

The Monitor

Volume 9
Number 6

February 05, 2003

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

Local H.S. students compete in KME Math Expo

Story by I Andr s Delgado

The University chapter of the national mathematics honors fraternity, Kappa Mu Epsilon, on Saturday hosted the KME 2003 Math Expo in Violette Hall. KME holds the event annually, in which local (a liberally applied term) high schools come together to compete in a variety of math competitions. This year's competitors were Kirksville High School and Rockbridge High School, of Columbia, MO.

The competitors, thirteen from RHS and thirty-two from KHS, sat down to compete in individual, team and relay competitions. According to their advancement in their high school math

programs, students took either the Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry individual test. Any student, regardless of advancement, who was up to it could also complete the Pre-Calculus and Calculus tests, and those who weren't were allowed to sit down and stare at the tests' hieroglyphics anyway, for aesthetic enjoyment. Here's an example of a problem from the Calculus individual test:

Evaluate the definite integral of $\sin(x)$ $dx / \{1 + [\cos(x)]^2\}$ from zero to π .

The composition of the two- and four-person teams for the lower-level math tests was likewise constructed according to the par-

ticipants' advancement in high school math classes. In these tests, students may consult each other over problems or delegate responsibility for certain of them to individual members of the team, as they choose. It's kind of like taking a group test in class, but with a very demanding time restriction.

The five-person relay test doesn't have a parallel in normal academic life. In it, five students are seated in tandem and each is given a single problem to work. However, the problems of all but the farthest-back seated student cannot be solved without the answer to the problem of the student seated immediately behind them. So, the farthest-back student must solve her problem first, then hand the answer, and no other writing, to the next student up. This student is then able to complete his problem and hand the solution to the student in front of him. Check out the picture of this happening, right. After the final person completes his problem, the test is graded for accuracy, and ties are broken according to which team completes its test first.

Each test was written by KME members, according to Dr. Jason Miller, Professor of Mathematics and sponsor of the organization. As the fraternity's most visible event, said Miller, the Expo is also the one at which its members work hardest.

KME President, junior Tony Harmon, estimated he put ten hours into preparing the event in the week leading up to it. However, some preparations, such as mailing potential competitors, began as early as October.

Kathleen Field, a sophomore working on her first Expo, was responsible for getting those coupons for free food that you sometimes get at things like this. Pizza Hut, Dominoes, Hardee's, McDonald's, Papa John's and Little Caesar's all gave coupons for free food to go to the participants of the event.

The questions for this competition were taken from last year's aborted Expo (canceled due to lack of participating high schools) and were graded immediately after each test was finished, by a team of KME members.

The 2003 edition of the Expo was the latest in a long line of competitions put together by KME. In fact, the faculty sponsor of the KHS team, Judy Allen, '94 BS Math, '96

MAE, was herself a member of KME who worked on the 1994 Expo. Allen remembered, "It was fun to try to write challenging tests that could be completed without a calculator."

Now, as a teacher, Allen said she feels the Expo benefits her students because, "It's always good to practice their math skills, and it's always good to practice for the standardized tests." Drew Phillips, a Sophomore at KHS, where he's enrolled in a geometry class, said he attended the Expo because his teacher, Kim Belanger, '94 BA Math, '96 MAE, who herself worked on the '94 Expo as a member of KME, recruited him. "She told me about it and it sounded fun."

Lindsey Van Sambeek is a senior at Rockbridge High School. She took the contest's prize for highest-scoring senior, winning a \$100 scholarship to the University, "redeemable upon admission." She said she enjoyed the Expo. "It's a really nerdy thing, but I really like doing this anyway." Not altogether nerdy herself, as evinced by a sense of humor, she opined that the flavor of nerd

that was generally attracted to these competitions was "The kind that's desperately seeking approval and really wants to be noticed, but it ends up not working anyway." "I never knew waking up at 5:45 could be so fun," she said.

Right before awards were presented, Dr. James Guffey, Professor of Mathematics, delivered a talk entitled "Paradox Lost" to the students. In it, he worked with the audience through several problems with surprising answers. For example, those in attendance saw demonstrated that a rope that reached exactly around the world, if extended by only three feet and drawn into a concentric circle around the earth, would extend about six inches above it at all points.

Awards were then presented. Students who placed first through third in the various categories were awarded with thick, intricately tooled, expensive-looking 2 3/4 in.-diameter medals made of real, heavy metal hung on purple ribbons.

Tony Harman said the event gave him great satisfaction. "It's a good experience for the students to get some kind of reward, to feel the gratification of being told they did well."



Around the world in 500 words

Compiled by I W. Aaron Wilson

Recent stories gathered from news.bbc.co.uk

Africa: The new government taking power in Kenya to propose sweeping anti-corruption laws, as they try to unfreeze their nation's foreign aid. Current Malawi government withdraws controversial "third-term" bill that would allow president Muluzi to run for reelection. Burundi government, rebel group, call for African peacekeepers to ensure the observance of a recent peace accord. DR Congo government reportedly ordered representatives of rebel groups from capital, despite recent power-sharing agreement. Choice of Zimbabwe as site of World Cricket Championships controversial in Zimbabwe, abroad. Sierra Leone rebels, government, peace keepers, accused of systematic rape during civil war.

Americas: Bombing during a pro-Chavez rally in Venezuela kills one, government lays off 5,000 striking employees in order to get crucial oil industry up and running despite eight-week labor stoppage. Rural coca growers, farmers and workers union, shut down Bolivian highways to protest eradication of coca crops. Mexican government makes a rapid response to earthquake in western Colima state. Tough stance of Colombian president may have provoke massacres in remote villages. US continues pressing for invasion and regime change in Iraq.

Asia-Pacific: China to launch manned space mission in September or October. Christian separatists from Moluccan islands sentenced by Indonesian court. Peasant run catfish farms in Vietnam sparks an economic struggle with US. North Korea warned by US to cease reactivating its nuclear program, security council set to discuss matter. Anti-Thai demonstrations in Cambodia burn the Thai embassy over the question of Angkor Wat.

Europe: France evacuates its nationals

from C te d'Ivoire after the peace treaty it brokered sparks riots in the nation. German unemployment and economic turmoil continue to rise, will be worsened by war in Iraq. Serbia and Montenegro set to become a looser confederation, thus ending the existence of Yugoslavia. European Court of Human Rights to hear allegations against Russia's intervention in Chechnya.

Middle East: Iraq signs new oil contracts with Russian countries, claims full cooperation with weapons inspectors. Human Rights Watch representatives to make first trip to Saudi Arabia. Dissident cleric in Iran freed from five years of house arrest to cheering crowds. Turkey sends forces to Iraqi border, although 80% of the population is opposed to war.

Science: Study says a lack of genetic variety could doom domestic bananas to extinction within 10 years. Plant-type genomes in malaria parasite could mean herbicides are key to new medicines for the disease. UN reports that years of conflict have devastated the forests, soil, and water resources of Afghanistan, decimated natural environment.

South Asia: Pakistani tribes disrupt gas pipeline, leaving thousands without heat during South Asian cold snap. Rebels in eastern India massacre Bengali settlers to influence upcoming regional elections. New government in Indian Kashmir to train all Kashmiri, volunteer security force. Bhutan begins political action to become world's first "smoke free" nation. Maoist rebels in Nepal offer a ceasefire, government stops referring to them as "terrorists." 7,000 Bangladeshis charged with vigilante eye-gouging of suspected criminals.

The Monitor

Campus Collective
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Volume 9, Number 6

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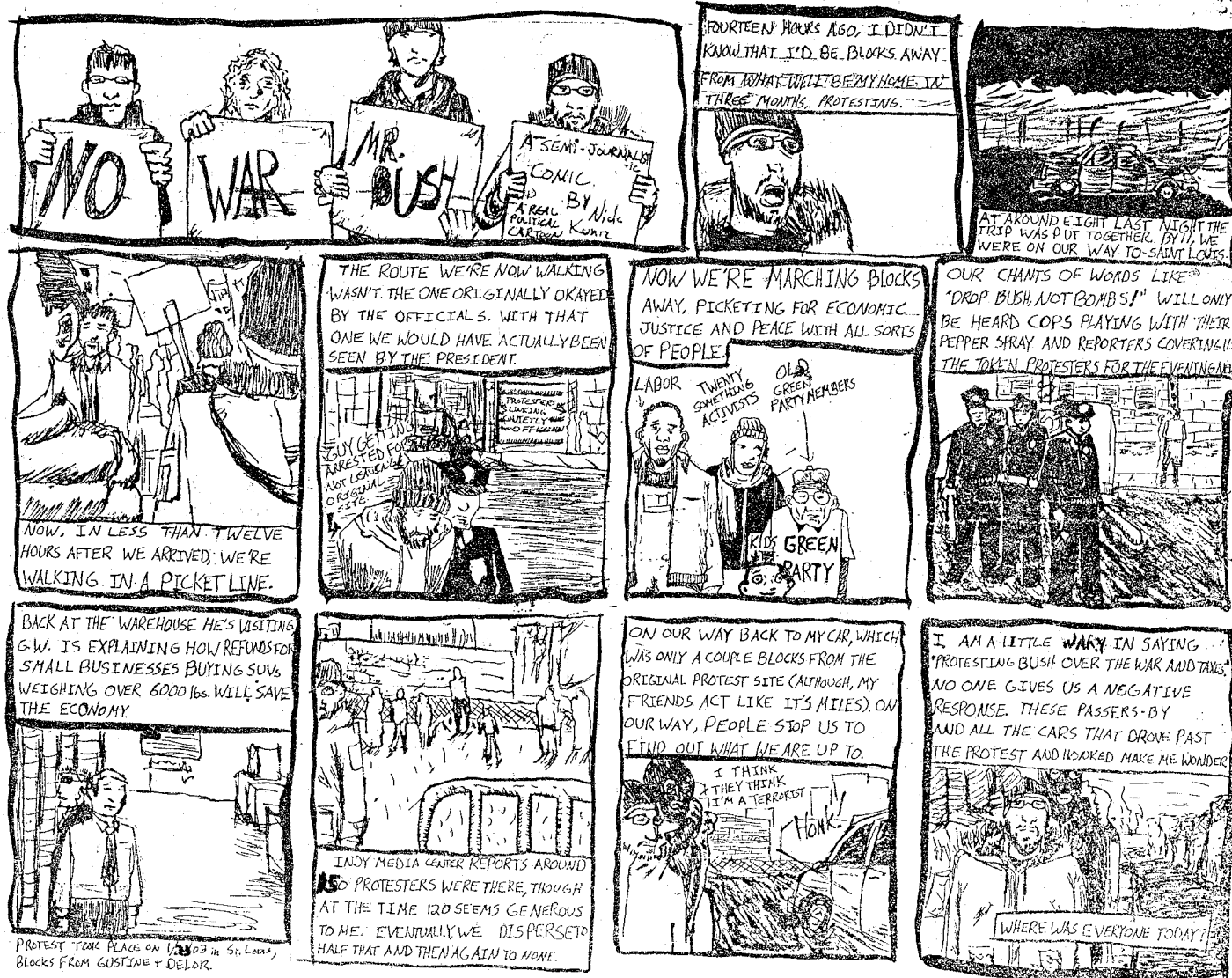
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The Monitor is published every other Tuesday. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 p.m. in BH 249. Each writer is responsible for his or her own work.

