

The Monitor

Volume 9
Number 8

March 21, 2003

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

Speaker urges students to think critically, learn actively

Story by I Kevin Chase

University students recently had the unique pleasure of a discussion-oriented lecture on racial experiences and introspection. Dr. Shakti Butler, a nationally renowned inspirational and provocative speaker on racism, led the lecture, which took place Thursday night in Baldwin Hall.



Dr. Shakti Butler addresses a crowd in Baldwin auditorium on Thursday night

After being introduced by Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) Co-President Molly Thacker, Dr. Butler said she would strive to connect with students and promote discussion. She implored students to continually ask introspective, challenging questions. Instead of focusing all criticism on outsiders, Butler encouraged students to "explore your own racial misconceptions" and prejudices, and this self-reflection became a theme of the night.

To begin the kind of "critical self-inquiry" that she desired participants to experience, Dr. Butler asked them to focus on several ubiquities of everyday life: their breathing that sustained them and the chairs they sat in.

Dr. Butler talked about learning as an active process of self-reflection, comparing personal actions to values, and working to change to better reflect those values. She taught participants about Transformative Learning, which "gets at embedded assumptions" that decide "much of our interests in everything from the books we read to who we seek out as friends."

In a memorable moment, participants repeatedly chose love as one of the most important values that "make life worth living". Participants broke love down into hope, compassion, and listening, among others. Most

everyone recognized that there were times when they hadn't listened, when they cut someone off, when they closed their mind to others' thoughts. Dr. Butler asked the group to note the paradox of not doing something so integral to love. She encouraged members of the group not to feel guilty, but to change and grow.

About 25 minutes were shown of Butler's documentary film, "The Way Home", in which groups representing various ethnicities discuss a series of issues relating to race. These included racial identity, experiences of racism, stereotypes, and media portrayals. The full video contains discussion on more than a dozen such topics.

Women in the video were broken down into groups of Indigenous, Latina, African-American, European-American, Asian, Arab, Jewish, and Multiracial people. Women in the Arabic group expressed some of the anger they felt at being immediately accused of terrorism and continual media vilification (this was pre-Sept. 11). In another section, various Asian women decried the stereotypes associated with them, then stating: "I'm not a Geisha", "I'm not good at math", and so on.

After the video, Dr. Butler said that racism was not just prejudice, but was intimately related to how we look at people. She pointed out that race, gender and class all operate the same way, that they are just different forms of her complex definition of prejudice.

At the end of the lecture, Dr. Butler took several questions, and answered one by encouraging non-minorities to read and think critically about first hand accounts of racism. She said that it was productive for whites to help end racial injustice by looking inside themselves, not to feel guilt, but to enact change.

Reaction to the speaker was extremely positive. FMLA historian Penny Feero said "She was different because she drew unique thoughts out. I didn't feel like I'd been lectured to. I felt like I had a conversation with her."

Asked about a feminist organization bringing a speaker to campus to address issues of race, FMLA Co-Vice-President of events Renee Carey responded, "We can't separate the movement for liberation of racial minorities from the liberation of women. They are all part of the interrelated abolition of social prejudices."

The lecture was preceded by several events, all sponsored by FMLA. There was a showing of a full hour of "The Way Home", a party at FMLA faculty sponsor Linda Seidel's home, and a lunchtime discussion with Shakti Butler herself. Dr. Butler also spoke in Dr. Seidel's JINS class on the women's movement in intercultural perspective.

Multicultural Affairs, the Residential College Program, and the Funds Allotment Council cosponsored the lecture and reception Thursday night.

Around the World in 500 Words

Compiled by I W. Aaron Wilson

Recent stories gathered from news.bbc.co.uk

Africa: Despite its worsening famine, the Malawian government sells 20% of its grain reserves. South Africa criticized for its soft stance towards Zimbabwe's government. Namibia's only president since 1990 independence set to retire after current term. Ashanti mines in Ghana mark decrease in HIV infections since including condoms in pay packets. Ugandan rebels continue to raid schools for recruit, despite government's pledge to protect the population.

Americas: Colombian rebels claim to hold three Americans hostage following downing of government airplane. A Venezuelan judge calls for the arrest of seven more leaders of the nationwide oil strike; president Chavez labels strike a "rebellion." Uruguay becomes more unstable financially, as backlash from Argen-

tine economic meltdown continues. Submarine to search for Argentine battleship sunk during Falkland War. Jewish groups blast PETA's latest campaign likening factory farms to concentration camps.

Asia-Pacific: 116 non-aligned nations, representing half the world's population, met in Malaysia, denounced attack on Iraq as "threat to all poor countries." Pacific island nation of Nauru isolated by telecommunications collapse, possible political instability. Thailand denies human rights violations after anti-drug campaign claims 600 lives in two weeks. Earthquake in western China causes hundreds of deaths. UN delivers more indictments of Indonesian military leaders for crimes against humanity in East Timor; Indonesia continues to ignore indictments.

Europe: A close vote in the Turkish parliament prevents American troops from

massing there; a result greeted with cheers by the Turkish populace, 80% of whom oppose war in Iraq. Turkish Cypriots show overwhelming support for reunification before the island's inclusion in the EU. Three Chechen rebel groups listed as terrorist by US, which denies doing so to sway Russia on Iraq issue, even as Russia threatens to use its veto power. Croatia applies for EU membership.

Middle East: Iran admits UN inspectors to view its nuclear reactor in an attempt to allay international concerns of a possible nuclear weapons program. Western volunteers flock to Iraq, offering bodies for use as "human shields." In the face of looming conflict in Iraq, Kurdish groups brace for chemical reprisals from Baghdad, possible military intervention from Turkey. Armenia's president forced into a run off with opposition leader; government suspected of detaining political opponents to in-

sure victory.

Science: Italian scientists on the trail of an effective test for Mad Cow Disease. A US scientist postulates that Martian gullies caused by melting snow deposited during periodic weather caused by the "wobble" of Mars' axis. Invasive yellow crazy ants from India threaten Australian wildlife with their blinding acid attacks and multiple queen "super colonies."

South Asia: Another top al-Qaeda suspect captured in Pakistan. Shia mosque in Karachi fired on as attacks on minorities, Westerners, continues to rise in Pakistan. Tribal people in western India evicted from their illegal occupation of a wildlife preserve. Afghan president Karzai implores international community to continue the ongoing task of rebuilding the war torn nation despite the continued possibility of war in Iraq.

The Monitor

Campus Collective
Independent Quality Since 1995
Volume 9, Number 8

CAMPUS ADDRESS

CSI SUB
TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501
FAX [880] 795-7438

OFFICE ADDRESS

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

MONITORTRN@HOTMAIL.COM

MANAGING EDITORS

ANDRÉS 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, JOE MOCCIA, JAIDEE MOORE, ADAM PETRY, LIZZ RACKLEY, NICOLE RAINEY, RORY ROBERTSON, AARON ROOKS, TODD RUECKER, CHRIS SCOTT, DR. LINDA SEIDEL, PRAJWAL SHARMA, JOSH SIGSON, 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

Gender Trouble: A Truman Conference

in honor of Women's History Month March 27-28-29, 2003

(Sponsored by the Division of Language and Literature,
the Residential Colleges Program and the Women's Studies Committee)

Thursday, March 27 (VH 1000)

9:30-10:20 Mass media representations

Cassandra Clements: "Gender Conflicts in Post World War II America: Concepts of Femininity and Masculinity on *I Love Lucy*"

Matthew Killmeier: "Contours of Class and Gender in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*"

Cabell Gathman: "'I'm not a woman or a sheep, MacLeod': Homogendered Homosexual Relationships in English-language Slash"

10:30-11:45 Personal testimony, part 1

Suzanne Chappelow: "First Comes Self-Love: A Study of PJ Harvey and My Own Femininity"

Akela Cooper: "Young, Black, and Female"

Hena Ahmad: "Indian Nationality/Muslim Religion/ Western Education: The Cross-Cultural (De)Construction of a Woman"

1:30-2:45 Literary gender rebels

Aaron Baker: "About *Lysistrata*"

Christine Harker: "Class-crossed Medieval Misogyny: The Two Duchesses of Gloucester"

Nicole Rainey: "The Burroughs-World of *Queer*"

3:00-4:20 Cross-cultural gender trouble

Ding-hwa Hsieh, "Sexual Purity and Danger: Chinese Perceptions of Buddhist Nuns since the Sung (960-1279)"

Catherine Wright: "Three Indigenous American Women: Sacagawea, Madame Lamallice, and Xwelas"

Larry Iles: "Gender-Troubling Pioneer Mary Agnes Hamilton, UK Socialist, MP, Writer, Broadcaster, and Diplomat"

4:30-5:20 Personal testimony, part 2

Gretchen Willier, "Isn't She Handsome?: My Life as an Accidental Male Impersonator"

Linda Seidel: "Why I Sing Show Tunes"

Friday, March 28 (VH 1000)

9:30-10:20 Gender trouble in medicine and law

Rebecca Payne McClanahan: "Margin and Center: A Model of Position, Action, and Movement of Nursing and Medicine"

Holly Hart: "Sexual Assault: The Victim's Burden"

10:30-11:20 Gender troubled institutions

Olivia Bolles: "Same sex marriage: A Fight Worth Fighting?"

