



# the monitor.

truman state university's only source for thorough coverage  
of community issues, student affairs, politics and culture

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## Bright Flight and its plight

Story by | Suzanne Leslie

Surely by now, someone's asked you...the question. "So why'd you choose Truman?" Most of the people that I know all give a similar answer: "Good school for the money." And why is it a good school for the money? The answer primarily has to do with where you're from and how well you did on the ACT, because those can qualify you for a performance-based scholarship.

Like most schools, Truman tries to suck in the kids with high ACT scores because that makes the average ACT score of incoming students higher, and that makes Truman look good statistically. Financially, Truman looks pretty good if you're a Missouri resident, since currently in-

state tuition is \$9,672<sup>1</sup> (tuition plus room and board), which, though a bit more than when I first enrolled, is still one of the cheapest public universities in Missouri. Now, if you did well (scored in the top 3<sup>rd</sup> of MO residents<sup>2</sup>) on the ACT or SAT and are a Missouri resident, then life couldn't get much sweeter because you are able to take advantage of Missouri's Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program known commonly as Bright Flight.

Truman recipients of Bright Flight (all 1,134 of you<sup>3</sup>) are sitting particularly well for several reasons. One, if you got Bright Flight, chances are pretty good that the Uni-

versity threw some other money at you, as well. Two, after you lost that extra money your freshmen year you probably still qualified for Bright Flight (come on, you'd really have to try to lose it). And most importantly, Bright Flight lasts the whole time you're here (all five years), unlike TSU scholarships which are only good for eight semesters. Other benefits of Bright Flight include: you don't have to work for it (75 hours a semester doesn't sound much like a scholarship to me) and it's scholarship money that you can get back if you have an excess of funds after room, board and tuition.

With all these benefits, surely the last thing that 33%<sup>3</sup> of the incoming freshmen class wants to hear is that Bright Flight is in danger. Currently, Bright Flight recipients receive \$2000

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## Pregnancy center revealed

Story by | Molly Thacker

CPC is a dangerous acronym. It stands for Crisis Pregnancy Center and aims to deceive and confuse women in regards to decisions they face regarding an unintended pregnancy. These fake clinics disguise themselves as legitimate medical facilities but are actually privately-owned offices run by members of anti-choice organizations. They advertise themselves as having caring, trained specialists who will help provide information and resources to scared, pregnant women, yet in reality rarely have trained medical professionals or even professional counselors on staff.

CPCs target young and low-income women by locating near schools and offering free pregnancy tests and "counseling" to women facing unintended pregnancies. There is also evidence that suggests some fake clinics provide different options depending on the race or ethnicity of a woman or her partner. The sole intent of CPCs is to dissuade women from choosing legal abortion. They are created and operated by members of the anti-choice movement. Care Net, Birthright International, and Heartbeat International are all national CPC organizations who advertise between 450 to 500 state affiliates each.

I had the eerie experience of visiting one of these facilities, pretending to be pregnant as part of an internship investigation of CPCs. I came away from the experience with a feeling of concern for the women who approach these organizations with the sincere hope of finding accurate



Photo by | Danfug Dennis, Indymedia.org

## Poetry slam: points not the point

Story by | Frances Dusseault

"Numberrrr... 14!" Woah... get up, weave between people to reach the microphone... say hiii... HIIII!!! echo back the speakers. Damn this microphone makes me loud. It funnels that little nervous rattle in my breath to the ear canals of the whole audience... every single person. Who each has two ear canals. Ok, breathe.

I'd never been to a Poetry Slam before. But after I sat back down... I suddenly realized people were watching me. Not in a weird way—but in a hey, encouraging-smile kinda way. They liked my stuff. They liked it!

Number by number, the poets walked up from their niches in the audience. They strode onto the stage, flipped out a piece of paper, and did more than just talk into a microphone. They ignited the stage with energy. They sucked you in.

When they were funny, the people would laugh hysterically and then just stop,

wanting to hear the next lines. HAHHAH! SILENCE. And when they didn't make you laugh, they made you want to raise your fist in the air and shout "yeah!" Up there onstage, they became the main characters in their own lives. They weren't acting.

Monitor Editor Nikki Rainey seemed surprised when Dukum Inn gave her \$50 for winning first place (most of which went to the Aquadome). Really, these poets weren't there to compete. The poetry slammers loved hearing what the other people had to share; they admired each other. And the audience sincerely clapped and cheered for all of them.

The banner on [poetryslam.com](http://poetryslam.com) reads "the points are not the point." Poetry has no rules, no limits. Here, poets compete to see how pure they can be. How real and wild they can be.

I walked out energized.

The next 'Slam will be at Dukum Inn, Friday, Dec. 5. Watch for the flyers.

## Activists find police state in Florida

Story by | Nicole Rainey

Last week, two Kirksville residents, and one Truman student participated in a protest against the meeting of the Free Trade Act of the Americas (or FTAA) in Miami, Florida. The goal of the organization is to collapse all trade barriers in the Americas from Alaska to the tip of Chile by 2005. The goal of the protestors was to make their voices of dissent heard loud enough that the individuals in the meetings, and the greater American public (through the media) would be forced to take notice.

Delegates from 34 of the 35 different states of the Americas (Cuba was exempt) arrived to discuss free trade, and following them were thousands of protesters, mostly consisting of members of the AFL-CIO, and representatives of American farmers. Farmers and union members in the United States fear that once trade barriers are collapsed, American companies will easily be able to move themselves to locations where labor is cheap, and environmental regulations are less restrictive.

As dissent against globalization grows, and protest culture becomes progressively more organized, the police response has become increasingly more intense and well-funded. The protesters from Kirksville directly witnessed the use of taser guns and shields, rubber bullets, water canons, pepper spray, tear gas, armored personnel carriers, riot batons up to three feet long, and concussion grenades. Jennifer Strickland, one University student who attended the protest, maintained that the police presence was much more intense than necessary. Strickland explained: "I have never seen cops aim for the head and shoulders. I was only hit once, and it was in the shoulder."

Ben Garrett, another Kirksville resident who attended the protest, told a horrifying story. He was standing outside of a medical center where "there were injured people being de-toxed from the pepper spray and tear gas used by the police. Other protesters attempting to escape police came by, not realizing it was a med center, and the police sprayed pepper spray inside. There were injured people in there with open head wounds."

There were fears that the summit would not meet its goals, both due to the protests and due to a disagreement between Brazil and the US. The conference ended a day early, and did not cement the free trade agreements, but—all of the countries tentatively agreed on a series of provisions to make way for the eventual collapse of trade barriers.

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# Bright Flight Fight

Continued from page 1

a year (a grand each semester), but the amount of this sum and the scholarship in general is, and has been for some time, up for debate in the Missouri Legislature. It was to fight for such causes as Bright Flight's fate that the Student Association of Missouri (SAM) was created three years ago. (see article page 7 for more information about SAM)

The fate of Bright Flight is primarily in the hands of the Missouri House and Senate, and as such, SAM uses full-time lobbyist Scott Swaine to make the voices of Missouri college students heard in Jefferson City. Due to recent budget cuts, the issue of reducing Bright Flight or abolishing the program in its entirety was proposed last spring in the Missouri Senate. Though it's unknown whether the intent was to actually get rid of Bright Flight or if the discussion was merely being used as a filibuster tactic, SAM Assembly Representative (and Truman State University student) Michael Pierson said that "as long as Missouri has a revenue crunch, Bright Flight is in danger."

A decision determining Bright Flight's fate could be made as soon as this December, when there will be an appropriations meeting to discuss the possibility of reducing the amount of the scholarship. As a result of this potential threat, SAM began a petition in support of Bright Flight and funding for Higher Education, and thus far has collected over 900 signatures. This petition will soon be sent to the Commission on Higher Education and then to the Missouri General Assembly in the spring.

What can you do to make sure you don't lose this scholarship too? There are several ways in which Missouri college students can help this cause, the first and most obvious is to register to vote and become an active voter. Your

senators and representatives will care a lot more about how their decisions will affect you if your decisions can affect them, so hop to it. It's as easy as a trip to the Adair County Courthouse (on the square) if you want to be registered to vote here in Kirksville. Once you're a member of the voting masses, you can write your legislators and tell them how important the Bright Flight money is to you and your education and that you vote. From the SAM web page you can easily find out who your legislators are and how to contact them, just click on the "Who's My...?" icon.

Thirdly, all Truman State students who are interested will have the opportunity in February to go Jefferson City to potentially meet with their legislators in person and discuss any pressing issues. A fourth option would be to actually contact one of Truman's three SAM representatives for more information on the Save Bright Flight campaign and how you could help. What you definitely *shouldn't* do though, is to sit around and do nothing while Missouri Legislators decide to take away 2000 of the dollars that enticed you to Kirksville, and Truman State University in the first place. For more information on SAM visit: <http://www.studentassociationofmissouri.org/>

1 [http://admissions.truman.edu/Affording\\_Truman/costs.htm](http://admissions.truman.edu/Affording_Truman/costs.htm)

2 <http://www.cbhe.state.mo.us/mostars/heasp.htm>

3 According to a meeting with President Dixon, October 23, 2003.

4 <http://www.studentassociationofmissouri.org/>

# Newsire

compiled by Nicole Rainey

Nairobi

In an environmental conference in Nairobi this week, US officials refused to compromise on several important aspects of the endlessly-debated Kyoto treaty. US officials insisted on a sharp increase of the pesticide methyl bromide (linked to prostate cancer), even though the Montreal Protocol (another international environmental treaty) demands that it be phased out by next year. When the European Union and developing countries resisted the increase, the US claimed that legislation would be introduced into congress that would simply exempt the US from the treaty's provisions on the pesticide, altogether. Because we play fair.

