. In the 1990s big radio conglomerates emerged that bought thousands of radio stations across the country. For instance, Clear

Channel Communications owns over 12,000 radio stations across the country. Instead of lobbying individual station managers and DJs, indies go to the radio conglomerates and pay huge amounts to get on the playlist of thousands of stations. For example, Sony shelled out more than \$400,000 through a promoter to get air time for Fiona Apple's *Criminal*. An executive for another radio conglomerate, Radio One, admitted to ABC News that the company receives millions of dollars a year from record labels through indies.

This new type of pay for play effectively shuts out artists who do not have the money or backing of a huge record company. The result? Radio stations across the country that play the same thirty records over and over. Is anyone doing anything to stop this new form of Payola? It does not appear anything is going to change soon.

The Los Angeles Times reported in September of this year that Clear Channel Communications signed pacts with three big independent promoters and granted them exclusive rights to pitch songs to Clear Channel's hip-hop stations. However, The Los Angeles Times also reported that record labels are slashing the amount they pay to independent record promoters as public pressure mounts. One critic points out that the open market will eventually decide if this current Payola continues or if it will drive away listeners.

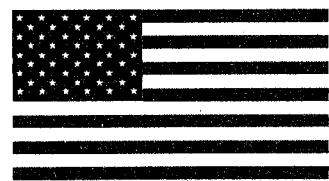
At the moment, the huge amount of money involved for the record labels, independent record promoters, and conglomerate radio companies will keep this system going until the public becomes tired of listening to the same old thing and turns off the radio. Until then, enjoy the cookie cutter formats and songs. Even better, enjoy being on a college campus with an independent radio station.

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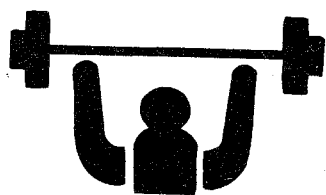
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## CLUB SPORTS PAGE



More club sports on page 10!

## Outdoor club explores endless opportunities in nature

Feature by | Josh Sisson

Don't you feel like, sometimes, you just have to get away? School, and/or work is overwhelming. You have so many responsibilities, appointments, meetings, assignments, and so on. You're constantly stuck in a chair, at a desk, staring at a computer. At some point, you simply have to get outside. If you have ever experienced these feelings, then you should consider being a part of the Outdoor Club.

You're probably thinking, "great, another organization, more meetings, more time spent sitting in a chair." Well, this isn't the case at all, according to Matthew Bast, a senior here at Truman. He told me that they only have one meeting a week, and the rest is fun. Actually, the meetings are fun, too, because that's where all the trips are planned. Members of the Outdoor Club go camping, hiking, and backpacking, just to name a few of the activities. On a recent excursion, they explored and camped out in caves. These trips usually happen on the week-

end, once a month or so. Many of the destinations are places in Missouri, but on Spring Break, the trips are longer. The club will go as far as Colorado to explore the mountains. The possibilities are truly endless when it comes to nature and the outdoors. Perhaps the best part is that none of it involves taking notes.

The Outdoor Club at the University has been active for about ten years. Down through the years the members of this club have seen some beautiful places, and done some exciting things. It is very easy to get involved. All you have to do is just show up at a meeting. They are held every Thursday night at 7:00 in Pershing 232. Questions you may have can be answered by Matthew Bast, who has been involved with the club for two years. You can reach him at 785-5518. If you're looking for some excitement, or just something to break up the monotony of everyday life, check out the Outdoor Club.

## University Equestrian Team brings home 32 ribbons

Feature by | Greg Brenner

Recently, the University Equestrian Team brought home 32 first, second, third, and fourth place ribbons from a competition at Kansas State University. Huh? We have an equestrian team? What is an equestrian team? Doesn't it involve horses?

I was not alone in my puzzlement when I found out about the existence of the team. I began to learn just what this team does when I was invited to an equestrian show. The University Equestrian Team is unique because many colleges and universities do not have teams that compete against other schools. MU doesn't even have an equestrian team for goodness sakes, yet the existence of the team is not widely known around this campus. Students might have a vague idea that equestrian has something to do with horses, but it does not involve racing. I was disappointed by the lack of jousting or even polo or some sport with the potential for serious injury. Equestrian is about more than that though.