Ebubechukwu Nwazota: "Silent Voices: Gender Discrimination in Nigeria"

11:30-12:20 Decolonizing gender in Africa and Cuba

Jessica Hawkins, "Restoring Women to History: Resistance to Colonial Rule in Southern Nigeria"

Fadzai Smout: "Media Representations as an Indicator of Social Change in South Africa and Cuba"

1:30-2:20 Gendered aesthetics

JJ Pionke: "Michael Field: We Are Women"

Monica Barron: "Wild Politics, Wild Aesthetics, and Toni Morrison's *Paradise*"

2:30-3:20 Literary homoeroticism

Arnie Preussner: "'No pleasure... but backwards': Homoerotic Discourse and the Performance of Gender in Jonson's *Volpone*"

Matt Reeg: "Love, Lust, and Liberation: Homoeroticism in E.M. Forster's *Maurice* and Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*"

3:30-4:20 Gender trouble in language and rhetoric

Shannon Clarkin and Laura Jordahl: "Gendered Perceptions of the Pseudo-Generic *You*"

Keri Bodensteiner: "What's the Trouble with Invitational Rhetoric?: Rethinking Feminism and Rhetoric"

4:30-5:20 Personal testimony, part 3

Alanna Preussner: "E-mails from Near the Edge: Confessions of a Would-Be Boy Scout"

Jeanette Standley: "On Reaching the Half-Century Mark: 50 Years of Gender Trouble"

Saturday, March 29

9:30-10:20 Rethinking the family

Courtney Carter, Arliss Gammil, and Paya Rhodes (from the *Coalition of African-American Women*): "Womanism and the Re-shaping of the Black Family"

10:30-11:20 The body as subject

Jill Hamilton: "The Gender of the Pastoral: Defiance of Convention in Behn's 'The Disappointment' and Boucher's *Venus and Mars Surprised by Vulcan*"

Aaron Fine: "Jacob Wrestles the Angel"

11:30-12:20 Female performers in patriarchal culture, part 1

Dana Kuhnlinep: "P(x) Girls, Sex, and Patriarchy: Poetry Caught in the Function"

Dana Smith: "Pavlova: An Original Play" (performed by Dana Smith and Patricia Burton)

1:30-2:45 Female performers in patriarchal culture, part 2 (Ryle Main Lounge)

Becky Becker and Daryl Fazio: *Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show*

3:30 Keynote Address (VH 1236)

Ladelle McWhorter: "Such a Girl!—Foucault and Drag"

5-ish Reception (Ryle Main Lounge)

7:00—? PARTY!

All conference participants, attendees, sponsors, Women's Studies students and faculty, and friends of Women's Studies are invited.

21 March 2003

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.

"Tired" but still alive

With reference to Jaidee Moore's "war on Iraq will free Iraqi people from oppressive dictatorship" 9-paragraph columnist's demonstration of pure fantasy and, yes, insular US "liberator" wishful thinking today (19 Feb), may I reply on behalf of the allegedly "tired" and "Vietnam War-era leftist," it is claimed by the columnist, they saw at the Violette Hall rally against the war you, more accurately, yourselves front-page reported this last issue!!

Firstly, by their initial truths, to adapt the old saying, they shall be known! I have never been as good, as a historian should be I have to confess, at "age" estimation by sheer appearances sake. But I, myself, as one of the four platform speakers at the VH meeting complained of, was still a schoolboy at UK high school equivalent at the time of the Vietnam War's height. And my father stopped me going on the big Trafalgar square protest rally against your embassy by the simple, if brilliantly expedient, device of offering to watch it "live" with me on ITV: London regional TV.

Looking at the ages of my co-speakers, and the floor audience who, refreshingly, for a TSU gathering, were (were they not?) inspired

out of the usual apathy to speak, only *one* lady said she had been partly similarly so "Vietnam"-era high school radicalised, as limitedly so therefore myself. In short, "this 60's era" put-down, coming mainly from US commercial TV is becoming a tame nonsense. Belying literally *thousands* of first-time protesters I have seen at rallies and meetings in three countries, US, Canada, UK since last fall I began activism on this impending disaster!

But, briefly, taking Jaidee on his own few concrete terms, what is wrong about pointing out parallels, worryingly, between this ignorant Bush administration's determination to askew the whole planet in a vast oil-soaked region yet further, this time the middle east, comparably? Just as *badly* as the last Texan domestic-only experienced politician, LBJ, screwed up Asia! Just like LBJ's obsession (see Robert Caro's magnificent multi-volume exposes) with *all* "communism" as one "globally-inspired" Bush II thinks, even if Rice and Powell, privately, know wisely better, that *all* "terrorism" is the same in simplicity; just as, sadly, as evidently Jaidee does, too! How dumb can you get? And, indeed, if you so reason as poorly, as lazily as this you might well cause the very

coalescence of the oppressed you fear in "terrorist" *greater* danger to US and UK ordinary citizens alike? Recall, for example, in precisely that very same Vietnam War Jaidee strangely does not want pondered on, that the LBJ "domino theory of Communism's apparent sameness," *temporarily did come*, momentarily, true! Russia, Nina, Laos, all in fact very *different, distinct* forms of Communist *Nationalism* were so outraged by US/Australian carpet aerial bombings of non-white civilians and neutral non-white states like Cambodia, that they, all, gave the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong liberation vital survival arms and trade material against the ugly, thudding US-OZ white-imperialist "Allied" "hi-tech" firepower!

Similarly, for one who decries our VH meeting accusatory "empty rhetoric" Jaidee certainly indulges in gargantuan soap box clichés, abominably inaccurate themselves. The Baath party is *not* "the Nazi party" in either its Saddam or neighbor Syrian one-party state incarnations. It is, indeed, cruel and a one party dictatorship in menace at times bizarrely erratic. But if Jaidee actually made an effort to put in *half the amount of study difference* a UK or Franco-German history high school, less grade inflated, youngster

is required to do, he sagely would know "Baathism" long precedes both Presidents Assad II and Hussein as the authentic voice of secular (if Sunni Moslem influenced) pan-Arab socialism, aimed precisely at forms originally of European-perceived, by Arab masses, colonialist, racist 1940's *Fascism*.

Thus while I will *not* defend definite torture and murder such as Moore rhetorically establishes, I will say that in terms of co-education for both sexes, elected if one-party parliaments, state oil and other resources, the Baathist record is much better, and even in this economic sense "freer," than the executionary-of-women, -dissidents, -and Christians, feudal Arab despotism, our so called US/UK allies Jaidee has bizarrely *zilch* to say in "freedom" lack anything about! That's why Saddam will get people, willingly, dying for him despite now frantic efforts of US-owned millionaire papers and FOX TV to pretend otherwise, about poor non-White people they care not a jot, really, about in basic insincerity! Never have: *never* will in rich men's roads to perdition!

Continued on page 10



CUSTOM MUFFLER

of Kirksville

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

Truman State
University's
official repair
shop for 5 years

NEXT TO WENDY'S

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

O P I N I O N S

monitor

Cultivate your own garden

Opinion by I Dr. Linda Seidel

At the end of *Candide* (1759), Voltaire's great satire of philosophical optimism, the small band of pilgrims who have failed in their quest to attain absolute truth or to solve the problems of the world find a measure of contentment by cultivating their own garden.

It would be easy to misread Voltaire's message as an endorsement of retreat from a world too complicated and corrupt to admit of amelioration. But when *Candide* and company begin their experiment in communal farming, they are finally taking charge of their own destiny. Their garden is no mere hideaway for disgruntled philosophers unable to prevail in the world at large. It is an oasis of enlightenment, a model society in miniature that the reader is invited to emulate.

Thus, when I suggest that the time may have come for us to cultivate our own garden, do not misunderstand me. With war looming ever closer as I write, I feel the attraction of escapism as strongly as anyone, but that is not the course I wish to advocate. Rather, I would ask whether, in the communities we belong to (virtual and real, intentional and found), we can collectively cultivate spaces where resistance may flourish—spaces where productive models of democratic decision-making may ultimately make possible a different vision of the world.

What would that vision look like? Here's what I see: (1) No leader claims to know God's will or presumes to use that divine pipeline to justify invasions, suicide bombings, or missions of revenge. (We might start by asking nations with a constitutional separation of church and

state to abide by that law.) (2) No leader wages war to maintain imperial dominance, and dominance moves are immediately labeled as such by foreign powers and the ordinary people at home. (We have made some progress, perhaps, in realizing the second clause of that sentence.) (3) Ordinary people are not coerced into fulfilling the imperial fantasies of leaders they disagree with, and political prisoners everywhere are released. (At home we could start by repealing the Patriot Act.) (4) Ordinary people are empowered to believe that they—not wealthy elites, not the mass media, not the major corporations or the politicians they manipulate—can set the agenda for the communities and countries in which they live. (World-wide protests against the coming war with Iraq show that ordinary people have not yielded up their belief that they can "speak truth to power.")

