

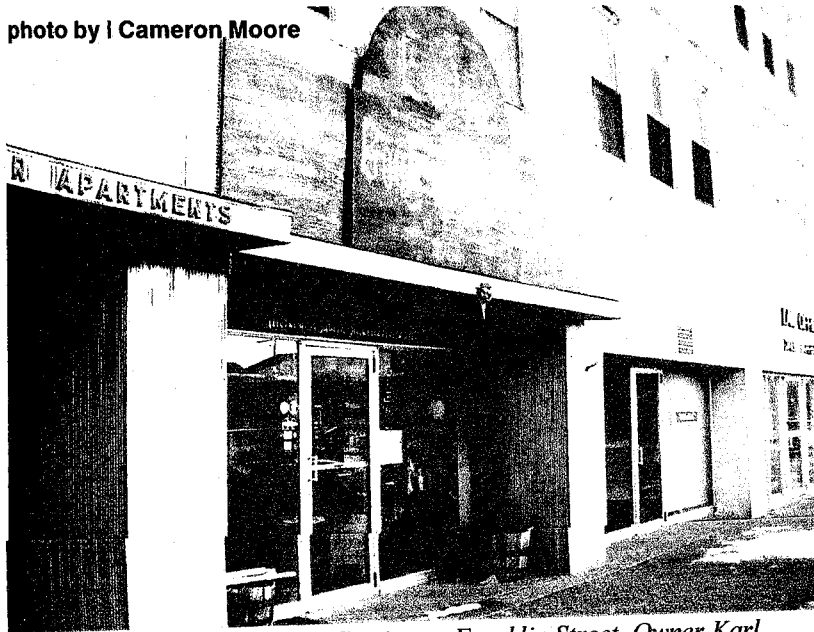


# the monitor.

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issue 7

## Local merchant claims \$500,000 negligence

photo by | Cameron Moore



The storefront of Eddies Books & Comics on Franklin Street. Owner Karl Hildebrand has painted his sign all black in protest of the city's refusal to pay him.

A downtown Kirksville merchant claims that the City of Kirksville owes his business upwards of \$500,000 in damages due to negligent acts on the part of the former City Manager, Scot Wrighton.

In May of 2002, Karl Hildebrand, owner of Eddies Book Exchange and FBN Press, says that city workmen were pumping smoke into the private sewer line in the alley between the Miller Building and City Hall without any prior notice. Smoke had backed up into his business, and he feared it would damage his bookstore and book collection, which contains many historic documents and old first edition books.

"I went outside to ask the workmen to stop before further damage was done," Hildebrand said. According to Hildebrand, the workmen went and got then City Manager Wrighton, who assessed the situation, and ordered that they continue pumping smoke into the sewer to locate a leak in the line into City Hall.

Hildebrand said he warned Wrighton that

his "commercial enterprise would consider his action as malicious [and] negligent," and that "potential irreparable damage" would result if the workers did not halt immediately.

What resulted was, according to Hildebrand, a complete loss of five percent of his store's collection immediately, and overall, an approximate 25 percent loss of the rare

and historic documents in his collection. "Paper is a very delicate material," Hildebrand said. "It can be in a tomb for thousands of years and be just fine, but the moment you open the tomb, it will crumble into dust. It does not like such a drastic change of environment," he said.

And that is what Hildebrand con-

Continued on page 9

## Kerry takes Missouri

Story by | Nicole Rainey

On Tuesday, Democratic Candidate John Kerry took our own state of Missouri, garnering a large amount of delegates towards his bid for the Democratic Party nominee—he took 50% of Missouri's vote, with Edwards falling behind at 25%, and Dean even farther behind at only 9%. Kerry also swept Arizona, Delaware, New Mexico, and North Dakota, solidifying his lead in the race to become the Democrat's candidate. "I'll keep working and fighting until I win the nomination, and then I'll

keep working and fighting until I beat George Bush," Kerry told the Associated Press. He described the massive win in Missouri as "fabulous."

Until Tuesday night, Kerry had taken all the states so far (including Iowa and New Hampshire)—but Edwards stole his native state of South Carolina. Despite any other wins, Edwards was excited and energized by South Carolina; to his supporters, Edwards declared,

Continued on page 2

## KTRM walks the edge



Continuity Director Ben Baker runs the sound board during format radio play

photo by | Suzanne Leslie

Story by | Suzanne Leslie

Kirksville's had an 'Edge' for more or less 7 years now, providing DJs with experience and a town with good music.