Three weeks ago the team made the trek to the Little Apple: Manhattan, Kansas. The rolling hills covered with trees unexpectedly gave way to prairie land that stretched so far to the horizon we could imagine the Rockies looming out west as we drove toward Kansas State University. The facilities for the equestrian show at K-State were nice, except for the lack of heat inside the arena.

Despite this problem, the facilities and horses at K-State are still better than those here at the University. The university farm here does not have an adequate facility for hosting a show where a lot of schools can compete. In November, a facility in Columbia has to be rented out for the Truman State Equestrian show.

The university does not consider the equestrian team a true athletic team, like the football or baseball teams. Because of this, they do not get the funding that other "true" teams receive. Most of the equipment and horses the team has are given to them by donors. The Truman team cannot compare to other schools when it comes to facilities, equipment, and funding. Truman competes against other schools in its region, including CMSU, SMSU, Iowa State, Kansas State, and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

As we arrived at the arena the K-State

Equestrian team was scurrying around preparing for the start of the show. For a city boy like me who has little experience with the beasts, being near a horse is exciting. I was awed by the size and power of these animals. The idea that a human can mount and ride a living, breathing hulk of muscles seems incredible, but the fact that equestrian competitors can ride these horses with grace and get them to obey their commands is amazing.

There are two types of equestrian shows: English and Western. This show was an English show, so the horses were fit with English saddles. These lack a saddle horn and are smaller and lighter than their Western counterparts. I'm not really sure what a Western competition is like, but I am sure it involves some big hats and belt buckles that double as dinner

plates. Entering the arena we saw competitors from different teams setting up and getting ready in their hunt suits. English riders dress in a uniform which consists of boots, tight breeches, a dark jacket, and small helmet. I think getting into the uniform and remaining comfortable is half of the competition.

The first part of the show was the jumping competition. Jumps are placed around the arena to make for a certain course the riders have to follow. There are different classes of the jumping competition based on different skill

levels. Individuals in each class go out on the arena floor and navigate their horse (each rider gets a horse chosen by a drawing) through the jumps. There is real danger in being on the back of a horse as jumps over an obstacle. A horse can stand from the ground to the shoulders to a height of five feet, or 15 to 20 hands. Apparently horses are measured in hands (one hand =

four inches) although God knows why. I take it as another funny quirk of the sport. At this height though falling off is a big danger. When a rider falls off it is some distance from the ground and then the rider has to worry about getting trampled. Being on such a tall animal when it jumps has to be an adrenaline rush.

After each competition, a judge announces the rankings for the class. The judge is sup-

posed to objectively judge each rider on how well they handled their horse, how they navigated the course, grace, and the form of the rider. Much like in figure skating, judges' decisions seem very subjective. A newbie like me can tell when someone is obviously having a bad ride. When this happens neither the horse nor the rider look comfortable. When two riders have a good ride, whoever gets a higher ranking seems to depend on the whims of the judge. One might as well judge by throwing darts at a board with names on it.

After what seemed like ages waiting in the cold, warming ourselves with hot chocolate and chili, the jumping competition finally ended as the jumps were pulled off of the arena and the arena floor was smoothed out. Besides jumping, there is the flat competition, where each class goes out on the arena floor at once and each rider is judged for form, riding style, and handling of the horse. This competition is not as lively as jumping, since the only thing going on is horses and their riders walking, trotting, or cantering around the arena in circles. But hey, millions of Americans can watch cars go 'round in circles for hours on end, so watching horses do so isn't that bad. Plus, as I learned, there is much subtlety in form and grace when riding a horse.

In the flat competition the riders have to follow the commands of the judge, who calls out different commands to see how well the riders can handle their horse. The commands are a foreign language to an outsider, but it's a language the competitors know. It actually did not take that long to get into the competition as a spectator, even though there is no shouting for blood or for a fight like in hockey.

Since there were two days of competition and different classes, each rider on the Truman team got at least two chances to take away a ribbon. Ribbons at this show were given out for first through sixth place, even though there were on average eight or ten riders per class. As individuals win ribbons they are placed on the team banner which is proudly displayed throughout the show. By the end of the competition on Sunday, the University team had an impressive amount of ribbons pinned on their banner. Altogether the team won 38 ribbons. Why ribbons and not trophies? My theory is that equestrian attracts people who really like ribbons.