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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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L E T T E R

Monitor

Got something to say? Write a letter to *The Monitor*. Letters signed to be considered for publication. Send to *The Monitor* mailbox in the CSI, or email us at monitor@csi.edu. Letters may be edited for length.

Creation debate heats up

"Wow," as a beloved friend of mine is jokingly wont to exclaim! The "Freethinkers" versus TSU "Creationists" row is really getting added, fiery heat on this campus, in our own community's own ongoing culture-war equivalent battle status: to influence our way of thinking. Once, note, such quarrels were confined to the humble, here, *Monitor* columns. But, as is truly the imitatory of such great pioneering ventures as represented in this avant garde paper's agenda, now warfare between the two factions has escalated into last semester's Index-equivalent, exclusive columns!

It's intense: it's bitter: many instructors are even "fearful" of its implications, are wishing that retiring TSU president J. Gruder had not been so foolish as to grace the side of the inflaming controversy, as he deably did when he chose, while still serving in this office, to publicly address a Student Campaign-for-Christ rally on "why he was a Christian" (see lamented, no-longer-published, *The Whitehouse*, a past front page!). Supposing, for every instance, that you are a German or French instructor trying to teach, openmindedly, existentialism, or, indeed, in Spanish, an American revolutionary philosophy or Brazilian Portuguese subversive "sex" cinema,

do you want intolerant American Creationist "walkouts" and such "boycott" student events greeting your very starting efforts, much as the local anti-TSU "Choice" redneck householders intimidate poor women into unwanted pregnancies with their fierce poster displays?!

The sad fate of Kansas education, worldwide publicised, shows what can happen when, therefore, the Creationists get control - with their nonsense of teaching their "biblical" seven-days-and-nights creation view of human life's origins on our planet gaining "parity" with all forms of Darwinism. A result is that Kansas college students receive devalued degrees and professors teach devalued courses in what now is such a proudly backward state.

To a rational Christian Englishman, well aware of Darwin's own similar background, and of his greatness, even his polemical majesty, in using the English language to advocate it, the US creationist misuse of his name is doubly insulting, in its, frankly, balderdash ignorance - and that a TSU Creative Writing TA's skills should go to defend Creationist "parity," as happened in the last Index, bizarre!

Firstly, Darwin was *not* a promoter of the notion (yes, authentically barbaric, I will concede), as the Creationists taunt, that human beings merit appraisal only on a "survival of the fittest species" basis. That ghastly notion,

so prominent in practice today, fact originates with a much later, eral claimed-"disciple" of his, Herbert Spencer. And it has been used to justify everything from Hitler's atrocities to present-day Asian sweat shop laissez-faire neglect of our so-called inferiorised from this sociologist's distinctive dogma.

However, Darwin himself thought we humans, with superior brain cells to dodos and fossils, capable of social, collective progress, which would, and could, often surmount our surroundings by the scientific mastering of "evidence!" In his own UK politics, he was thus, as the acclaimed BBC docudrama series brought out, a "Whig," perpetually engaged in verbal conflict with his Tory, Creationist Capt. Fitroy on their famous HMS Beagle voyage together in fossil-quest. Darwin explicitly supported state education monetary support at a time, 1833, when most of the upper classes resented such "betterment" interference with their labourers' alleged "natural" cretinism. Darwin also personally educated the progressive politician and his Kent county neighbour, Sir John Lubbock, to not only respect and admire the biology of insects and fauna, but also to give shop workers their still-surviving state "bank" holiday in the UK - a holiday from else-constant Thatcherite-

by which he... ab slaughter of Arg... by US-backed "cowbo... sm! In conclusion: a pity Jack... or a scientist, in setting off today's Creationist, anti-Darwinist fanatics in the index and even among TSU instructional staff, alas you may ultimately have ruined the twenty-first-century integrity of both TSU future science degrees and philosophy/theology teaching in closed-minds backwardness for good! A shame, indeed, on behalf of my lady and fellow Christian, Jewish and Moslem progressive friends and the whole tradition from Moorish medieval Spanish and North African learning: of reconciliation between both "science" and "belief" alike, in real intellectual advance spirit for 2003!

Sincerely,
Larry Iles

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O P I N I O N S

monitor

Thirty years since Roe v. Wade: Let's not turn back the clock

Opinion by | Dr. Linda Seidel

This past January marked the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision to declare unconstitutional state laws that criminalized abortion. Already, anti-abortion activists have decorated "pro-life" church lawns with pink and blue flags mourning the deaths of the "unborn." Abortion-rights activists, rightly wary of putting people off with the equally gruesome imagery of the coat hanger or the knitting needle, have not launched a counter-attack. Yet, I suspect, both groups take abortion rights for granted, which is to say that many of their members have no clear image of what life was like before abortions were legal in this country.

"But," I hear you protest, "we have heard those stories about women who almost bled to death or died of infection after their illegal abortions. We don't need you to spell it out for us." Maybe you don't, but the story makes a difference if you're not hearing it second-hand—if you're hearing it from one of the older girls in your dorm, as I did when I was in college. The other fearsome image I grew up with was the "shotgun marriage," imposed on my 16-year-old cousin Joan and her boyfriend when she became pregnant. Perhaps it is not surprising that in my youth I naively assumed that pregnancy was about the worst thing that could happen to an unmarried woman.

This overblown fear of mine could not simply be attributed to my own immaturity (which I do not deny), but was also a product

of a society that wished to control the expression of female sexuality. Controlling female sexuality was, of course, hardly a new thing in the '50's and '60's; Margaret Sanger risked imprisonment to distribute birth control information (which was labeled "obscene") in the early years of the 20th century. The disturbing thing is that the current U.S. administration appears to want to return to those bad old days of preaching abstinence, demonizing "fast girls," and denying women our reproductive rights.

I have often thought that forcing a woman into motherhood against her will is rather like the military draft. In both situations, the unwilling recruit is made to risk her or his life and to yield up service she or he had not bargained for. The draft is not popular. The only reason to have one is to preserve a society that might otherwise cease to exist. Similarly, if our population were wiped out by disease or war, perhaps an imperative to bear children might be imposed on women. But, in a world more at risk from over-population than the reverse, can we afford to force women to be mothers if their hearts and minds compel them otherwise?

Until the opponents of abortion do everything in their power to see to it that every woman of child-bearing age has safe, affordable access to the forms of birth-control she needs, I must conclude that their concerns lie not primarily with saving life, but with mandating what I and other women should and should not do with our bodies. Roe v. Wade affirms that it is none of their business. Let's not turn back the clock.

Shortage of integrity, not natural gas, leads to price gouging, enormous profits

Opinion by | Bob Fisch

In June of 2001, The Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) held a meeting at the University of Missouri at St. Louis. The purpose of the meeting was to assure the public that nothing could have been done to alleviate the high natural gas prices that the public had endured during the previous heating season. That winter, having been one of the coldest and most expensive winters in recent history, was winter 2000-2001.

People reported triple and quadruple increases in gas prices charged by Laclede Gas Company leaving consumers paying as much as \$500 to \$600 per family household and hitting the poor retired and low income the worst, and this problem was not restricted to Missouri alone. All states in the union suffered the same fate from local distributors.

The PSC claimed that the problem was coming from the well head where drillers had not invested profits in new wells and equipment therefore creating a shortage, and that it was in accordance with the law that distributors had the right to pass increases along to consumers.

However during this meeting, the PSC passed out a document that was issued by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), known as (Notice Of Inquiry) or the N.O.I. Managers

Report docket number 01- NOI-1 presented to Tomas E. Kennedy April 17 th. 2001.