These principles of democratic practice and grassroots power have implications for local decision-making too. Will the University's next president feel answerable to all of the University community? Will governance be reformed to enable more voices to be heard? Will Truman students, faculty, and administrators craft a new liberal studies curriculum that all can be proud of and that plays to the strengths of all? Will students, once again, come to understand that the Student Senate can make itself a force to be reckoned with?

Maybe we cannot stop the war against Iraq. But there is still plenty for us to do. If we cultivate our own garden, it will not be a retreat to some never-never land. Rather, it will be the thing we *must* do if we are ever to expect democratic decision-making to thrive.

Current events and the eternal Now

Lately there has been a lot of tension, a lot of confusion, trouble in this world of ours, huh? Our country is declaring war, preparing to inflict massive violence upon our Earth. I have been thinking and discussing the current state of our eternal now with various earthlings, predominantly human ones.

One of the problems I encounter today in this country is an overwhelming distrust of the media. I have found this notion alive inside of myself and in certain groups of people - many students to say the least. On one hand I am told that American Media is supplied by four major sources all owned by the same group of people with vested interests in public opinion (and certainly a wildly strong power to affect or create public opinion). On the other hand I am told that the media is often slanted against our government and probably wouldn't be interested in making it look good. In any case it doesn't take much searching to discover that the story being told in American news is different from that being told in foreign news. The world at large thinks we are crazy. Even many citizens of our country agree - some of which are republicans in high office.

So, I think we are being distracted from digesting the gravity of our actions. I think some of our actions (stamped AMERICAN) have been committed without our knowing. There is a serious problem when the messengers of truth and information are few and skewed. So, what can we do? We must occasionally work to inform ourselves as best as possible. The most easily accessible providers of information may not be trustworthy. Today I watched the movie *Terminator 2* for an hour before I realized it was the war news, not *Terminator 2*. This war is no video game, but it's being sold that way. Don't buy it that way. The packaging is very flashy, and the game looks way bigger and better on the

box. Check out the Drudge Report on the web and watch Bill Mueys Now Fridays at nine on PBS. They were recommended to me and I pass it on to you.

Do not get sucked into the sink of negativity. To be swept up in the fear of war and death is futile, weak, miserable, inexcusable. Instead, we must face up to the injustices we have committed or they will come back on us every time. Example: We put Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden in power to terrorize our enemies. Now those actions seem to be finding their way back to us. We must face all of our mistakes with courage. We must face the possibility of death and destruction knowing that we have good intentions NOW; ergo we must hold good intentions always. We cannot let fear fester in our national blood making us into rabid, ragged, ridiculous renegades and cannibalistic cattle to trample our own. As individuals we must stay strong and hopeful.

Here is a pleasant perspective. Maybe this trouble is a growing pain, a sharp one. The people of the world have become aware of each other. Technology allows information to travel almost instantaneously around the world. The trend moves towards the existence of an Earth information singularity. A single point where all the minds of Earth are interconnected. What is this guy talking about? I'm suggesting that events like this one we face now are natural occurrences of the evolution of life on Earth. In the coming days, remember that we are all one: we are all related by our Greatest Grandparents - Adam and Eve; the notion of life - a thought made by the Universe; and by the awakening of all that is, the Big Bang. Peace, Love, and Rock'n'Roll.

Your Fellow Spiritual and Physical Living Being,

Joe Moccia

Eating disorders week encourages healthy body image

Opinion by I Lizz Rackley

I anticipated a few hours of horribly impersonal statistics that call me sick because they don't know my name. I waited for the speaker to tell real stories about real people who were really helped in the real world. I was mistaken. I heard a few new things, a few things I didn't want to hear, and a few things I need to follow. I realized that my disease has cures in hundreds of forms and that I just have to realize I am not a number- statistic or size.

The National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, sponsored by Alpha Sigma Gamma and FAC, was February 24-28. The theme "Reflect Your True Self" was adopted to promote a positive self-image and to encourage those suffering from an eating disorder. ASG Brenda Winking and her committee organized all the events for the entire week.

Monday started with the Awareness Fair, offering videos, t-shirts, pins, photos and information. Several posters displayed facts about eating disorders and body image.

A panel discussion opened the floor for comments about eating disorders on Tuesday. Several speakers, such as a nutritionist, recoveries and a Truman counselor gave their insight to body image and dealing with a disease.

Winking commented on the discussion

time, "It was cool to hear people describe their struggles with eating disorders. Most people won't talk about it, so when you get people that are willing to speak it helps others learn more about disorders."

On Wednesday night the High Street Performers gave a little show. Lisa Tjelmeland from St. Louis Children's Hospital spoke in Baldwin, sharing the medical side of eating disorders and how they should be treated. She focused on this year's theme by talking about social influence, personal perspective, and self-esteem.

The next night held an open mic to relate—personal or hearsay—experiences or read poems. But don't try to act like you care because no one showed up.

Friday on the Quad, people were able to drop flowers in the name of a friend who has suffered or died from a disorder. Each flower held a message about what the person went through or what they meant to everyone. The sun didn't shine for very long.

The week ended on a somber note with students and faculty expressing their grief at the flower drop. Hopefully those who attended an event left with a better understanding of eating disorders or encouragement about their own body image. Maybe someone knows their name.

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

Drinkin' with Lincoln

21 March 2003

RAVE act will end concerts

Opinion by I Whitley Fabb

You know what infuriates me? With the fiery intensity of a thousand suns HATE?! (Yes, there are a lot of things that piss me off, but I am talking about what infuriates me today, specifically.) When people do really stupid things. Like Congress. Because apparently Congress is trying to pass two pieces of legislation, the RAVE and CLEAN-UP Acts, that would eventually eliminate all forms of live music and dancing. This means no more live music concerts. Period. Both bills translate into innocent people being punished for the crimes of others.

The RAVE Act seeks to punish property owners (such as DJ's, nightclub owners, bar owners, motel owners, concert promoters...you get the idea.) for any drug offenses that their customers commit. If passed, it can be expected that these property owners will just stop holding their events. You laugh because you think that I am making this up. But I'M NOT. And even worse, the CLEAN-UP Act seeks to make it a federal crime-punishable by up to NINE YEARS in prison-to even promote an event that would attract possible drug users or sellers. BOO.

The RAVE Act and CLEAN-UP Act are obviously Congress' feeble attempt to eradicate all forms of drug use and selling. I mean, I agree that drugs are bad, don't do drugs...blah blah blah...but this is ridiculous. Don't let Congress take away the majority of our sources of fun. Write your congressman/woman or something. I'm telling you, eventually our weekends will consist of us sitting at home. Doing nothing. A. Very. Sad. Thing. Indeed. That is all for now. Carry on.

This war is just; it will be conducted with honor and compassion

Opinion by I Aaron Rooks

The United States has been witness in recent months to a systematic attempt to dupe the American public into following a pied piper sense of logic. It has turned world opinion against the U.S. led war on terrorism and has failed to heed the opinions of the majority of America. Now for you lemmings out there who have already concluded that I am referring to the Bush administration and the imminent action in Iraq, and are unwilling or unable to listen to reason, you may wish to skip ahead to a more palatable article and receive your daily dose of Jim-Jones-Kool-Aid (which would have you believe that the benevolence of our nation is a phony attempt at global domination). The more discerning American might wonder what evil I am talking about. What malevolent force has caused and continues to cause so much damage in our society? The answer is: The current anti-war movement. This movement is a platform dominated by a misguided few and swallowed by the dependent masses. It is led by the failed revolutionary counter culture of the 60's, who have spent the subsequent decades using their attained positions as educators, entertainers, and journalists, to create an auto-reactionary generation. The ultimate result of this well-oiled machine has been the propagation of complacency in a society rife with technological sterilization and lacking in any substantial moral outrage.

This generation has been groomed to respond automatically to the unfavorable situations that have been pounded into our heads

since childhood without our own independent critical evaluation. We now have a voting public content with an election process reduced to a 30 second soundbyte wedged between "Friends" re-runs and "Dell dude" commercials, a student body drawn to the saccharine causes of the moment like mosquitoes to a bug zapper, and a silent majority held hostage by the boisterous few. The current anti-war platform attracts this misled generation by perpetuating a message of peace, while seeking to preserve its sterilized slice of Americana under the thin veil of saving Iraqi lives. They wrap themselves in a cocoon of asinine ideology and ambiguous applications. A successful result by their standards would seem to be, any course of actions that precludes the unsavory nature of our present world from invading their insulated lives. For as long as they can't see this ugly side of life on their television sets, the injustices of the world can be easily forgotten and are best suffered by those unfortunate enough to be touched by it.