New York

The FDA has recently come under attack for suggesting in late October that cloned animals are A-OK for human consumption, despite limited scientific proof and widespread American disapproval of clone-eating. Currently, the American meat industries are voluntarily not putting cloned meat on the market (bless their hearts), but this moratorium will likely be lifted soon in light of the FDA announcement.

(ips.org)

USA

America loves corporate nudes—this week, the women of Wal-Mart joined the proud ranks of the women of Enron and Starbucks by showing off their stuff on playboy.com. 400 women applied—more than both Starbucks and Enron combined—but only 4 got the special gig. John Thomas, editor of playboy.com was a little worried about Wal-Mart's reaction. He told CNN, "Wal-Mart has a conservative corporate image and we knew they wouldn't be thrilled. But we're hoping that the company will be pleased once they see how fun the pictures are and how empowered the women at Wal-Mart feel." I went to see these empowering pics myself, and the website told me it would cost \$19.95 a month! Maybe I'm just cheap, but I could get empowered for free watching Spike TV in the MO Hall lounge. Damn.

(playboy.com, cnn.com)

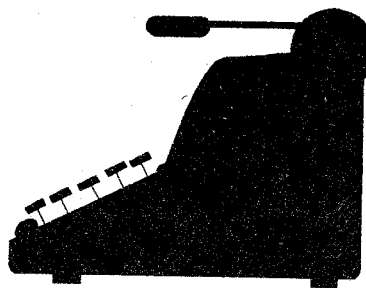
Washington

Watch out boys, inscription is nigh! The US Department of Defense is calling for volunteers to sit on local draft boards! This is the first time anyone has discussed reconstituting draft boards since it was abolished after Vietnam in 1973. Although it would be politically stupid as sin for Bush to start using draft-talk now, analysts are expecting him (if he makes it to a second term) to bring this issue further into the spotlight.

(Check it out on the Department of Defense website: [defendamerica.mil](http://defendamerica.mil))

*The week after Thanksgiving is your last chance to enter this semester's*

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

-- Noam Chomsky

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LETTERS

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

Contributors proving themselves idiots

In Response to All Bigots, Idiots, and Self-absorbed Chauvinistic Buffoons who Write for *The Monitor*.

Maybe you think your rants and ramblings are humorous and worth a laugh at your circle jerk, boys club parties you depend upon for your sense of belonging. But out here in the real world, that kind of rhetoric has been responsible for justifying unthinkable brutality and exploitation, and is therefore completely unacceptable to be tossing around in the setting of a campus newspaper. Thus if your intention is just to get a rise out of people and prove yourself the biggest moron, I suggest you just draw pictures of yourself masturbating on babies while shitting on an American flag, because that would be a lot more upsetting to a greater body of people who live in this community. Unless, of course, the reason you are preying upon women and homosexuals is because you think that you can get away with such behavior in our society much more easily than offending the general flag-waving public. In which case you are just a coward with a lot of insecurities and should probably be working on gaining some confidence in your self as a human being before trouncing about on the lives of people who have had to fight a lot harder to get the freedoms they have now than you will ever know.

However, if your woman-hating heterosexual attitude is genuine, as appears to be the case with certain pig men too afraid to identify themselves, I ask why you ask other men to act with a courage you yourself seem to lack in speaking out about your opinions. If

this is an issue that you feel strongly enough about to call others to action than why don't you yourself step out into the open and carry out this discussion in person? The only reason that such an opinionated person would disguise their identity while still trying to speak so passionately is because that person is scared of the repercussions that being associated with their opinions might bring. While on one hand, it is very relieving to me that such blatantly chauvinistic attitudes are recognizable even by those who wield them as socially unacceptable, I know too that scared individuals are prone to building walls around themselves that isolate them from the world that they live in, forcing them in to a life of loneliness and resentment. So for your own sake, maybe it would be a good idea to come out of the closet that you are hiding in, and join the rest of human society that talks openly about their concerns and issues with the world.

So I guess in conclusion, if you really want to continue proving yourself an idiot and exposing hate and intolerance, that is your right and use it while you can I suppose. But don't think that we, the intelligent people who put up with your nonsense, don't see it for what it is; the shallow attempt to protect your place in the social hierarchy, and displace any responsibility you yourself have on making a more egalitarian society, back onto those you oppress.

In love and resistance to holding on to privileges taken at the costs of others,

Benjamin Garrett

**J'accuse le Index**

Once more this Index, this very fine bastion of journalistic standards has perpetrated lies, misrepresentation and deceit all too typical to the REAL media milieu its dunce staff possibly aspires to join after graduating from this also very fine university. Sheets, a fledgling Jayson Blair, and crew simply fabricated a section of the thrilling article "Evangelist sparks faith debate" regarding my comrades and myself. Most irresponsibly, neither my unnamed associates nor I was contacted after the evangelist spectacle for official confirmation of what was to be printed. As it were, The Index falsely reported events and quotes, such an abortion could have been precluded if the said publication were to actually act like the responsible publication it masquerades as and contacted myself or my support. I do not know why I bother, as nobody seems interested in the truth these days, I will attempt to clarify what actually took place and delineate my motivation for my "illicit" display of genius Bukowski's words "FUCK GOD IN THE FACE, HE CAN'T DO THIS TO ME." Firstly, I did not attempt to TAKE the Evangelist's banner, nobody did. A single associate of mine attempted to read it herself, as he retired it before she arrived at the scene. At this point in the spectacle, I was supine on the fountain, staring leisurely at the sky. Secondly, no obscene gesture was issued to any kind soul attempting to inform me of God's love. That's false and these lies are egregious and obscene. It is true I was falsely identified as the one attempting to "take" the Evangelist's sign, perhaps the cigar in my hand was mistaken for an extended middle finger; however, I believe I made a conscientious effort to eschew kindly

any obviously unwelcome advice about God. Perhaps this absurd article is fitting considering my real absurdist intentions, the Evangelist's sign portrayed a threatening God, so, my sign portrayed a threat TO God – it made sense to me to exhibit the other meaningless extreme; I was playing DEVIL'S ADVOCATE in the greatest sense of the term. I do not like proselytizing Christians, it was a protest of sorts but mostly a farce. I was being ridiculous with intensity equal to that of the pontificator, but with opposite sentiments to exhibit a point: not many people respond well to militant, sensationalistic, crude and nasty appeals. Concluding, to manipulate the words appearing on my absurd sign as a response to this absurd, slanderous article: **FUCK THE INDEX IN THE FACE, IT CAN'T DO THIS TO ME.**

Mary Burford

**Style criticisms silence the non-prestige dialect speakers of the world**

Dear Editor Friends,

Regarding the poor parody attempt of what the person concerned considers my "style" in your latest issue to reach civilisation over here in the UK, I trust one is allowed, in defense a few considered senses of amused reply to such, in fact, typically flattening US blunderbus nonsense? Although to be dreadfully serious, for just a moment, since now over 349 of the writer's fellow countrymen are now officially USA troop dead in PAX MISSOURIAN US RIGHT oil war for an obviously inarticulate, let alone illiterate, by his own admission "non

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## O P I N I O N S

monitor

# One man's little opinion on six current topics

Opinion by I Jon Lawinger

According to the Palm Beach Post, Jupiter Christian School in Jupiter, Florida has expelled senior student Jeffrey Woodard because he admitted to being gay and refused to enter counseling to change his sexual orientation. Jeffrey was not public about his sexuality at school, but upon being asked by his Bible teacher he honestly replied that he was in fact gay. This is quite a disconcerting story to begin with, but to make matters worse, this school receives public funding from the state's school vouchers program. It may (debatably) be a necessary evil that such private institutions can legally discriminate based on sexual orientation. However, even as a supporter of school voucher programs, it is completely ridiculous that a school that accepts public funding should be allowed to deny gay students the right to study there. It's almost equally ridiculous that anyone in this

country would continue to support a school with such policies.

In response to a recent surge in bombings in Iraq, President Bush claimed that the attacks were evidence of U.S. progress. Apparently in his eyes, our success in the area has made the freedom-haters more desperate, and therefore they have increased their attacks. Now seriously folks, can't we at least make our propaganda reasonable. This is like telling us our 30 gram chocolate rations have been increased to 20 grams. I can understand reassuring the American people that progress is being made in spite of these attacks, or maintaining that these attacks are not a sign of a lack of progress. However, claiming that increased violent opposition is a sign of progress seems to me to suggest that the administration is the desperate one: desperate in their attempts to maintain support for their actions. Since Bush believes that progress and wild attacks are positively correlated, does

he think we should be worried about a lack of progress if wild attacks start lacking? Well, it doesn't look like he'll have to worry about that scenario for a while, as the steady stream of attacks continues, and a helicopter was shot down a few days after his statements.

And speaking of the fact that American forces are facing an average of 26 attacks a day, and that more soldiers have died since the official end of major combat operations than during the official span of the war, I'm sure you all remember when Bush declared the end of major combat in Iraq. The flashy event aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln featured Bush speaking in front of a giant banner hung from the ship declaring "Mission Accomplished." Well, since it isn't cool anymore to pretend that the mission in Iraq was accomplished six months ago, Bush has denied any association with the banner. According to the Associated Press Bush explained, "The 'Mission Accomplished' sign,

of course, was put up by the members of the USS Abraham Lincoln, saying that their mission was accomplished." However, if we ignore a New York Times article that directly attributes the banner to Bush staff member Scott Sforza, who works for the White House communications director, there are still issues to be addressed. This was not a banner made of construction paper and crayons. The creation of this massive product would have required high quality large format printing facilities. This means that either the USS Abraham Lincoln keeps a massive "Mission Accomplished" banner on board in case of emergencies, that the ship has a massive onboard print shop for producing whatever advertising might prove necessary while on active duty, or that the banner was supplied by Bush and his associates for the sake of the elaborately planned photo op. Although I suppose, even in the third case,

Continued on next page

## University troops bound for senseless slaughter

Essentially writing this column in England as I have been doing, I have before me two pertinent works on the foregoing theme in my title masthead above. Firstly, a right wing Canadian Knight-Ridder US-syndicated 17 paragraph article by one Ron Hutheson from the *Kansas City Star*, Sunday, September 21 last. It basically told me I should not make such comparisons between the two wars. Presently, this is because Iraq today is of shorter conflict time duration, so that Bush Junior's anti-terrorist obsession is somehow qualitatively more real time-worthy of our unquestioned devotion fascistically in duped over-patriotism. Unmentioned but inferentially moreso, that is, than LBJ's domino equally crap theory about the alleged all-pervasiveness of now-at last-united Vietnam's alleged 1960's Communist pervasive then-worldwide threat. And, anyway, US, patriotically, the cost of Iraq is 2003-4 so far monetarily cheaper to us all than Vietnam ever was, unbearably speaking.

