

The Monitor

Volume 9
Number 7

February 19, 2003

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

University Greens spearhead campus peace movement

Story by I Andr s Delgado

Over the past two weeks, the campus Greens have held two well-attended events to address the United States' relations with Iraq. Last Tuesday, February 11, three faculty members read prepared statements to nearly 100 students, delivering, alternately, information on the Not in Our Name campaign (see www.nion.org), a Christian war philosophy, and eight examples of "propaganda" perpetrated by major media sources pertaining to the '91 Gulf War and the current situation. The British Mr. Larry Iles ended by providing this insular university with a global perspective on America's behaviour.

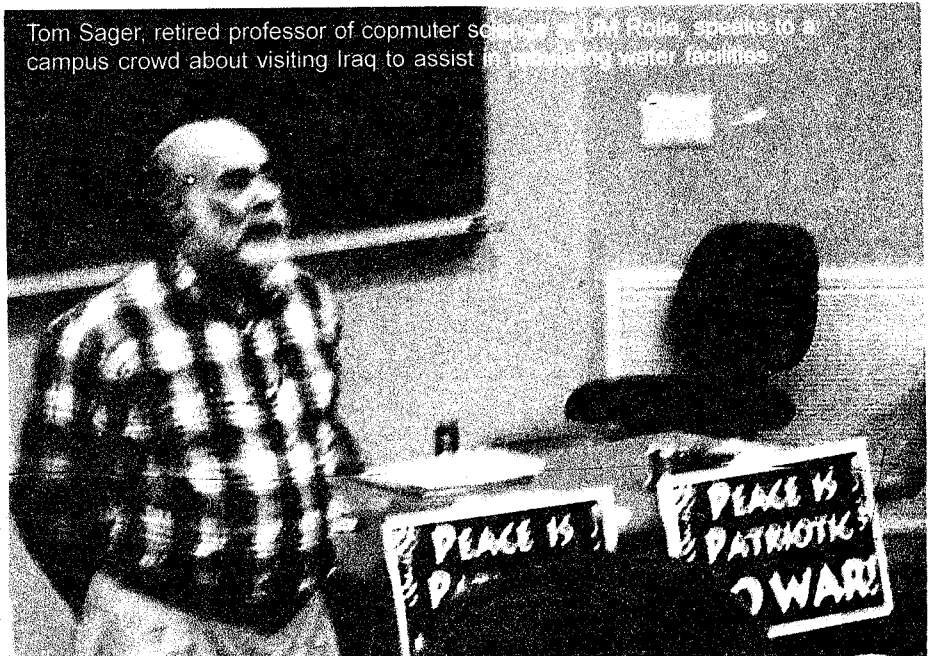
Dr. James Harmon began the teach-in, and primarily addressed the national "Not in Our Name" petition campaign which he spearheaded in its local incarnation. He also lamented the editorial decision of the Department of Defense publication *Stars and Stripes* to not run a paid ad for the campaign. Denouncing what he called the department's "censorship," he said the artist's first duty is to tell the truth, which is normally filled with ambiguity. In war, said Harmon, shades of gray and paradox are the "first to go." "I don't think it's an accident that in totalitarianism the artist is arrested first," he said.

Dr. Adam Davis spoke next, beginning by defending the relevance of religious war philosophy, even while we live under a wholly secular government, because of religion's prominent place "in a time of clashing cultures." Pertaining to

Iraq, Davis said the Catholic prescription dictates that "defending life and property doesn't overcome the principle of charity," as defined by the maxim "love thy neighbor." Keeping the magnifying glass over the audience, Davis said that US citizens should examine their own actions as well as those of Iraq and the US government. "We are... with a secular version of original sin, inherent in our very existence; that no amount of denial can scrub away," he said.

Dr. Matthew Killmeier, University media professor, who rounded out the faculty speakers, condemned major media outlets as being "largely lapdogs, actively participating in shaping public opinion toward the goals of three deceptive US administrations." He cited as an example the 1990 US claim that 250,000 Iraqi troops were amassed in Kuwait, set to invade Saudi Arabia. The St. Petersburg Times "purchased satellite images from a Soviet company and had them analyzed by an expert, who said forces were not even 20% of what the US claimed," said Killmeier. He said the Times was alone in investigating the US government's claim. Killmeier went on to give more examples of "propaganda" and advised the audience to inoculate themselves against misinformation by maintaining a skeptical vigilance toward "reported" claims. "If you read an article that uncritically accepts the unsubstantiated claims

Tom Sager, retired professor of computer science at UNH, speaks to a campus crowd about visiting Iraq to assist in rebuilding water facilities.



of political actors, be leery," he said.

Iles' talk was punctuated by an animated delivery given while "deliberately poshly dressed," in emulation of pro-US British Prime Minister Tony Blair. He said that some international observers believe the US feels it can flout the UN because "Kofi Annan is a black man."

The speakers at the teach-in seemed to

have conceded that war was an inevitability. Dr. Adam Davis called the war "unstoppable." Said Iles, "Since [war] is inevitable, we must slow down and kill it."

Continued on page 10

Around the World in 500 Words

Compiled by I W. Aaron Wilson

Recent stories gathered from news.bbc.co.uk

Africa: Despite continuing questions of human rights abuses, Zimbabwe's suspension from the international Commonwealth (of former, mostly British, colonies) set to lapse. Liberian rebels agree to peace talks after three years of fighting for removal of president Charles Taylor. Eritrea accuses Ethiopia of massing troops along border as territory disposition that once led to war continue to be unresolved. Famine-struck Malawians survive on food aid, grass. Ivorian President's supporters refuse peace accord with rebels, fragile cease fire in question. South Africa to send disarmament experts to Iraq to aid in dismantling of weapons of mass destruction.

Americas: Paraguay's president survives a vote to impeach him for misappropriation of funds and rumors of torture. El Ni no rains ruin crops and cause flooding in Peru. Despite collapse of the two-month strike, opposition forces in Venezuela vow to continue fighting president Chavez. A series of bombings rock Columbia's cities, one targeting an elite club, another killing police raiding a suspected guerilla compound. The centrist policies of Brazil's centrist president create dissent within his own party. Despite world wide peace protests and neutral reports from inspectors, the US continues to press for war in Iraq.

Asia-Pacific: Despite of a recent ceasefire, the Philippines army attacked and captured compounds of Islamic rebels in search of a kidnapping, terrorist organization. Indonesian government and rebels in the Aceh province begin the fragile process of demilitarization. The US will not seek sanctions of

impoverished North Korea over nuclear program, may scale down amount of military presence in the south.

Europe: The Pope delivers a message of peace in Iraq, papal envoys urged by Iraqi government to question "religious and racial discrimination" of war preparations. For a second time Montenegrans fail to elect a government. NATO is strained over Iraq question; France and Germany to veto moving troops to Turkey, Belgium seeks middle ground. Scientists in the UK urge the government to life the moratorium on nuclear power plants before current plants retire.

Middle East: As the Palestinian "uprising" continues, Israeli soldiers are killed in a tank; nearby Palestinian dwellings and fields destroyed in retribution. Iran hard-liners crack down on Valentine's Day celebrations and merchandise in wealthy northern Tehran; earn scorn

of populace. Murmurs of war in Iraq help oil prices climb to rates reminiscent of the Gulf War.

Science: Scientists continue successful tests of microbicides, a possible female AIDS prevention method. Research team argues that the south pole of Mars contains much more water and less carbon dioxide than previously thought, making dreams of colonization less likely. Work being done in New Orleans could lead to species of shrimp that do not cause allergic reactions.

South Asia: Pakistan's president cautiously opposes war with Iraq. India formalizes laws to crack down on the use of prenatal scans to protect female fetuses. Japan and other investors question the permanence of Sri Lankan peace process. US denies rumors of civilian deaths in latest Afghanistan bombing.

The Monitor

Campus Collective
Independent Quality Since 1995
Volume 9, Number 7

CAMPUS ADDRESS

CSI SUB
TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501
FAX (660) 785-7438

OFFICE ADDRESS

MONITOR TOWER
216 S. HIGH STREET APT. D
KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501

MONITORTRM@HOTMAIL.COM

MANAGING EDITORS

ANDRES DELGADO
CAMERON MOORE

MY BACK PAGES EDITOR

ZACH JACKSON

ADVERTISING ROYALTY

SAM MCPHERSON, CAMERON MOORE

DISTRIBUTION

CAMERON MOORE

SUBMITTERS

AARON BAKER, JOHN BECKER, GREG BRENNER, SUZANNE CHAPPELOW, KEVIN CHASE, BOB FISCH, KRISTEN HALEY, LARRY ILES, RYAN KELLY, DR. DENNIS LEAVENS, ZACH LECHNER, SAM MCPHERSON, JAIDEE MOORE, ADAM PETRY, LIZZ RACKLEY, NICOLE RAINEY, RORY ROBERTSON, TODD RUECKER, CHRIS SCOTT, DR. LINDA SEIDEL, PRAJJWAL SHARMA, JOSH SISSON, ERICA WILLES, W AARON WILSON

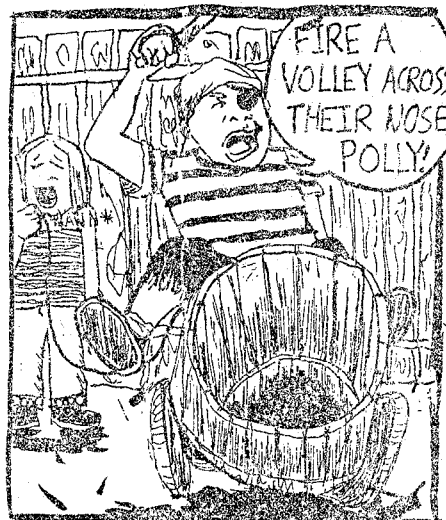
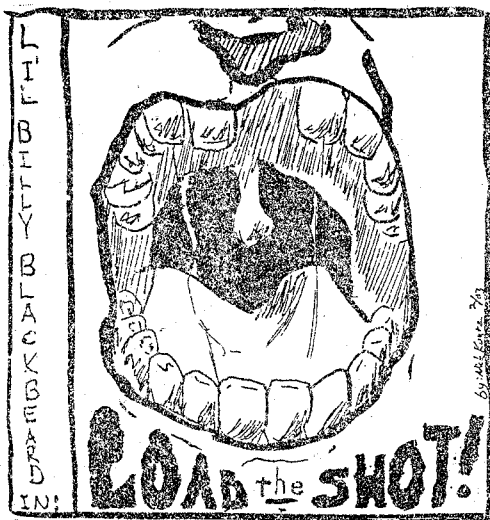
All contents Copyright © 2003
The Monitor Campus Collective unless otherwise noted.