The term "Anti-War" has been hijacked by a movement that seeks to alienate loyal and patriotic Americans with the same fervor with which it recruits the more gullible ones. Very few people are "Pro-War", and would love to live in a peaceful world as much, if not even more so than the average protestor. We who support our government have put a limit on the cost of that peace and have determined that it is not worth our soul or our integrity. The average anti-war demonstrator is quick to point out that they are not for the brutal regime that has held the country of Iraq hostage, but that they are

against the U.S. policy of removing this monster from power. They vilify the Iraqi government and the Bush administration in the same breath, while enjoying the freedoms that our current "dictatorship" encourages and protects. They decry the barbaric actions of a human-shield-exploiting dictator; yet mock the pain and misery of these oppressed people by acting as human-shields themselves. They say any action must be taken with the consent of the United Nations, yet seek to neuter it leaving it unable to enforce its own decisions. And why? To save a few cents on gas, or to have one more day of free hand outs without owing up to our responsibilities

Face it, this war is just! It will be conducted with honor and compassion. We will not be using any Americans as shields for our forward-deployed units, nor will we be raping and torturing the populace of Iraq. The talking heads will talk and the protestors will protest, and many reasons will be given as to why we should not take this course. The news will report every protest big or small, yet neglect those who choose an opinion of substance over the blind regurgitation of a generation who has lost sight of what being a superpower really means. The wheat will be soon separated from the chaff, from the time that the first shot is fired until the last citizen is freed. Then the protestors can get back to the more pressing domestic issues such as high CD prices and the ongoing struggle for the freedom of downloading MP3's freely. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Tune in up north for sobriety and real accuracy

Opinion by I Larry Iles



In vital contributions to respective submissions for generally the globalization terror and more specific Greens opposition to the US and UK invasion of virtually defenseless, under-age "soldiered" Iraq, during two recent TSU seminars, local geography and media studies professors have both alike emphasized the importance of studying "foreign media". As an alternative window-in-way, to even begin to glimpse the bloody truths Bush, the junior, and Blair, the thin air, in their alike obsession with feel-good, pro-war spin doctor TV manipulation traits are determined to deny you, characteristically hollowly in both shallow headed and shifty eyed cases. Both professors Wolfgang and Matthew in an era of instant global satellites and quick internet facility are wholly right to stress that it is your conscientious civic duty so to check up. This is to avoid the complacent propaganda of the Pentagon and Whitehall pooled or censored war machines peddling of lies for a war 8,000 miles plus away in less technologically resourced human suffering we are cruelly causing, not Saddam.

Thus, I wish to use my first published regular column for the *Monitor* at the editors

own request to advance the more truthful claims to real news in this respect of our neighbour to the north, Canada in specifically the Iraqi context and, yes, more briefly on other issues. Given that here "dissent", badly otherwise, in the USA itself does not enter often but only remotely what the late French president Charles de Gaulle rightly slammed as our "Anglo-Saxon" mentality of nothing to really learn in Know-Nothing attitude to all things abroad. Indeed, one of my own favourite extracts from the unexpurgated Watergate burglary tapes he vanity fare commissioned is the one where that godforsaken, self-righteous inferiority complex US president Tricky Dick Nixon moans to his later justly imprisoned, collusive aides against, (I quote) "that Canadian son-of-a-bitch, Trudeau". The coleric spleen outburst not only because of the late premier's ex-Socialist Liberal anti-NATO and anti-Vietnam war denunciations of the "elephant giant", the USA, to his south here. But also, because worst in Nixon and his advisor Dr Kissinger's cynical eyes, Trudeau provided sanctuary internationally legally protectively for US Vietnam war draft evaders. Those who unlike rich kids Bush junior, Cheney and Dan Quayle could not afford to find legal US evasion means, the home guards, to evade that conflict. A Vietnam quagmire that in today's Middle East these 3 last chicken hawks are all avengingly for war repeat in waging, from armchairs' safety hypocritically.

Although Canada is now ruled by "Liberals" of far lesser caliber than former law professor, Pierre Trudeau, and indeed ones who are party business funded moving closer to the Bush-Blair trade and arms cajoling bribery for

"UN acquiescence" on their crime in our name against Iraq in practice day by day, nevertheless Canadian media reflects their public opinion's in almost total hostility to this war, prominently above all. Just yesterday, Sunday 23 February, for instance, I tuned into the CBC tv PRIME TIME "Sunday report" news where their LEAD item consisted of long detailed reports, with paid Québec reporters there from Malaysia. Where there were weekend meeting in conference 116 non-aligned nations of our planet, led by brilliant if rambling speeches by both the South African and Malaysian presidents who were wholly condemning the white US/UK invasion of Iraq as "an affront to the peoples of the entire world". All this of course coming from the world's LARGEST Muslim state that happens to be Asian, not Arab. Even BBC failed to match this extensive CBC coverage and of course US CNN et al condescended it all away to a mere racist headline.

It reminded me all in fact of something analogous I have never discussed in US print ever before, but which seems now rather sadly topical if ugly again. In 1991 in considerable ethical dilemma, I had to decide whether I should "accept" UK Defence ministry censorship "Guidelines" in becoming the only CIVILIAN historian to be lead presentation permitted to broadcast against then Gulf War I on one of Britain's four national channels in that war's first week. Less known, was that I later became the US/Canadian media advisor to the other big current war opponent, Tony Benn, the former UK Labour party cabinet minister who has just interviewed Saddam to try and avert the present Bush and Blair aggression.

The reason why all this reminiscence

flashes through me is that in that short 1991 conflict both I and Benn almost collapsed on our phones in mutual gasping horror. After I taped for him a CBC international radio report that their then even pro-Bush senior war acquiescent Conservative Brian Mulroney, Premier, had agreed with their General-in-Chief John de Chastelain. ALL TO TURN DOWN A US REQUEST THAT CANADIAN ALLIED BOMBERS, SUPPOSEDLY TO "LIBERATE KUWAIT", MOUNT USA URANIUM AND NEUTRON BOMBS, IN ORDER TO DROP THEM ON populous BAGHDAD, now over 4 million people inhabited today.

Even *MacLean's*, Canada's business establishment magazine, which our own Pickler library gets regularly, later verified the sheer monstrosity of this formal Bush oil dynasty request. And de Chastelain has since been the head of the disarmament process by peaceful means in religious strife torn Northern Ireland, trusted by most of even the most "evil" caricatured killers, as they once were.

Canada continues in short to provide this alternative English and French "dissent" vital role on Iraq and in many other areas of free thought. From French and Québécois films, wonderfully sensual and intelligent drama perspectives in alternatives of offering; to a country believing in state support for its superbly ironic writers, from feminists Atwood and Blais to satirists like the late John Candy and M. Richler. Canada is on this continent. And as Nixon's protégés like Donald Rumsfeld ruin the world again by exploiting the September 11 2001 hysterical patriotism, tune in up north for sobriety and distinct more real accuracy.

F E A T U R E S

monitor

Liar liar, pants on fire... sometimes cheating gets you higher

Feature by | Prajwal Sharma

I may not have been a famous author. I was just a columnist in one of the leading national dailies in Nepal. Not that I learnt much by way of experience, but I did learn the tricks of the trade and my teething taught me innumerable lessons about what establishing oneself as a writer could do. You begin well and effectively, you do not need to worry at all.

When I first began writing columns, I might have been all of 13. The feeling of being read was euphoric, as was having your name in print. And because I lived in a small town that had a population of no more than a hundred thousand, everybody read what I, or for that matter anyone, wrote. Yet, there was this insecurity—the kind, I am certain, which grips every amateur writer—that of negative feedback.

I was afraid that I might receive negative feedback from people who were not all that fond of me. Hence, to counter such negative feedbacks, which somehow never came in, I made a small plan. It was plain and simple. And dishonest! Inventing e-mail I.D.'s of imaginary people, I wrote feedback to the newspapers praising my write-up to the skies. Unethical to the norms of writing, anyone

may say. And I admit it too. Maybe it is confession time.

One of these feedbacks for instance came from a tourist. Funny!!! A praise from a tourist would not only be a big honor but also safer as no-one would actually go ahead and ask questions about who the responder would be. It was flamboyantly written, tasteful words selected, but sadly had sentence structures that were so characteristic of my writings. No-one seemed to notice, thankfully. Except my sister. There she was talking about the review—not without an undercurrent of sarcasm in her voice, while I just nodded. Or blushed.