In this report the ICC fails to assess blame for the high prices, and further claims that no market manipulation had been reported. However, it is clear that certain energy company's had directly contributed in the increase in prices. Dynergy, (you may remember) is a company that was poised to buy Enron, until Dynergy found out about how Enron had doctored their books to make it appear as though they were solvent. When the purchaser found out about the bogus bookkeeping practice Dynergy backed out of the deal.

It now appears in all probability that Dynergy may not have been able to afford to buy Enron unless it had increased it earnings nearly five times over during the winter in question. And the report goes on to claim that this is just one of 600 such companies that do this type of business in the United States. According to the report, Dynergy claimed a profit of \$94,000,000 the year before the alleged price gouging took place and \$494,000,000 after that heating season. They effectively increased their profit by five times, while millions of Americans struggled to pay their heating bills.

These energy companies are those that buy natural gas at the wellhead for 25 cents per cubic foot and sell to the distributors such as

Advocating women's rights is not passé

Opinion by | Erica Willes

People call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute.

—Rebecca West, 1913

Negative connotations persist surrounding the concept of feminism. Although by definition it simply means seeking political and social equality for women, the immediate images that spring to mind are generally of angry man-haters. At my university, when I tell acquaintances that I attend feminist meetings or programs, I feel the need to answer questions with, "Yes, I am a feminist, but . . ." This activity shouldn't necessitate a clause for clarification. Feminism does not encourage disrespect for men nor condemn stay-at-home mothers or traditional values, but instead it focuses on choices.

Advocating women's rights is often viewed as passé. Many individuals contest the view that women still suffer from disadvantages. Studies show, however, that women still earn an average of 76 cents on the dollar for completing the same work as a man (Bowler, Mary. "Women's Earnings: An Overview." Monthly Labor Review Online. December 1999. Vol. 122, No. 12). This mindset presents an especially dangerous situation because individuals consider the situation resolved when, in all actuality, it still demands much more attention. This perception that nothing more must be done results in a lackadaisical attitude and inaction.

The Constitution of the United States of America entitles me to nothing. Congress never ratified the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and only impermanent legislation prohibits discrimination against me. Some conservatives claim the passage of the ERA would mandate same sex marriages (Phyllis Schlafly,

Eagleforum.org). The ERA, however, pertains to sex discrimination, not sexual preferences, and despite the fact that 21 states currently have equal rights guarantees, no state recognizes same-sex marriages.

In addition, claims that single-sex restrooms would no longer be allowed have been voiced, but the constitutional right to privacy would supersede the ERA in this case. Others assert the passage of the ERA would mandate taxpayer-funded abortions; however, numerous states with their own ERAs, Pennsylvania, for example, have demonstrated there is no correlation between these two issues. In spite of these things, great opposition persists against stating in our nation's constitution that I, as a woman, am entitled to certain rights.

What many individuals have portrayed as a threat to American moral fiber is, in reality, a fundamental component of America's future. If we as a nation wish to address persisting discrimination against women and the impermanence of current law, as well as bolster the international status of the United States with respect to women, then the passage of the ERA remains vital.

The ERA merely offers insight into issues currently facing women in the United States. Its passage would certainly not resolve all problems women encounter, but it would offer a starting point.

"Because woman's is work is never done and is underpaid or unpaid or boring or repetitious and we're the first to get fired and what we look like is more important than what we do and if we get raped it's our fault and if we get beaten we must have provoked it [...] for lots and lots of other reasons [I am] part of the women's movement." (Feminist Majority Foundation Website)

Laclede Gas of St. Louis for one dollar per cubic foot, quadrupling the price of gas as they make massive profits on their puny investments. This practice is known as trading futures on the Mercantile Exchange, or MEX, of New York. My estimate is that this fleecing ran consumers about 300 Billion Dollars and may be compared to the savings and loan scandal. Remember, the S&L scandal was headed up by Bush Jr.'s brother at Silverado of Texas.

It's interesting to note that nowhere in the country did any distributor deny any consumers natural gas based on the fact that there were out of gas. The reason that they would shut off your gas was because you were unable to pay; in other words, they had plenty of gas to sell. This leads me to believe that there was no shortage of gas, just a shortage of integrity on the part of the energy companies and politicians.

There was a time in America that such a thing was impermissible due to regulation. However, in recent times politicians that take campaign contributions from these energy companies have re-regulated the statutes governing such companies to allow such corruption. This leads us back to the problem of Campaign Finance reform.

Carol Jean Mays, a democrat from Independence Mo. that sat as chairperson of the

energy committee, took about \$43,000 in one election cycle from energy companies. That's not to mention all the other politicians that sat on this committee with her. And the summer after, this same committee was talking about de-regulating the electrical industry.

Most any politician in office is glad to repeat the phrase that the issue of campaign finance is dead, but to loyal Americans this is an issue that has left the country morally and financially bankrupt.

As far as the market manipulation having not been reported to the PSC. I do believe that if I were going to rob a bank, that I would not call the police in advance and tell them what I was going to do. That is, if you believe that you may equate the Public Service Commission to the police department. Final note: the PSC was so afraid to face the public at the meeting that they called, that they did not show in person; instead, they sent their secretaries.

For a copy of the Illinois Commerce Commission managers report call the Commissioners Chief Clerk's office at 217-782-7434, and ask for Notice of Inquiry Docket #—01-NOI-01, dated April 17, 2001. The price is about \$25.00 or 25 cents per page: The price for free information.

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“Liberal arts” should imply freedom to study what one wishes

Opinion by | Dr. Dennis Leavens

Early in December, I stopped by a colleague’s office. He asked, wistfully, “Interdisciplinary majors were available ay my undergraduate institution thirty years ago. Why all the fuss about getting them started at Truman?”

A day or two later I stopped by another colleague’s office for a cup of coffee. In his typically insightful, half-humorous, half-serious tone, he asked, “Why do we have majors at all?”

The questions about majors – what are they, why we have them, where they come from, what good they are, etc. – are common to both these quotes, and central to the dimensions of the LSP and any vision of liberal arts.

The short answer to the first of these questions seems to be our reluctance to trust each other. The mood on campus, often painfully visible at Undergraduate Council, is that no one is to be trusted, not students, not faculty, not administrators. While this absence of trust is not the subject of this piece, it goes into the second question.

The short answer to the second question, “Why do we have majors at all?” is Charles William Eliot. But a few words about the “liberal arts tradition” are necessary to provide context.

The “liberal arts” refers to an ancient European educational tradition, going back to the Greeks, with the phrase itself coming from the Romans. The “liberal” part identifies its availability to free men (literally – women not having access to this form of education), and distinguished it from the “mechanical arts”; those trainings dealing with occupations, trades, and manual work. In some measure a visual reminder of this division appears in, say, the separation of Kirksville High School from the Kirksville

Area Vocational-Technical School.

The goal of liberal arts education in its inception and for a thousand years afterwards was precisely training rich men’s minds for the joy of mental activity, for the love of learning itself and not for any practical or vocational use. Of course, rich men did not have to work, so they had the leisure to pursue knowledge for its own sake.

For its next thousand years, roughly the European Middle Ages, the “liberal arts” became codified into seven branches of knowledge. The first, “lower” division was training in the language arts, the trivium – grammar, rhetoric, and logic. This was followed by education in the “higher” division, the quadrivium, which focused on the mathematical sciences – arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music. A residue of this structure resides in the format of the SAT and the general GRE, which focus on language and basic mathematical skills.

Language arts and mathematics are central to the liberal arts tradition. People who ask why there is so much math in the LSP identify their ignorance about that tradition. There may be practical, personal, or other reasons not to have math occupy a central position in a liberal arts curriculum, but any historical argument can only be looked at on a very short time-line.

So for 2400 years in the European tradition, one didn’t “major” in anything. Students went to college to study, typically the European classics: Greek, Latin and Hebrew. Expressions one hears daily at this University were unknown. No one identified himself by saying “I’m a _____ major.” No faculty member said “Our majors don’t need x, y and z.”

This changed for American education after the Civil War. The explosion of knowledge in the nineteenth century – the social and natural sciences did not exist as independent disci-

plines until that century – coupled to an increasing call to utilitarian and vocational university education, led to a transformation in the curriculum.

In his 1869 inaugural address as president of Harvard College, Charles Eliot changed the shape of college education: “With good methods we may confidently hope to give young men of twenty to twenty-five an accurate general knowledge of all the main subjects of human interest, beside a minute and thorough knowledge of one subject which each may select as his principal occupation in life” (cited in Gary Miller, *The Meaning of General Education*, Teachers College, Columbia University: New York, p. 15).

I doubt if any college president would make such a bold claim that undergraduate education about “all the main subjects of human interest” nor “a minute and thorough knowledge of one subject.” But the result was the break in the curriculum we now accept as normal. Then as now, when Harvard changes its curriculum, others attend, and the move to the general education-major program we all know became entrenched.

But there is nothing necessary or essential about that structure in liberal arts education. In truth, to use a familiar image, if the history of liberal arts is seen as 24 hours on a clock, there is no such thing as a “major” until 11 pm. Put as a percentage, majors have existed about 4.2 percent of the time that there has been such a thing as liberal arts.

Of course, we live in different times with significant practical motivations for attending college. But shouldn’t a “premier liberal arts” institution allow at least two additional options for our very able students?

First, if students want a major, shouldn’t they be allowed to design their own with ap-

propriate direction? Seen historically, the interdisciplinary major proposal is, in our vernacular, a “no-brainer,” since the vast history of liberal arts was, seen from our perspective, and by almost any definition, interdisciplinary.