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.

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

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

- Noam Chomsky



Business card sized

Advertisements:

ONLY \$15

we also offer student discounts:
email monitortrm@hotmail.com
to get info for your organization

****The Monitor has the cheapest ad rates on campus!****

CIRCLE MUSIC
Recording Studio
218 N. Franklin
Kirksville, MO 63501
(660) 665-9090

The Musicians Choice!
-Inst. Repair-
-24 track Digital-
Recording Studio
-Fender, Peavey, Roland-
-Crate, Alvarez-
-Pearl, Zildjian-
-Washburn-
-DW Drums-
-Pacnic-

Stone Creations
Jewelry • Crystals • Beads • Candles
Monday-Saturday 10-6
Phone: (660) 665-7474 * Fax (660) 627-8663
e-mail: stonecreat@kvmo.net
108 West Harrison * Kirksville, MO 63501

check out our Winter Workshops and our
website: www.originalspaperart.com

originals
TRIPLE ART

Mon-Sat
10:00-6:00

tel. 660.627.4696
fax. 660.627.0053
originals@comcast.net
110 W Harrison
Kirksville, MO 63501

NEW VISION OPTICAL
122 N. FRANKLIN
KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501
(660) 665-1311
C. EM HOODY, F.N.A.O.
QUALITY OPTICS-
FOR OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY

L E T T E R S

monitor

Got something to say? Write a letter to *The Monitor*. Send complaints or praise to *The Monitor* mailbox in the CSI, or email us at monitortrm@hotmail.com.
Letters may be edited for length.

Consider the human cost

As members of the newly formed Truman State University and Kirksville Amnesty International chapter, we would like to underline our opposition to the impending unilateral U.S./U.K. invasion of Iraq with a view to one criterion, the human cost.

Already over 8,000 Iraqis are directly dependent on charity food and medicine from principally Roman Catholic and Anglican voluntary aid bodies. What is to happen to those people, especially as people like former U.S. United Nations inspector Scott Ritter have estimated half a million children have died since sanctions were imposed in 1998.

Likely, military casualties are being hidden by both U.S./U.K. authorities. But a Canadian conservative Member of Parliament, Bill Casey, with good Middle East contacts estimated in their House of Commons debate that the numbers will potentially be a minimum of 5,000 "Allied" soldiers and 50,000 Iraqi boy-and-girl soldier draftees. Casey also estimates double that number of civilian, and Blair's U.K. press are saying the "thunderstorm" that will hit Baghdad will see 8,000 bombs by air in the first two days.

In the name of humanity, our organiza-

tion brings these facts to your attention.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Betty L. McLane-Iles
Dr. Gloria Kwok
Larry Iles
Michelle Martin
Matthew Reeg
Adnan Selimovic
Narissa Webber

Bob Bane-en

As most people are aware the recent state elections saw Republicans overwhelmingly win back the majority in both the House and the Senate. One of the victors was our own representative Bob Behnen. Recently I accompanied a group of Truman students down to Jefferson City to try and encourage our representatives to remember Kirksville during the upcoming budget crisis. Behnen greeted us all and posed for an obligatory I-care-about-my-constituents picture. After the picture, Behnen asked our group if we had any questions.

After a lengthy discussion about the upcoming budget decisions (many of the decisions Behnen was advancing included large cuts to

social programs and lowering of taxes for the wealthy — I know, I could hardly believe it either... a Republican cutting social programs), it was my turn to ask a question. One of my friends had already asked him how Texas v. Johnson would affect Missouri's Anti-Sodomy legislation. Behnen skirted the issue by stating that he didn't know the facts of the case. However, I pressed him for an answer about the antiquated laws in Missouri that discriminate against homosexuals.

I asked him, "Would you support legislation that would allow consenting adults to partake in whatever behavior they choose in the privacy of their own bedroom?"

Behnen's answer was, and I quote, "I would never support this type of legislation in any form."

It is nice to know that bigotry and homophobia still exists, right here in our own district. I just thought that this might be the type of information that Truman State students would like to know about, especially come next election year.

Sincerely,
Tyler Unsell

Help save the Aquadome

Hello Mister Editor!

I have an important public service announcement! The Aquadome, Kirksville's one and only alternative community center (a bastion of creativity and cultural wealth) is facing serious financial turmoil. In an attempt to save themselves from bankruptcy, the Aquadome kids have decided to have a carnival on Saturday, March 1, from 1:00 to 4:00. There will be clowns and games (with prizes!), rocknroll, crafts, a mashed-potato-throw, funnel cakes, among other delicious carnival treats. Mostly, it'll be a real good time, so get yr tushie to 121 N. Main (behind the movie theater) a week from Saturday!

Yours with Love!
Nicole.

SPECIAL

WHITE

SPACE









Complete Automotive Repair

exhaust	brakes	front end
converters	brake hoses	axle bearings & seals
custom dual exhaust	complete brakes	ball joints
exhaust pipes	drums and rotors	CV boots & axles
flex pipes	pack bearings	rack & pinion
lifetime warranty mufflers	wheel bearings	shocks & struts
tailpipes	wheel cylinders	tie rods

10% off for students and faculty w/ ID

Full A/C Service * Batteries * Computerized Alignment * Tire Balancing, Rotation, & Sales *
* State Inspections *

SAME DAY SERVICE ON MOST REPAIRS

"OPEN SATURDAYS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE"

tow service available

no appointment required for exhaust services

VISA
MASTERCARD
DISCOVER
AMERICAN EXPRESS
ATM
and DEBIT
CARDS ACCEPTED

665-1411

1901 N. Baltimore

Kirksville, MO

Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

NEXT
TO
WENDY'S

O P I N I O N S

monitor

Global gag rule illustrates contradictions in US foreign policy

Opinion by I Erica Willes

In the 1960s the United States acknowledged that uninhibited population growth would hinder the future economic development of many nations and could have detrimental impacts on the global economic system. The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 authorized the President to provide funding for voluntary population planning. In 1973, this bill was modified to prohibit the use of federal money for performing abortions as a method of family planning, and in 1974 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) expanded upon this idea by prohibiting the U.S. from providing funding for "information, education, training, or communication programs that seek to promote abortion as a method of family planning" (USAID).

President Ronald Reagan further restricted U.S. funding with the "Mexico City Policy" (the predecessor to the global gag rule) by asserting no U.S. money would go to Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) who actively promoted abortion as a method of family planning, even if they were abiding by all laws of the countries in which they were working and were providing their own funds for abortion related activities. Clinton ended the Mexico City Policy in 1993; however, President George W. Bush reinstated this same Mexico City Policy, also referred to as the global gag rule, on his second day in office, January 22, 2001, exactly 28 years after the Roe v. Wade court decision (NARAL).

The global gag rule restricts NGOs that receive USAID support from using their own money to provide abortion services, advocating changes in abortion laws, or providing information about legal abortion services to patients (ACLU). This rule has resulted in a loss of funds to numerous family planning programs that provide a wide range of "resources, including gynecological exams, AIDS prevention and treatment, and contraception," including the World Health Organization and International Planned Parenthood. Even though the rule currently allows for post-abortion care, some speculate that many programs "may stop providing this care, including treatment for hemorrhaging due to unsafe abortion, for fear of jeopardizing their funding through any association with abortion" (FMF).

The global gag rule seems to conflict with primary foreign policy objectives including the promotion of democracy and free speech, the enhancement of women's status, and the continuing support for national sovereignty (Mann). Congress has advocated the use of NGOs in order to accomplish these three goals; however, this rule penalizes NGOs for participating in the democratic process by limiting their ability to use their own funds to address issues related to abortion (NARAL). The United States often encourages other nations to publicly debate issues, and expresses the opinion

that this debate is vital for the success of any liberal democracy (CRLP). The global gag rule imposes hypocritical restrictions by limiting information to women even in countries where abortion remains legal. If the global gag rule were directly applied to NGOs working in the US, it would be considered unconstitutional; therefore, it creates a hypocritical double standard (CRLP). By repressing one side of the debate on abortion, it appears that the government is ignoring the value of both free speech and the unrestricted exchange of ideas.