Maybe I didn't learn as much as I thought. In all, the cold didn't hinder things too much and the hot chocolate made up for a lot. Although there is no last-minute, late-inning heroics, or the possibility of blood, an equestrian show does offer grace, craftiness, and subtle athleticism. Still, a jousting competition would have been really cool.

### University ribbon-winners

at

### K-State Equestrian Competition

#### Jumping

- Emily Holekamp- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Erica Pope-5<sup>th</sup>
- Nina Tobler- 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>
- Becky McGinnis-3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Sara Sandker-2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Flat

- Emily Holekamp-4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>
- Nina Tobler-2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Becky McGinnis-2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>
- Sara Sandker-1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Sarah Krutzman- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>
- Sara Pendzick-4<sup>th</sup>
- Carrie Huot-2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Jessica Hauser-4<sup>th</sup>
- Sara Little-3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>
- Frances Knapp
- Emily Wehrman-1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>



# REVIEWS

monitor

## Faux Jean is the *Nature*-al band to see this Saturday at the Dukum

*Nature*

Faux Jean

Susstones Records



### Review by Alan Thomas

"Nature" starts off with a catchy alt-rock melody, appealing guitar riffs, and vocals that harmonize beautifully. The chorus is where things really gel, though: it takes the listener riding high on a blissed-out, psychedelic candy sunbeam. Nicole Kalodrich's voice is shimmering pearly sweetness, but cut with an ironic sensibility, a knowing nod to a kind of subtle kitsch that puts one to mind of a classic St. Etienne song. The complementing and contrasting Matty Schindler vocal adds a whole other level to the sonic torte, enriching it to truly delicious proportions.

"Hey" establishes a more muscular, confident presence. It's straight-up rock n' roll interspersed with a ghostly duet between Schindler and Kalodrich. As "Kiss Life on the Lips (K's Trip)" rips into gear, it all comes into focus as a whole: Faux Jean is about great, observant lyrics delivered in unstoppable perfect hooks, served up with a side of brash, raunchy rockin'.

"Patisserie" rides off in another direction: smooth steamy softness. Not indelible but pleasant enough to ride along with for a while. "Flight of the Bumblebee" is certainly beyond competent, with some nifty flourishes, but is to me slightly offputting. This one's reputedly a fan favorite though. "Tuesday Scene" serves up a nice scoop of drony, spaced-out psychedelia that slowly takes on urgency and intensity.

A rollicking, saucy guitar dance, "G-a-go-go" reinforces the sense that the "special sauce" in Faux Jean's sound contains not a small measure of irrepressible cheekiness and swag-

ger. There's no faking it—you've got that mojo or you don't. "Mrs. Jean" switches gears again, and gives us a fun change of pace: a retroesque number that bounces along effortlessly, as the mind's eye visualizes a crowd wordlessly bobbing its heads in unison to the beat of the piano and drum.

Familiar to regular KTRM listeners, "Chartreuse Skirt" injects a quick shot of energy, as Faux Jean sails forth once more in a blazing burst of that trademark confident swagger.

Rounding out the album are, "Oh Rene!" "The Race-Baiting Jailbait Race", and "The Last of the Last of the Super-Secret Stash." All are serviceable but forgettable midtempo ditties...though the last couple get extra points just for having such priceless titles!

[There are also nine "extra tracks," clearly labelled as such and not fairly considered as part of the album proper. Some of them are reworkings of songs from the record: others have the flavor of "we were just fucking around, but sure, we can throw it on the CD as a free extra, why not" about them. One of them, however ("Burning a Hole"), has more of a finished character about it and has also been heard on KTRM.]

All in All, "Nature" is not a perfect album, but it is a very strong one. It announces to the world that Faux Jean is a musical force to be reckoned with. Kirksville will get its chance to do so this Friday, October 22 at 10 p.m. when Faux Jean headlines a bill (with Truman's Beggars Can't Be Choosers opening up) at the Dukum Inn.

## Death Cab for Cutie finds uniqueness in restraint

### Review by Chris Scott

"I think I'm drunk enough to drive you home now," declares Ben Gibbard the opening lines of "Champagne from a Paper Cup"—lines that pretty much set the mood for all of *you can play these songs with chords*.

That they come out of Seattle, WA, a city that, with a rejuvenated music scene headed by bands like Audio Learning Center and Pedro the Lion, rests right on the verge of being ultra-hip again, leads to my completely inaccurate yet obligatory comparison to Nirvana. (I suppose if Nirvana took a potentially lethal amount of narcotics and mellowed out a lot, they might sound quite a bit like Death Cab for Cutie.)