Second, shouldn’t students be allowed, in the grand nineteenth-century German liberal arts tradition, *Lernfreiheit* – “the freedom to study what one wishes”? Shouldn’t a student be allowed to take, say, 124 hours of whatever she wishes, and get a liberal arts degree, without a “major” at all? Various restrictions could apply, distribution, sixty-three hours of “liberal arts and sciences,” 40 hours of 300 or above level courses (as indeed restrictions did apply in the history of liberal arts education).

The corollary to giving students the freedom to study what they like was also articulated by the nineteenth-century German educational theorists: *Lehrfreiheit*, the freedom to teach what one wishes. We have made much progress here, though more in some disciplines than in others. Why not extend similar freedoms to students?

These are questions for our community and our vision. On the one hand, we need to be historically connected to our identity as a liberal arts institution, otherwise we run the risk of defining our mission idiosyncratically, or in the common phrase, false advertising. On the other hand, we need to meet the vocational and practical demands of our students.

Nothing in either of these options prevents these two goals. Both are clearly in the historical tradition. A student who chooses an interdisciplinary major or no major at all – but simply pursues knowledge for its own sake – serves as a superb reminder and example of the University’s mission, identity and legacy.

F E A T U R E S

monitor

Supreme Court to hear Texas gay sodomy case

Feature by | Kevin Chase

Towards the end of last year, the US Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal of a criminal homosexual sodomy conviction. The case, *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas*, has the potential to overturn same-sex sodomy laws in four states, including part of Missouri (for more on the law in Missouri, see the end of the article), which have withstood legislative and judicial attempts to repeal them.

The facts of the case are relatively simple. Texas police officers responded to a false weapons disturbance/armed intruder report. In the process of doing so, they caught two Houston men having sex in the privacy of their own apartment, at night. Both men were arrested and fined \$200 for violating the Texas same-sex sodomy statute.

Lawrence and Garner are being represented by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a gay rights group that uses education, litigation, and lobbying to influence laws that negatively affect the GLBT community, as well as victims of HIV/AIDS.

Lambda attorneys are arguing that the Texas statute, in singling out homosexuals for punishment for oral and anal sex, is a direct violation of the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause. They argue that, since similar laws for heterosexual couples do not exist or are not enforced, in Texas and elsewhere, the defendants are being denied "equal protection of the law".

The case is factually similar to *Bowers v. Hardwick*, which the Supreme Court decided in 1986. In *Bowers*, attorneys for the defendant argued that his conviction should be overturned because the constitutionally protected right to privacy meant that he had a right to have private, consensual sex with another male without fear of prosecution.

In *Bowers*, the court ruled 5-4 that the public had a legitimate interest in protecting public morality by banning gay sex. The decision was extremely narrow, with one of the Justices in the majority implying that, had there been a stiffer criminal penalty than a fine, he would have voted to overturn the law.

Of course, the Supreme Court has changed considerably since it decided *Bowers*, with both new conservative and liberal members joining since 1986. It is unclear how this court will rule on the issue, but the fact that they have taken the case at all is an encouraging sign.

Interestingly, the Court of Appeals for the Eastern District of Missouri struck down Missouri's same-sex sodomy law for their district. Their ruling effectively makes homosexual intercourse legal in the entire district. The District includes Adair County, as well as the counties encompassing Columbia, Jefferson City and Kansas City. For a list of other County's within the District, see the Missouri Judicial System's website: <http://www.osca.state.mo.us/>

... and then karate skeletons just wailed on this shower dude

Feature by | Aaron Baker

Several months ago, whenever October was, last year I guess...was it last year? Yeah I guess it was...speaking of, did you go to that one Halloween party, I think it was in October, there was this guy dressed up like a shower, he had a curtain around him and a pipe complete with a shower head, I don't think it worked, but that's beside the point, but then there were these other guys at the party, I think they were in a fraternity or something, they were dressed up like skeletons and they knew karate, and they chased the shower kid out of the party and through this field, and they were climbing over this fence, I think one guy jumped over it, then this other guy climbed to the top, then he did a back-flip over the fence, and they started to wail on the shower guy, and one guy broke a window with his fist, and then this different guy, Scott I think, kicked the kid in the shower and made some vulgar joke about dropping soap (I could have made it pleasantly through the evening without hearing *that* comment), and then three guys kicked the shower guy at once, and I saw his bone come out of his arm, and then out of nowhere, there might have been some smoke involved, it happened really fast though, this

really old guy showed up, and he wailed on everybody, beat the crap out of all the fraternity guys and he almost punched the kid in the shower, but he stopped himself because he realized that that was the kid he was saving, he was at least 74...man, it was awesome!!!! Where was I? Oh yeah, in October I contributed a poignant story about my kitchen sink and about self-proclaimed sink uncloggers. What you don't realize is that that was only the beginning. I returned from the break, and my roommate, a new one no less, had already moved in and took it upon HIMSELF to decide that he wasn't quite satisfied with where I had decided to put my coffee maker, which I use *every* day no less, and which I had placed where I wanted it at the beginning of last semester, no less I might add, so I calmly rearranged MY kitchen, no less, but then, I guess to pour vinegar and salt and citric acid and balsamic vinegar and rice vinegar and rubbing alcohol, no less, into the wounds, I find food in my fridge that isn't mine, and (and this is a very important and) empty soda cans strategically placed throughout MY bedroom, which, I might add, I had closed the door to prior to leaving for break. So take my advice. I mean fuck.

HEY! ANYBODY CAN WRITE FOR THE MONITOR, YOU KNOW!
JUST SEND SUBMISSIONS TO MONITORRM@HOTMAIL.COM

Wednesday, 12 midnight: When the Managing Editor writes an Email that describes your credentials, or the lack of them, as impressive, you have got to live up to the generous words of flattery that he so lovingly bestows upon you. So, here I am, up at this unearthly hour searching for inspiration and a suitable subject to write.

Sometimes I curse the computer for having come into existence at all. Had there been no computers, I could have easily written what I might want to write with a pencil on paper. Inspiration too would have flown in easily, for chewing the tip of the pencil till you can't make out the top from the bottom, gives me inspiration unlimited. Writing now is out of question and I sometimes honestly wonder why my fingers tremble a little when I hold a pencil. It has nothing to do with the alcohol intake or the smoking like a chimney phenomenon—maybe it is what the computer has reduced me to. After all typing is so much easier than writing, and the big help that Microsoft Word is cannot be ignored. So, it has to be my roommate's comp, the absence of a pencil to chew on not withstanding.

Well, coming back to inspiration—a groggy head and constant knocks at the door are not the perfect circumstances that support writing. And when you hunt for inspiration, I heard a famous author remark, "You should go to a silent place." Silence! Would I find it here? No, by no means. What alternatives might I pick for myself? The lounge? A card game is in progress in there. My friend's room? There is a sup-

posed-to-be-private-but-almost-public display of affections going on in there. A silent room? The library? That might be silent, but then it was also time for the head-turner with those strawberry lips to come in, and a lack of concentration and inspiration do not actually go hand in hand. So, ten minutes, three cans of coke and a packet of Lay's later, I still have no inspiration in mind and no subject that I can write of.

Could I just write about the birds and bees, or maybe about teenage parent wars? Naah! These have been repeated to death and I wanted something different. Maybe I could address social issues. Wow! That might compel people to sit up and take notice of my writings. Who knows they might actually write feedbacks supporting my point of view? And just when I feel I have a germ of an idea in my brains, I get a call from

back home that has mom crying, dad emotional and sister excited. Family emotions! How I always loved but now hate them—and now my idea is gone along with the latest developments in my life that I so enthusiastically regaled my more-than-inquisitive family!

I could perhaps comment on problems faced by America. This I could, but then what would a person having practically no idea about any happening outside the University write about the country? Osama-bin-laden is a fine option, my friend opines.

"Who would want to read another write-up on that ass?" I ask. People want

something new, I reason with the air of an experienced writer, not quite knowing what I was saying. A new concept, I say.

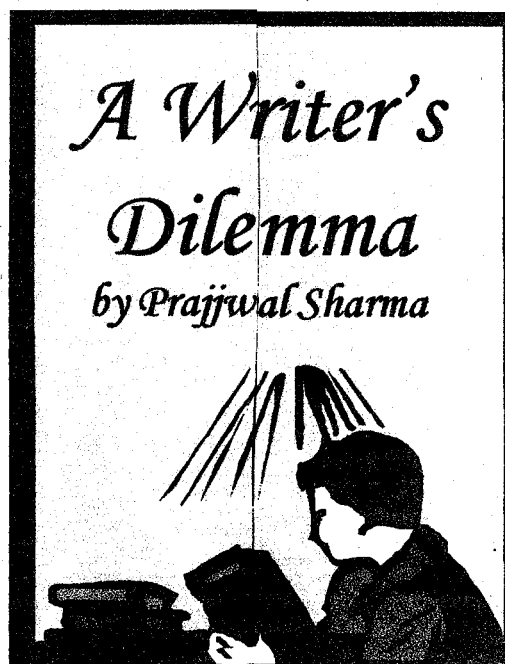
"Yes, writing is inborn," says this jerk-

of-a-friend of mine. He fancies himself as a poet and writes the most indifferent verses I have ever read, or heard. He talks about euphemisms and metaphors, about similes and hyperboles. And rhymes dove with stove and met with hate. So much for advices!