"I just find it a whole lot of fun to get out on the air. Radio is something I want to do in the future, and the Edge is the only place where you can just walk in and find out whether or not you're good," said Chris Reiter, the Development Manager of KTRM.

Broadcasting under the slogan "Kirksville's true alternative," KTRM is on the air from 7 am to 2 am every day, and is run completely by University students. The staff breaks down into a team of managers (paid) and about 40 DJs (no pay), though Station Manager Russ Disbro says that they'd like to have between 50 and 55 (so yes, kids, they're ir-

Continued on page 9

ACLU President Visits Campus 2

Bad Coverage: WMD (opinion) 4

World Social Forum 7

New Christian on the Block! 7

A Talking Cat, Goodness 7

Rush, Revealed. 9



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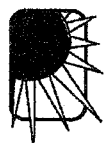

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Subscriptions are available to out of towners - you just pay for postage. Send a check or money order for \$10 to the address above for a semester's worth of Monitors. That's really cheap, huh?

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

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*from the desk of  
the editors...*



Gentle Readers,

This editor's box is a new addition to *The Monitor* that we hope will allow us to extrapolate on some of the ideas and processes behind the issue you hold in your hands.

As you page through this issue, you might realize that it is particularly rife with hatred—perhaps it is the nasty winter weather, or the Sodexo quiche congealing inside of our writers, or perhaps it's the swirling vortex where the Aquadome used to be—regardless, people are pissed.

Often, as editors of a paper that touts itself as a 'Community Collective' that accepts any submissions that the community (this means you) gives us, we find ourselves tempted to censor our particularly hateful submissions. For example, on page 7, we have published a Point/Counterpoint that is dripping with personal attacks and remarks that can be read as crassly insensitive to entire communities of people.

Unlike CBS, however, we at *The Monitor* allow for the obscene (barring libel). More importantly, we stand staunchly proud of our submissions policy—we are accepting of the politically radical, reactionary, egotistical, and just plain dumb.

We loved the Strossen lecture, and we think that we're doing the ACLU proud.

But please, for the love of everything holy, if you're gonna send us nasty articles about your love-life, make them short.

Everyone! Send us letters! We have so few pleasures in life.

Yours in Jesus,

*Andrés, Cameron, & Nicole*

Andrés, Cameron, and Nicole  
monitortrm@hotmail.com

p.s. Rory and Phil: We didn't forget you! Your shit just got lost in the shuffle—we'll publish it next time.

Whatever, Nikki. Listen everybody. Quit sending us stupid crap. This includes you, if your initials, converted to numbers add up to a multiple of 3. It is 6:21 in the morning, and any minutes we spent on debating articles about ex-significant others have contributed to me possibly being outperformed by the nerds in my Logic class on this test we have today. If this happens, my next editors box will be even more pissed off.

*Andrés*

-Andrés

Also, we'll egg your house.

*Cameron*

-Cameron

04 February 2004

Satire by | Narissa Weber

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY****POSTED 4 FEBRUARY 2004****JOB TITLE:** OP-ED WRITER**LOCATION:** Truman State University  
Deep in the Bible Chastity Belt  
U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A! 63501**EMPLOYER:** [CENSORED]**COMPENSATION:** Abundant campus-wide disrespect.**DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:**

Op-ed writers are responsible for the dissemination of vapid, illogical, poorly-written, and frequently nonsensical op-ed pieces. These pieces typically broach even the most innocuous subjects from the most ridiculously offensive viewpoint the writer can muster. General duties include typecasting, ignoring and/or misrepresenting weighty issues, being completely unoriginal, publishing shoddily-assembled first drafts, and being unable to coax a laugh from even an audience doped on nitrous oxide. Additional duties may include kissing administrative and institutional ass, lambasting those who didn't grow up in your own sheltered little world, and cultivating ignorance.

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**HOW TO APPLY:**

Send representative writings to the [CENSORED] office, labeled "My First Portfolio" in crayon and dog shit. Writings should run a broad spectrum: from bigoted to hypocritical to narrow-minded to misinformed to uneducated to just-plain-fucked-up-and-wrong. Typical portfolios include the applicant's magnum opus from their D-graded romp through WACT.

We need YOUR TRIPE to ensure this ENTIRE CAMPUS chokes on its OWN VOMIT

**ACLU President Visits Campus****Story by | Andrés Delgado and Nicole Rainey**

Close to 300 people gathered to hear Dr. Nadine Strossen, president of the ACLU, and Professor of Law at NYU deliver a speech in Baldwin Auditorium last Thursday, January 29. Pointed and funny, Strossen succeeded in engaging a critical crowd—students both frowned at and applauded her points, but all remained engaged.