Secondly, I have before my gaze, in almost total if authorially unintended-perhaps contradiction, last year's native British work also sold over here in the US, *VIETNAM WAR MOVIES*, pocket essentials series, published stateside by Trafalgar Square Publishing, Vermont by QUEER BOROUGHS biographer Dr. Jamie Russell. Au contraire to Hutheson's spewings, Russell informs me that in fact the Pentagon, heavily ensconced in our Missouri state, via St Louis Boeing Corporation's so-called defense contracts which even the local Congressional Democrats to their peace principles disgrace lobbyingly perpetuate cost you, US citizens, 175 billion dollars for Vietnam. Meaning that what with Bush's earlier 166 billion dollars for both Iraq and Afghanistan invasion occupations being now added to by his spinelessly requested extra 87 billion more recent request for his and Blair's Iraq quagmire of their own ignorant making, that of course, what? That ALREADY we are paying more for the Iraq folly of these two teenage-men-capitalists war-monger love of their posturing, strutting bodies than even the Vietnamese imbroglio. Even making allowance for value of money erosion and domestically at a time when not too nationally untypically, alas, either TSU admin-

istrators like Divisional Language and Literature are giving you less female, talented professors and language assistants for your student bucks more fees, citing state domestic budget cuts even down to letter head paper they don't have the right to recycle disclaimer control.

Yet away from such arguably purely mercenary considerations, it is definitely more still a worrying fact that both Bush senior and his less talented, and certainly unlike WWII volunteer pilot dad, Bush II, the present VIETNAM DRAFT DODGING OWN WASTREL SPAWN, ARE ALIKE VERY ABNORMALLY NERVOUS, ARE THEY BOTH NOT? About Vietnam analogies by we Left historians, especially with either Dad's first Gulf war, that at least had a sane end, or the junior idiot's interminable, improperly executed, deadly current war imposed on the Iraqi people. This was as if he, drunk to his thirties, knows better A PRIORI HIS CHRISTIAN god. Furthermore, it would be very odd desiderata to try and fathom or unravel as when the Bush oil-plundering millionaire presidents began their anti-IRAQ OIL PLUNDERING FORAYS, Bush senior openly, lyingly, boasted what?

That there would be no more Vietnams, almost reiterating "watch my lips" to the typically US-gullible flat prose-dulled US media corp. And, sure enough, US society today is pathetically a lot more NAZI style remilitarised like writers such as Susan Sontag have despairingly lamented. This was a reference to the U.S. press corps by Sontag who characterized the continual swallowing of Bush rhetoric obligingly, "in that cowardly smug way," as she recently put it, in a GUARDIAN UK lecture extract.

So particularly as these Bush devotees asininely are now seriously raving about reintroducing a wider military draft on you evasive college kids to make good their world-wide anti-terrorist fanaticism for oil pipelines and guns profits, let's don our heretical-thinking caps in ways these selective censorship forces don't

want you to do. Let's do comparisons, deadly truthful un-American gloomy ones, not obliging feel good contrasts between Iraq and that bloody Vietnam precedent they still don't want you, to their defeat, to learn from. I do not doppelganger, naturally, as history does not suggest an exact a-historical total similarity. I leave that crassness to the BUSH and BLAIR born again Christians, with their sense of omnipotence that their god sanctions their killing of younger-than-they,

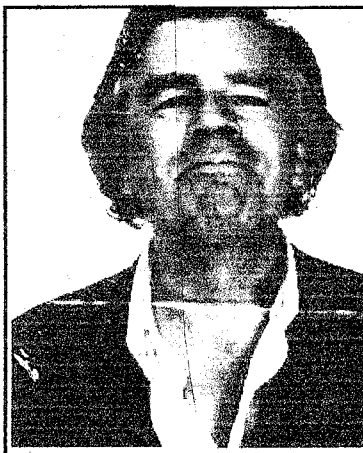
poorer families' soldiers' lives for a flag they never actually fought for themselves.

Economically speaking, indeed, the LBJ/Nixon bipartisan Vietnam mess set off inflation world-wide in escalating cost of living still not containable to this, our 2003 own day, even for those privileged with jobs for life, OPEC oil cartel taking further oil monopoly price ratchet up advantage almost just after the US violence and rape of Vietnam finally abated. Dissimilarly though, Iraq and Bush, Junior's current anti-terror wars, however, cause a reverse depression or recession crisis. As returning part-time 140,000 US soldiery from Iraq imperium eventually find their home here jobs vanished.

But such bleak divergencies aside, Iraq and Vietnam are comparable in far more ways than they minorly contrast. Primarily because in their resistance and freedom fighters to our bully white alien religion occupation forces, both do also have outside force local terrain superior combat resistance knowledge and help. This

would be the case, whether it was the Communist world aided but never supplanted, as Kissinger wrongly thought Vietcong brave tunnel resisters in the villages to your ghastly napalm. Or whether it be the equally brave ice cream van-concealed MOSLEM WORLD-Iraqis and Arab freedom fighters which even *Newsweek* reporters found last August free and able to take out your loved ones, wandering trigger-frightened in today's Iraq disaster, hurting truly innocent Iraqi.

When, however, we come to one final analogy which you ought to be getting from even the most conservative TSU professor or bigoted home relative, in order to conclude awesomely that we should get out where we don't belong, on comparison grounds I can offer hope. LBJ's Democrats got as fed up with his lies about Vietnam, as many of us overthrowing in UK Labour are with Blair's toy boy act on Iraq towards your Bush. The power of home front opinion, in short, will finally end this pointless Iraq misadventure as did the Vietcong's storming of your embassy during the TET offensive. When 60,000 anti-Bush Brits converge in protest on your President when he visits us in the UK, as will happen this November 20 in London. When we will see this wonderful people's peace power phenomena again. And guess what folks! Many Parliamentarians will be out there in the protest in London streets against the gas guzzler occupier of other countries assets, analogously as ardently as any Gene McCarthy or Bobby Kennedy delegate to the Chicago 1968 Democrat convention out there in the streets war-protesting Vietnam and the rotten capitalism of respectable Daley's couch potato mid-west male status quo pigs. WITHDRAWAL IS HISTORICAL INEVITABILITY AS WELL AS SANITY. But to get peace now, Americans would be well nourished if they looked back at how senseless wars brought peace past and to attack universities which depoliticise the healthy peace conflicts within, so as to support the war without we see in TSU's sad fatigues' dull Military Science toy boys and gals, DOOMED FOR IRAQ SLAUGHTER, sorry mum and dad if you don't wake up to your rich Texans escalating draft for unwinnable wars abroad.



Opinion by I Larry Iles

# 65 Years of Beer DuKum Inn Old Tavern

**Tuesday Nights**  
**Crappy Beer Night**  
**&**  
**Crappy-oke in the Dukum Up**

**Wednesday Nights**  
**Comedy night @ the Golden Spike**

**Thursday Nights**  
**Drinkin' with Lincoln**

## More mini-editorials

### Continued from previous page

members of the USS Abraham Lincoln probably did actually "put up" the banner. So is Bush a blatant liar? I suppose that depends on what your definition of the word "is" is, right?

But since it seems that the mission in Iraq is far from being accomplished, Republican Senator Trent Lott is getting a little frustrated. According to The Hill newspaper, after outlining some minor changes he'd like to make in Iraq, Lott commented, "Honestly, it's a little tougher than I thought it was going to be. If we have to, we just mow the whole place down, see what happens. You're dealing with insane suicide bombers who are killing our people, and we need to be very aggressive in taking them out." I have trouble even finding words that express my contempt for Lott's sentiment. I don't think there is any way we can interpret "mow the whole place down" to mean that great, if any, care to distinguish between peaceful Iraqis and violent insurgents would be made in such an effort. If we're generous towards him, we'll assume that he was merely expressing his frustration in an obnoxiously ethnocentric, violent, and perhaps even genocidal manner, which reflects disturbingly on Lott's inner desires. If we take him to believe that such an action would actually be a possible way of dealing with the situation in Iraq, then both his stupidity and cruelty exceed the bounds of my imagination.

But I assure you, Democrats are trying to cover their fair share of idiotic activity as well. During CNN's "Rock The Vote" Nov. 4th Democratic primary debate, candidates each competed at attacking President Bush more than the other candidates. In the process of doing so, a number of them chose the economic recession

and many lost jobs as an unacceptable fault of Bush's that showed his failure as a president. The problem with that is that on Nov. 6th the US Labor department announced that jobless claims dropped to their lowest level since Jan 2001 (two months before the recession) and that business productivity surged. So, if we experience an economic recovery between now and the election are these democrats going to thank Bush for his personally fixing the economy, since he was of course the one responsible for ruining it in the first place? I guess I'll just leave those Democrats to pray that the economy remains adequately crappy, and that enough people remain jobless until after the election.