Much like Kurt Cobain, Ben Gibbard has a knack for creating catchy and smart music that just narrowly avoids being labeled "pop." Death Cab for Cutie have successfully mastered the art of creating blissfully mesmerizing indie-rock, with mellow, simple hooks that are much too clever to be emo, and abstract, bitter-sweet lyrics that are much too drunk to be remorseful.

The album contains eight demos, most of which were re-recorded for their first full length, *Something About Airplanes*, eight b-sides and a couple covers for good measure. Though *you can play these songs with chords* lacks the focus and completion of any one of DCfC's three LP's, the overall effect is no less amazing.

Their true uniqueness lies in their ingenious amount of restraint. Whereas most bands would be tempted to set screaming guitars and a

driving tempo to such an abundance of emotional anguish, DCfC instead choose to keep the amps turned down and the tempo (usually) crawling, while never losing an ounce of full-on intensity—the kind of unapologetic honesty you would typically find in that nice guy who's perpetually doomed to finish last and doesn't really fucking care.

All of Gibbard's music lies somewhere between a really bad break up and reconciliation, providing a soundtrack for any given 3 a.m. walk home from a bar, with lyrics that are so easy to relate to it's almost scary. *You can play these songs with chords* provides a peek into DCfC's past and a look at everything they're potentially capable of—which is quite a fucking bit.

While listening to "Song for Kelly Huckaby," "Wait," and "Prove My Hypotheses," it becomes apparent that DCfC will inevitably one day create an album that will break into the mainstream and garner the large amount of popularity that they clearly deserve. This might not be it, but it's a start.

For me, the number one indication that it's a great album is my utter indecision when declaring a favorite track. Ben Gibbard claims in the liner notes that his favorite DCfC recording to date is the album's closer, "Army Corps of Architects." I'm not sure I necessarily agree, but at the rate things are going for Death Cab for Cutie right now, it'd be stupid to argue with him. Keep hope alive.

## SOUND SHOPPE

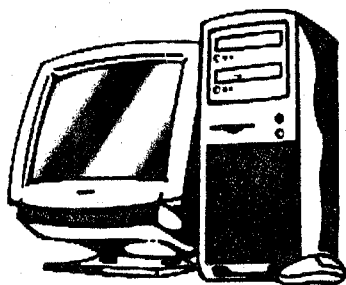
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# Pearl Jam proves rock is still alive and well with *Riot Act*

*Riot Act*

Pearl Jam

Epic Records



## Review by I Cameron Moore

When I obtained a copy of *Riot Act*, Pearl Jam's just-released seventh album, I had expectations. And who wouldn't, given the band's impeccable style in both making music and handling overnight success a decade ago? Their last effort, 2000's *Binaural*, was a spacey album, mixing both hard rock elements and acoustic subtlety into a futuristic rock album. And, being the space cadet that I am, I was hoping that this would be a continuing trend.

With *Riot Act*, Pearl Jam have continued many of their trends of the past, breaking free of their fans and critics being one of them. While I was initially disappointed in *Riot Act*'s lack of space age revelry, dismissing it as a straight-ahead rock album with no whistles and bells, I found that discarding my expectations followed naturally.

See, what I forgot to do when I first bought this album was to *listen*; not to just hear the album, but to *listen*. Pure, simple, unconditioned listening. And when I did just that, all the barriers of expectation fell to the ground, revealing an album full of life and love; an album beating with the pulse of a collective heart, screaming to the world the discoveries that lie within the subtleties of listening.

*Riot Act* begins with "Can't Keep," a song with a tribal feel that attempts to gently stir the spirit from its long, winter hibernation. "I wanna shake / I wanna wind out / I wanna leave / this mind and shout," front man Eddie Vedder croons like a shaman.

"I've lived / all this life / like an ocean / in disguise," he continues. The song builds slowly, climbing to crescendos and repeating, maintaining a steady reassurance of the great unknown that lies beyond. It is the beginning of what will continue to be an overriding optimism of the album. "Can't Keep" finishes with, "I will live for / ever / You can't keep / me here."

If track one is a little on the gentle side, then track two, "Save You," is certainly a blaring alarm clock. A turbocharged punk rock song, "Save You" is a reassurance to a good friend falling into the abyss of despair.