This global gag rule disproportionately affects women's advocacy and health initiatives because a large portion of these groups attempt to provide reproductive health care and information on family planning (ZPG). If the United States desires to assist women then it cannot limit women's right to reproductive self-determination and should not undermine the laws of other nations, which may allow for abortion.

Although often portrayed as a struggle between religious groups and the liberal organizations, many religious groups oppose this global gag rule. The United Methodist Church, for example, expresses their views that, "far from being pro-life, restricting international family planning funds ... only ensures that more poor women and their children will perish (United Methodist Church)," and, "if the President is serious about reducing the need for abortion, cutting the funding for international family planning ... is the wrong way to do it (Reform Judaism)" (RCRC).

If the purpose of the global gag rule is to decrease the number of abortions worldwide, as stated by Bush's staff, then the most effective way to do this is provide high-quality contraceptive services (Cohen, *Message*). This policy, however, does nothing to facilitate contraception, but instead "impedes access by prohibiting U.S. family planning assistance from going to hospitals and health clinics in developing countries that also provide abortions, or even abortion-related information" (Cohen, *Exporting*). President Bush recently avowed in the State of the Union address he desires to assist with the AIDS epidemic in Africa to the tune of \$15 billion, but at the same time refuses to fund the provision of condoms through family planning programs, a step which clearly could limit AIDS' spread.

In order for the United States to act consistently in foreign policy the global gag rule must be eliminated. The global gag rule is a violation of constitutionally protected rights of both individuals and organizations working to improve international human rights (CRLP). The United States can maintain its current emphasis on democracy, free speech, women's rights, and national sovereignty while decreasing abortions through the provision of reliable contraceptives and education, but not through the global gag rule.

WAR ON IRAQ WILL FREE IRAQI PEOPLE FROM OPPRESSIVE DICTATORSHIP

Opinion by I Jaidee Moore

Just this week I had the opportunity to attend an anti-war meeting in Violette Hall. It was a night of speeches and of signs, of crowds and rhetoric. While I was sitting there I felt strangely as if I were back home, in Madison, WI. Indeed, the scene was all too familiar, a mix of revolutionary student and graying Vietnam War-era leftist. The same tired words and the same tired signs. In light of this, I find it necessary to issue a response, a sort of brief look at why we must act to liberate the enslaved peoples of Iraq.

The protester speaks of some sort of new and terrible conflict, to be waged against the innocent citizens of an innocent nation. I would argue, as have others, that this campaign is merely part of a larger war, one that we have been fighting for some time. It is not a war to be fought against one group or another, but rather one that is to be fought against the collective enemies of the free world.

The enemy goes by many names, be it Al Qaeda or Hezbollah, all the way to nation states such as Iraq or North Korea. Whatever the name, their common cause is the same, for it is the destruction of Western style economics and government. They seek to replace our hard won way of life with one that is all too reminiscent of that envisioned by Hitler and his vile henchmen, a subjugation of the masses for the benefit of a select few. These are not peace loving civilians, but rather hardened thugs bent on our elimination.

Such is the overall goal of the enemy, but what of Iraq, why is it that we must sacrifice American lives and treasure to free her? There exists in Iraq a truly despicable sort of government, one that finds comparison in the history books to that of Stalin and others. It is a police state ruled with an iron fist by one man, one sinister and sadistic man. This is a regime that thinks about only one thing: how to stay in power. It is an organization that will use any means necessary to achieve its goals.

In the propaganda of the anti-war protester you will read much about the suffering of the Iraqi people, of needless pain and deaths. Such is true, for it is a simple fact that cannot be disputed. The Iraqi people, however, have not been accorded such repulsive treatment at the hand of our government. Nay, it is due solely to the ruthlessness of the Baath Party, that modern day Nazi party that rules Iraq.

This is a government that thinks nothing of using chemical weapons on its own women and children, as evidenced by

Kurdish villages made wastelands in the late 1980's. We in the West remember the story of Lidice, Czechoslovakia, a village that was wiped out, its people slaughtered or sent to concentration camps for daring to resist the Nazis. Think now of hundreds of such villages, and you can only begin to grasp the sheer brutality of the Iraqi government.

This is a government that thinks nothing of wiping people and their villages off the face of the Earth. A government that uses a vast system of secret police to keep its people in fear. A government that can, at will, cut off food to you and your family if you dare criticize it, that is if you were lucky enough not to be "disappeared" to some hell hole of a prison. Indeed, this is only but a brief description of the actions of the Baath Party on behalf of one man, Saddam Hussein. It is a truly pathetic story that reads much like something out of the history books, a tale that we wish we could just ignore so we can get back to our television and frappuccinos.

That is what the protester would like to see. He would like to see you, the average American, demand that our government leave Iraq alone. He'll say that "American imperialism" has no place in the world, that it is not our right to dictate the affairs of other nations. He might even say that we're in it only for the oil, that our values of freedom and justice are but empty promises. I would only ask him to try and say that to the oppressed people of Iraq, a people that cry out for their liberation. Yes, I dare the protester to look a starving child, a tortured father, or an executed dissident in the eye and tell them that their day of liberation is not to come.

I would like to believe that we, as a nation, have not lost sight of why we are here. We exist simply because a group of farmers and merchants decided that life was only worth living if they could decide their own destiny. Our nation was founded on a fundamental belief in the natural rights of all. Yes, I know that the protester will point to examples in our history and say that we have violated this principle. However, what sets us apart is that we are willing and able to offer individuals the opportunity to drive great social change and right past wrongs. If the protester is discontent, then he should act within our democratic framework to drive change, for his goals will not be achieved through empty words and empty action. Certainly, he cannot be allowed to let his bitterness keep other people, such as those in Iraq, from enjoying the blessings of liberty.

Depleted Uranium, anyone?

Opinion by | Dr. Linda Seidel

Have you heard of depleted uranium (DU)? Most Americans have not. It is a by-product of the creation of nuclear reactor fuel and is now used to make ammunition employed by the military in international conflicts. DU was used extensively by the United States in the Gulf War in 1991, less extensively by NATO in Kosovo.

Recently, as part of the ongoing Globalization Colloquia, I showed a documentary called *Hidden Wars of Desert Storm* (2000), by Audrey Brohy and Gerald Ungerman, which included a chilling segment on the alleged health effects of exposure to DU weapons: increased rates of cancer and birth defects, and the malaise associated with the still-mysterious Gulf War Syndrome. The film was incredibly depressing. Most audience members either left quickly or sat in stunned silence once it was over.

One thoughtful student e-mailed me to thank me for showing the film but also to express skepticism about its content: "Give me a break, please." I know how he feels. After all, if DU really were responsible for Gulf War Syndrome or cancer deaths in Iraq, wouldn't the American media be doing a major expose by now? How could there be a problem when no one important is even covering the story? Besides, if the U.S. government and NATO claim the stuff is safe, mustn't they be right? Surely they wouldn't want to put their own troops at risk? To believe the worst makes one feel like a crackpot, like one of those people predicting the end of the world.

Indeed, science journals disagree over how much of a health threat DU poses. *The Bulletin*

of Atomic Scientists (May 1993) complains about "overblown" scare stories but acknowledges that "some soldiers" and "employees of weapons manufacturing plants" are at risk for "illnesses associated with radioactivity and heavy-metal poisoning." The author advocates abandoning DU in favor of tungsten in order to avoid these problems. *New Scientist*, by contrast, has run several articles about the dangers of DU exposure, including a report that "Italian researchers" found "that soil in the Persian Gulf and the Balkans that is contaminated with debris from spent depleted uranium (DU) weapons presents far too high a risk [because of radioactivity] to local children" (27 July 2002). Three scientists who "established an in vitro cellular model to study DU exposure" concluded that "the risk of cancer induction from internalized DU exposure may be comparable to other biologically reactive and carcinogenic heavy-metal compounds" (*Environmental Health Perspectives*, Aug. 1998).

If the claims of the most vociferous anti-DU activists have yet to be fully substantiated, it also seems clear that DU's safety has not been proven either. Moreover, there is good reason to believe that both soldiers and civilians may be at risk.

Surely, the use of ammunition whose safety is questionable puts the United States in an untenable position. We claim that we are the good guys, trying to protect the world from Saddam's "weapons of mass destruction." But it is not Saddam who is littering the planet with radioactive uranium. We remain the most dangerous nation on earth. Let us not also become the most unscrupulous.

HESITATION

Opinion by | Cameron Moore

As the bombs begin to drop, as flashes of green night vision light burst on your television, what thoughts will flash through your mind?

Will you feel completely justified in what you see on your TV, the utter death and destruction from which you have been so carefully disconnected? Will you allow your fear of the boogeyman to overwhelm you with contempt so that those lives lost are no longer real, like a live-action video game broadcast for your entertainment?

Or will you break down in tears, horrified and disillusioned, realizing that the wool has been pulled over your eyes; that those thousands of civilians in Iraq that will die by our tax-funded bombs are no less innocent than the victims in the World Trade Center?

I can only pray that your reaction will more closely resemble the latter.

For months now, George W. Bush has claimed that no decision has been made about going to war with Iraq; he has said that it will be a last resort. But as the months have gone on, we have seen nothing but behavior that indicates the contrary: full-steam-ahead unilateralist preemptive military rhetoric (an unprecedented move in the world arena of combat, effectively declaring the US as the world police force); a refusal to negotiate with or even to talk Iraq (while downplaying threats from North Korea, who is not only closer to us physically but also more nuclear capable); and most recently, a refusal to acknowledge the millions of people who demonstrated at home and abroad against the world's largest military power preemptively declaring war on an impoverished nation.