And finally, in really old news, pretty much everyone has succeeding in acting hypocritical and pathetic in response to the revelation that Rush Limbaugh was addicted to pain killers and has since entered rehab. Rush has shown himself incapable of living up to the standards he proclaimed that others should be held to. Conservatives have refused to apply their hard line drug stance to Rush, claiming that we don't know what kind of pain he was in and that his addiction was somehow justified, as if most addicts live cushy lives free of pain and difficulties and decided that being addicted to meth or heroine would be a fun change of pace. Liberals meanwhile have suddenly decided that treating addicts with compassion isn't necessary in the case of Rush, blasting him for behavior they maintain should be helped, not attacked. This case presents a prime example of the failure and injustice of the war on drugs, and offers an opportunity for all parties to realize that a different approach is necessary. But a cynic like myself ought to know that is far too much to ask.

## TWEAK YOUR MIND

How do you plan to keep warm during this cold, cold winter?



"I'd wear a coat, and use many blankets. The heat cuts out sometimes and the computer lab in C-Hall has AC, that's still on, you have to wear your coat in there."

~Brenda Appleby, Soph. Major: Biology



"I'd wear a coat, I like the cold so I don't do much past that."

~Ed Kohler, Soph. Major: Previously Philosophy



"I'd wear a coat and some clothing."

~Rory O'Donnell, Fr. Major: Business and Admin.



"Libations have always worked for me."

~Sarah Spies Sr. Major: Art History

**Matboard  
Foam Board  
& Framing Supplies  
and of course, fine art**

# FEATURES

monitor

## Letters from the underground



Feature by | Rory Rhorerterton

Hello Rory,

I have some pressing questions that cannot be held off any longer!

First question: My boyfriend doesn't shower frequently. He is hot and I want him, but sometimes the smell is a little too potent. How can I try and get him to take hygiene more seriously. I like sucking cock as much as the

next girl, but it is really difficult to enjoy it when his ballsac smells of rancid old man skin, yeah that's gross!

Next question, next question: he tells me that he likes me and I am attractive, but lately he has been uninterested in sex. What is a girl to do? I'm not one to blow my own horn, but I am hot and he should want to put his hands on my (in me) all the time.

Well, I hope you can help me, any advice is welcomed.

kelly

Dear kelly,

They "cannot" wait? I don't know if I can affect what your "boyfriend" does and "doesn't" do.

However, I'm not entirely sure you want your boyfriend to shower as much as you want him to. You see, the human body produced natural pheromones that are washed away when one showers. These pheromones may be the reason you are attracted to him in the first place. If the odor is truly that bad, I suggest you carry a sample size bottle of Febreze® or spray deodorant and some mints in your purse.

As for your second question, perhaps you are actually not that hot. And if you are hot, perhaps you have a smelly cat or something. Whip out that douche, girl.

Also, it is possible that you are dating a gay dude. Does he ever call you by a man's name accidentally whilst you fellate him?

If it is none of the above, he most likely has another even hotter girlfriend that he gets out all his sexual energy on.

Or you're just paranoid.

—Rory

Dear Rory,

- Bananas
- Bottled Water
- Lunchables
- Calcium supplements
- cilantro
- pepper
- food
- lamb
- fork
- cat
- mouth

Signed,  
(???)

Dear person who didn't sign the letter,

Yeah, I know it was probably an accident that you gave me that, but I thought it was funny anyways and I couldn't think of advice

for the other letters. Oooh, except this next one.

—Rory

Dear Rory,

When I jack off is it healthy that I have up to 4 orgasms, but each one is progressively more painful?

Signed,  
Rapid Fire

Dear Rapid,

You can have up to 4 orgasms and you're complaining about anything associated with that? Shame on you! Us normal dudes have to do it four separate times. Obviously the pain isn't that bad or you wouldn't keep going. Quit yer bitchin.

—Rory

Hey readers! A special note from Rory here. Keep your letters coming, roryrhorerterton@hotmail.com It's not that hard to forget. Oh, and besides the letter to the editor in the last issue, I actually met live breathing people who did not enjoy my column. And they were all girls. And all I have to say is...pbffffft....

## Jonny Sophomore enters Aquadome for the first time

Feature by | Jon Lawinger

I round the corner behind the movie theater and I see the sign, so this must be the right place. But when I drive slowly past the glass-fronted building, I could swear I see a guy inside rocking out on his guitar about four feet from the doorway. I park half a block away and when I step out of my car I can already hear the music. I hesitantly walk towards the entrance, not knowing what awaits while the music steadily gains volume. When I come in line with the door the music goes up a few more notches, and I can see clearly that the band playing is indeed directly inside the door and off to the right, with the crowd of listeners massed off to the left. I open the door and step inside and the sound swallows me whole. The music engulfs me. I'm not just hearing it; I'm feeling the musical vibrations sinking into my skin and echoing in my chest and seeping from the floor up through my feet and my legs. I'm standing between the lead guitarist of the band playing and a small table

sitting at the entrance with a donations jar. I dig through my wallet for singles and shove a few into the jar, then shuffle over to the back corner of the crowd. From there I can stop and size the place up.

I've been seeing ads for concerts at the Aquadome since I first showed up on campus over a year ago, and I don't know what I expected it to be like when I finally got around to checking the place out, but I know I didn't expect this. Essentially, I'm standing in a living room. Just past where the band is performing, in the same open room, there is a kitchen of sorts. There are a couple sofas around the edge of the room, upon which concert goers are lounging. Along the wall behind me is a bookshelf piled full of rows of CDs and VHS tapes and next to that is a giant chalkboard leaned against the wall with a schedule of upcoming events on it. On the wall across from me is a poster with three words spray-painted one below the other in stenciled letters, proclaiming, "Rock Rock

Rawk". More random artwork, posters, and papers are scattered across the walls.

I give up surveying the location to pay a little more attention to the music that has been assaulting me since I stepped through the door. The three member band is playing happy-go-lucky surfer rock with a little bite. The lead singer/guitarist is a tall heavy guy with a soft appearance and thick rimmed black glasses, whose lyrics emerge as something between singing and yelling, but never growling. The bassist is a slick leather pants clad Asian girl straight out of the movies and every teenage guy's daydreams. She takes over vocals as they start the next song.

The crowd assembled a few feet in front of the band is not content to merely listen. Some nod their heads and bounce mildly to the music, but most dance more loosely and freely. A few weave through the crowd, dipping and swaying to the beat or wandering up alongside the guitarist. The group feeds off of the band playing, moving more wildly and enthusiastically when a song especially connects. There is no alcohol allowed, but inhibitions don't seem to be a problem.

The band finishes their set and starts carting their gear back out to the minivan parked in front of the building. The crowd mills around while the next band hauls their stuff in and begins setting up. There are three bands playing tonight, and from what I hear, tonight's lineup is a bit lighter than the Aquadome's usual fare.

The second band starts off their set. They play a harsher, grungier style that still has a mostly upbeat tone to it. The lead singer is short, thin, and has fine black hair that hangs down to his chin. The microphone pokes through the hair hanging over his face and he sings in the privacy of the enclosure it forms. He's prone to

head banging and screaming, but the music is still more fun than heavy, not that I'd complain either way. During the first song I'm convinced he sounds like Kurt Cobain, and from the second song onward I'm convinced they sound nothing alike. The band rocks through the rest of their set, and the third band takes the stage.

This young looking odd threesome consists of a smiley drummer, a grim-faced leather jacket-wearing female guitarist who looks like a biker chick, and a scrawny lead singer/bassist who is trying to pull off some sort of British Rivers Cuomo look. They remind me of The Strokes at first, but the comparison fades pretty quickly as they finish a few songs. The lead singer clumsily struggles to take his jacket off in between songs and asks the other band members what they want to play next. I notice that the pane glass windows at the front of the building are all steamed up from the crowd. As the lead announces that they'll be playing their last song now, he tells us they will have CDs for sale after the show, then pauses and asks the guitarist how much she wants to sell them for. She shrugs and says she doesn't care. The drummer excitedly shouts out "Three bucks!" and the lead agrees to the price and starts their last song.

After the third band finishes up, the crowd begins to clear out and people converse out on the street in front of the building. A fellow concertgoer turns to me and asks, "What'd you think of the show?"

I pause for a second and reply slowly "I thought it pretty much kicked ass."

He nods in agreement, then says, "Yeah, I like things that kick ass too."

If you too share an enjoyment of things that kick ass, check out the Aquadome and you won't be disappointed.

❖ **The 24th Hour of the Day after Forever** ❖  
*(The Journal of an Insomniac)*

In autumn, when the trees turn shades of fiery red and orange, and the black birds circle high above, I could swear that the earth is on fire and the birds are small specks of ashes rising from the flames.

Society is the largest library. It's full of tons of dead matter that was once living tall and proud. We share a common ancestor with books. We, too, come from trees.

~Amanda Hackney ❖



## REVIEWS

monitor

## Book is less funny, more strident departure for Moore

Michael Moore,

*Dude, Where's My Country?*

Warner Books

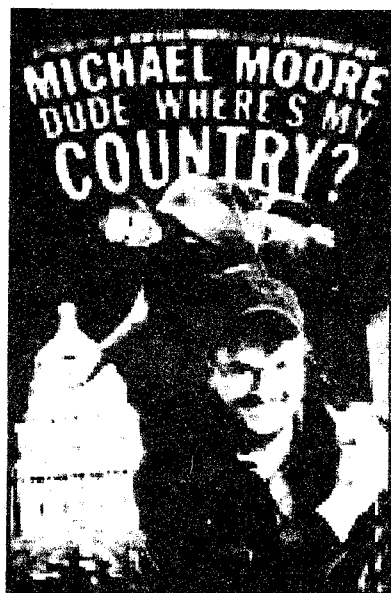
## Review by I Marc Becker

The allegedly "liberal" media keep assuring us that this country has taken a sharp turn to the right, but the recent success of a series of decidedly left-of-center books challenges that perception. Perhaps the most recognized of these counter-current books is Al Franken's *Lies (And the Lying Liars Who Tell Them): A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right* that shot to the number one slot on the bestseller lists when Fox News attempted to sue Franken for copyright infringement for his use of the phrase "fair and balanced." Franken later joked that the judge inadvertently gave Fox their new slogan when he dismissed the lawsuit as "wholly without merit." In addition to Franken's book, Molly Ivins has recently published *Bushwhacked: Life in*

*George W. Bush's America* and Jim Hightower has published *Thieves In High Places: They've Stolen Our Country—And It's Time To Take It Back*. The most recent addition to this growing list of liberal bestsellers is Michael Moore's *Dude, Where's My Country?* Moore made headlines this spring when he used his acceptance speech at the Oscars for his award-winning documentary *Bowling for Columbine* to condemn Bush's illegal and unjustified war on Iraq.