"Gonna save you fucker... / Not gonna lose you / ... / Too important to us / We'd be lost without you / Baby let yourself fall / I'm right below you now," Vedder sings, reaching out. Determined to help, Vedder is insistent: "Let's pick up your will / It's grown fat and lazy / I'm sympathetic as well / Don't go on me now."

And if there is one thing this song is not short on, it's definitely the f-word. Used here, it isn't a thoughtless expletive, rather it gives a sense of urgency and thoughtfulness: "And fuck me if I say something you don't wanna hear / And fuck me if you only hear what you wanna hear / Fuck me if I care, but I'm not leaving here."

Continuing more trends from their last

few albums, *Riot Act* features songs with both lyrics and music written by band members other than Vedder, which was not always the case in the early years of Pearl Jam. Track five, "Ghost," drives more rock out of the album. Penned by bassist Jeff Ament, it is ripe with social commentary.

"The TV, she talks to me / Breaking news and building walls / Selling me, what I don't need / I never knew soap made you taller," Vedder sings, letting humor hint at another optimistic end: "It doesn't hurt when I bleed / But memories they eat me / I've seen it all before / Bring it on cause I'm no victim."

Taking a timeout from the breakneck rock action, "Thumbing My Way" features Vedder's musical styling in a slow acoustic number. Optimistic again, Vedder sings a slow lullaby about getting through this life and moving on to what lies in the next: "No matter how cold the winter / There's a springtime ahead / I'm thumbing my way back to heaven."

Balancing out the optimism with some more healthy social commentary from Vedder are "Green Disease" and "Bu\$hleaguer," the latter of which was co-written with guitarist Stone Gossard.

"It's a disease, and they're all green / It emanates from their being / A satiation with occupation," Vedder sings, pointedly criticizing the pervading selfishness of capitalism run amok. He continues, backed with an 80's punk soundtrack: "And like weeds with big leaves / Stealing light from what's beneath / Where they have more, still they take more."

"Bu\$hleaguer" is much more specific in it's criticism, heading straight for the top dog George W. Bush. "Swinging for the fence, got lucky with a strike / Drilling for fear makes the job simple / Born on third, thinks he got a triple," Vedder says in what is all spoken word except for the ominous chorus: "Blackout weaves its way through the cities."

This song features an opening riff swiped straight from the Ramones song "I Believe in Miracles," only slowed down a bit, a subtle form of gratitude that isn't surprising considering that the album is dedicated to Dee Dee Ramone (among others, including Who bassist John Entwistle) and that Vedder recorded a version of said Ramones song for a slated Ramones tribute album.

Other features of this album include a few songs from the newest member of the band, former Soundgarden drummer Matt Cameron, and a minute-long track of layered vocals that sounds like a mixture between a Buddhist chant and a slavery-era hymn.

When it's all said and done, this album is sure to be the breakthrough rock album of the year. That is, if anybody cares enough to turn off the TV and just listen, free of expectation. The rewards of doing so in general, and with this album in particular, are immeasurable.

## KEEP TABS ON THE "PRESIDENT"

<http://www.gwbush.com>

### Review by I Cameron Moore

Good ol' Georgie boy is up to no good these days (hey, what's new?), and it is our duty as good Americans to keep tabs on how much of an idiot he is. This is why this website, <http://www.gwbush.com>, is a goldmine of information that will keep you confused as to whether you should laugh or cry.

The site also raises thought-provoking questions about the real nature of Bush's motives for war and how many of his actions are contradictory to what he says. For instance, the website points out that the Bush Administration has "added \$44 billion to conventional defense budgets, but only \$1 billion to intelligence budgets," "protected Saudi Arabia, the cradle and main funding source of al-Qaeda," "squashed a special commission to investigate the events around 9-11," and "drag-netted 5,000 young Arab men in America for interviews with FBI and police, but the Bin Laden family, old Bush family friends, have not been leaned on."

In addition to these telling facts, there are some great stickers and t-shirts you can order, with phrases such as, "It's not a war, it's a con job," and "Gulf War I: Blood for Oil; Gulf War II: Blood for Votes." The best part of this site, though, is the video clip of Georgie picking his nose while watching a Texas Rangers game while he was owner of the team. Oh Georgie boy...