So, where in all of this is the hesitation that accompanies not having one's mind made

USUALLY ACCOMPANIES INDECISION

up? Has anybody seriously seen this guy contemplate not going to war? Every point that has been brought up against this war has been seen by this administration as a hurdle, not a point of discussion or dialog. They have relied on scare tactics and bullying to get their way, ignoring any opposition to their plans and charging ahead without flinching.

I honestly don't think they're human; only robots can ignore and dodge questions so systematically. And for that matter, we've got an entire government of drones that are standing idly, suppressing whatever discontent they may have for a chance at promotion or reelection, in an attempt to appear loyal to those in power while ignoring the voice of the people, the voice they were elected to serve, the voice that protested quite loudly this past weekend in an attempt to wake the people in this country up and keep them from falling asleep behind the wheel.

And all the Bush Administration wants to do is sing us a lullaby and give us a hot toddy, tuck us under our covers and whisper sweet nothings about how Big Brother will do all the driving.

The White House has distorted every finding the U.N. weapons inspectors have released, all the while preemptively proclaiming that the inspections are useless. Hans Blix, head of the U.N. inspection team, has voiced complaints that the media and the White House have distorted his findings to make a case for war to the American people by exaggerating his reports' illustration of wrong-doing on the part of the Iraqi government while ignoring his reports' praise of their compliance thus far.

Is it not painfully obvious that the Bush Administration has put much more effort into convincing us and scaring us into thinking that

65

Years of Beer

DuKum Inn

Old Tavern

Monday Nights

steel dart cricket tournament @ 7:30
sponsored by Papa John's Pizza

Tuesday Nights

Crappy Beer Night

Wednesday Nights

Comedy night @ the Golden Spike

Thursday Nights

All you can... you know

we need to go to war than actually providing evidence that Saddam Hussein is an immediate threat to the livelihood of the world? Evidence is something that would appeal to our intelligence and logical reasoning, as opposed to the emotional manipulation that has become the norm these days. As war looms closer, it becomes more and more apparent that this was the plan from the beginning; there was never any intention to not go to war with Iraq.

I now present exhibit A, a document that was unearthed by the *Sunday Herald*, a UK newspaper, late last year. The document is titled "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategies, Forces and Resources for a New Century" and was written in September 2000 (before the presidential election) by a neo-conservative think-tank called Project for the New American Century (PNAC).

PNAC has many recognizable names on its list of members, most notably Dick Cheney, Jeb Bush and Donald Rumsfeld. With the help from other soon-to-be White House staff members, they laid out a plan that, according to the *Sunday Herald*, "shows Bush's cabinet intended to take military control of the Gulf region whether or not Saddam Hussein was in power."

The PNAC document specifically reads, "The United States has for decades sought to play a more permanent role in Gulf regional security. While the unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification, the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein."

This document completely undermines the White House's "regime change" rhetoric, and has yet gone completely unnoticed by mainstream US media. But what is more alarming than the obviousness with which the Bush Ad-

ministration has been planning this war for some time is the several other examples of dubious planning and ulterior motives outlined in this document.

For example, the PNAC report:

"Says 'even should Saddam pass from the scene,' the United States will permanently maintain bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—despite domestic opposition in the Gulf regimes to the stationing of US troops'.

"Pinpoints North Korea, Libya, Syria and Iran as dangerous regimes and says their existence justifies the creation of a 'world-wide command-and-control system' [!!!].

"Hints that ... the US may consider developing biological weapons ... in decades to come." Specifically, the document says "New methods of attack—electronic, 'non-lethal', biological—will be more widely available ... combat likely will take place in new dimensions, in space, cyberspace, and perhaps the world of microbes, ... advanced forms of biological warfare that can 'target' specific genotypes may transform biological warfare from the realm of terror to a *politically useful tool* [emphasis mine]."

Now, although I have mentioned this document and these startling plans in a previous piece that I did, I feel that now is the right time more than ever to repeat these things, as they indicate that our government is not being anywhere near honest with us.

On a final note, the PNAC report "calls for the US to 'fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theater wars' as a 'core mission.'"

This, my friends, is just the beginning.

F E A T U R E S

monitor

meditation is easy

Feature by I Kristen Haley

The first time I tried to meditate, I sat down in a corner with my pillow and let my mind flow as I had been told to. Being the horny 15 year old that I was, my mind flowed straight to sex. Which was kinda nice and all, but not exactly what I was going for. So, I consulted some friends who bragged about all of the wonderful, uplifting experiences they had had while meditating. They told me that it was easy and that all I had to do was concentrate on my breath.

The next time I tried to meditate, I managed to twist my body into lotus position and concentrated as hard as I could on breathing... which only made me think of sex. Desperate, I even found someone who tried to tell me that you just sit and think of nothing. It reminded me of all the times someone has said to me, "Whatever you do, do *not* think of pink elephants." Every time I tried to meditate after that, I was visited by visions of pink elephants. Some were having sex.

I tried every technique that was available to me, but none of them worked. Not even guided meditations. I'd be listening to the soft music while the person described a happy little stream with friendly bees and beautiful flowers; half-way through, I'd decide that I didn't want to be wading in a fucking stream in the middle of winter and remember that I was allergic to flowers, and then all hell would break loose and the bees would start stinging me.

I pretty much gave up on trying to meditate by myself after that. I had better daydreams without the prompts, thank you very much.

And group meditation became a time for me to catch up on sleep. Even in my frustration, however, I wondered if people really did have the life-changing experiences they claimed to.

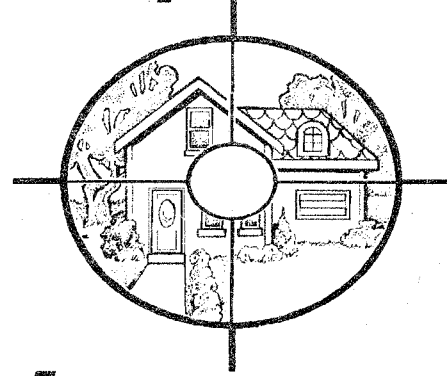
This is the part where I tell you that I went to meditate by a happy little stream for three years and was finally visited by the beings of light and joy and now my life has changed forever, thanks to a form of meditation that comes in an easy-to-swallow caplet. Or I could just give you a shameless plug.

I decided to give it one more chance, and attended the Meditation Weekend, led by Dr. Pflueger. At the end of only 3 days, I realized that the people who I had consulted in my quest for the ultimate meditation experience were right about one thing: Meditation is easy—once you learn how to do so. I also found that it does give many of the desirable results such as release of emotions and stress, though I have yet to hear from the beings of pure light and energy. And, as long as you stick with it, meditation can keep stress from building up even more. It's a discipline like any other, but it can quickly become a part of your daily routine, and the benefits will start to manifest themselves in your daily life as a greater awareness of your mind, body, and—dare I say—soul.

Meditation Weekend: Informational session on Thursday, February 27 at 7pm. Classes will be held for a few hours on each of March 1, 2, and 3.

Contact: Michael Heinz at 665-6121 or Dr. Lloyd Pflueger at 665-3004 for more information.

HOUSING UPDATE III



THIS TIME ITS SERIOUS...
SERIOUSLY

Feature by I Aaron Baker

Do you remember that one episode of *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* where they were all going to school, and the Fresh Prince, I think he was played by Chris Rock but I can't remember, they were all at school and there was this really old desk that all these dorks had carved their names into and it was really old and really dumb and shit, when no one was looking the Fresh Prince carved his name, "Fresh", into it and then ran away and hid behind a suit of armor, then this one kid walked by and the Fresh Prince sneezed and bumped into the suit of armor and knocked this really big axe over and it cut this kid in half like a block of lettuce... well, needless to say, someone found the desk and got really pissed, then Carlton, that fucking dweeb, accused some Freshman of doing it, he said something lame about how

they started to do it then got scared and ran off, I think he was played by James Van Der Beek, the Jeeves, the butler, asked the Fresh Prince if his name was the Fresh Prince, I think he was played by James Earl Jones, who incidentally played Yoda's voice in *Star Wars*, and everyone looked at the Fresh Prince accusingly and then he said something really funny, god, it was HILARIOUS! I think I might carve FRESH into my desk, I think that would add a little bit of Jazzy Jeff style. I regret to inform you all that my sink is starting to run slowly again... I hate to waste money and by self-proclaiming drain cleaner that doesn't work, but I also hate to call my landlord, also a self-proclaimed drain cleaner, and admit to him that I am rapidly balding and that I hide that fact by shoving all the hair that falls out down the sink. What's a boy to do? I mean fuck.

Pancake City

665-6002

The Late Night Student Hangout for 19 years!!!

150 Menu Items

Huge Portions

Smoking and Non-Smoking Dining Rooms

Credit Cards Accepted**

**Video Games

14 Different Appetizers

We Fresh Grind our Coffee for Each Pot!