Mrs Tanushee Thomas, a tourist in Gangtok, the town I grew up in, wrote—

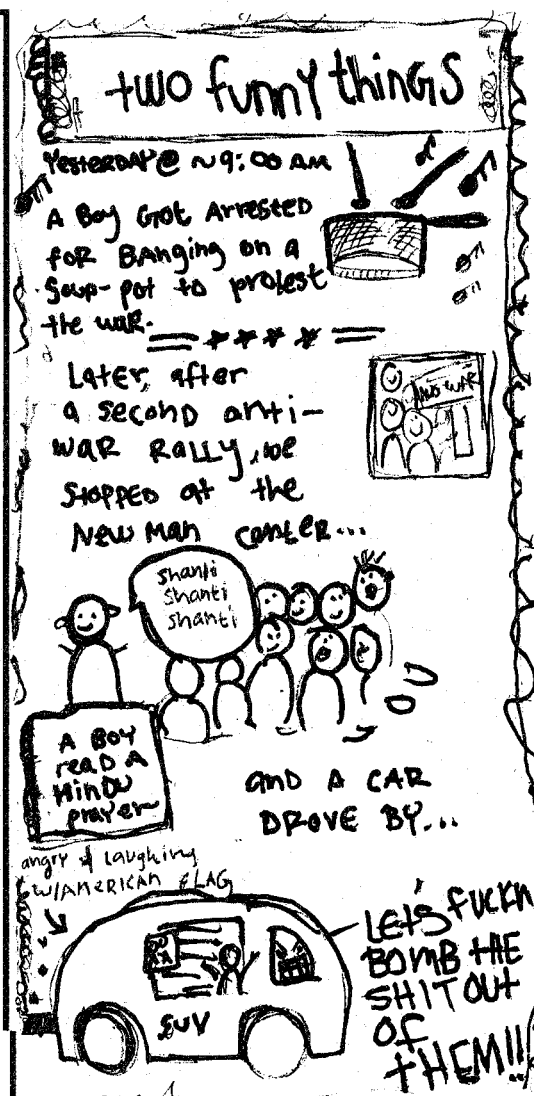
Hi! I am a tourist from Kerala, who has come to Gangtok from a visit. While the scenic beauty of the place has had me captivated, that is not what I actually am writing on. The cold weather gave a bout of cold to me. Not wanting to be labeled as a spoil-sport by my hubby and children, I asked them to go ahead and have fun, while I remained in my hotel room with a local weekly. While, I just flipped through the pages, one write-up in particular, by Prajwal Sharma about teenage woes surely caught my eye—articulately done and beautifully written. I must say it is works like these that make future writ-

ers. I would like to congratulate him and the entire team for the wonderful write-up. P.S.—Hairy Tales by Serah Basnet too deserves special mention.

Yes, after establishing your credibility, trash sells. It does. Honestly. Work hard on the beginning, the ending takes care of itself. In the writing world at least.

That must have been around five years ago. After the initial enthusiasm, I slackened off—after all, every write-up of mine would somehow end up receiving generous doses of praise, so there was no point in putting a good deal of effort. And people praised the write-ups too. Thankfully, they did. The initial establishment later, there was nothing I needed to worry about. I had established myself as a columnist—now my columns would be read with fervor and zeal. Trash would sell.

The last sentence I added to keep suspicions off—people would not doubt that it was I who wrote the letter if there was someone else who was praised too. The ideas that come to a mind of a thirteen year old!!! Well, and people did read the feedback and got even more impressed. After all, they said, being praised by a foreigner is no small job. While I just looked pleased inside. And said a silent prayer to God.



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

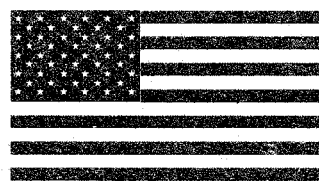


Alumni Owned
and Operated

Eclectics

111 East Harrison

665-9441



Message board
for personal ads

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

M-Th: 10am-10pm

F-Sa: 10am-midnight

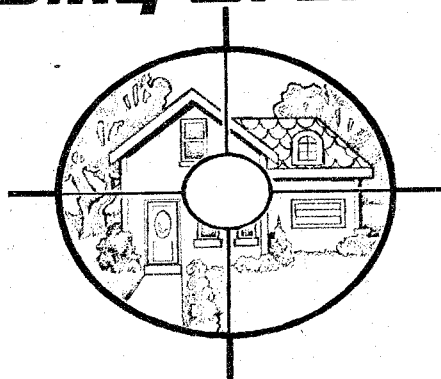
Now open Sundays noon - 8

Kirksville's
Adult
Entertainment
Center

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



HOUSING UPDATE IV



**BACK BY POPULAR
DEMAND**

Feature by I Aaron Baker

My sink is still clogged, to some degree, but I have some good news. Did you see *The Two Towers*? You know that part where Frodo flips out and throws his bosom buddy Alex to the ground and pulls out his rapier, he named the rapier WASP, which stands for White Anglo-Saxon Personality, and it glowed whenever spooks and frights came too close, and he shoves his rapier in his friend Peter's face and says "Off my ass Bitch! It's my way or the Highway!" And then Peter gets really teary eyed and starts to cry and whine about this and that and then the hobgoblin guy runs up and does something funny, and Stewart is like "Shut up, it's time for my monologue!" He goes on to talk about how necessary it is to try and separate the good and the evil, and to never let them mix and solidify, and then he said something about believing that there is good news to fight for. Well guess what? He was right! My roommates cleaned up my place when I wasn't looking. I don't know the

circumstances exactly, but I came home one night and the place was totally spotless. I was so excited I made soup, poured it all over the floor and then licked it off the floor (don't get any licking carpet ideas in your head you guttersnipe you!). But then I got really angry last night because my roommate thought it would be really funny if he moved My COFFEE MAKER to the downstairs when it belongs upstairs as is clearly indicated in the operating manual and I flipped over a table and my roommate was like Dude, chill Out, and then I said no YOU COOOOOOLLLLLL OOOUUUUUT! I get really tired of him sometimes. We're going to have a house meeting sometime soon and decide whom we're going to vote out next. My vote is Richard because he has the biggest bedroom and he SNORES so loud it keeps me awake half the time and he's always cooking that awful smelling food. I think his strategy so far to stay in the house has been to try and charm the ladies and bribe the men, but that shit wont work with me. I mean fuck.

MTV SPRING BREAK: BAGHDAD

Feature by I W. Aaron Wilson

So I've been thinking about the "possible" conflict in Iraq, which, I imagine, is a topic that has been on a lot of peoples' minds. This being *The Monitor*, you might be expecting a rant on the evils of warfare, possibly along the lines of: "Blah, blah, no blood for oil, wank, wank, let the inspectors work, blah, blah, capitalist murderers, blah, wank, blah."

Well, I'm not going to talk about that at all. No my friends, I think our current administration has pretty much made up its mind to invade and occupy Iraq. Since occupation is pretty much a foregone conclusion, I think we need to spend our time thinking about important issues that will face our nation once we've invaded.

1. *What will we call Iraq?* I don't think we should keep calling it "Iraq," do you? I mean, what's up with using a "q" for a hard "k" sound? And since we'll be occupying it, we can call it whatever damn thing we want. I personally think we should give it some kind of "state" name, like "Bushina," or "New Texas," or "Middle East Dakota" (We shouldn't let them become a state, of course, because then we'd have to add a star to our flag, and that would just be lame.).

2. *Who will govern Iraq?* I mean, I know we talk about letting them elect their own leaders, but they'd probably just put some crazy guy with a turban and beard in power, and then where would we be? Back to square one. So instead, I think we should just help the people of Iraq make this difficult decision.

Now I don't know about you, but the brilliant performance of Jesse Ventura as governor of Minnesota tells me there is only one pool of leadership to fill that position: profes-

sional wrestling. Putting The Undertaker or The Rock in the presidential palace would tell those Iraqis we mean business. (I'd suggest we get Hulk Hogan to shoulder this duty, but he's making such great collect phone call commercials with Alf that I'd hate to make him give that up.)

3. *How long before I can party there?* I mean, are we talking weeks or months before things are cleaned up there? Man, I can't wait until the first "MTV Spring Break: Baghdad." I mean just think about it, all those Iraqi chicks have spent all their lives being oppressed, who knows what they'll do when they're finally liberated? Hopefully we can get them to let us peek under their veils in exchange for brightly colored beads.

4. *Just how much will this cost - I mean, uh, what color will the new Iraq be on the world map?* Uh, green, I think, as long as none of the countries next to it are already green.

5. *How long will we occupy - Uh... How will we cope with a possible upswing in terror - That is to say: How can we commit to rebuilding Iraq when we haven't done the same for Afghanistan... ah hell...*

As you can see, there are a lot of unanswered questions when it comes to our occupation of Iraq. I can only hope the administration has answers for them, because, as you can see, these are questions that cannot be ignored. And, though much as the current debate has centered on trivialities like Saddam's tenuous connections to al-Qaeda, or whether the current UN resolution endorses the use of force, the real debate should focus not only on current justifications for war, but also the consequences that the war may bear.

University Bulls rugby one of nations top teams

Feature by I Josh Sisson

One of the University's most successful sports teams in recent years has been the Bulls Rugby Club. The Bulls have achieved this success thanks to rigorous conditioning and practice, a dedicated coach, and fiercely competitive match schedules. Like many other sports clubs, they do not always have access to the top facilities or scholarship athletes, but this has not prevented them from being one of the nation's top Division I rugby teams. For three consecutive seasons, 97-99, the Bulls made it to the final eight of the national championship tournament. For four straight years, 96-99, they reached the "Sweet 16." Can the Bulls get back on the national championship scene in 2003? Well, just about anything can happen in a rugby match. However, one thing is certain; the Bulls are doing all they can to reach their goals.

Bill Sexton has been the Bulls' coach since 1989. He has been there for all the ups and downs, but it never really gets too down.

"I think one of the best things about rugby is the comradery among players; it's amazing," Sexton said.

Although rugby is always fun, nothing beats winning, so the Bulls practice three times a week. The practices are intense, usually involving a lot of conditioning and strength exercises. The fundamentals of the game must also be preached and practiced, over and over. Coach Sexton likes to let the games dictate the focus of practice. For instance, if the team tackles poorly during a game, then tackling becomes the focus for the next week.

A lot of people don't know anything about rugby, but Coach Sexton can break it down into fairly simple terms.