## BOBBY FISCHER RETURNS

<http://home.att.ne.jp/moon/fischer>

### Review by I Andès Delgado

This is very interesting. Many of you might have seen the movie "Searching for Bobby Fischer." Recently, Fischer has popped up in several interesting places on the web.

At this website you can find various radio interviews from the Philippines, Hungary, and Iceland supposedly with the former World Chess Champion himself (he was exiled from the US after defying US sanctions by playing a 1992 rematch against Boris Spassky in Hungary.)

In most of these, Fischer is spouting off anti-Semitic and anti-US rantings - memorable is an interview from 9-11-2001, in which Fischer says, "This is all wonderful news. It's time for the US to get their fucking heads kicked in." Then, I found this other site that claimed Fischer had been recently sneaked into the US and was living in New Jersey with Julie Newmar - yes, that Julie Newmar. It said he had rescinded his anti-Semitic statements (saying they had stemmed from a self-hatred) and that he might have been secretly on the State Department's payroll for the past few years as an informant in the Balkans.

I haven't been able to find anything that corroborates that website's claims at all. Anyway, I expect it will all be cleared up in a few years. Until then, if this sort of thing appeals to your curiosity, check out the radio interviews.

<http://www.webstereviews.monitor>

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# Weightlifting club offers physical fitness, fun

## Feature by | Josh Sisson

Everyone knows about the benefits of regular exercise. It can contribute to the overall wellness of the mind and body. One excellent way of building up muscular strength and endurance is by lifting weights. Weight lifting can be very rewarding, both physically and emotionally, but many people feel that they simply don't have the time, desire, or athletic prowess, so they miss out on a great opportunity. No one has to miss out, though. For this very reason, the Power and Olympic Weight Lifting Club was established, right here at the University.

According to University Senior, Josh O'Hera, the primary goal of the Power and Olympic Weight Lifting Club is to help people improve their strength. O'Hera has been active in the club since its inception in the Fall of 2001. Anyone who has an interest in weight lifting can join the club. They hold a meeting once every two weeks, which is devoted to more organizational matters. Monthly meetings, called T squared meetings, are devoted to training and technique, as the name suggests. These meetings are designed to help those who lack the weight lifting experience necessary for getting the best results.

Lifting can be dangerous if you don't know what you're doing.

There is no difficult practice schedule. Generally, small groups of people will just go work out together, whenever they have time. The meetings aren't mandatory, either, but they are there if needed. This eliminates any added burden or sense of responsibility beyond what

is already being asked of students academically. Whether you happen to be a serious weight lifter, or just someone who wants to look good, the club is here to help.

Although the club's atmosphere is generally relaxed, there are some who take it quite seriously. For individuals who are good enough to be on a competitive level, the club finds meets throughout Missouri where these athletes can display their talent. University lifters compete against Missourians of all ages and from all over the state.

The University is the only Missouri college with a competitive power lifting club. The club has had a lot of success recently, Josh O'Hera told me. Zach Cooper, Aaron Armstrong, Russ Smith, and Jen Wallace are a few students who have done very well in competition.

There is a big misconception that weight lifting is reserved for guys only. This isn't true. Many females are active in the club, and I mentioned Jen Wallace, who holds records in several states for power lifting. Anyone can participate, regardless of size, strength, or sex.

Of course, people lift weights for different reasons. For some it's seriously competitive, others just want to get buff, while still others find it to be a good outlet for their aggression. Really, any reason to work out is a good one. For those who are not currently working out regularly, or for those who just could use a few pointers from people with more experience, the Power and Olympic Weight Lifting Club is the perfect answer.