Moore can often be hilariously funny while attacking the political establishment from his working class/populist orientation. Perhaps given the desperate straits in which the U.S. finds itself, *Dude, Where's My Country?* is less funny and more strident than some of his earlier works. It is also thought-provoking, similar to

the parts in *Bowling for Columbine* where the audience stops laughing and is left to ponder why exactly it is that domestic homicide is a much bigger problem in the U.S. than in other countries. There are no easy, simple answers, and Moore does not pretend to give us any.



In *Dude, Where's My Country?*, Moore raises more questions than he answers. At points he seems to slide toward conspiracy theories (why was bin Laden's family allowed to leave the U.S. in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001 while the rest of air traffic in the country was grounded?) that tend to take the focus off of a structural analysis of society. Most of his questions are good, however, and really do deserve answers. For example, how did Bush get so many people to buy into what were so

obviously blatant lies about alleged ties between Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein, and Iraq's phantom weapons of mass destruction. And what is it with the Christian Right's support for Bush when he constantly lies about his past, his business relations with Enron and Harkin Oil, and the war against Iraq. His economic policies, geared to help the richest one percent of the population, are as damaging to them as they are to the rest of us.

Moore claims that although many people in the U.S. eschew the label "liberal" because of its negative association with "wimpy" Democratic Party leadership, there is a left-majority on key issues of health care, the environment, and civil rights. Moore claims that in traveling around the country, there is a great deal of discontent with Bush and his conservative policies. He argues that it is time to close this "Great Disconnect" between a fundamentally progressive electorate and a right-wing that has captured control over the country.

The book closes with concrete suggestions for talking to conservatives (emphasize their own selfish interests and how Republican policies do not favor them) and a plan of action for removing Bush from the White House (vote!).

## Joan Baez concert hopefully not farewell performance

## Review by I Larry Iles

After we encountered a good TSU History Professor friend who had also been at Joan Baez's Saturday concert, he surprised us both by exclaiming that he honestly thought the warm-up act of one Jim Morrison baby-face lookalike, songster, guitarist and Idaho resident, Josh Ritter, had been much better than Famous Baez. But to me at the risk of being regarded as passé, there was not even the basis of comparison, although contrary to my critics I kept quiet about my difference.

While Josh, certainly, has something of Baez fortissimo voice note-power, the subject matter uniformity of his output, i.e. the great American self, Himself, betrayed the inferior generation gap. Instead of celebrating a recent RTE (Irish TV) appearance tour and hotel following UK Small Spice herself, Josh spent a "Hotel" song and jibes, regretting, understandably, her rough bodyguards and, less so, by bitching against her fantasied refusal "on the bed to give me head." At best, candidly, when he sang of Montana national valley beauty and wore his "nice suit" smile, as a friend of mine opines these matters, Josh is not the pampered THE DOORS would-be he's set himself to "spankies" on him be, but John Denver, all-Americana!

Joan, on the other hand, was her disciplined perfectionist self, chiding on her

talented all-male and anti-ageist band of accompanist musicians like a literal Harp to do their very best, and resisting the callously exhaustive teeny-boppers and repetitive anti-politics old-crooner demands with finesse! "Honey, yaa, sing it, then!" or "Yaa remember even that one, jeez," beneath her breath. Instead, she railed at Bush and his "empire scorned governor 'Arnie'" and contrasted in her song collection, 1930s Guthrie and MLK's USA she latterly knows so well with today's lack-luster nothings!

She tried an Arabic Iraqi war-defiance, protest song but the audience was discouraging, so she retaliated by, an end, Spanish song marvelously internationalist, lamenting the sorrows Kissinger and Nixon caused Chile's Socialists in their bloody COUP against 70s ALLENDE. Her own blue jokes didn't work, visibly unmoving some feminist elderlies, near our front rows in the fetid, cold hall we'd queued for an hour for. But her family humor about "her 90 year old mum accompanying her on the tour" and her Elvis-yrations to show his once revolutionary and liberating erotic and musical impact in the 50's USA were, rivetingly appealing. By herself, may this concert, indeed, not prove a real "farewell" one, as others ain't, as her attacks on war-minded "bellicos-ity" are never more, anti-flag needed!

## Language dispute

## Continued from page 3

book-lover" Texan president in the IRAQ USA/UK INVADER folly, one cannot help feeling your writer's mock juvenilia would be better directed, to *Bush* and his US upper class thus all too lethally real CANT!

Nevertheless, let's try a bit of education on the local redneck would-be censors of the English language, which I remind your monocultural all-USA perfect mediocrity is a global language actually spoken and read. If we, justly, count the Indian sub-continent to "Gaelic" Eine republic by far more we NON-Americans, thank heaven, than by the Bush, Junior and Dr. Kissinger killers of Iraq and Chile in this otherwise too Yank-might-is-brutal-money "power" world.

One, indeed, all too few TSU students and Kirksville other low-incomers, bereft of either a European or Canadian welfare state and qualitatively superior secondary education system will EVER be permitted even a modest share in. If they do take such "style" nonsense as having a shred of value.

WHY? Well when bored with a lazy instructor who is enjoying telling you, US mediocrity "style," next time what in ESSAY you CAN NOT do even though you know full well you have dared to use better solid content, heavens perhaps even foreign history and novella sources they obviously have made NO effort to comprehend, let alone baffled read, tell them! Do the reading and writing hand task themselves and via capricious grading committees and TSU'S usually higher depth non-PHD tamed women instructors strive for real quality.

Better still, students and progressive staff and faculty, those who RIGHTLY thrilled to the hard new, different styles and contents of such all now alas dead or "removed" folks like instructors Hargey, Reid or Kwok, try a bit of salutary

"un-American" awkwardness. IN Pickler, get the inter-library loan system going to not just read the linguistic style critiques of Noam, but of the late Basil Bernstein of Lond Institute of Education. Building on fresh scholar insights, the latter, whom I had the great good fortune to hear when I was doing my own two-part education theory training, warned precisely. Why letter-like your flatteringly attentive to humble me, "parodist," is wrong a thousand inhibitive and prohibitive times.

Bernstein, East end London Jewish socialist, put is so well when I first heard him, that I felt liberated. He said people who tell us a hundred times what we linguistically "must not" do are "victims." Of not only gross unhistorical ignorance due to language being an anthropological construct, not a real rule book as so much false American middle class white anti-ebonics tiraders assume. But, worst, they are determined to keep non-college and in USA, even college PHDS "RESTRICTED CODE" in our places, so we are never heard!

Since as you can see like most non-Americans and mercifully like many progressive Americans like the late Allen Ginsberg with his marvellous "HOWL" poem against such 1950's conformity of false "style" as your poor parodist tameness-seeking urges, I happen to love our planetary variety! And indeed the French and more earthy Anglo Saxony that is the real vibrancy. So I shall not be obliging his or any other such unreasonable strictures. Language, mate, is to BE USED, not blunted especially against US imperialism. Especially so culturally, as the truly great US writer E. Wilson so well put it in defending his more left wing and English friend WH Auden against mid-western philistine "FLATTENERS" of his work, so philistinely as your letter critic sadly knows so little better. It's time linguistic scholars fought back even in *The Monitor*.

Larry Iles



# Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Continued from page 1

and reliable information and direction, as well as outrage that such facilities which seek to manipulate women's emotions, decisions, and bodies exist.

I went to a Birthright facility in South St. Louis and it was indeed located across the street from a large high school. Armed with a fake name, story, and pregnant pee donated to the study hidden under my jacket, another intern and I entered the CPC. The waiting room was similar to a waiting room you would find in your doctor's office, except the magazines provided in this one were all produced by religious organizations. I checked in with someone at the front desk, as I had made an appointment, and was quickly led into a "counseling" room for discussion. My friend was not allowed in with me. This is when it got scary.

The "counselor" who spoke with me was soft-spoken, but extremely warm and deliber-

ately considerate in her speech. She first asked me to fill out a form, stating my name, age and ethnicity, as well as such information for my partner (the "father") and then I was asked to take a pregnancy test. I was really scared the test tube filled with someone else's urine was going to fall out of my pocket on the way to the bathroom, but the operation was successful. While waiting for my results, I was shown a video about what could go wrong with abortion as well as one promoting adoption. The counselor soon came back into the room to inform me I was pregnant. Her actual words were, "Well, you're a mother."

At this point, the counselor's demeanor turned very serious and she sat down with a box in her hands. She pulled out a tiny plastic figurine made to look like a fetus, put it in my hands, and said, "This is about the size of your baby, Molly." She also gave me two different baby blankets, one pink and one blue, and asked

which I preferred. She then immediately asked me what I was going to do about the pregnancy. At this point, I was totally freaked out but tried to remain calm for the sake of the investigation.

We then began a 45-minute dialogue in which I was given false information, such as abortion causes infertility and death and was subjected to much religious rhetoric despite the claim displayed on their wall that there was no religious affiliation with the clinic. I was told that I would go to hell if I decided to have an abortion, but that I could become a born-again virgin if I repented to God. (I had to try hard not to laugh at the concept of becoming a "born-again virgin.") At one point, she prayed over me for about ten minutes.