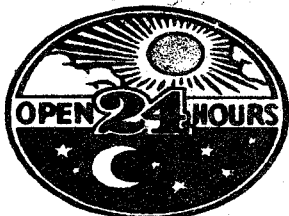
Late Night Specials

Sunday: All-U-Can-Eat Pancakes \$1.99

Monday: 50% off All Appetizers

Tuesday: All-U-Can-Eat BNG's \$1.99

Breakfast, Lunch,
and Dinner Items

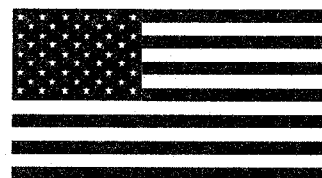


Alumni Owned
and Operated

Eclectics

111 East Harrison

665-9441



Kirkville's
Adult
Entertainment
Center

Message board
for personal ads

Stop in and see our new look,
we have expanded!

Magazines, DVD video sales,
lingerie, leather, gifts & cards

Free condoms and
informational material

Try our new rental card!

WE BUY/SELL USED
MAGAZINES AND VIDEOS

Hours

W-Th: 10am-10pm

F-Sa: 10am-midnight

Now open Sundays noon - 8



Did you like to play ball as a child? Were you the kind of youth who would wander the neighborhood, basketball in hand, going door to door in search of enough buddies to get that pick-up game going? Sometimes you wouldn't be able to find enough players, so you would improvise; maybe play some four-on-four, or even three-on-three. Well, at least there is no need to worry about a shortage of athletes when you settle back to watch a college game, right? Wrong.

On Monday, Feb. 10, Tennessee State University squared off against Eastern Kentucky in a match-up of Ohio Valley Conference opponents. The first half was played without incident. It was just like any other game, that is, until about 12 minutes into the second half. Eastern Kentucky was leading 72-58 when Eastern's Shawn Fields was fouled in an excessively rough manner by Tennessee State's Cedric Bryson. It immediately turned personal and the players on the court tried to stick up for their respective teammates. Soon, players were throwing punches, and both team benches cleared.

Travis Ford, Eastern Kentucky head coach described what he saw as, "Complete chaos." Once the officials were able to get everything sorted out, four players had been ejected for fighting, while nine others were ejected for leaving the bench. All the other players who were on the court when the altercation broke out were also ejected, bringing the grand total to 19 ejections.

With so many players unable to participate, it would be reasonable to think the game simply would be stopped. This was not the case, however. This is where the Division I college basketball game became just some neighborhood pick-up game.

Of British and American English

Feature by | Prajwal Sharma

"Meet me on the first floor of the library at eight," she says. "Okie," I reply, happy that a venue has been fixed. Come 8 pm, I reach the familiar precincts of the school library, climb up the flight of steps that leads to what I think is the first floor, and wait. Well, it is almost half past eight and there is still no sign of her. This is irresponsible, I think, almost angrily. To fix up an appointment and then decide against keeping it is sinful, I reason. Maybe, I have come to the wrong place, I think. That cannot be—this is the first floor of the library so she should have been here. Sadly, my first official appointment at the University does not really materialize.

Next day, I look at her in class hoping to find out if there is any guilt in her expressions. Far from it, she looks smug and distant. I go up to her and ask her about our appointment, only to receive a couple of f-words in return. Jesus! Here I was, asking a lady about an appointment that she decided to cancel without even informing me and she actually had the audacity to swear at me. Someone has to teach her what decency is.

A few heated words later, the truth finally dawned. It was not she who had forgotten to keep the appointment, it was not me either who had reached the venue at the wrong time. The root of the problem lay in—believe it or faint—the language. I would definitely have done my English teacher back home proud—this lady who loved British English and could detect syntax errors from ten miles away—for I had practised (note the spelling, it is British again) what she had taught so well that it could have put the biggest geek in her class to shame.

Confused? Well, let me explain. In standard British English—the kind my archaic English teacher taught—what is first floor in the U.S. A is confusingly ground floor. Therefore,

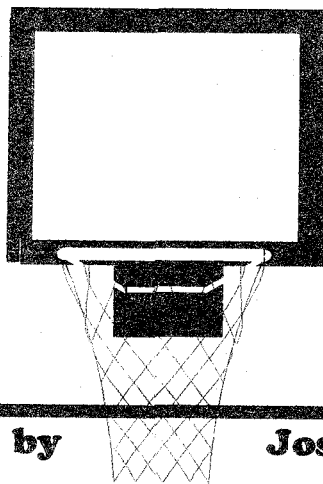
what is second floor in America is the first floor in England and other countries that practice British English. Hence, the confusion and the (dis)appointment. It was only when I talked of climbing the fleet of steps that things suddenly got clear. The result: convulsions of laughter and a new nomenclature—Mr. Ground Floor—that is perhaps going to substitute my difficult to pronounce name and stick with me throughout my stay at the University. So much for my English teacher.

I loved to hate my English teacher in school—for I have vivid memories of her caning me once when I had spelt color as color when she wanted me to spell it as colour. I still remember her plump jelly-like face that seemed to twitch and perspire with every smack I received on my back. Well, that was in school, but then it seems memories of her will continue to haunt me here, too. Thanks to her, I missed my first date in college!

I honestly had not the slightest idea that what was called a dustbin back home is trashcan here, what was lift back home is elevator here. Spellings are still more confusing—traveler back home being spelt the way it is here was criminal and honor had a "u" in between its last two letters. Liter was litre and center was centre.

Life has certainly changed after coming here and I guess language too has to. My English teacher may hate it but then, I guess I too will have to go with the flow (I still love to hate my English teacher, and what better way can there be to display my affections, or the lack of them, for her than by actually doing away with all of what she so stringently taught?). Until then, I guess I will live a COLORFUL life by HONORING my English teacher, which I shall do by dumping all that she has taught in the TRASH CAN that lies in the FIRST FLOOR of the library.

TENNESSEE STATE V. EASTERN KENTUCKY: BASKET-BRAWL



feature by

Josh Sisson

had been dominated by Eastern Kentucky. For the remaining time after the brawl, though, the game was played pretty closely; down the stretch Eastern only outscored Tennessee 17-14, and keep in mind that Tennessee State played the last five minutes with only three players, while Eastern had four. Tennessee has tried everything this season and has only been able to muster two wins, so maybe they should intentionally get into severe foul trouble in ev-

ery game. They will just have to make sure they get the brawl going in the first half, so they can allow enough time to mount a comeback, because Eastern Kentucky was able to keep the fighting Tigers of Tennessee State at bay, winning by a final score of 89-72.

After the game, Tennessee State coach Hosea Lewis said, "It was an unfortunate incident for all parties involved." He continued, "Both teams just got excited and came off the bench, and I'm really unhappy with the way it was handled; I'm disappointed with the outcome because we have intelligent players and young men at TSU."

These comments from Lewis seem hypocritical given that he was also suspended. But the Tennessee State basketball program has been prone to some disastrous occurrences that are not usually associated with a sports team. Teresa Phillips, who replaced Hosea Lewis as head coach, and who happens to be the first female to be the head coach of a Mens' Division I basketball team, is Tennessee State's third coach this season alone. The coach they started the season with, Nolan Richardson III, was dismissed from the team when he threatened Hosea Lewis with a gun during a disagreement the two had. The team's record of 2-21 doesn't help matters either.

Teresa Phillips, who is the athletic director as well as the coach, says she hopes that the team can close the season on a positive note. Even though she is a proven women's coach, I don't see what there is to salvage from this nightmare season at Tennessee State. A 2-21 season riddled with gun-toting coaches and players who can't control their emotions doesn't sound like something that can just be wiped away.

Simple Heroes.

by W. Aaron Wilson.

Someone once told me that there were no heroes anymore. That in today's society celebrities had replaced them. That instead of people who set a moral and behavioral example, we had interchangeable icons of glamour and fame and success. I told her that she was wrong; I have heroes.

She asked, "Who?" And I couldn't think; I couldn't come up with names. It's so difficult to pin my heroes down, to give them names other people can recognize, and yet they are out there. I know they are out there, yet I could never come up with a single name if you asked me to. But I met a few of them tonight [Wednesday, Feb. 12].

As I type this, I have just come from a meeting convened for the possibility of forming a Sierra Club Student Affiliate on campus. Yeah, and I know what you're thinking. Forming new organizations is way too much work. Even being involved with a small organization is a chore, nursing it along through periods of ebbing interest and keeping it going from year to year. I feel the same way.

I'm tired. I graduate soon and really, I want to just coast for a bit. I've fought all the gravity getting this far and now I just want to sled on down to the place where they hand out diplomas. That was before I went to see some speakers on an issue I'm greatly concerned about: water quality (Ha, yeah, that's sounds so lame. "What're you into?" "Well... water quality. It's a big concern of mine." "Oh yeah? I've really been more of a normal person, myself.")

Lame as it seems, I got fired up at

that meeting like I have rarely gotten fired up. There before me were speakers who had first hand experience with the evils of corporate agriculture, the front line in the battle to preserve our rivers and streams: the family farmers of America.

They stood up at the podium in their flannel shirts and blue jeans and spoke from the heart about the fights they had won and lost, the hardships they'd faced, and the onslaught of corporate farms in northern Missouri. They've watched dead fish clog their creeks, heard the screams of tortured animals in distant holding pens, and closed their house against the waves of stench that roll over to them from miles away.

They've also been torn apart by committees, filed lawsuits, organized resistance and passed ordinances that were overturned.

As they spoke I thought that here, here are the heroes I've always known were there. These are people who can speak to me more than any uninformed activist or political knee jerker can: people who aren't afraid to fight, but most importantly people who aren't afraid to lose. I could have met them in my hometown of Canton, Illinois, or on the streets of Kirksville.