Strossen's talk on "National Security and Civil Liberties" focused on her group's concerns arising out of the attacks of 9/11. She began by describing a party-crossing sentiment against parts of the 350 page Patriot Act. She praised the bipartisan passage of the SAFE bill repealing part of the act by the House of Representatives—the bill (among other things) curbs the government's ability to look at individual's library check-out records, and prevents unwarranted "sneak-and-peek" searches into people's homes.

She said the Patriot Act was based on the incorrect assumption that lack of government power to collect information was the main cause of 9/11. In support, Strossen claimed that testimony before the bipartisan 10-member National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States indicated that two of the terrorists involved in 9/11 were on government watch lists. Strossen said that this testimony supported the ACLU's claim that existing government power needed to be more effectively utilized instead of expanded.

Throughout her presentation, Strossen stressed her critique of the intricacies of bureaucracy, rather than lambaste entire government institutions. She suggested specific ways that government agencies might better use their existing powers, including hiring more multilin-

gual employees, upgrading computer systems, and breaking down bureaucratic barriers between agencies.

She then addressed the Terrorism Information Act, formerly known as the Total Information Act, another part of the post-9/11 body of security legislation, which was supposed to mine for personal data including telephone records, credit card transactions, internet use, medical files, and more.

Early on, the Act, currently denied funding by the Senate, featured the logo of an eye on a pyramid scanning a globe. As a fundraiser for the ACLU, this image has been put on several products, including a thong Strossen received as a gift and displayed to the assembly.

Strossen laid out two guiding principles for acceptable legislation. She said the first principle, which she called "substantive," was that every anti-terrorism measure maximize security while minimizing liberty infringements. The second principle, which she called "procedural/structural," dictated that measures obey the American system of checks and balances.

At the finale of the presentation, Strossen opened up her forum for questioning.

Many students reacted positively to Strossen's speech.

Michael Pratt, senior, said "The news she was bringing up was interesting, considering what the media do report." Pratt said he planned to find out more about the legislation Strossen spoke about.

Strossen's talk was sponsored by the local chapter of Amnesty International, College Greens, College Democrats, and Environmental Campus Organization via FAC appropriations.

For more information on Strossen, and the ACLU's standpoint on the US Patriot Act, please visit [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org).



(The Associated Press)

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"The politics of lifting people up beats the politics of beating people down!" Edwards described his win in South Carolina as a "head-to-head contest [with Kerry] on who can compete in the South, who can win rural voters and who can do well with African Americans." (AP) He expects this victory to translate into victories in next week's Tennessee and Virginia primaries.

Edwards narrowly lost to Wesley Clark in Oklahoma—giving Clark his only nomination. Although Clark only received one state, his victory along with two second-place finishes were greater successes than analysts predicted.

Sadly Senator Joseph Lieberman dropped out of the race Tuesday night after losing Delaware.

Former Vermont Governor Dean, however – despite no nominations, and a sudden lack of funding – is continuing to advance his progressive agenda in the hopes that future states like Washington and Michigan will endorse him. Dean discounted the importance of today's primaries, saying, "I don't think there will be any significance to these votes," the Washington Post reported. Dean said the "Super Tuesday" primaries on March 2 will be "when the real votes count." On that day, 10 states hold Democratic primaries, including California, New York and Ohio.

(The Associated Press)

## O P I N I O N S

monitor

## Media coverage of WMD issues not there

Opinion by | Cameron Moore

As America's engines are warming up for the election this November, political issues are garnering quite a bit of attention from mainstream news networks. It seems, however, that the mainstream media these days are more interested in turning politics into entertainment and polarizing people than providing a critical evaluation of this country's political landscape.

First and most important is the recent spotlight on the Bush administration's pre-war intelligence and the assertions and decisions that came out of this intelligence. Essentially, David Kay, chief U.S. weapons inspector, has stepped down from his position because "we were almost all wrong" about Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction. The reason, he says, is because of an intelligence failure on the part of, among others, the CIA, and not the Bush Administration.

This is a very important story for American voters in an election year, since it highlights a very important decision made by the highest ranking official in our country: the decision to lead our armed forces into a pre-emptive conflict halfway around the world. This is a very important story,

since the public can only make a decision to keep an elected official based on the decisions of that official while in office.