"Why don't I write on him?" I think. That would be a delightful social satire and people might enjoy it too. Of course, his name could be changed to protect identity. Fine, I begin well. And then realize that I don't have the heart to go on, for what I am writing is tilting more toward the malicious side rather than the humorous side. A commentator on somebody's character, no matter how detestable, I cannot be.

"Maybe I could write about having a college tabloid?" says this gossipmonger who lives three halls left and still has gossips of the three halls to my right. "What if I get bashed up for invading people's privacy and messing up with their lives?" I retort, trying my best to settle down on something relatively less dangerous.

Thursday 4 am: I am still looking for inspiration and a subject to write on. I still am—when the realization dawns. Writing is just not my cup of tea. In fact it is not everyone's cup of tea, said my ex-editor. What solace! And the quest for a suitable inspiration? Well that's just an excuse—the most common excuse for wannabe writers—who love to write. About things like not knowing what to write, that is.



THE MONGOLIAN DIARIES

Tales of a University graduate working in Mongolia for the Peace Corps
Feature by I Theresa Conley

It's funny how I travel to such a far away place, so far from anywhere that I know, and then I find myself amidst so much cultural diversity. It is almost as if, only in Mongolia can a Canadian, a couple of Americans, and a Jewish South African come together to meet for a lunch of greasy mutton hooshoor and salty milk tea. Only here.

"It is all so surreal," my South African friend said one day, as we sat in her *ger*.

It is surreal how I stop by to say hello, and the both of us are invited to a catered luncheon for all of the *amiag*'s school directors. All I wanted was a cup of tea and some mantou (steamed bread), and, well, we got much more than that. That seems to be a theme within all of this Mongolian surrealism: you get what you don't expect, and you get a lot of it.

In the morning I awake to a chilly 32° *ger*, my dishwater from the night before crusty with ice, and my nose chilled to the touch. I reach over, switch on my space heater (cheating device), and snuggle back into my sleeping bag. A bit later, I wiggle myself out and start my day.

Some days I don't even wiggle out, I just hop over to the hot plate fully encased in my sleeping bag, and put on some water for tea. Then, inevitably, I must get out to stoke the embers from the previous night's fire.

That is much how today started. I arose to a brisk, 20° C *ger*, with an aching body and a resurgence of the flu. As usual, today turned out to be not at all what I expected. It was a holiday, the Mongolian Independence Day, so I didn't have to go to work.

The day before I had asked, "What do people do to celebrate? Parades, parties...?" I was given the full spirited reply, "We drink!" Although I wasn't summoned to any vodka tournaments that day (and believe me, there seriously are tournaments), I had been entered in a basketball tournament of sorts that night.

At 5:00 pm, I was pulled down to my boss's office with little explanation (as I often am). I assumed I was needed to act as a translator for yet another miffed Pakistani falcon hunter, but alas, two overweight, middle-aged Mongolian men were there instead. They motioned to me, "Basketball!" (Miming: dribble, dribble, shoot!) "Six o'clock. Sport center. You and Khatnaa. Our team. Za?"

"Za, za," I said, with a disclaimer on my abilities.

I was to take the place of my boss as one of the two women on the team. The tournament was part of a "bosses" theme week (other aspects of which added to the overall surrealism of life for awhile). As Khatnaa and I warmed up on the Russian-made floor of the sport center, I suppose I did dazzle a few older women with my decidedly unfeminine sportsmanship, and impressed (or raised the eyebrows of) others with our camaraderie.

The four games we played were fun, and intense in that Russian-communist kind of way. Khatnaa and I left sore and sleepy – not up for the discos that night. As we staggered home, sharing fig cookies, I thought about how much I would miss him when I leave. Already thinking about that. It's surreal that I will have friends here that will have so many experiences with me that I will never see again.

As another installment of this "week of bosses," there was a concert featuring all of the bosses of this *amiag* center (state capital), showcasing their best singing and dancing abilities. A sort of "let's all watch our bosses sing traditional songs" sort of event. Thoroughly exciting. Seriously intense. So intense, in fact, that I was shoved into a Mongolian mosh pit of sorts, that could compete with that of any major rock show in the states.

I pushed my way out with a bit of disbelief and headed off with my co-worker to recruit ecology teachers for our (five time postponed) ecology-training seminar the next morning. That's how it goes here: last minute and an hour late (sometimes a week late, like the seminar), and more often than not, unprepared for (the teachers had to be taught ecology...).

So I woke up today, Independence Day, sore and only a little disappointed in our third-place finish. I am happy for the long absent exercise during this cold weather, though. Ready for some more, I bundled up in my REI clothing and headed off to the market, pleasantly surprised to see some kiwis and bell peppers, and eventually I made my way to the red-roofed store that I frequent.

The surreal things about today's visit were the boxes that the woman working there pulled out from the back room. One was a box of Russian face-lift *crème*. The other, well, it was a clitoral stimulation *crème*...

With a smile, she asked me if I needed some. "No, I don't need it, I don't have a boyfriend." She smiled even wider. "That's okay, you still can!" Hmmm. With that grin on her face, all I could do was laugh and move on to look for the bullion cubes I had originally gone in to find. At least woman's lib is hitting Mongolia.

Moving from one surreal experience to the next, the previous afternoon a couple of Mongolian men had interrupted my lunch on the windowsill in the hallway by my office (There is only one key, so we make do when the key-holder decides not to show up.).

"San baino," (Hello, how are you?), the conversation begins, progressing rapidly from there. The next thing I know, this guy is asking me to make babies with him. Actually, that's rather common here. The conversation usually goes like this:

Hello, what's your name? (Tereza)... Where are you from? (Amerik)... Do you have a husband? (oogiu, no)... Do you have children? (oogiu, no)... Why not? (I don't need them, I am too young)... Do you want kids? Let us two make kids... Then... what can you really say to that? I just look at him as his head is bobbing up and down, and I shake my own and continue with my lunch.

I guess surrealism all comes into perspective here. I wake up to freezing temperatures in my little, 10-foot diameter tent every morning and really don't think anything about it. I just whittle some kindling and start my day. As for the outhouse... Well, now I know a nice outhouse when I see one. The freezing cold of winter, the scorching heat of summer, the blowtorching of marmots for lunch... It all comes into perspective and becomes just another day on the steppe.

As I snuggle into my sleeping bag this evening, with a cup of hot chocolate, a fire crackling, and my R&B tunes in the background, I think about everything. The fine coating of firewood-borne slivers that now covers my body, and the multiple pairs of wool socks become just a part of everyday existence.

The same goes for storekeepers offering my clitoral stimulation *crème*, communist basketball tournaments, and men asking me to make babies with them. To some, it may be surreal; to me it's just another Mongolian day – always full of what you don't expect, and a lot of it!

Newman Center hosts peace vigil

Story by I Nicole Rainey

At 2:00 am on Tuesday, the Catholic Newman Center held a peace vigil that they intend to repeat every four hours until they're content that the situation in the Middle East will be settled without the use of violence. That means that every single day at 2:00, 6:00, and 10:00 am and pm, folks from the Newman Center and the general community will brave the cold to gather in front of the center and express their passion for peace.

Taking on a project of such huge proportions may seem daunting, but the Newman Center kids are confident and excited. Yesterday evening at 6:00, despite the nasty cold and cutting wind, eight people gathered to sing "Let There be Peace on Earth", read Gandhi quotes, and recite prayers from Jewish, Islamic and Catholic traditions.

The driving force behind sharing a desire for peace with the larger Kirksville community is the Newman Center's priest, Father Bill.

Todd Rucker, a University junior, explained that "Father Bill is really passionate about promoting peace, and he really spearheaded this."

Father Bill's energy for sharing the message of peace with the community seems to be contagious. Senior Sarah Naeger explained that she was motivated to participate in the vigils "because we're in the community taking a stand on an issue that should be spoken out on."

Rucker adds, "I'm excited because Catholic Christians are enthusiastic about an issue that's important to me—as Christians we are called to action."

Anyone from the community, Christian or not, is invited to come participate in this action and share their thoughts and prayers for the promotion of peace.

The Newman Center is located at 709 S. Davis. For more information, email newmanspiritual@hotmail.com, or visit www.kirksvillenewman.org.

Rock climbing club hangin' tough all year

Feature by I Josh Sisson

Rock climbing is a pretty demanding, but very rewarding sport. It requires some attributes such as strength, endurance, agility, and obviously, being comfortable with heights. One might assume that being in a place like Kirksville would make it difficult to go on rock climbing excursions, but that is not true. There is a club for climbing enthusiasts right here on campus.

The Truman State Rock Climbing Club, consisting of about 25 members, has been in existence for a little over three years. I spoke with Seth Graber, a senior who has been a member of the club for over a year. He told me that the club meets once every two weeks, but the meetings are not mandatory. Usually, the club will go on four to six rock climbing trips per semester. In the past they have traveled to places such as Columbia and St. Louis, Mis-

souri; Sand Stone, Arkansas; and Bloomington, Indiana. About half of the climbing destinations are indoor facilities, while the others are outdoors. Like most climbers, Seth prefers the outdoor climbs, but they're all fun.

Everyone is welcome to participate and be a member of the rock climbing club. You don't have to have any experience or any kind of climbing credentials. Part of the club's purpose is to help climbers improve, regardless of experience or skill. One more advantage of being a club member is that it's cheaper. Climbing can get expensive if you go alone or in a small group, but if you just pay the club fee, you will save a considerable amount of cash. There are still several climbing trips coming up, so if you're looking for a good time, keep the rock climbing club in mind.