It was consistently reiterated that the only moral, acceptable option for me was to either have the baby or choose adoption. The only referrals and resources given to me were

about pre-natal care and adoption services. The scare tactics and inaccurate information practically made the decision for me. Given the fact that I was not actually pregnant, that I was completely overwhelmed and affected by the conversation I had with this woman is testimony to the frightening power these organizations have over women.

I am not against the idea of having counseling facilities for women who are pregnant and may be without a support system to help them make decisions that would be right for their lives and their bodies. However, these facilities would absolutely need to have comprehensive, unbiased information and resources available, as well as professional, trained employees. CPCs are not the place to go if you are in need of help or support.

\*Some information taken from "Unmasking Fake Clinics," produced by the NARAL foundation.

# University physicist's award-winning book concludes God unnecessary to Universe

Story by | Andrés Delgado

Dr. Taner Edis is a University professor of physics who has written a book that argues against the existence of a God. "Let me put it this way," he says in explanation of his chosen topic as he gestures toward a bookshelf in his Barnett office, "look at the books behind you. I mean this is a physics professor's office, but you'll find a lot of the books behind you have to do with paranormal topics, like creationism, parapsychology and everything like that." The book's central tenet is that "there is in all likelihood no ghost in the universe," an argument against personal forces driving the world and one supporting a world that can be explained in total by the science of naturalism.

Edis' deep interest in the paranormal began in graduate school, when the physics worldview of impersonal forces that he had been getting used to struck hard against a new exposure to the "fringe science" claims of parapsychologists and mystics. At the same time in the early '90s, Edis said, a large-scale Islamic revival was underway in Turkey, and the religion's new visibility there prompted him to confront its claims on reality using his physicist's expertise. Less concerned with the societal implications of the revival, "I became more interested in the claims they were making, because I'm a physicist, I don't bring any real expertise about political questions to the debate, more than most people how live a more secular type of life would bring," Edis said. He indicated a book on his desk, a Turkish creationist book titled "The Evolution Deceit." "Something like this, with a background in science you can get much more of a handle on than the more political aspect of things, obviously."

Edis therefore made himself an expert on various gods of laymen and theologians, on parapsychology and other forms of fringe science. He did this by reading the holy texts, commentaries, and theologians' works on Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and New Age movements. These views all had in common that they proposed a world organized "in a top-down sort of way, in which you have some kind of a

mind, intelligence standing outside, giving shape to things." Edis' book argues for a "bottom-up reality, in which complexity, mind, all the interesting things that fascinate us, are more the products of the impersonal interactions that you get in physics." "I'm trying to say that OK, this is not complete bullshit, there is a certain intellectual attraction in ideas that come to you from religious and paranormal points of view, but at the end of the day, I think a view based on modern science, you have to be a lot more skeptical about this."

Skepticism is a two-edged sword. The book's thesis is qualified by the words "in all likelihood," a phrase prompted by the "tentativeness across the board in science," that leads Edis to conclude that "You have to make your best guess as to the nature of the reality we find ourselves in given what we know and given all the imperfections of what we know about the world." But against those who appeal to ignorance in the religious debate Edis says that "you can be reasonably confident in that the tentativeness is not an excuse not to take seriously what we know so far, and to give our best shot based on what we do know." "So in that sense I'd be tentative, but I'd also be fairly confident," he said.

The book's argument is rooted in physics, and so can be fairly difficult at times, but it was conscientiously written for a larger audience, Edis said. The book only contains three equations, and these are not prominent. An example of the book's style of discussion is its treatment of "randomness." Although the mathematical definition of randomness is lengthy, Edis states its intuitive definition simply, as phenomena occurring without pattern, and therefore without ascertainable cause. It's definition given, Edis lays out its significance. "In fundamental physics, randomness seems to be coming out our ears, in quantum mechanics, in the boundaries of space-time in general, in relativity, really all across the board." The consequence of randomness is an inherently unpredictable world, such that the classical idea of being able to determine previous and future states from an ideal description of the present

# SAM they are

Story by | Suzanne Leslie

The Student Association of Missouri is an organization that has received a lot of criticism recently, due primarily to the manner in which it is funded and its perceived ineffectiveness. SAM is currently in its third year, and University SAM Assembly Representative Michael Pierson said that it was founded to "unite students around Missouri to deal with student issues in higher education."

How did SAM come about? Well, the idea of student associations has been around for quite a while. In 1947, the United States Student Association was formed to give students their own voice on Capitol Hill. The state of California was the first to found its own student association in 1959, and over the next fifteen years Wisconsin, Arizona, and Oregon all followed suit.

In 1991, Northeast Missouri State University (that's us, of course) student Terri Brickey started the ball rolling for Missouri by helping form the Missouri Association of Student Governments at the Students for Higher Education Conference. Unfortunately, this group collapsed over the next year due to lack of organization and funding, but in 1992 Sam Garman of Southwest Missouri State University decided to pursue the idea again. In 1999, the Bulldog Party here at Truman State also became interested in a state student association while looking for a way to secure a student vote on the Board of Governors, and two of the current party members, Bethany Ordaz and Wayne Yocum, decided to push the formation of a state student association forward.

Ordaz became the main organizer by establishing a statewide student network and then planning meetings of interested students. At one such meeting it was decided that the organization would be called the Student Association of Missouri or SAM in honor of Sam Garman. By the end of 2001, SAM had a constitution that was approved by student delegates from all over the state of Missouri, a Provisional Council to ensure the funding of SAM and Truman State had become the first school to ratify the constitution and become a member. The Provisional Council decided to fund SAM by requiring schools to pay dues of \$1 per student per semester in order to be a full member institution with voting privileges, though the method of collecting the money is up to each institution. As you might know, at Truman State this extra dollar a semester is tacked onto tuition, although it is refundable if a student does not wish to support SAM. All institutions that don't pay dues can have a provisional member-

ship which grants them representatives in the SAM Assembly, but those representatives cannot vote.

A school's representation in the SAM Assembly is proportional to its enrollment, with one representative guaranteed and then an additional representative for every 3000 students. Truman State then, has three assembly representatives: Michael Pierson, Remington Smith and David Doellman. Besides Truman State, there are two other Missouri schools with full membership (Southeast Missouri State University and Missouri Western State College), and four schools with provisional membership (Columbia College, Missouri Western State College, Central Missouri State University and Northwest Missouri State University).

Each year, SAM chooses three or four issues for the year's legislative agenda from their legislature platform and then their full-time lobbyist Scott Swain fights for those causes for Missouri college students in Jefferson City. Last year's issues were: earmarked funding for higher education (non-discretionary), student vote on university governing boards and the protection of student identity (restricting public use of social security numbers).

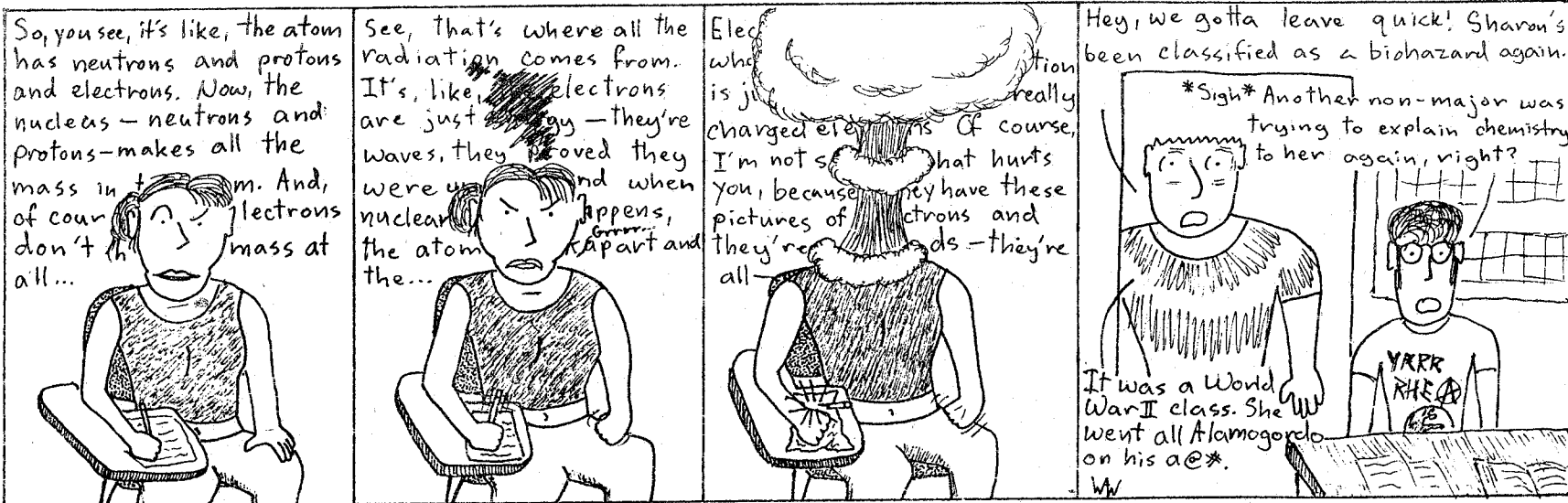
Aside from its lobbying efforts, SAM also works to help students to become more involved politically. The week of Nov. 3-7, SAM had tables set up in the SUB to help students register to vote, and the SAM website ([www.studentassociationofmissouri.org](http://www.studentassociationofmissouri.org)) provides valuable information that makes it possible to figure out who your legislators are and how to contact them.