So yes, I have heroes. They don't inspire me to make a lot of money, they don't make me want to win some kind of medal or trophy or tiara. They just make me want to take a stand for the little things. Clean air, clean water, wild spaces and the dignity of rural America: simple things, really. The fact that we actually have to fight for them makes it all the more important that we do.

REVIEWS

monitor

Women's Resource Center produces V-day monologues

The Vagina Monologues

Written by Eve Ensler

Directed by Dana Kuhnline and Jennifer Strickland

Review by I Nicole Rainey

Yeah, the Women's Resource Center (WRC) really does it up right. Between vagina arts-and-crafts sessions and band fest fundraisers for Victim Support Services, it seemed like the WRC spent all last week celebrating vaginas, a celebration that culminated in (of course) the Vagina Monologues themselves.

For those of you fools who've never taken advantage of the WRC's consistently wonderful Valentines Day productions, Eve Ensler created her Vagina Monologues from a diverse collection of interviews of women about their vaginas. It contains stories from an astoundingly wide variety of different voices about different vagina related topics ranging from first periods to birth stories, to accounts of horrible violence against women.

The WRC's production is especially exciting because instead of solely relying on theater students to do the acting, everyone is encouraged to audition, resulting in a diverse cast

Last semester, directors Jennifer Strickland and Dana Kuhnline traveled to Chicago to participate in a conference held by Eve Ensler specifically for women directing the Vagina Monologues.

At the conference, Ensler posed the question: What would the world look like if all violence against women ended? Strickland and Kuhnline took this question back to the University and held a series of public discussions on the theme geared toward the development of student-written monologues.

The monologue that resulted from the discussions was perhaps one of the highlights of the show. Unlike the rest of the monologues, the student-written was composed by men, and discussed our society's definition of "man," and how that definition must be changed in order to end violence towards women.

The audience's enthusiastic reaction to the show was just as exciting as the monologues themselves. It was wonderful to be surrounded by an auditorium full of women and men collectively giggling at warm hearted vagina jokes, shuddering at the descriptions of female genital mutilation, and howling with delight at a brilliant demonstration of all the different sexy kinds of moans women can make. The collective love and respect for vaginas was powerful, and a good time was had by all.

Cat on a totally sweet Hot Tin Roof rocks face

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Written by Tennessee Williams

Performed by University students

Review by I Lizz Rackley and Rory Rhoreron

So, yeah. That play totally rocked. Actually, to quote freshman Rob Schwaller, "That play rocked my face off." But, it was three hours. THREE HOURS LONG. The play deals with southern portrayals of malice and jealousy, broken relationships, and a subtle suggestion of homosexuality. Based on these emotionally complex topics, the play was riddled with intense dramatic dialogue and vocal scenes. They, like, broke shit, man. Crap.

The direction of the play was not handled quite so well. The characters seemed to be constantly overdramatic, beyond the point of reality. Most of the manufactured drama seemed almost comical at times. A few laughs arose from the audience not in response to funny lines or good acting, but due to the sheer ridiculousness of it all. Some lines were unnaturally

given as each character made a full stop before the next one continued.

Other than some overacting and a little stiffness from the minor characters, the play itself was quite enjoyable.

The acting on the part of Aaron Baker, portraying Big Daddy, stood out as an exceptionally developed work. He gave the play a certain hint of class and professionalism that was a bit lacking in other departments.

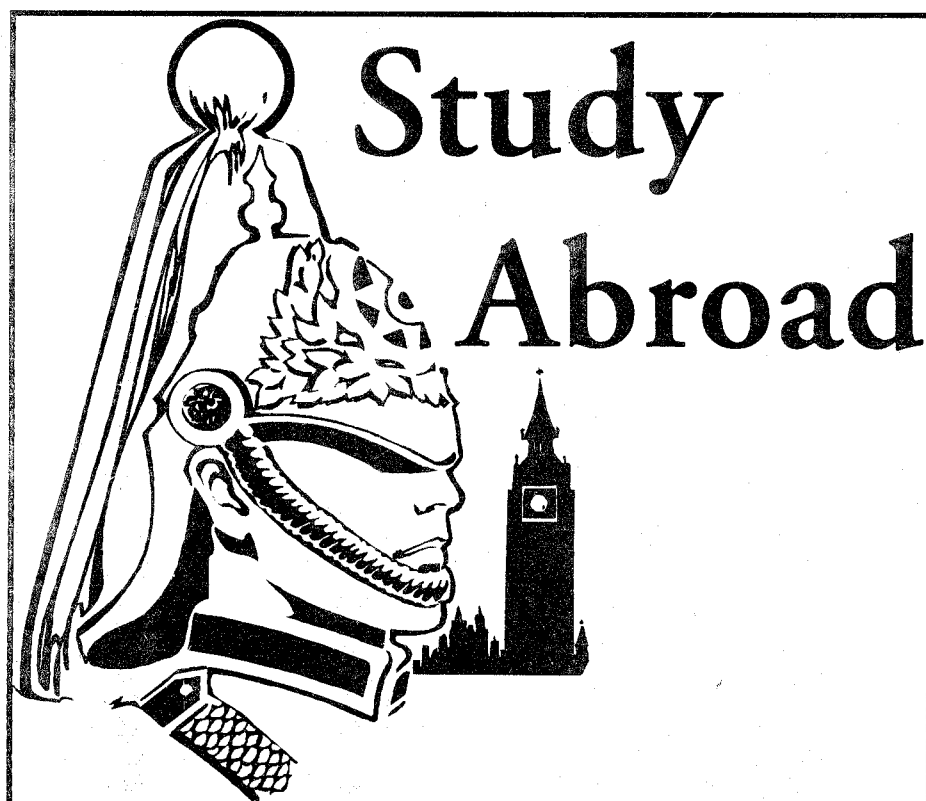
Maggie, played by Crystal Schrage, was totally hot. She spent half a scene in her slip, moving seductively across various pieces of furniture.

Schwaller remarked that he "wishes his wife will be as horny as Maggie was."

Maggie delivered her lines with impeccable Southern charm, and controlled not only her husband, but also several scenes.

Ok guys, here's a brief synopsis of the other actors: The kids are cute, Mae's a bitch, Big Mama's funnily fat and screeching, Gooper's an overacting prick, the doctor doesn't matter, and the priest was unconvincing. There. Now go see the damn play yourself, fool.

The two-dollar ticket money most obviously paid for the amazing set design and time-relevant costumes. The lighting was totally sweet. The smell of cigar smoke and binge drinking reminded me of home. Trust me, it was completely worth it.



Study Abroad

MISSOURI-LONDON PROGRAM MEETING

Want to study in London?

Students interested in the Missouri-London Study Abroad Program should attend a special meeting on Tuesday, February 25 or Wednesday, February 26 in the Alumni Room, SUB from 4:30 - 5:30 PM. Dr. Dennis Leavens will lead the discussion. Refreshments provided.

SOUND SHOPPE

112 S. Franklin
10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Mon-Sat
Noon - 5 p.m. Sun
665-2565

Your New & Used CD/DVD Headquarters

LPS NEW AND USED

WE HAVE A HUGE CD AND DVD SELECTION!

Liberal Arts, part two:

Let internal motivation
be the guide for study

Opinion by | Dr. Dennis Leavens

Epigrams: like all summary statements, an accurate depiction of the "truth" is often sacrificed for memorable phrasing. But these may contain kernels of truth, and surely they provoke, if they necessarily conceal as much as they reveal. This first one comes from George Bernard Shaw, *The Revolutionist's Handbook*: "No man can be a pure specialist without being in the strict sense an idiot."

Shaw is clear on one point: specialization leads to idiocy. But can we avoid specialization? Is it possible to be well-rounded? Perhaps we can hold that question for a moment while we look at specialization in a narrow field.

Liberal arts education for at least the last 150 years in American colleges and universities has become increasingly specialized. As knowledge and disciplines have developed, specializations have resulted.

Steve Pollard, professor of philosophy at the University, appropriately points out that there are good reasons why disciplines arise. If one would read Aristotle and think seriously about him, one needs to know something about Plato. The same goes for Alice Walker and Zora Neale Hurston, T. S. Eliot and Dante, cell membranes and molecular polarization, pitching a baseball and biophysics. As Mrs. Ramsey says in *To the Lighthouse*, the "subject" of scholarship is "the influence of something upon somebody."

Surely, we must know certain contexts in order to think about things, and so questions of what liberal arts education might be in the twenty-first century arise in part from the specialist training that faculty members receive in graduate school. This specialization is essential to advances in human knowledge.

Few would suggest that "practical" advances in medicine, technology, agriculture, bioengineering, etc. have not been made, in large part, by university researchers. Someone in the humanities would surely make similar arguments about advances in social conditions and perceptions due to university research into gender roles, cognition, minority voices and opinions, power dynamics, constructions of knowledge, etc.

And yet there is something narrow in this specialization, something confining and artificial, something unhappy. Despite the obvious advances in knowledge, the split in both liberal arts education and, by way of example, our current curriculum (LSP and major) is vividly displayed in Shaw's quote: specialized training is necessary, and it runs the risk of losing touch with the necessary, with humankind and may locate success too narrowly: "only baseball players are good humans!"