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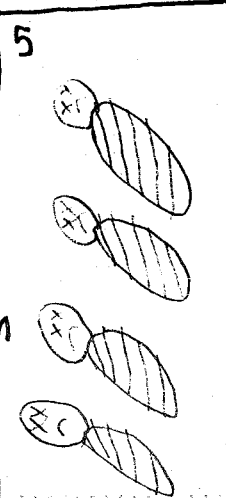
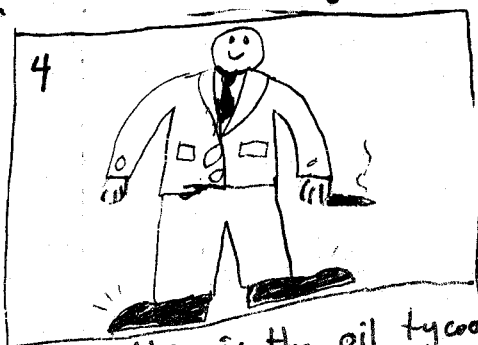
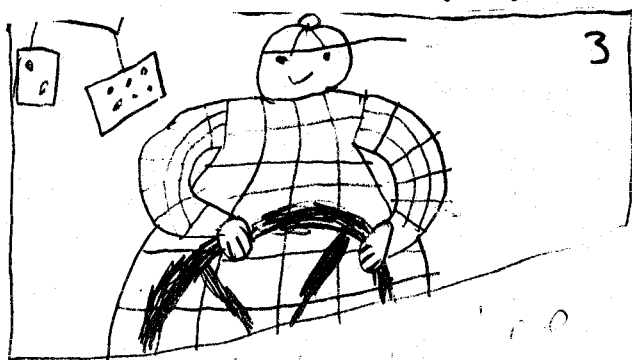
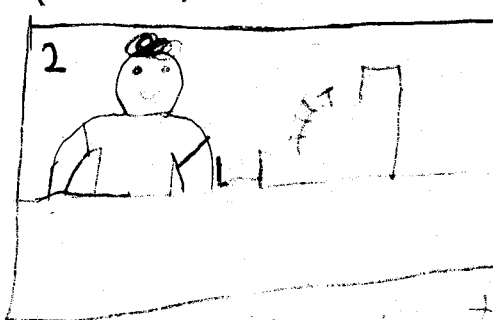
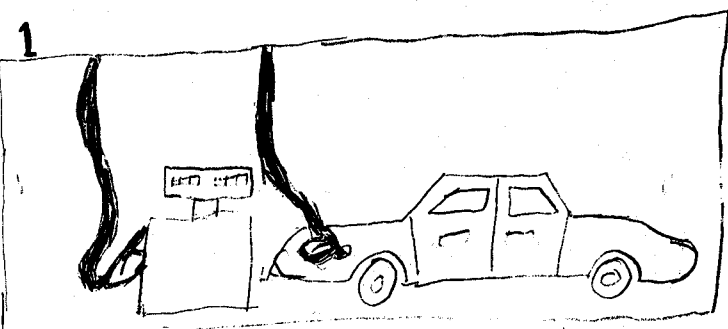
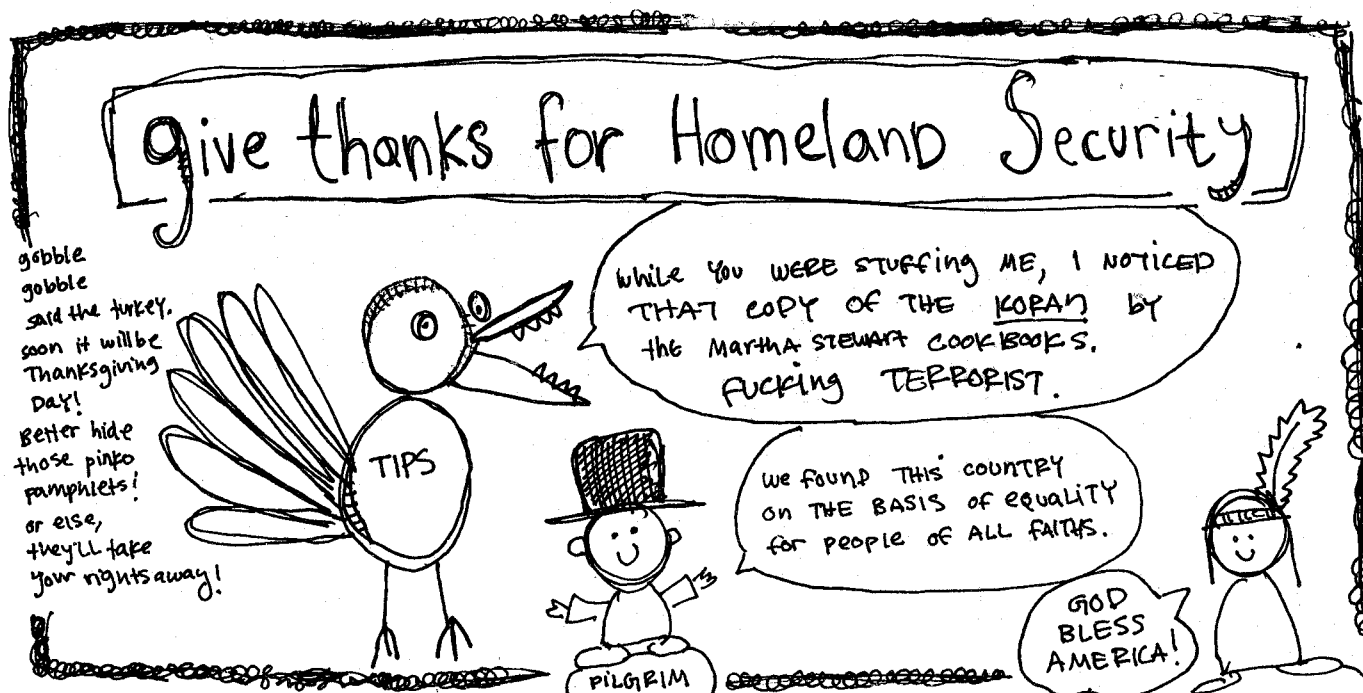
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## Comics for Chemists