V-Day activities start next week

Story by I Suzanne Chappelowe

Around the world, at least one in three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in some way – most often by someone she knows (United Nations Population Fund). Also, somewhere in America, a woman is raped every ninety seconds (US Department of Justice).

The Women's Resource Center will be sponsoring a host of events this year in honor of the fifth annual V-Day celebration on February 14. V-Day is a worldwide day set aside to raise awareness and funds to help end violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation, and sexual slavery. The V stands for Vaginas, Valentine, and Victory.

The hope of V-Day participants is to see a world where women live safely and freely. When the violence stops, girls and women will be allowed to be born in China, India, and

Korea; swim in Iran; keep their clitoris in Africa and Asia; vote in Kuwait; walk in the park at midnight in America; play with toys and not being sold as them in Asia, America, and Europe; love their bodies; and last, but most certainly not least, enjoy sex.

People of all genders and backgrounds are encouraged to participate in the V-Week activities, which include: "Vaginal Art and Writing Workshop" on Monday, February 10, 7-10 pm in the SUB Down Under; "V-Day Benefit Concert", a free concert featuring local bands on Tuesday, February 11, 7-10 pm in the Ryle Hall Main Lounge; "The Vagina Monologues", (\$2 tickets can be purchased at the Women's Resource Center Feb. 10-14) on Friday, February 14 at 8 pm in the Baldwin Hall Auditorium; and "Student Written Monologues" on Saturday, February 15 at 8 pm in the SUB Alumni Room.

REVIEWS

monitor

The Sun reinvent rock with *Love & Death**Love & Death* [EP]

The Sun

Warner/Reprise Records

Review by Cameron Moore

When I first met one Mr. Chris Burney, I was in eighth grade. I was the new kid in the skateboard posse, and Chris, whom we called "Burney" at the time, wasn't too welcoming. In fact, he was quite a jerk. But as weeks turned into months turned into years, our skateboard posse grew up and we all moved past our junior high differences to forge friendships that would last a lifetime. And although it would have been easy to stay in St. Louis and get jobs and drink Busch beer together every night with the posse, all of us have moved on to bigger and better things.

And this last statement couldn't be truer for "Burney," who now finds himself leading a band of misfit garage-rockers out of Columbus, Ohio called The Sun.

Now, I'm not going to pretend that I'm not biased here. Most music critics are supposed to be biased; that's why they are interesting to read. My bias is not, however, one that is predisposed to praise The Sun's major label release *Love & Death* just because I've



known the front-man for several years, so much as it is one that can see where said front-man has been, and how far he has come from the utter mundane lifelessness of North County, St. Louis.

From the opening scream of "Fell so Hard," the first track of the *Love & Death* EP, it is apparent that The Sun is here to rock. And as this short six-song EP finishes off in a flash of whirlwind-lightning-70s-rock-stomp, it is also apparent that The Sun is here to stay.

On the heels of bands like The Strokes and The Vines, The Sun brings a sound reminiscent of The Rolling Stones and The Velvet Underground into a modern era of rock and roll experimentation.

Recorded in just one weekend (days after being signed to Warner Brothers Records), *Love and Death* is an erratic taste of the last few years of Burney's life, which were spent on the road, playing bass for artists such as Tim Easton, Victoria Williams and Lou Reed.

After a short bidding war between record

companies, The Sun immediately went to record their EP with former Wilco member Jay Bennett in his home studio in Chicago.

In addition to Burney's singing and guitar playing, Sam Brown of the New Bomb Turks plays drums, while Brad Forsblom and

foot-stomping ruckus, each scream of Burney's, each scream of the guitar, shakes something inside of you a little more loose. By the end of the disc, what's left in the place of the shambles of tired nu-rock and formulaic Top 40 pop is nothing but the gleaming essence of pure rock and

roll, a heart transplant for an industry desperately in need of one.

"We've got to... got to clean it up / We've got to... got to carry it all," Burney sings in "Carry it All," a song with just as much anger and resentment as newfound hope in a



Bryan Arendt play guitar and bass on the EP. The four of them combine to make a disc that sounds like it is years ahead of its time, and was yet somehow born about 30 years past due.

Combining elements of 70s rock with a dash here of synthesizer and a dash there of

world that seems hell bent on self destruction.

Love & Death hit stores yesterday, February 4, and may possibly have a video on MTV2 in the near future. In the meantime, check out <http://www.thesunband.com> for some songs from the EP and info on their current tour of the Midwest.

Eclectics

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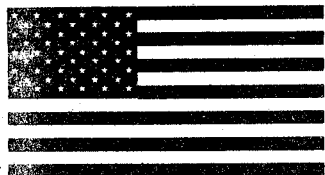
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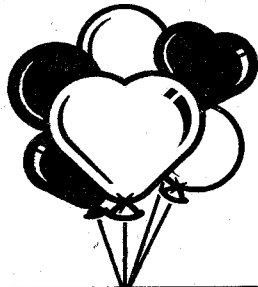


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net (Q & A) metering

by Bob Fisch

Reverend Larry Rice is attempting to introduce a bill onto the Missouri House of Representatives floor, asking for the passage of the net metering Initiative and reverend Rice has published the following statement.

"The prime and major reason to insist on net metering is to secure the individual's right to make and distribute electric power."

Q & A's:

Q. What is net metering?

A. In 36 states consumers can install small, grid connected renewable energy systems to reduce their electric bills using a protocol called net metering. Electricity produced by the renewable energy system can flow into the utility grid, spinning the existing electric meter backwards. Other than the renewable energy system, no special equipment is needed.

Consumers can use the electricity they produce to offset their electricity demands instantaneously. However, if the consumer happens to produce excess electricity, beyond what is needed to meet the customer's own requirements at the moment, electric companies purchase the excess electricity at wholesale price, as opposed to the much higher retail price. Net metering simplifies this arrangement by allowing the consumer to use their excess electricity to offset electricity used at other times during the billing period at the same rate that the utility company charges.

Q. Why is net metering important?

A. There are three reasons that net metering is important. (1) As increasing numbers of residential customers install renewable energy systems, there needs to be a simple, standardized protocol for connecting their systems into the electric grid. (2) Many residential customers are not at home during the day, when their systems are producing power. Net metering allows them to receive full value for the power they produce without installing expensive battery storage systems. (3) Net metering provides a simple, inexpensive mechanism for encouraging the use of renewable energy systems that provide local, national, and global benefits.

Q. What are the benefits and cost of net metering?

A. Net metering provides a variety of benefits for both utility companies and consumers. Utility companies benefit by avoiding the administering and accounting cost of purchasing these small amounts of electricity. Consumers benefit by getting greater value for the electricity they produce, and the added attraction of semi-free and cleaner energy.

The initiative simply states that the customer should be given credit for the electricity they produce, at the utility companies' retail sale price, and that the utility companies may not purchase the additional electric created at wholesale cost.

The total savings for the customer (and corresponding revenue loss to the utility co.) will depend on a variety of factors, particularly the difference between the avoided cost and retail sales prices. In general, however, the difference between \$5.00 and \$10.00 a month for a residential-scale photovoltaic (PV) system is 2kW, and between \$25.00 and \$50.00 a month for a farm scale wind turbine is 10kW.

Moreover, any revenue losses associated with the initiative are least partially offset by the administering and accounting savings.

Q. Can I really use my existing meter to take advantage of net metering?

A. The standard meter used by a vast majority of residential and small commercial customers accurately registers the flow in either direction. This means that the netting process associated with net metering happens automatically. The meter spins forward when the customer needs more electric than is being produced and spins backwards when the consumer is producing more electricity than is needed.

Q. How can I be sure that these small-scale generating systems are safe?

A. During the last decade there have been many technological advancements in design in renewable energy. The major advancement has come in inverters which were originally designed to convert D.C. electric produced by solar panels and wind turbines to A.C. electricity. These devices have evolved into extremely sophisticated power management systems. Inverters now include all the necessary protective relays and circuit breakers needed to synchronize a safe and reliable utility grid. The system also provides a safeguard against a problem known as (islanding) by automatically shutting down when the grid suffers outage.

Moreover, this protective equipment operates automatically. Most new inverters comply with nationally recognized code and standards, including the National Electric Code (NEC), Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), and systems of this sort now operate safely in every state in the nation.

Q. What is the current status of net metering?

A. Currently 36 states have some form of net metering. Other nations that allow net metering include Germany, Japan, and Switzerland. In many states, net metering rules were enacted by state utility regulators pursuant to the net implement to the federal RURPA Statute. In recent years many states have enacted net metering legislation, including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

Final commentary: it should be noted that systems such as this, coupled with modern advances in lighting and heating have come close to making modern homes almost totally free of most cost associated with utility companies.

Reverend Rice's bill was submitted for support approval at the Jan. 5, 2003 State wide Green meeting, and was accepted unanimously. Now Reverend Rice may prevail upon the Green party to help collect signatures. He has stated that we are not alone in this battle, and that he has a system for collecting signatures all over the state but still needs our help. Reverend Rice will attempt to kick off his drive for signatures on March 1.

Queen Astra



the Queen

*Let the
stars be your guide!*

Virgo [Aug. 24-Sept. 23]

Most adults don't behave in that fashion.

Scorpio [Oct. 24-Nov. 22]

Did you see the Lord of the Rings Extended Version? There's that scene in the end where Aragorn is fighting that Uruk chief, who, incidentally, wasn't in the books, and he stabs him in the leg, and then the orc pulls out the knife and proceeds to lick it before he throws it at Aragorn. It was so disgusting I giggled twice.