But early in *The Great Gatsby*, Nick Carrway complicates Shaw's aphorism: "I was going to . . . become again that most limited of all specialists, the 'well-rounded' man. This isn't just an epigram — life is much more successfully looked at through a single

window, after all." The "well-rounded" person is just as specialized as the specialist! And, in the context of the novel, "success" is ruthless, irresponsible, damning and even murderous.

So the dilemma is before us: both liberal arts and the major are specializations. In this context, how are we to avoid the idiocies of total immersion into a narrow study and the self-confining limits of "well-rounded" specialization? How can we see through several windows simultaneously and still be "successful," advance knowledge, make the world better, and know enough to be effective in our daily work?

On approach to an answer comes from another aphorism, this time from William Blake's *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*: "The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom." Universities provide platforms for the voices of excess, if for no other reason than that only excess can locate the bounds of knowledge, of understanding, of truth, of judgment, of values.

In one of my classes, we have just finished reading *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. Whatever one can say about that most remarkable of humans, Malcolm X walked no road if not the road of excess. He is a thorough-going hustler, a pimp, a prisoner, a committed racist, and a devout Muslim with profound concern for all humankind — all in one person, all at different times of his life.

He summarizes his position late in his life by saying, "I'm for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice no matter who it is for or against. I'm a human being first and foremost, and as such I'm for whoever and whatever benefits humanity as a whole."

Of course his underscoring of "as a whole" refers particularly to racial injustices in the United States and European imperialism all over the globe. But the passage applies to Shaw's reservation about specialization. Research, education, "well-rounded" study, vocational training should benefit humankind "as a whole." If they don't they run the risk of idiocy, of wrong-headedness, of uselessness, we cannot the limits truth, knowledge, understanding.

But how do we know what might benefit humankind as a whole? Only through our excesses, only through our "bad" choices. Issac Bashevis Singer once commented that writers must have the freedom to write badly. His point was that only that way can they have the freedom to write well.

So it is with our curriculum. A few epigrams to close: Let the teachers teach excesses. Let the students study excesses. Let faculty teach what they want. Let students study what they want. Let internal motivation be the guide for study.

Will there be holes, missed "essentials," unsystematic understandings? Yes, there will be, and there is a reason we call our last college event "Commencement." People are generally bright, talented, interested, able and curious. They are capable of locating their own definitions of idiocy. Let them.

Queen
Astra

Let the
stars be your guide!

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

You will begin to wonder about the boy you have a crush on when he begins to give you sly levoductions.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Laugh at yourself you will when you have an affair with Tipper Gore as a result of your limophoitios.

Leo (July 25-Aug. 23)

Well I'll be jiggered, if that don't skin the cat.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

¿El Perro cree que si, tambien?

Aries (March 21-April 20)

Your will be transported to the late 80's/early 90's when the Domino's Noid follows you around campus for *at least* a week.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Oh you're such a liripoop!

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

HA HA, you have limosis, chalk face!

Cancer (June 22-July 24)

Forthcoming events this week will lead you to believe that Randy Quaid might be stalking you, and if he's not stalking you, then I at least hope that he's looking for a job as your personal secretary.

Taurus (April 21-May 22)

For the sake of an update, the dreaded (and self-proclaimed, as I recently learned) "I'm going to punch you in the back of the head and run like hell bully" is currently considering a job in the porn industry, specifically the "I want you to take off my clothes, punch me in the back of the head and then do me in the butt-like hell" fetish branch.

Gemini (May 23- June 21)

No, you were right, I was wrong...like I said, fucking sue me...no really, sue me, for everything I'm worth...I've got two boxes of macaroni and cheese that I still haven't gotten around to eating.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

I suggest to you sir that you get a lipectomy!

Pices (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Okay, okay, enough of this lexiphanic showboating.

?? ?
Did you know ??

The Monitor offers a discount to student organizations for advertisements. Place an ad today and get the cheapest ad rates on campus by emailing monitortrm@hotmail.com

Sen. Robert Byrd to colleagues: "We stand passively mute"

a transcript from the Senate floor

"To contemplate war is to think about the most horrible of human experiences. On this February day, as this nation stands at the brink of battle, every American on some level must be contemplating the horrors of war.

Yet, this Chamber is, for the most part, silent — ominously, dreadfully silent. There is no debate, no discussion, no attempt to lay out for the nation the pros and cons of this particular war. There is nothing.

We stand passively mute in the United States Senate, paralyzed by our own uncertainty, seemingly stunned by the sheer turmoil of events. Only on the editorial pages of our newspapers is there much substantive discussion of the prudence or imprudence of engaging in this particular war.

And this is no small conflagration we contemplate. This is no simple attempt to defang a villain. No. This coming battle, if it materializes, represents a turning point in U.S. foreign policy and possibly a turning point in the recent history of the world.

This nation is about to embark upon the first test of a revolutionary doctrine applied in an extraordinary way at an unfortunate time. The doctrine of preemption — the idea that the United States or any other nation can legitimately attack a nation that is not imminently threatening but may be threatening in the future — is a radical new twist on the traditional idea of self defense. It appears to be in contravention of international law and the UN Charter. And it is being tested at a time of worldwide terrorism, making many countries around the globe wonder if they will soon be on our — or some other nation's hit list. High level Administration figures recently refused to take nuclear weapons off of the table when discussing a possible attack against Iraq.

What could be more destabilizing and unwise than this type of uncertainty, particularly in a world where globalism has tied the vital economic and security interests of many nations so closely together?

There are huge cracks emerging in our time-honored alliances, and U.S. intentions are suddenly subject to damaging worldwide speculation. Anti-Americanism based on mistrust, misinformation, suspicion, and alarming rhetoric from U.S. leaders is fracturing the once solid alliance against global terrorism which existed after September 11. Here at home, people are warned of imminent terrorist attacks with little guidance as to when or where such attacks might occur. Family members are being called to active military duty, with no idea of the duration of their stay or what horrors they may face.

Communities are being left with less than adequate police and fire protection. Other essential services are also short-staffed. The mood of the nation is grim. The economy is stumbling. Fuel prices are rising and may soon spike higher.

This Administration, now in power

for a little over two years, must be judged on its record. I believe that that record is dismal. In that scant two years, this Administration has squandered a large projected surplus of some \$5.6 trillion over the next decade and taken us to projected deficits as far as the eye can see.

This Administration's domestic policy has put many of our states in dire financial condition, under funding scores of essential programs for our people. This Administration has fostered policies which have slowed economic growth. This Administration has ignored urgent matters such as the crisis in health care for our elderly. This Administration has been slow to provide adequate funding for homeland security.

This Administration has been reluctant to better protect our long and porous borders. In foreign policy, this Administration has failed to find Osama bin Laden. In fact, just yesterday we heard from him again marshaling his forces and urging them to kill.

This Administration has split traditional alliances, possibly crippling, for all time, International order-keeping entities like the United Nations and NATO.

This Administration has called into question the traditional worldwide perception of the United States as well-intentioned, peacekeeper.

This Administration has turned the patient art of diplomacy into threats, labeling, and name calling of the sort that reflects quite poorly on the intelligence and sensitivity of our leaders, and which will have consequences for years to come.

Calling heads of state pygmies, labeling whole countries as evil, denigrating powerful European allies as irrelevant — these types of crude insensitivities can do our great nation no good! We may have massive military might, but we cannot fight a global war on terrorism alone. We need the cooperation and friendship of our time-honored allies as well as the newer found friends whom we can attract with our wealth. Our awesome military machine will do us little good if we suffer another devastating attack on our homeland which severely damages our economy.

Our military manpower is already stretched thin and we will need the augmenting support of those nations who can supply troop strength, not just sign letters cheering us on. The war in Afghanistan has cost us \$37 billion so far, yet there is evidence that terrorism may already be starting to regain its hold in that region. We have not found bin Laden, and unless we secure the peace in Afghanistan, the dark dens of terrorism may yet again flourish in that remote and devastated land. Pakistan as well is at risk of destabilizing forces. This Administration has not finished the first war against terrorism and yet it is eager to embark on another conflict with perils much greater than those in Afghanistan. Is our attention span that short? Have we not learned that after winning the war one must always secure the peace?

And yet we hear little about the aftermath of war in Iraq. In the absence of plans, speculation abroad is rife. Will we seize Iraq's oil fields, becoming an occupying power which controls the price and supply of that nation's

oil for the foreseeable future? To whom do we propose to hand the reigns of power after Saddam Hussein?

Will our war inflame the Muslim world resulting in devastating attacks on Israel? Will Israel retaliate with its own nuclear arsenal? Will the Jordanian and Saudi Arabian governments be toppled by radicals, bolstered by Iran which has much closer ties to terrorism than Iraq? Could a disruption of the world's oil supply lead to a world-wide recession? Has our senselessly bellicose language and our callous disregard of the interests and opinions of other nations increased the global race to join the nuclear club and made proliferation an even more lucrative practice for nations which need the income?

In only the space of two short years this reckless and arrogant Administration has initiated policies which may reap disastrous consequences for years.

One can understand the anger and shock of any President after the savage attacks of September 11. One can appreciate the frustration of having only a shadow to chase and an amorphous, fleeting enemy on which it is nearly impossible to exact retribution. But to turn one's frustration and anger into the kind of extremely destabilizing and dangerous foreign policy debacle that the world is currently witnessing is inexcusable from any Administration charged with the awesome power and responsibility of guiding the destiny of the greatest superpower on the planet. Frankly many of the pronouncements made by this Administration are outrageous. There is no other word. Yet this chamber is hauntingly silent.