The most disturbing aspect of the media's coverage of this has been the very uncritical acceptance of this being an "intelligence failure" story. Here are just a few examples of why this is absolute nonsense:

- According to an October 2002 New York Times Article, Defense Secretary Donal Rumsfeld was so unhappy with CIA intelligence *not* finding sufficient WMD evidence on Iraq that he "and his senior advisers have assigned a small intelligence unit to search for information on Iraq's hostile intentions or links to terrorists that U.S. spy agencies may have overlooked, Pentagon officials said. Some officials say the creation of the team reflects frustration on the part of Rumsfeld, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and other senior officials that they are not receiving undiluted information on the capabilities of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and his suspected ties to terrorist organizations. But other officials say that the top civilian policymakers are intent on politicizing intelligence to fit their hawkish views on Iraq."

- There is currently an investigation into the leaking to the media of CIA analyst Valeria Plame's name by a White House official. The leak came just a week after her husband, Joseph Wilson, wrote a piece for *The New York Times* contradicting the claim of the Bush administration that Iraq had tried to obtain uranium from Niger. Wilson had been sent by the CIA to investigate this claim, and concluded it was "highly doubtful." It also became public that the documents upon which the Bush administration founded this claim, supposed letters of correspondence between the Niger government and an Iraqi diplomat, were "crude" and "blatant" forgeries without basis in reality.

- These letters were cited as the justification for George Bush's famous 16 words, "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa", which were included in his State of the Union speech last year. George Tenet, director of the CIA, had these claims of attempted uranium procurement from Niger by Iraq removed from previous presidential speeches because the CIA was suspicious of the documents and said these claims were not cred-

ible, but they were included in the State of the Union speech as evidence that Iraq had WMD's, which was the primary justification to the American people for the war. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice was quoted back in September on Meet the Press as saying that they "didn't remember that the CIA told them to keep this claim out of the State of the Union speech."

- In September 2002, George W. Bush presented a 1998 document by the U.N.-affiliated International Atomic Energy Agency that claimed Saddam was six months away from having nuclear capabilities, as well as a satellite photograph that demonstrated Saddam's reconstituted weapons arsenal. An NBC report forced a senior Bush Administration official to admit that Bush's interpretation of the document was incorrect. The 1998 IAEA document actually said that, before the Persian Gulf War in 1991, Iraq was six to 24 months from having nuclear capability. It also said that "the IAEA has found no indication of Iraq having achieved its programme goal of producing nuclear weapons or of Iraq having retained a physical capability for the production of weapons."

Continued on page 10

## Digestible morsels from the kitchen of Jon Lawinger

Opinion by | Jon Lawinger

Well folks, it's time again to take a look at what's been going on lately, and more importantly, what I think about it.

First up, Ohio became the 38<sup>th</sup> state to pass a "Defense of Marriage" act. It's expected to soon be signed into law by the governor. So what's the big deal about this, considering it's already happened in 37 other states? Well, in order for an amendment to the federal constitution to be enacted it would need to be ratified by three fourths of the states, or to be exact, 38 of them. So it now appears that a constitutional amendment prohibiting homosexual marriage would have good chances at being ratified if it were to be passed. In light of this and President Bush's implication in the State of the Union Address that he wants a constitutional amendment banning homosexual marriage, the upcoming presidential election could be the deciding factor in whether rejecting the rights of an entire class of citizens should be included among the essential guiding principles of our country. If that becomes the case, then even after the less accepting older generations begin to fade and the more accepting younger generations become the majority, we might still be held to the prejudiced policies of the past for years after most people have rejected their injustice. Keep that in mind in the coming months.

Next, an article in the December 15<sup>th</sup> issue of *The American Conservative* documents some very questionable secret service practices. The secret service apparently has been routinely setting up "free speech zones" or "protest zones" at Bush appearances. These zones are often far enough from where the President will be appearing that neither the President nor the media cov-

ering the event will ever see the people gathered there. The claim is that these zones are for the safety of the President. This might be acceptable, except that only opposition to the President receives such treatment. People gathered carrying pro-Bush signs have been allowed to line the President's path while people carrying signs opposing Bush policies have been ushered off to distant locations, or arrested. Now I'm not foolish enough to believe that people attending presidential appearances should be free to assemble wherever they'd like, but our constitution isn't foolish enough to believe that *where* people are allowed to assemble should depend on what their political views are. Applying a different legal standard to people assembled for opposition than people assembled for support is a blatant violation of free speech rights, and a frightening one at that. The distinction between the government silencing its critics and preventing them from being heard is only superficial, and the effects are far too similar for comfort.