Leo [July 25-Aug. 23]

Haunted you will be by the ghost of Edna St. Vincent Milay when you declare your intentions to write a biography on the poet to follow your stunning biography of Zelda Fitzgerald, and then publish it a whopping twenty years later.

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 20]

If you stop wearing your retainer now, the progress you made during those years of orthodontic treatment will be worthless in two years. Just ask any ethnocentric American who hates the British.

Aries [March 21-April 20]

Like two in the ditch is worth mud besides the basement.

Aquarius [Jan. 21-Feb. 19]

It's really only a matter of time before Joe Millionaire is torn to shreds by a tornado [get the pun, torn by a "torn"ado?] of fingernails and teeth. At least that's what Burt Reynolds would have you think...

Sagittarius [Nov. 23-Dec. 21]

While you may publicly dismiss Christina Aguilera's sassy new behaviour, we all know that privately you're really excited.

Cancer [June 22-July 24]

But really, how did you expect me to react when I found him reading Cosmo. I wanted to laugh, so fucking sue me.

Taurus [April 21-May 22]

Nonplussed will you be when you discover the dreaded "I'm going to punch you in the back of the head and run like hell" bully naked, shivering on the side of the road, muttering something about having wasted his life and how he could have been the next Sondheim, but chances are he meant Spielberg.

Gemini [May 23- June 21]

I was going to use this spot to advertise for my landlord because he's a nice guy, but I'll instead advertise for Domino's: Three medium pizzas, one topping each, \$13.99. Get the door; it's Dominos...or that mail-order bride you ordered as a joke. Boy, I bet she's going to think that this is hysterical.

Libra [Sept. 24-Oct. 23]

Reconsider you life and/or your values you will when you openly declare that I am getting lazy when I decide that numbers and vowels might be amusing.

Pices [Feb. 20-Mar. 20]

Man, a little red wine and you can really whip these fuckers out.

Buccaneers make it obvious: defense wins championships

Feature by I Josh Sisson

Some very interesting storylines surrounded this year's Super Bowl between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Oakland Raiders. The same burning questions were asked over and over. Would John Gruden, head coach of the Bucs, be able to beat the team he used to coach, or as Gruden refers to them, "my former employers," the Raiders?

Which coaching strategy would prove to be superior? Would it be the aggressive and intimidating antics of John Gruden, or the more laid back and less glamorous approach of Bill Callahan, who was the offensive coordinator under Gruden when he was with the Raiders?

Finally, perhaps the greatest source of debate among the fans and the media, who would win between the Bucs' top ranked defense against the top ranked offense of the Raiders? Would National Football League MVP Rich Gannon be able to lead his team to victory over NFL defensive Player of the Year Derrick Brooks and company? After last Sunday's game we all knew the answers.

The game started out the way I expected it would. Both offensive units had difficulty getting on track. Bucs quarterback Brad Johnson threw an early interception, which led to a Raider field goal to put them in front 3-0.

Tampa was able to respond with a field goal of their own, to make the game even again. It was established early by the Tampa defense that Rich Gannon, Raider quarterback, would not be allowed to get comfortable. Warren Sapp, Simion Rice, and others on the Bucs' defensive line constantly put pressure on Gannon, especially on third down. The first quarter came to an end with the two teams tied at three. Who

would have guessed that when it was all said and done there would be 63 more points scored by the Raiders and Bucs?

Although the first quarter was highly competitive, it was no indication of how the rest of the game would go. The one and only constant throughout the game was the relentless nature of the Tampa defense. The quarterback pressures, sacks, and interceptions continued into the second quarter, and Oakland was held to a meager three points, and only three first-downs in the entire first half. Meanwhile, the Bucs offense began to show some signs of life. It took them a while to match the intensity of their defensive squad, but they finally did, exploding for 17 unanswered points in the second quarter. After Tampa capitalized on a Gannon pick with a field goal to take their first lead, the Bucs' Dexter Jackson made another interception, giving the ball back to his offense. They promptly slammed the ball into the end zone on four consecutive running plays for the game's first touchdown.

Tampa wasn't done, however. After forcing Oakland to punt, the Bucs' offense went on a sustained drive, taking time off the clock, and establishing the pass as well as the run. Although Brad Johnson was inconsistent, he was good enough to lead his team to the end zone again, making the score 20-3 at halftime.

The second quarter was dominated on both sides of the ball by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, which was quite a surprise to everyone, including me.

At halftime Raider coach Bill Callahan told a reporter that his team was self-destructing and beating themselves. He couldn't have been more wrong. What took place in the first

half was a great defense making plays and never backing off the pressure. Throw in some timely offense and a few mental errors by Oakland, and you have Tampa destroying the Raiders because they just played better.

At any rate, Callahan had to make some adjustments at halftime, and his team had to come out and match the intensity of the Bucs' D. This did not happen, as Oakland went three plays and punted on their first drive of the third quarter.

Just as the Raiders' offense continued to flounder in the second half, Tampa's offense continued to have success as they went on an 89 yard scoring drive taking eight minutes off the clock as they did it.

Just seconds later, Rich Gannon threw yet another interception, which was run in for a touchdown by Dwight Smith, to bring the score to 34-3.

Late in the third quarter Gannon began to hit his stride, but it was far too little, and far too late. The Raiders managed to get a touchdown at the end of the period, making the deficit 25 as they headed into the final frame.

Even though the game had been decided already, the Raiders made a great effort to get back in the contest. They managed to block a Buccaneer punt and return it for a score, and quickly followed that score up with a long touchdown pass from Rich Gannon to Jerry Rice. This cut the Tampa lead to 13, but Oakland would not get any closer.

After stopping the Tampa offense yet again, the Raiders took possession of the ball only to see their man Rich Gannon throw it into the wrong hands, once more. This time Derrick Brooks was the recipient and he took the ball all

the way to the end zone, putting the game out of reach.

To add a little more insult to injury, with only seconds left to play Dwight Smith picked off another Gannon pass and brought it in for a score, his second of the game. Five sacks of Rich Gannon, five interceptions, three of which were returned for scores, and some timely contributions from the offense made for a 48-21 victory for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

So, John Gruden did defeat his old team. His volatile and ferocious presence has gotten the best out of a team that perhaps had lacked the focus necessary to win a championship in earlier years. If you think Gruden's behavior on the field is a gimmick or just staged for the cameras, you're wrong, according to Bucs' cornerback Ronde Barber who said, "In all honesty, he's not that different in real life; what you see is what you get."

As for the dispute about who wins between the best offense and the best defense, the Bucs definitively settled it.

Tampa defensive lineman Warren Sapp said, "We needed this championship before we could say anything. Now you can put us in the same sentence with the Ravens and the Steel Curtain."

Sapp goes on to say that he doesn't believe that any of those other great defenses had to match up against an offense as great as that of the Raiders.

As a football fan you couldn't have asked for a better match-up for the big game, but the Buccaneers made it obvious to everyone that defense still wins championships.

State of Union address lays out Bush's agenda

Feature by I Kevin Chase

President Bush delivered the 2003 State of the Union Address to the US Congress and the American people last Tuesday night. Bush began the speech on his weakest foot, economic recession. He offered traditional Republican cures to the economic ills: further tax cuts, fiscal restraint, etc. Bush's domestic agenda focused on several traditional conservative ideas, including a ban on late-term abortion, but also unveiled surprisingly liberal programs on the AIDS epidemic in Africa, the environment, and drug addiction. Owing to the increased interest in terrorism and war, the second half of his speech was devoted entirely to terrorism, intelligence, the "axis of evil", and a special focus on the threat posed by Iraq.

Bush conceded the economic ills, blaming them on recession, terrorist attacks, and corporate scandals. As a solution, Bush reiterated previous comments about making many of the tax cuts passed a year and a half ago permanent and effective immediately. As expected, he also asked for a repeal of the tax on stock dividends. Bush encouraged traditional Republican philosophy on fiscal discipline: raising spending only enough to keep pace with inflation. Presumably this would help pay for the tax cuts and the lack of fiscal discipline in military spending.

Bush addressed healthcare. He vaguely pushed for more privatization, but it was not immediately clear whether this was an actual

proposal or mere lip service. Statements on Medicare were equally ambiguous. Bush was clear in asking Congress to pass medical tort-reform legislation, which would allegedly stem rising healthcare costs.

Bush proposed two environmental initiatives. The "Healthy Forest" initiative, a response to raging wildfires last summer, encourages increased logging of forests, including those not near homes or other development. Bush also unveiled "Freedom Car", an allotment of \$1.2 billion in subsidies for R&D on zero-emission hydrogen fuel-cell automobiles. This proposal has been criticized as an abandonment of the high fuel efficiency vehicle plan that was started under Clinton. Environmentalists have also faulted Bush for not investing enough time (5 years) in the plan. Without more time, nothing will come to fruition.

In an expected nod to social conservatives, Bush offered some new and some old ideas. He again pushed for his faith-based initiatives, which would allow religious organizations to compete for tax dollars with secular ones. Critics allege this would amount to government funding of religious proselytizing. Bush claimed sympathy for battered women, those addicted to drugs, and children lacking parental role models. He offered new funding for mentoring and drug rehab. Bush asked Congress to ban late-term abortion and human cloning.

The most surprising part of Bush's

speech was a promise to gradually triple to \$15 billion (over five years) federal funding of HIV containment programs abroad, which primarily concern Africa. This is a stark change in administration policy. About a year and a half ago, Bush, through Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, attempted to claim that AIDS in Africa was not an epidemic, while anthrax in the US was after 9/11. If an outbreak of disease is considered epidemic, patent laws may be disregarded in controlling it under international law. While some critics worry that the increase in funding won't come fast enough to stem the tide of HIV infections, even HIV/AIDS activists have hailed Bush for the increase in funding.