The Student Association of Missouri is an idea with a history that is just now getting a chance to be put into action in Missouri. It is a fledgling program with an impressive organization and structure considering its youth and that it is student-run. SAM has high goals and good intentions and is striving as a non-profit organization to perform a service to all students of higher education in Missouri. As the program continues to grow, it has plans of hiring a full-time intern to work in the Missouri Capitol to lobby alongside Swain. The realization of its goals though, and its effectiveness, are dependent upon its funding. As more Missouri institutions become full-members, SAM will have more money to put toward the organization and implementation of its legislative agenda, and also, with increased participation be able to better represent the needs and concerns of college students throughout Missouri.

<http://www.studentassociationofmissouri.org/>

Continued on page 11

Comics for Chemists  
by a Nookolar Power



## Interview with a serial killer killer

Story by | Jon Lawinger and Amanda Barr

Odds are you've heard of Jeffrey Dahmer, John Wayne Gacy, Charles Manson, the Son of Sam, and Ted Bundy. Odds are you hadn't heard of Robert Ressler until a few weeks ago, but nearly every major serial killer in the last forty years has. Ressler spent the majority of his twenty years with the FBI as a part of the Behavioral Science Unit, interviewing those five killers as well as many others in an attempt to develop an understanding of the mind of a serial killer. His work was integral to the creation of modern criminal profiling, and to the formation of VICAP, the computerized Violent Criminal Apprehension Program used to connect crimes from all across the United States. He has since entered into private practice, consulting on various cases throughout the world and serving as an

expert witness in several cases. He also travels around the country giving lectures and even teaching classes at several Universities. He recently gave a talk on serial killers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to a mass of Truman students large enough to fill the Baldwin Auditorium nearly to capacity. While he was visiting we got the chance to sit down with him and attempt to probe his mind, which has probed so many dark minds itself.

How does one end up dedicating their life to understanding psychopaths? Ressler says, "My interest in all this goes back to my childhood." He cites one case that especially affected him while growing up in Chicago. "It was a case in Chicago back in the forties where... [William Harris,] a University of Chicago student ended up being the serial killer." Seeing this case so close to home sparked Ressler's interest in the area of serial killers. He went on to

study criminology in college and then joined the Army and worked in criminal investigation there. "Then I was recruited by the FBI, and after four or five years... I got into the Behavior Sciences Unit." It was there that he made his most notable contributions to the field of criminal profiling and gained his unmatched expertise on the phenomenon of serial killing.

After 20 years at the FBI he retired and started his own business. When asked about his current relationship with the FBI, Ressler states, "I really don't maintain any contact with the FBI other than social contact." He clearly doesn't regret his distance from the organization though. "It's just bad business to keep too close to the FBI once you're out of it. What they want to do is control you, and I'm not to be controlled anymore. If I were still working directly with the FBI... I'd have triplicate forms telling them I'm coming here to Kirksville, what I'm going to say and outline in my lecture... who needs that crap anymore? [That] is for bureaucracy, and bureaucrats, and I don't need that. I'm beyond that. I've graduated from that... I have my own enterprise now." Ressler observes that having his own business provides some other important benefits as well. "I work for the best boss I've ever worked for: myself."

During his career Ressler has also consulted with a number of writers of fictional works that deal with serial killing. He worked with Tom Harris who created the character of Hannibal Lecter. However, Ressler says that the entertainment media give people a false impression of what serial killers are like, specifically referring to Lecter and the killer from the movie *American Psycho*. "The American Psycho was this handsome, wealthy, successful Wall Street broker that just stepped away from his successful life to commit murders once in awhile for his entertainment. Hannibal Lecter is a brilliant psychiatrist that has a tremendous sense of... perception and

can almost do supernatural things." He explains that reality is much different. "Most of these people are inadequate losers. They're not brilliant. They may be intelligent, but they're not so clever that they can outsmart law enforcement." Ressler suggests a relatively simple explanation for the discrepancy though. "If they portrayed them the way they were, it wouldn't warrant movies. The inadequate loser who curls up in the corner and sucks his thumb when the heat's on doesn't really make for good entertainment."

So how have so many years dedicated to analyzing and profiling killers affected Ressler himself? "I see the world a little differently than most people," he says. "I see things that alert me that others might not see." He offers a story to illustrate what he means. "My wife and I were up with our kids in Washington D.C. in the mid '80s... and we were driving around the Smithsonian looking for a place to park." When his wife spotted an open space, he says he refused to park there saying "Look at that car in front. That car has New Mexico plates on it. It's a homemade camper built on the back of a pickup truck... this guy is obviously a nutcase. He's probably come here from New Mexico... to try to assassinate the President... He'll probably end up backing into my car." He said his wife dismissed his concerns saying, "Oh, you're always doing that." That night at home, Ressler says he was watching TV with his wife in an adjoining room. "I was watching the news and it said, 'Tonight, a man from Albuquerque, New Mexico came and crashed into the gates of the White House screaming out things about the president.' It was the same car. And I just looked at [my wife]. I didn't say a thing." He says he's no prophet though. "What I did was I profiled the car, and by profiling the car I was able to have insight into the owner and the person that was driving that car." He admits, "Maybe it was a little bit of luck, too. But it made her a believer." Us too.

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## Animal Liberation Front issues communique

Press release for the direct action against animal cruelty - Oct. 29th 2003

Because the exploitation of other living beings has gone on long enough and because the need to respect our fellow species has been blatantly ignored within our own community, the Animal Liberation Front took it upon themselves, on the night of Wednesday, Oct. 29th to bring freedom to at least a few of the enslaved beings being exploited within the walls of the dreaded Truman State University Science Department. A masked detachment of the Local Animal Liberation Front chapter, armed with the hammer of justice, marched into Science Hall at approximately 7:10 pm and proceeded to one of the most visible displays of animal exploitation on campus: the reptile internment camp on the third floor of the newly constructed penitentiary/building. Due to what could only amount to police infiltration, law enforcement officials had been tipped off and were

already present in large numbers at the site of the action. The ALF affinity cell refused to be daunted in their efforts and decided to carry on with their planned action despite almost certain confrontation. What ensued at this point was a chaotic blitz to set free the indentured serpents which resulted in one semi serious head wound to an activist and a general toss-about in front of the cages while the police did their best to intimidate and control the protesters. The whole spectacle lasted approximately 4 minutes and 18 seconds before the safety of the reptiles as well as the protesters became to great a concern to continue on with the action, and a hasty retreat was made before any arrests could be made. A plainclothes operative attempted to follow and infiltrate the cell but was turned aside due to the vigilance of astute security culture. The injured activist was deemed fit enough to not require any further attendance and then the group successfully split up and escaped without any further injury or harassment.

24 November 2003

# Ghost in the Universe

Continued from page 9

is impossible.

In his book Edis conflates randomness and selection to explain the seemingly extra-natural force of creativity in the world. Creativity is "selection acting on the randomness kicked out by natural events. There's less room to talk about a soul beyond physically what's going on in the brain," said Edis. Rooting this kind of creativity in physics takes the supernatural element out of Intelligent Design theory. Additionally, truly random events can't be the product of personal design any more than of natural causes. "Essentially, randomness is telling you that this is where explanation comes to an end....It's pretty corrosive to religious claims in more ways than one," said Edis.

For readers looking for a single argument to pull from this article or Edis' book that condemns religion, the news is bad. "There's no silver bullet," Edis said, mostly because of the diversity of religious views. An effective disproof of parapsychology might affect new-agers and the miracle-espousing adherents to the Catholic church, but wouldn't touch some theologians' claims that "don't take many real-world risks," he said.

As for the most nationally famous claim that does take a real-world risk, Creationism and its 6,000-year-old earth view, Edis de-

votes only a few sentences of his book to it. "It's sort of like shooting fish in a barrel. It's not something that's taken seriously to say that the world is six thousand years old, so I'm not going to spend more than a couple of sentences on that."

A more common argument in intuitively grounded debates on religion, is that ultimately, everything had to come from somewhere, including the Big Bang. Edis said of an explanation for the universe that "There's no short answer. If you want to understand why many cosmologists today feel they have a good naturalistic story of the universe, there's no substitute for learning at least a little bit about the theories in play, the ideas in play and why they impress physicists in the first place." "If you really get into physical cosmology your picture of the Big Bang is really going to change a lot. We tend to think about the Big Bang as sort of the beginning event, the explosion from which everything began." A chapter in his book attempts to give a more accurate picture. Interestingly, Edis said that estimations of the total energy in the Universe are consistent with zero. "Add up all the positive and negative energy, you end up around zero, which is pretty suggestive to some physicists that there isn't anything to explain there. At least not in the energetic aspect of things."

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On campus, Edis reports a diversity of views among the faculty. He said Dr. Daniel Hite, professor of Biology, was invited to Edis' JINS course, Weird Science, to talk about his Creationist beliefs. Edis also recalled a conversation with a religious studies faculty member who "pointed out to me that you will find no Creationists among religion professors on campus, but you'll find a couple among the biologists, interestingly enough." "But that's pretty rare, obviously. In mainstream biology these are not ideas that are taken seriously, so there's not much that happens in that direction," said Edis.

As for his own views, Edis says they enter the classroom in different ways. He teaches a Concepts of Physics course with a science-fiction theme, in which "the occasional paranormal claim" occasionally comes up. His other course, JINS Weird Science, is much more focused on examination of the supernatural, and so Edis has assigned a chapter from his book for the class reading. But he says his interest is in stimulating argumentative thought rather than in convincing his students of his view. "I'm not interested in demanding that they agree with me at the end of the day. There are students in my JINS course who are creationists, who write their papers defending an aspect of creationism, and if it's good writing, if I think it's interesting, they get an A."