by Atkin's Assassin



And this tanker driver who delivered his gas...

And this is the oil tycoon who imported the gas...

And these are the people who are being paid to give us more power...

# MY BACK PAGES...

## Gravity

If I could, for a moment, impress upon you,  
the gravity of the situation.,  
the gravity of my body.  
Both hold me here pressed tight.  
Between clean air and clean lips.  
Between daggers of winter's cold  
and your soft hips,  
which warm me, while I watch  
our breath escape your sloped mouth.  
Which defies gravity with a grin.

## The Chemistry Rap

for all my crazy chemists here  
in the hemisphere,  
i'll drop a beat for y'all  
in the post lunch stall.  
so strap on your kickin lab coats and gloves,  
commence experiments with mutagens from doves,  
some brothers were flippin' shit about cis-platinum  
so i did my duty and spat on em.  
we got these cats talkin big about organic  
i think i'd rather go down with the titanic  
than deal with their column chromatography,  
it should be outlawed like child pornography.  
i operate the shlenk line with a steady motion  
while brewin up a little bit of love potion,  
always got my gat trained on the oxidation,  
you know that it's the terror of the haitian nation.  
if you're feeling moribund, just pop an enzyme,  
i like my ethanol with salt and a lime.  
you wanna get published, pressure's on high,  
talkin six bars, a hundred p-s-i,  
kick back, relax, scope out the flora,  
this ain't life or death, like tora bora.  
i'm gonna name my first born son phosgene,  
he'll contscruct a beer bong out of nalgene,  
then he'll follow in his father's tradition,  
and whoop up a batch of chemical sedition.  
you call this defiance,  
as we form the alliance,  
total reliance  
on the sinister science.

-amanda combs

Awesome. Righteous. You guys are cool. There were alot of good submissions for this issue, so keep on a keepin on. Yeah! countzachula@hotmail.com. or hard copies in the monitor mailbox, basement of the SUB. and remember, it's like my momma always said, "two tears in a bucket... motherfuck it." Keep it up. zach.

## Mitosis

When mitosis finally came, we slid  
apart as easy as evolution,  
af if our genes were forever destined  
to wait for this one smooth cleaving motion.

Now though, it seems parts of you stayed behind.  
Two halves can't make two wholes, it's messier.  
I try to place the pieces of you by  
patting down my arms, feeling through my hair.

I can't quite catch them though, they flit about  
through my veins, in bits of breath, slipping by cells.  
Vestigially haunting me, lingering doubt,  
these remnants I have, of memories, muscles.

I've learned what mine sound like: One wing in a chest.  
Flapping, quiet, somewhere between heart and lungs,  
with one hand, almost asleep I can just  
half sense it, thumping irregular songs.

-Dana Kuhnline

## businessmen, handshakes, and gunshot wounds

cut the vein open and  
let's see what you look like  
at the core  
let's see what you look like underneath  
a polyethylene injection and  
drink it up until forgotten  
it's a corrosive handshake  
gripping chemical degradation  
let's see what you look like  
at the core  
splitting neurons fucking capitalism  
keeping your wife in the kitchen  
keeping the kitchen for children  
splitting neurons over capitalism  
clutching pistol perfect vision  
make sure you always leave the  
teenage demographic wanting more  
let's see what you look like  
at the core

-cs