Bush turned next to terrorism, beginning with a positive overview on counter terrorism/intelligence efforts to date. He spoke about "Project Bioshield", a \$6 billion anti-biowarfare proposal. Also introduced was a long-overdue proposal to integrate terrorism intelligence analysis. Bush went on to describe the role America plays in nullifying vile threats, including the questionable "Hitlerism".

Bush addressed the infamous "axis of evil", beginning with Iran. He considered Iran a country of people being oppressed by an abusive dictator, and courageously said the US "supports" their goal of freedom. Bush acknowledged the presence of North Korea's budding nuclear program, and offered diplomacy and

sanctions as likely remedies. Bush turned next to Iraq, apparently the next target in the "war on terror".

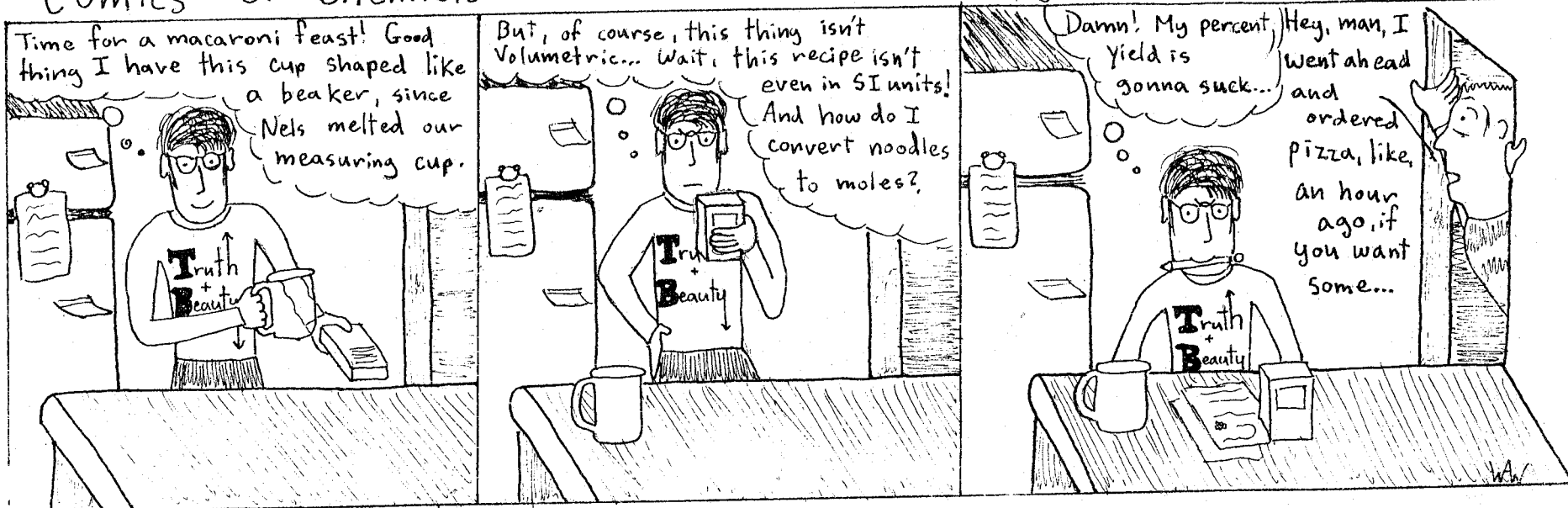
Bush criticized Saddam Hussein most directly for not giving any evidence of the destruction of weapons development facilities that existed two years ago, and may exist today. He also criticized the Iraqi dictator for failing to prove that he had no weapons, a practical impossibility in a country the size of Iraq. As proof of Saddam's alleged deception, Bush made repeated vague references to misleading and disingenuous actions of those within the Iraqi regime. Of particularly little grounding was one comment about Iraqi scientist being coached on what to say to UN inspectors.

Bush went on to list numerous instances where Saddam wantonly violated his citizens' human rights. He listed various forms of torture and intimidation among evidence of his evilness and the direness of the domestic situation in Iraq. He again claimed connections between Iraq and terrorism, but offered no new evidence of this, nor any new evidence of current, functioning Iraqi weapons programs. If necessary, Bush promised to lead a military coalition to disarm Iraq and depose Saddam. Bush boldly claimed a coalition was better, but not necessary.

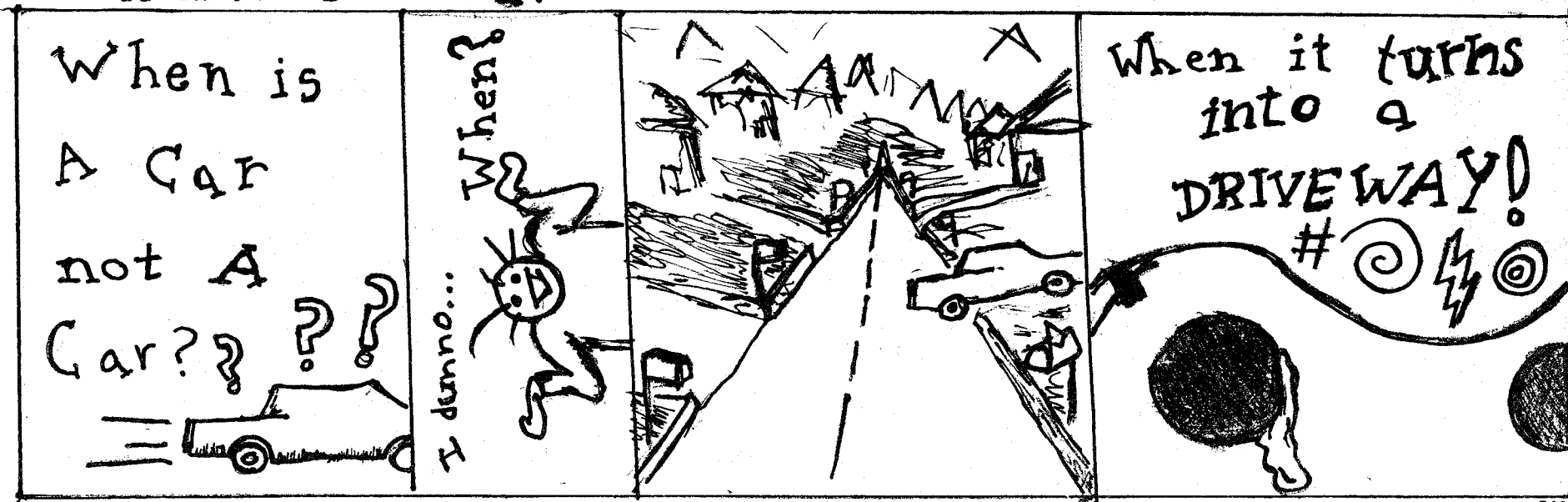
The address ended with the usual jingoistic nonsense and an obligatory "God Bless America."

Comics for Chemists

by A Fume Hood Hooligan



"Happy Birthday to Me!"



My Back Pages...

When i was a young man, i was lead to believe there were organi-
zations that would kill my snakes for me, i.e. church, i.e. school, i.e
the government...but when i got alittle bit older, i learned i had to
kill them myself. Send your clues and submissions to me:
countzachula@hotmail.com. or drop off the hard copy in the
monitor mailbox, CSI, SUB basement. Hoo-ray for isocracy!

Snow

Blanket of frozen cobwebs
dandruff from heaven
insulation from the stratosphere
we become your enemy,
penguins waddling cautiously.
Why the slush so soon?
Must greedy plows eat it?
Why? Why? Why?
Let's hear it snow bunny!
But what I want to know
why the notorious yellow snow?
Piss in the tree.
I've never seen yellow icesicles.
Crazy man of white stuff
Lend me your carrot
I'm hugary dammit!
Fine, crawl back in your damn igloo
where you belong;
and eat yellow snow while you're at it!

-Scoo Woop

A Poem (Improvised)

Inferences
How you tease me
Inferences
Are you on drugs?
No I say to ye.

Steve-O

word puzzle

In the following statement can be found words
[the letters of which are found -in order-
throughout the sentence] which make up a
five-letter word square:

Is lettuce black or green? Neither choice justified by
the suitably esteemed platter.

example of a four-letter word square:

SPUR
PAPA
UPON
RANK

Submitted by | David Capps

a moralistic fable about rocks preferably read aloud.

So there was this rock that liked to go on many travelling adventures and
one day the rock was walking through the desert all rock-like when he met
the very infamous Fake Rock and Fake Rock was all, "Hey man, I'm cool.
We're all real actual rocks here aren't we?" So Mr. Rock (the real rock)
was like, "Shut up! You're not a real rock, you're a fake rock! Stupid
fake rock!" So Fake Rock left to roam around the desert all bummed out
like and he roamed around until he discovered that he wasn't actually a fake
rock but actually a grey pliable rubber eraser thing that was good in his own
way and helped artists erase their mistakes and helped them not stress out
because they could ply him apart. Real rock eventually made his way
through the WestSouth (like Arizona, silly) but still kept going. I think
he was looking for Peru or something; but he definitely saw the ocean
first and just kept on going and was happy. Either way, they both end
up being brothers and resolve their differences using their
Rock Telepathy Power and everything turns out real nice in the end.

u013njos
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