On what is possibly the eve of horrific infliction of death and destruction on the population of the nation of Iraq — a population, I might add, of which over 50 percent is under age 15 — this chamber is silent.

On what is possibly only days before we send thousands of our own citizens to face unimagined horrors of chemical and biological warfare — this chamber is silent.

On the eve of what could possibly be a vicious terrorist attack in retaliation for our attack on Iraq, it is business as usual in the United States Senate.

We are truly "sleepwalking through history." In my heart of hearts I pray that this great nation and its good and trusting citizens are not in for a rudest of awakenings. To engage in war is always to pick a wild card. And war must always be a last resort, not a first choice. I truly must question the judgment of any President who can say that a massive unprovoked military attack on a nation which is over 50 percent children is "in the highest moral traditions of our country". This war is not necessary at this time. Pressure appears to be having a good result in Iraq.

Our mistake was to put ourselves in a corner so quickly. Our challenge is to now find a graceful way out of a box of our own making. Perhaps there is still a way if we allow more time. "

Continued from page one

One week and a weekend of massive protests later, the nation's determination for war seemed less inexorable. The speaker the Greens brought to campus Wednesday night, February 18, Tom Sager, alluded to the massive protests, of "more than a million worldwide."

Although not himself a veteran, Sager is part of a volunteer public service group called Veterans for Peace, which has worked since 1999 to restore the water treatment plants that were devastated in Iraq during the Gulf War. According to author Michael Parenti, more than twice the total explosive tonnage employed in WWII was deployed upon Iraq during the war, and within two days of the commencement of bombing, there was no running water in the country. Sager said his organization has restored six plants, directly benefiting 80,000 people.

About 35 people listened to Sager, a former professor of computer science at the University of Missouri at Rolla, explain his group's mission. According to a brochure handed out by Sager to the audience, the VFP "intend[s] to keep this work going until sanctions are ended and Iraq is allowed to rejoin the community of nations.

Sager then showed a twenty-minute video, largely shot by him, showing various dilapidated water plants that the team visited and helped to renovate. The video, sometimes jumpy, showed a Gulf War vet, Candy Lovett, confined to a wheelchair by Gulf War Syndrome, according to Sager, helping to shovel gravel and sand to make cement to rebuild a plant.

The video's amateur execution gave it the appearance of a home video. So much the more piercing, for this, was the footage of ossified limbs of human beings stuck to the walls and ceiling of a former bomb shelter in Amriya, Iraq, that was hit by US bombs in 1991 and that is now converted to a memorial.

Sager ended with a question and answer session whose subjects ranged from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty to the Nicaraguan Sandinista government to Afghanistan.

Eddie's Book Exchange

217 South Franklin Street, Kirksville, Missouri 63501

In The European Tradition:
Dealer in Vintage, New, & Rare Books; First
Editions and their Ephemera
Custom Tobacco, Cigars, Tobacco
Pipes/Accessories

www.we-trade-books.com

BUY-SELL-TRADE

WITHOUT A DOUBT
THE LARGEST USED BOOKSTORE IN THE
HEARTLAND

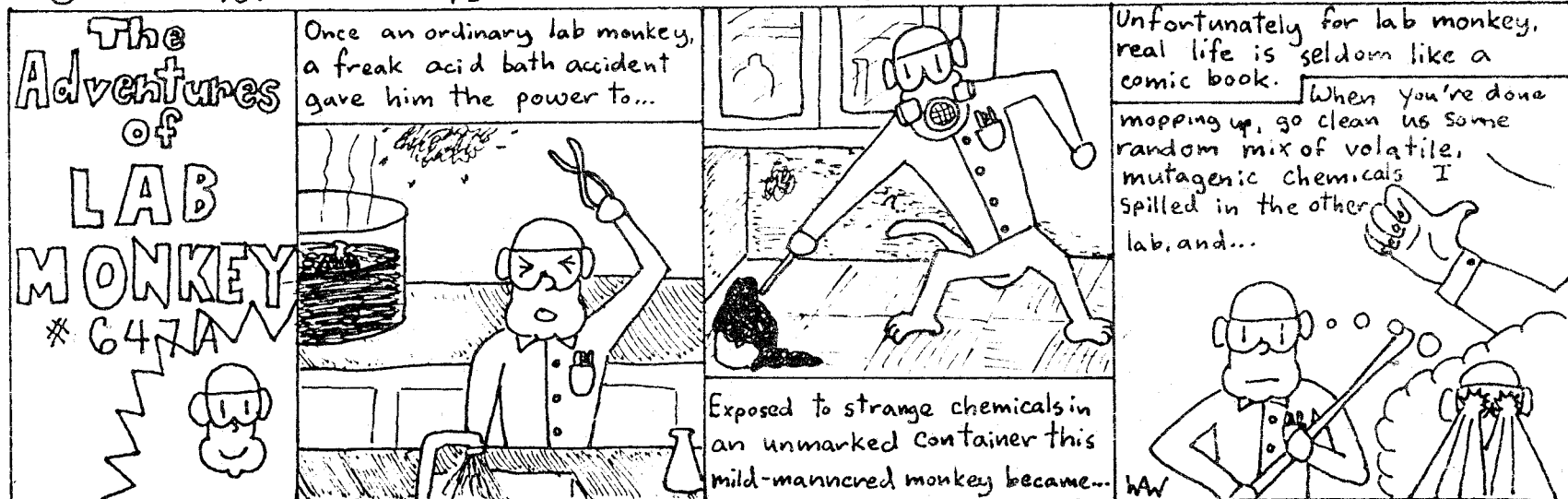
Bring us your good condition BOOKS:

PHILOSOPHY
NEW AGE
CLASSICS
HISTORY
NON-FICTION
HORROR
OCCULT
GEN-FICTION
SCIENCE FICTION
FANTASY

Sorry we do not accept Romances or
Standardized Textbooks

Comics for Chemists

by The Diels-Alder Dareddevil



MY BACK PAGES...

Here we are now. Entertain us. There was a fine and varied flourish of submissions this week, more than i had space for. way to go dudes! Shout outs to those involved in the Gash/Voigt student production, and anyone involved in the Vagina Monologues. it's like bob says yo, you gotta stand up for your right! continuing sending submissions of all sorts to countzachula@hotmail.com, or drop hard copies off in the CAOC Monitor mailbox, SUB basement. zach.

the road to hell

I hope you make the best of what you get: reigning fear, horrific terror from above, greed oil fighter planes bring the wrath of the uniformed complacent; computer guided gun explosive shell, depleted uranium ammunition innocent civilian children crying; laughing stock market money cigar, boardroom profit graph dehumanized; helpless despair, terrorism lash out fit of anger fear, hurt, backed-into-corner beaten dog (we gave him rabies), bite back, righteous explosion of white might: chicken-hawk warmonger, never seen gruesome face of war... green disease game of oil chess at humanity's expense; vanity drenched, "serve my country," hey everybody, look at me...
 "We will never forget!"
 Forget to forgive and forget...
 We always forget.
 I hope you make the best of what you get.

-Noremac

Eyes tell the composition of the heart,
 The wants, needs, gotta haves,
 And can't do withouts.
 Pasts, present, and even futures--
 Hidden under layers of flawless make-up
 Worn by a lonely, fragile Maybelline queen.
 Eyes tell the true mold of man, woman, or child,
 Whether his or her life is based on
 1 lie, 2 lies
 Many LIES,
 1 truth, 2 truths,
 Hidden behind nonchalant, cold eyes,
 Telling of true pain suffered.
 Eyes tell the soul of you, me, and even the he/
 she,
 The beauty/ ugly of a soul,
 The fullness/ emptiness of a soul
 The dreams dreamt, yet not achieved,
 The pain that overshadows the
 Never-ending pleasure.
 Eyes tell...

-Tamaka Mann

small spaces

i always like to eat mushy apples
 that have been sitting in my car
 for three days straight and frozen
 but they're still mushy
 so i wonder
 wh-wh-what would it taste like
 if the apple was Room Temp
 it would perhaps be too mushy
 to bear!
 it would be rotten to the core.
 so it's like that.
 how can <explicative> constantly
 attach qualitative labels
 onto everything: experience, even
 when there is possibly much more
 that isn't even being considered
 when clinging to those familiar notions
 i guess it puts the fun in fun-damentalism

-elizabeth roberts

Esoterica

The library's books
 The shelves they're on
 Are coliseum faces in warm weather
 Without jackets.

Anyways
 Up close I picked
 John Ashbery's "Tennis Court Oath"
 Just after I had decided
 To give up reading books
 Or at least anything not hand-written
 This was a book of poems and I planned an
 exception
 Hoping to become familiar with
 The world of poetry
 To be able to last a few rounds
 In conversation with myself or company
 It was not hand-written.

The card catalog told mehe
 Was contemporary.
 Oh man!
 John Ashbery has some thoughts in his head!
 I wish I knew what they were
 The printed paper was no assistance
 So I gave up reading poetry

I picked up reading the backs of books of poetry.
 John Ashbery was or is a Harvard Man
 Whether he graduated before or
 After he spent all that time in Paris
 Is a mystery to me-
 Just like his poems.

Anyways
 Who am I to write?
 My line breaks are arbitrary
 I can't even hold up in conversation
 These words have no secrets
 Honey doesn't burn my throat.

-Vincent Westerfield