"In Rugby you have forwards and backs; the forwards win possession of the ball, and the backs do something with the possession," he said.

"The game is continuous action and the offense is constantly responding to the defense, so every play is called in response to the defensive alignment of the opponent, like when a quarterback audibilizes at the line of scrimmage in football," he went on.

The concept is relatively simple. A team must find a way to put the ball in the goal, or try zone, either by running the ball or kicking it. The ball can also be passed, but forward passes are illegal. A try is worth five points, and the scoring team is given an opportunity for a two-

point conversion following the try. The opposing defense wants to keep the offense out of the try zone and gain possession of the ball. The only breaks in the action come in the event of an injury.

The Bulls' 2003 campaign got off two a terrific start as they trounced their rivals from the University of Kansas 57-0 and defeated a team from Columbia 38-5. The scores speak for themselves; they were two great performances all around, but the real test would be the next three matches.

Spring Break was really no break for the Bulls, who had three very difficult matches against quality opponents. The first stop was Kansas City to take on Kansas City RFC. The Bulls suffered a 34-14 loss. The Bulls came out charging, taking an early 14-0 lead, but KC RFC, the stronger and more experienced team, eventually wore them out.

Next, the Bulls traveled to Arkansas State University to battle the team from ASU. ASU is a Division II powerhouse in rugby, having qualified for the national championship three straight years, while reaching the Division II national finals in 2001. They have also won the Division II South Territorial three consecutive times, so the Bulls knew what they were getting into. Perhaps, they knew a little too well.

"We came out timid and scared," Joe Donley, the team captain, said. He went on to say the Bull forwards beat those of ASU, but they made too many poor passes and tackles. The result was a 12-10 loss.

They wrapped up the trip with another loss at the hands of the Kohfeld Scorpions, 12-5. Again, Donley was unhappy with the lack of fundamentals.

"We had a lot of possessions, but we couldn't maintain them. We were on the attack for the last five minutes of the match; but we just couldn't score."

The positive aspect of the three games is that the Bulls played some very good teams competitively. Coach Sexton and his captain Joe Donley still believe in the capabilities of their team.

"We just need to start fresh and work on some fundamentals in practice this week, and we'll be ready to play on Saturday," Donley said.

Coach Sexton showed a great deal of belief in his team when he said, "there is a commitment among players, a commonality of goals, and our guys know how hard they have to work to be as good as they want to be."

R E V I E W S

monitor

It is impossible to find a high point in a movie that has none; locating one of many low points is pretty easy

Gods and Generals

Directed by Ronald F. Maxwell

Running time: 225 Minutes

Review by I Zach Lechner

I'm not really sure what to make of this movie. Actually, I think I am: it sucks. It sucks a lot. And it's almost four hours long! That wouldn't be such a bad thing, but you can actually feel yourself aging during the film. I literally left the theater with a full beard, an unhealthy interest in NPR, and a noticeably decreased sex drive.

For those of you who care, *Gods and Generals* is the prequel to Ronald Maxwell's 1993 film *Gettysburg*. *G&G* (as I like to call it) is an adaptation of a book by Jeff Shaara, the son of the late Micheal Shaara, whose excellent novel *The Killer Angels* inspired *Gettysburg*. I didn't really care for *Gettysburg*, but it did help to humanize some of the Civil War's most famous figures, including James Longstreet, Robert E. Lee and Joshua L. Chamberlain. If these names mean absolutely nothing to you, I suggest you stay away from *Gods and Generals*. Actually, that advice goes for everyone.

Gods and Generals opens in April 1861. Colonel Robert E. Lee, played by Robert Duvall, has just turned down command of the United States army (curiously, the internal turmoil that preceded this decision is absent from the picture). Feeling that his first duty is to his home state of Virginia, Lee accepts the job of organizing Rebel forces in the state to oppose the anticipated onslaught of "Yankee invaders." If you have been bored reading this paragraph, I understand. *Gods and Generals* is the theatrical equivalent of hearing your high school history teacher (and football coach, most likely) drone on about facts from American history that he learned the night before. At least in my high school, with its block schedule, these lectures were limited to an hour-and-a-half.

The film chronologically follows the Civil War's first two years in the East, from First Bull Run (a.k.a. First Manassas) through Chancellorsville. There is a decidedly Southern slant to it, as Confederate leaders, especially Stonewall Jackson (played by veteran actor Stephen Lang who portrayed George Pickett in *Gettysburg*) receive much more screen time than Union officers such as Brigadier General Winfield Scott Hancock (Brian Mallon), and Lieutenant Colonel Joshua L. Chamberlain (Jeff Daniels) of the 20 Maine Infantry Regiment. In contrast to *Gettysburg*, the character of Longstreet is barely visible (he is played here by TV's Bruce Boxleitner). I don't really know whom this guy is, but I'm pretty sure a lot of his work ends up on the Lifetime network.

Stephen Lang does a fairly decent job of bringing life to the legendary Jackson, and Duvall is somewhat convincing as Lee, but he's more convincing as an actor who needed a paycheck. Daniels' Chamberlain is supposed to be the

conscience of the film. This is obvious when he chastises his brother and subordinate Thomas (C. Thomas Howell... pause for snickers) for calling blacks "darkies." Chamberlain's speech about racial equality is pretty gruesome in its heavy-handedness. I find it somehow fitting that C. Thomas Howell should represent the racism of the North. You might remember his starring role in the 1986 comedy *Soul Man*. Not seeing the need to get into the details of the movie, let's just say that it is one of the most unintentionally racist films you are likely to see.

The Chamberlains and other characters are relegated to near cameos in comparison to Jackson's seemingly endless screen time. Blink, for instance, and you might miss Mira Sorvino's turn as Joshua Chamberlain's wife Fanny. (I for one would have liked to have seen a little more of Sorvino's "Fanny" in this picture, if you catch my drift... and I think that you do.)

Alas, *Gods and Generals* is very much focused on Jackson and BATTLES. Now, who doesn't enjoy a good Civil War battle recreation? Please, don't answer that. But seriously, this is a case of overkill, if you will excuse the pun. The battles in *Gods and Generals* hinged on the participation of some 7,500 reenactors. It's sadly comical that many of these "living historians" are twice the age and size of the average Civil War soldier. But regardless, the battle scenarios wear out their welcome very quickly. When the word "intermission" came on the screen, I thought the Battle of Fredericksburg sequence was over, but there were still more tracking shots of miserable Union soldiers huddled next to their dead comrades to endure.

The battle scenes might have been more interesting if they had been more violent. Sure violence can be overdone, but rarely in a war movie. It just doesn't make sense for people shot by muskets to simply fall down. And I know for a fact that a person hit point-blank by an artillery round would not hit the ground in one piece.

I could also go into *Gods and Generals'* horrible acting, but what would be the point? Perhaps the greatest problem with this movie is that director/screenwriter Ron Maxwell doesn't know how to make the drama of the Civil War come to life onscreen. Rather than constructing credible dialogue, he makes each character recite cringe-inducing lines that make it seem as though they are vying for inclusion in *Quotable Quotes of American History*.

Maxwell also tries too hard to draw attention to the roles of Blacks and civilian families during the war. He touches on such characters with a characteristic broad brush and adds nothing to the film. *Gods and Generals* is so focused on breadth, in fact, that none of the characters rise above the stock level. There is Lee as "The Marble Man," the Southern belle in distress, the slave who longs for freedom. Only Stonewall Jackson's character breaks free of boring clichés. We see him as more than as a very eccentric genius. We also see that he is a borderline abolitionist! Feel free to scratch your heads about that one.

It's impossible to find a high point in a movie that has none, but locating one of the many low points is pretty easy. One that I haven't mentioned so far is a cameo by the film's executive producer Ted Turner. Here we see Mr. TNT himself singing a spirited rendition of "Bonnie Blue Flag" along with other Confederate officers. This moment truly pales in comparison to Turner's more satisfying cameo in *Gettysburg*, in which he is killed during Pickett's Charge.

Perhaps we will see more of Ted Turner (although I hope not) in the seven-hour (!) director's cut of *Gods and Generals* when it is released on DVD. Watching that will be an endurance contest, not entertainment. As it is, *Gods and Generals* is a disaster. It seeks to be exciting and inspiring, but when the only thing that is exciting or inspiring about a movie is its music, you know you've got a problem. Although the picture is historically accurate in many details, should anyone care? A quality historical film should be accurate, but it should also be a good movie. I'll take the History Channel over *Gods and Generals* any day.

Now, it would be easy to place all of the blame for this train wreck on Maxwell and Turner, but I mainly blame the reenactors. As everyone involved with the project has said, without them this picture could not have been made. Because I sometimes count myself among that shifty lot of history enthusiasts, I must also blame myself.



SOUND SHOPPE

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

Your New &
Used CD/DVD
Headquarters

LPS
NEW AND
USED

WE HAVE A
HUGE CD AND
DVD SELECTION!

21 March 2003

Godspeed you white University student!