Along with his teaching

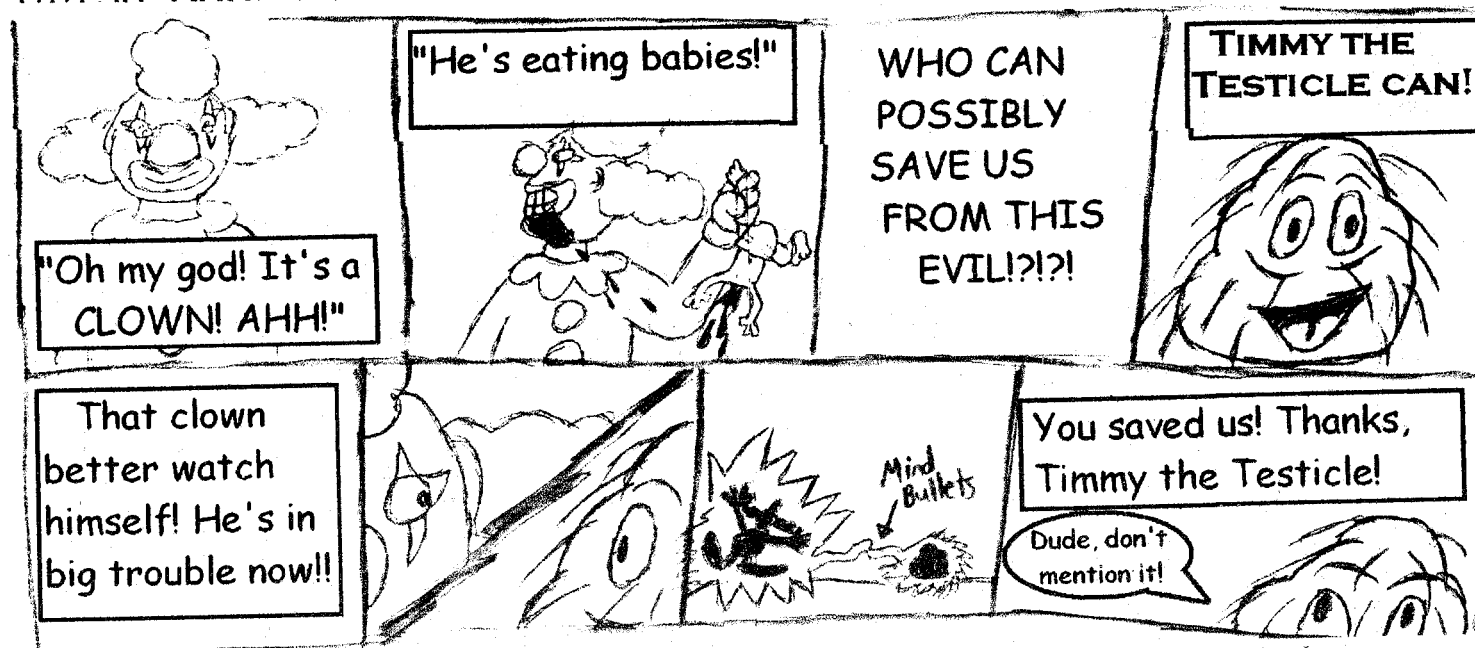
responsibilities, Edis has another book forthcoming in 2004 and two newly-signed contracts for other books. "Time is an issue. Work on this is where my nights and weekends go into. The time for it comes partially from personal time, partially that the time that I devote to research on my own is what goes into this."

Edis' efforts for "The Ghost in the Universe" were rewarded by the receipt of the Morris D. Forkosh book award, given some years to the "outstanding secular book" by the Council for Secular Humanism chaired and founded by Paul Kurtz, who also founded and chairs Prometheus Books, "Ghost's" publisher. Previous recipients include the late Harvard biologist Stephen J. Gould in 1990 and Steve Allen the following year. The book is available in the Truman bookstore.

Explaining his attempts to embrace the views he argues against, which attempts he mentions in his book, Edis described them partially as prudent exercises for the benefit of his argument. "It's mainly something that I would do to be as sympathetic as possible and try to understand better the position I'm arguing against. But it's not just that. I mean certain things like having a hope that certain things are permanent, this is probably a fairly common human thing. If you really care deeply about anything, it's not surprising if you would want to find some sort of permanence to it that goes beyond all the impermanence ... I just think that at the end of the day, it just isn't so."

T.T.T. IN "AHH!! CLOWN!!!"

BRAD BROWN



## Travel restrictions to Cuba prevent unfavorable comparisons to US

Opinion by I Marc Becker

On October 10, President George W. Bush announced a strengthening of increased restrictions on travel to Cuba. He stated that these and other initiatives were "intended to hasten the arrival of a new, free, democratic Cuba." Only two weeks later, on October 23, 19 Republican Senators joined Democrats in voting to bar the use of government funds to enforce these travel restrictions. On September 9, Republicans in the House of Representatives had passed the same legislation, as they have done every year since 2000. If enacted, this would essentially end a ban on U.S. citizens traveling to Cuba that has been in place since 1962. Unfortunately, in a subversion of the democratic process, on November 12 congressional Republican leaders removed this language from the appropriations bill (conference committees are only to reconcile differences in bills, not to remove identical language as they did in this case). Bush's rhetoric, while far from being empty,

was a pandering to the Miami vote in order to shore up his support in Florida which is key to his strategy for winning the 2004 presidential elections. Pundits commented on the split within the Republican Party between Bush's electoral interests and the imperial commercial interests of conservative representatives such as Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) who wish to relax trade restrictions with Cuba so that agribusinesses like ADM and Cargill can export grain to the country.

The issues at stake here, however, go beyond the debate whether the best way to recolonize Cuba is through starving the country (a policy that has failed for the last 40 years and undoubtedly will continue to fail) or through flooding the country with U.S. capital (something that led to the Cuban Revolution in the first place).

In addition to travel restrictions, Bush announced measures "to break the information

embargo that the Cuban government has imposed on its people." But, one must ask, what does the Bush administration fear in preventing U.S. citizens from discovering firsthand what is happening in Cuba? Bush lets us know: "repressive governments fear the truth."

The truth that George Bush does not want U.S. citizens to know is that in Cuba everyone is guaranteed universal health care, and that it has one of the best health care systems in the world. If a poor, third-world country can do that, why can't the richest, most industrialized country in the world provide for its own citizens? He does not want us to know that Cuba enjoys full employment, or that the highest paid employee in a company only earns four times more than the lowest paid employee (and not 12 times more as at Truman, for 400+ times more as in many U.S. corporations). These are concrete measurements of equality that continue to elude us.

As Bush said on October 10, "This country loves freedom and we know that the enemy of every tyrant is the truth." The best way to find out the truth about Cuba is to challenge the will of an unelected and repressive tyrant and join the tens of thousands of U.S. citizens who travel to Cuba every year. After all, this is what Colin Powell encourages us to do when on the first page of our passports he states "The Secretary of State of the United States of America hereby requests all whom it may concern to permit the citizen/national of the United States named herein to pass without delay or hindrance."

In thwarting the will of congress, one senior Republican staff member noted a refusal "to put a bill on the floor that potentially embarrasses the president." It is time for us to demand our constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms before a repressive tyrant deprives us of the remaining remnants of our democracy.



# MY BACK PAGES...

Okay, so its four in the morning and my colleagues are getting sleepy and restless at the same time-you've had that same feeling too so everyone have a safe and restful break. then come back and mail all your best poems and prose to me, zach, countzachula@hotmail.com. peace.

"what brings me down now is love  
cause I can never get enough."

i found you  
i found you  
i was grasping in the dark  
i found your hand  
or did you find mine  
either way, don't lose me now  
music pulls us closer  
as we push our needles through  
each other's skin  
hearts  
souls  
stop before we go too far  
and we can't get the stitches out  
i don't want to know what i want  
you'll do for now  
i laced my fingers with yours  
i laced my tongue with yours  
i laced my body with yours  
we laid on the grass  
i was crying and you were beautiful  
i found the kind of peace  
i'd have to go through hell to get

none of this ever happened

-mercury

small purple flowers bloom  
giving off no scent  
unobtrusive  
unobstructive  
unusual  
quietly spreading  
their soft petals  
smooth  
and easily damaged  
every touch brings out  
greater color  
until they fade  
with  
die  
bleeding away  
back into the skin  
they bloomed from

## winter's coming

even the ground  
gets cold in winter,  
so the trees  
offer their leaves  
as a blanket.

and then the trees  
shiver together  
whenever the cold wind blows  
and the earth  
ruffles its leaves  
and pulls its blanket  
up to its nose.

-lisa suzanne

## push and pull

we're like a mass on a spring  
stuck oscillating  
between coming and going,  
loving and being frustrating.

and the more you push,  
and the harder I pull,  
the more we swing,  
and come around in a circle full  
of frustration and love,  
laughter and sighs,  
with looks of longing and confusion  
in our eyes.

and all I want,  
is to slow us down,  
to make us last,  
for us to stay up a little longer,  
and not go down quite so fast.

-sarah

We leaned against the water tower  
twisting around our emotions  
tugging them into the streetlights  
so the muggy night air could taint us

do you love me with all your heart?  
are we just brushing by each other  
in the swirling nights of youth

you've taken me on a tour  
of every park in this town  
into crevices I've never known  
to be fulfilling or romantic  
that existed all along my depths

I watch the sun, trying to figure this  
almost eight months of self diagnosis  
just to decide  
completely without your input  
what we are

I'm drowning in definitions  
that people experience in memories  
and it's engulfing me like a whirlpool  
mixing with epitomes of teenage love

I wish you'd talk to me  
without your hands  
without all the lyrics you've been fed  
and just let me see underneath your  
changing faces  
yet I still hide in the pristine shadows  
and still you keep coming back to  
my increasing decadence  
and coupling your mind with  
physical acts  
hell, I'm just trying to keep up

-That Girl That Writes Poetry

## Ode to Andrés

even though your're tired  
and your shoes are worn and gray  
your eyes are full of fire  
and I can hear you say:  
"Don't step on my Air Force  
Ones

Hon!"

-Henrietta Hussey