*Godspeed You Black
Emperor!*

Mississippi Nights

Sunday, March 16

Review by I Cameron Moore

As the nine members of the experimental orchestra-indie-rock band Godspeed You Black Emperor! filed onto the stage at Mississippi Nights in St. Louis this past Sunday night, it was apparent that the anxious crowd at hand was in for a real musical treat guaranteed to stir the soul. And as the music crept out, ever so slowly, against a projected backdrop that repeatedly flashed a single scrawled word, "HOPE," this became even more apparent. This was to be a very special evening indeed.

Featuring three guitar players, two bassists, a violinist, a cellist and two drummers, this elusive Canadian group is the epitome of an epic band. With emotions evoked spanning the depths of depressed self-loathing and hopelessness to the crescendos of the triumphant return of hope and love, a tribute to the waxing and waning of the divine, GYBE! creates an instrumental composition of emotion in sound and vibration that resonates with the depth of one's being.

Notorious for 15-minute songs that build slowly to ecstatic heights, GYBE!'s set only consisted of about six or seven songs. This, however, was no disappointment or shortcoming; in fact, it was a fulfillment to the highest degree.

Although I only recognized two songs on Sunday night, one from their 1998 release *F# A# 8* and another from their 2000 release *Lift Your Skinny Fists Like Antennas to Heaven!*, this band demonstrated an ability to mystify and engross an audience that is obviously not familiar with all of their material. And while the crowd was mostly motionless (aside from the occasional swaying and bobbing), it became apparent that physical motion does not necessarily accompany the movement of something deeper.

For over an hour and a half, the entire audience in Mississippi Nights stood, rapt in

pure amazement, at the music that unfolded before them. Never in my life have I seen a show induce such a reaction from so many people all at once. Unfortunately for this St. Louis crowd, however, the encore break proved to be quite a downer.

Shortly after GYBE! returned to the stage to play one last tune as an encore, what I can only guess to call the lead guitar player (he was closest to the front of the stage of the three), named Efrim, told a story about their recent trip through Oklahoma, on their way to play in Missouri. He prefaced the story, saying that it was quite serious in nature, and that while it may seem a little funny, it was anything but. It proceeded like this: As the nine members of GYBE! stopped at a gas station in a small Midwestern town in Oklahoma, the woman behind the counter passed a note to another woman who had been pumping gas which read "These men are terrorists!" Soon afterward, the filling station was surrounded by the entire police force of the small town, and soon after that, the FBI arrived.

After the FBI questioned the members of the band and realized that a mistake had been made, a police officer apologized, saying "The people in this town aren't exactly very sophisticated." While this very well may have been true, Efrim posed the question "What kind of police officer speaks this way of the people in his own community, the people he serves?"

Interspersed in his story were some offhand comments about the looming war in Iraq (something to the effect of "this whole thing is fucked"), which were met with a few shouts by those who sympathized with his feelings of a helplessness from being able to stop a fast-approaching disaster, and a few hecklers that criticized as well. The atmosphere was unlike any I had ever experienced; there were so many people full of silent anticipation and reluctance to face the world that will result from this war, and a few that called them pussies for feeling as such. This tension, at the very least, lent itself to a rather satisfying encore, giving everyone a release to end the night on a good note. Plus the violin player was really sexy, which didn't hurt.



GYBE! in action on a crowded stage.
photo courtesy www.brainwashed.com/godspeed

Queen Astra



*Let the
stars be your guide!*

Pices [Feb. 20-Mar. 20]

Your deep-rooted fear of social situations will come to your advantage when you are locked in a closet by yourself for seven hours later this week.

Scorpio [Oct. 24-Nov. 22]

You will become dismayed when I avoid you at all costs, having a deep-rooted fear of scorpions.

Leo [July 25-Aug. 23]

Warning: After exploring options elsewhere, the dreaded "I'm going to punch you in the back of the head and run like hell" bully is back in business, and working overtime.

Aries [March 21-April 20]

You will have a hard time concentrating when you take your next test and it is written on paper made from soy lent green.

Aquarius [Jan. 21-Feb. 19]

It's only a matter of time before people will begin to catch on to your "I will gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today" scheme.

Cancer [June 22-July 24]

The stars indicate that it is time for you to do your laundry. Recycling socks can't be healthy.

Sagittarius [Nov. 23-Dec. 21]

I can't really think of anything here.

Taurus [April 21-May 22]

A nice cake is waiting for you around the corner.

Virgo [Aug. 24-Sept. 23]

Man, what a silly name for an astronomical sign [yes, you read that right, you cynic, you!].

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 20]

The ghost of Marlon Brando will visit you three times tonight, asking you to give him a ride to McDonalds, then he will begin quoting lines from *Last Tango in Paris* and taking off his clothes... gross.

Gemini [May 23-June 21]

Be careful walking to class tomorrow, you're going to slip on the ice and then five other people won't notice you there and they'll fall too. Man, that shit will be HILARIOUS!!!

Libra [Sept. 24-Oct. 23]

I'm going to start calling you ZEBRA, which is much more pleasant, Libras remind me of Lions, but Zebras remind me of cute.

?? **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.

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!****

NEW VISION OPTICAL
122 N. FRANKLIN
KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501
(660)665-1311

C. KIM MOODY, F.N.A.O.

QUALITY OPTICS—
FOR OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY

check out our Winter Workshops and our website:

originals
PAPER ART

Mon-Sat

tel. 660.627.4696
fax. 660.627.0055
originals@cablone.net

110 W Harrison
Kirkville, MO 63501

originals by brooke. paper art products. how-to classes. design studio.

**You could
have an
ad right
here for
only \$15!**

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

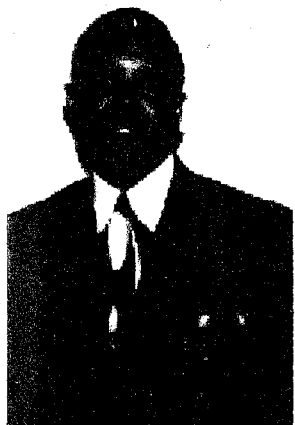
BUY-SELL-TRADE

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



The Kirksville Church of Christ &
Ekklesia Present

Jeremiah Cummings,
Former Nation of Islam Leader

Now an
Evangelist for the
Church of Christ

in a

Campaign for Christ

March 30 & 31, 2003

March 30

Church of Christ

1302 E. Fillmore Street

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. "The Time and What Must Be Done"

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. "The Power Is in the Promise"

Noon Fellowship Meal

Sunday, 6:00 p.m. "The Purpose of Salvation"

March 31

Truman State University

Baldwin Auditorium

Monday, 7:00 p.m. "Whose World Are You Building?"

For Information: 660-627-4003

www.kirksville.veren.com

Letter continued from page 3

In final three refutatory paragraphs let me dig beneath the patriotic US citizen "guff" of Moore to deal with some of the other sanctimonious, bully-boy tripe in the article. Before Bush and Blair's speech writers further do embellish this deeply offensive trash of total self-delusion: worthy of the Kirksville Daily *Regressive* at its most fatuously hollow an average issue!

One, what "assurance," unknown I suspect the popular vote-defeated Bush II his very same untravelled self, *alike* does Jaidee have that either the US and Brits, assuming they can kill Saddam can replace him with what, 2003, is called "the freedom of the west!" We Brits tried it, for our thieved Iraq oil, under "a mandate of the League of Nations from 1922;" we failed imperialistically, disastrously. And indeed the young farmer, Saddam, initially made his own *liberation* name fighting the residual monarchy we, lackey, left!

Two, has Jaidee actually read, outside US sources with their CIA and Hill Knowlton bought press here, Iraqi dissidents or Kurds or "off the record," real Iraqis about to be bombed? I'll mention just one, the UK *Spec-tator*, which itself despite being Conservative and pro-war, sent a man this fall into Iraq. He found two things: one there's enough Baathists to fight us for *years* in a country the size of France; your and my sniper shot down loved ones in our reservist occupation forces. And, two, others while hostile to Saddam they all said, revealingly, they

"dreaded" the US/UK putting in *fundamentalists* restrictive of women and so on. Worth bearing mind here, dear Jaidee, who, initially, CIA, USA, UK backed *bin Laden in Afghanistan* "for the West!!!!"

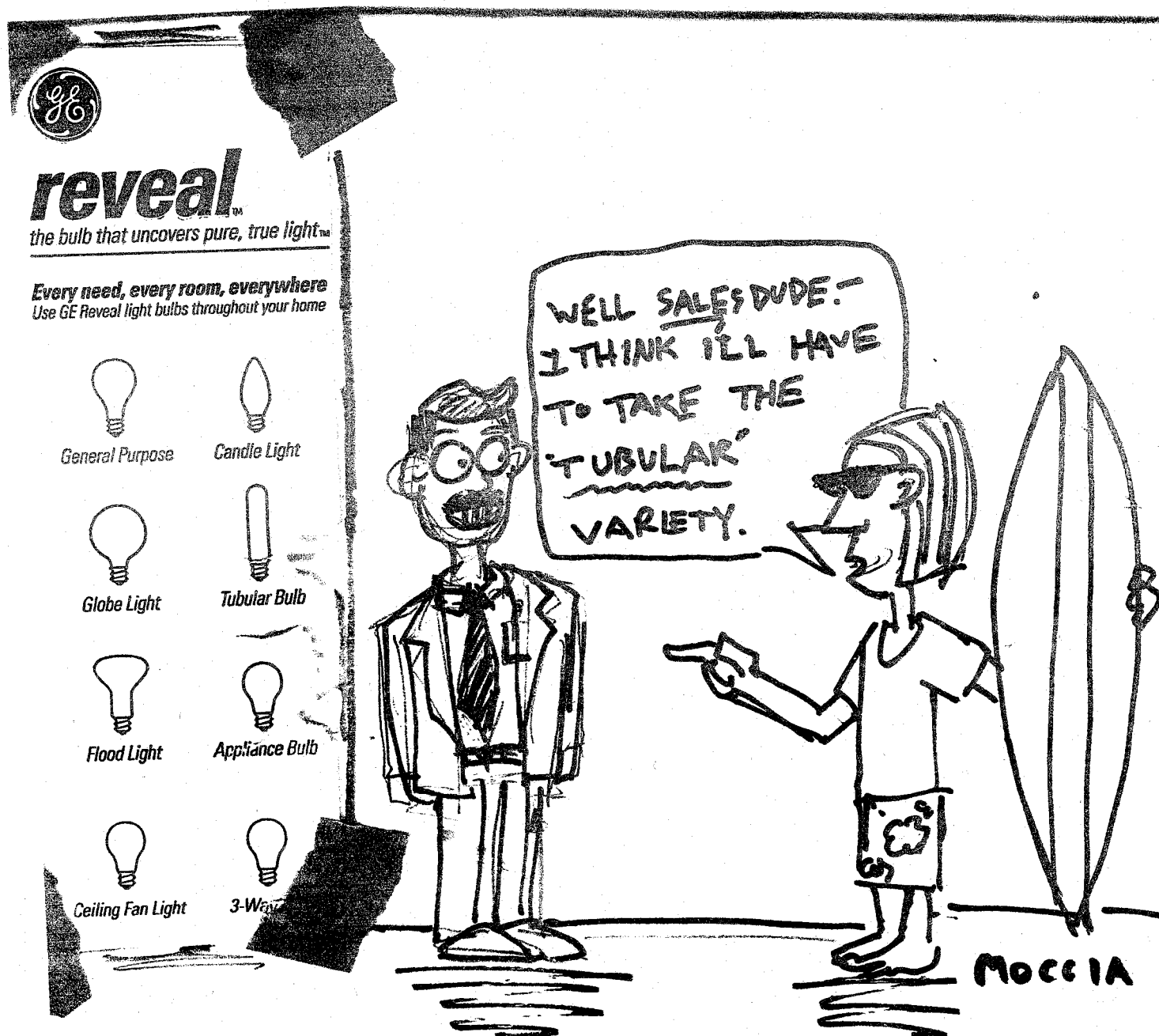
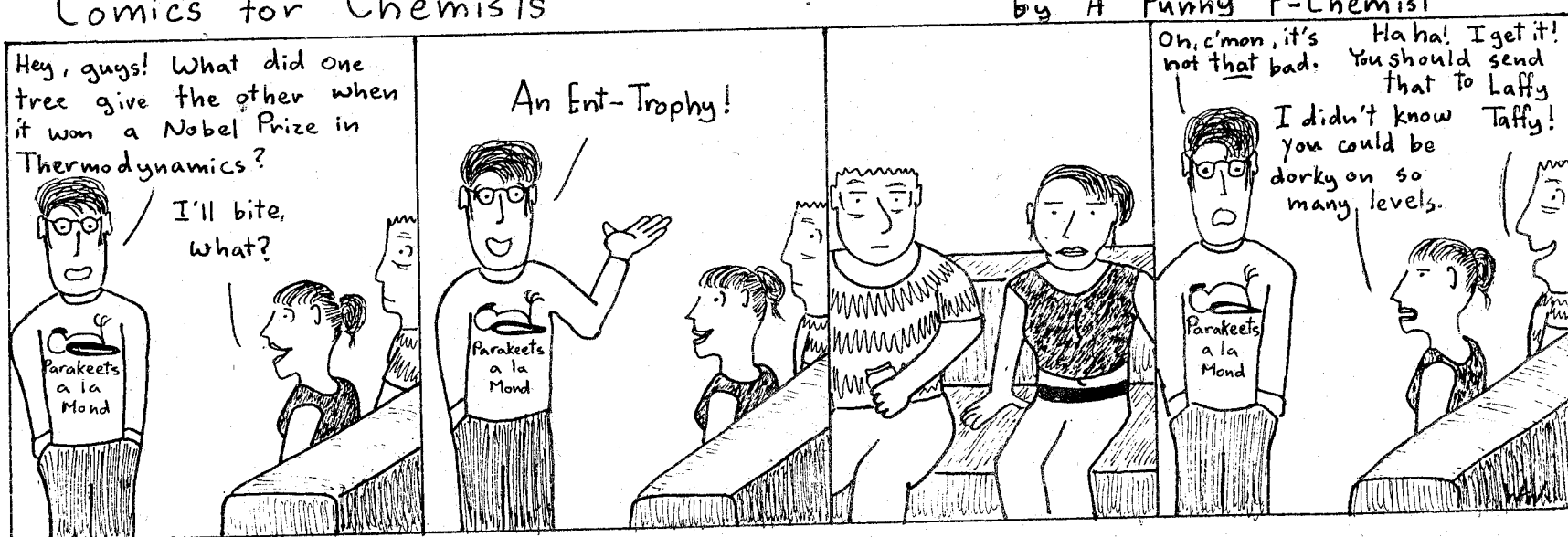
Finally, yes Jaidee, like literally millions of other protesters, including millions of Brits and Americans, I plead "guilty" to some "bitterness," as you end your lamentable apologia for Bush-Blair Murder-for-oil *incorporated* with hackneyed clichés galore. My stomach balks at how you can wax indignant about "democracy" and not once mention the "collective will" of a UN that does *not* believe "force" is instantly warranted. As Bush-Blair, non-combatants want: to divert from home discontent about real problems, here USA-UK they dare not touch! I turn "white." In the worst sense too, at how you can mention Saddam's chemical warfare in the 1980s past, *yet not* talk about, as even the pro-war UK *Daily Mail* did tabloid front-page, to his angry annoyance Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of Defense, *selling such chemicals openly to Saddam, as DOW "CEO" on trip there!* Despite the CIA "warning" him what Saddam would do with such *Capitalist filth*. As for many people, alas, white male, fat, warmongering USA, and Jaidee's dream, *cruelly represents on this Earth in massive delusion*. One that will ruin this century as badly as Nazism did out last if we do not answer such sheer fantasy-Disneyland delusionality.

"Tired," but very much 2003 alive!
Larry Iles

21 March 2003

Comics for Chemists

by A Punny P-Chemist



MY BACK PAGES

Okay. So obviously The War is on everyone's collective mind but I say we gotta focus on The Love in the face of War. Bombs or no bombs, today is the First Day of Spring, so Celebrate Life! If nothing else, speak your peace to me at countzachula@hotmail.com or send any sorts of stuff to the Monitor mailbox in the SUB basement. Don't hold back. zach.

Lovepoem.

My limbs are living
furniture for her.

She casually shares

Gravity. (w/ me!)

Ain't no thing

this love eternity.

Joe Moccia

The Infinite Haiku

My soul, imperfect
like this rhyme will find relief
at the end of the

-zach

With Mercy for the Greedy

Concerning your letter in which you ask
me to call a priest and in which you ask
me to wear The Cross that you enclose;
your own cross, your dog-bitten cross,
no larger than a thumb,
small and wooden, no thorns, this rose-

I pray to its shadow,
that gray place
where it lies on your letter.... deep, deep.
I detest my sins and I try to believe
in The Cross. I touch its tender hips, its dark jawed face,
its solid neck, its brown sleep.

True. There is
a beautiful Jesus.
He is frozen to his bones like a chunk of beef.
How desperately he wanted to pull his arms in!
How deperately I touch his vertical and horizontal axes!
But I can't. Need is not quite belief.

All morning long
I have worn
your cross, hung with package string around my throat.
It tapped me lightly as a child's heart might,
tapping secondhand, softly waiting to be born.
Ruth, I cherish the letter you wrote.

My friend, my friend, I was born
doing reference work in sin, and born
confessing it. This is what poems are:
with mercy
for the greedy,
they are the tongue's wrangle,
the world's pottage, the rat's star.

-Anne Sexton

Blind night and aged wine.
So crimson strong I
still thirst sometimes.
Can you taste the ghost of first caress?
The Dark Appeal, a spectre of it's essence?
Ah, buried pain can have a hungry presence.
My heart's been burned by
embers of your image.

Last night
the siren sure sang sweet to us
through cool air from far off.
But that sip from the glass
that we understood
was not whine- but blood
when I turned to face the Sun.
I can't sink into the drink, not now,
but what a lovely vintage.

Joe Moccia

A soil thick and sweet
draws tracks upon my boots
climbing
only to find descencion.
A traveler trekking
for an honor with no mention.

-zach

In the Suburbs

There's no way out.
You were born to waste your life.
You were born to this middleclass life

As others before you
Were born to walk in procession
To the temple, singing.

-L.S.