Now let's forget about us lousy Americans for a moment and take a look at those noble war-opposing French, where the government is planning to pass a law prohibiting religious attire in public schools. Most notably the law would prevent female Muslim students from wearing headscarves, but it would also ban Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses. Pay attention all you more-separation-of-church-and-state-is-always-better types, this is what it means to take a good thing way too far. Public schools should focus on not expressing any religious preference or viewpoint. Some people (and apparently most of the French government) fail to realize that does not mean preventing students from engaging in religious beliefs and practices while at school. Students in school are not representing the government and therefore can express whatever religious viewpoints they would like. However, op-

position to religion *is* a religious viewpoint, and should be no more acceptable as a government policy than any other religious preference.

Back at home, our legislators have been up to better things. The Boston Globe reports that from the spring of 2002 until April of 2003 Republican staff members of the US Senate Judiciary Committee took advantage of a computer glitch that allowed them to view restricted communications between Democrats without the usually required password. From monitoring Democratic memos Republicans could find out which judicial nominees the Democrats intended to fight, and what tactics they intended to use, as well as occasionally leaking the memos to the media. Now that the case is being investigated for possible disciplinary actions, the Republicans are pretty much claiming that it wasn't their fault it was so easy to spy on the restricted documents, so they did nothing wrong. The Democrats don't have much to brag about though, as the intercepted memos contain evidence of the influence of special interest groups on their actions, and they also include such gems as referring to judicial nominee Estrada as "especially dangerous, because... he is Latino," which would make it difficult to block him from a potential later appointment to the supreme court. I don't think I even need to comment on this story except to say that if you have any confidence in any of your political leaders you had best abandon it immediately.

Speaking of political leaders, President Bush has recently announced plans to create a lunar settlement and then send a manned mission to Mars in about 30 years. Now I'm not sure if he noticed, but there's a pretty big federal deficit to be dealt with right now, and a pretty big federal debt that theoretically needs to get paid off eventually. Not to worry though, according to the plan the first five years would cost \$12 billion, but would require only a 5% increase to NASA's

budget, with \$11 billion of the funds being redirected from other NASA programs. I think that serves as a very persuasive indication... that there's nearly \$11 billion worth of cuts that should be made to NASA. Is there any valuable purpose of a Mars exploration at all? More valuable than what hundreds of other government programs could do with \$12 billion dollars? Is whether there was once water and life on Mars really an important question to answer? Is it going to improve the lives of average Americans? Is it worth \$10 per U.S. citizen to fund the first five years of a 30 year program to find out? I don't think so. But the fact that NASA could pull together \$11 billion to fund such an unnecessary pursuit makes me think they must have \$11 billion too much to spend right now. What has NASA done in the last ten years that was worth doing? I mean, I'm sure it's great to know how mice breed in a weightless environment, but it's really not worth spending large sums of money on. Science for the sake of science is not worth funding on such a large scale.

And to finish on a lighter note, in the category of artificial unnecessary non-solutions to problems that don't really need solving, the state school superintendent of Georgia has proposed removing the word "evolution" from the state's science curriculum, and replacing it with "biological changes over time." She claims that evolution is a "buzzword" and that changing it in the curriculum, without changing how it is referred to or taught in class, will reduce pressure from parents who don't want it taught at all. This is like trying to get people to react more positively by instead of telling them that you're Satanist, telling them that you practice worship of the dark lord of sin. All I can say is that Georgia schools better be churning out geniuses if this is what their superintendent is spending her time on.



# There is a religious Left

You would have had to be the servile student, faculty, staff or community member uncritically contributing to their families' personal enrichment and usual offspring higher education to have NOT noticed two developments, locally and nationally, this new year in religious controversy that I shall now join myself in this column with all the radical passion at my disposal and foreigner historian's analogies that are, accordingly, pertinently acerbically relevant. At the outset, I confess some liberal and Christian socialist movement background in such experience as I have frequently published for over a quarter of the last century on such religious ethics matters in the oldest Protestant native UK paper, my own denominational *THE INQUIRER*, of our Unitarian and Free Christian chapel in lively Nonconformity, and less regularly for liberal Roman Catholic ones like *THE CATHOLIC HERALD*. My late mother's faith I was, obligatorily for her Protestant Episcopalian marriage's allowance, brought up in a rather brutal boy's secondary school in outer tough London suburbia.

Locally, there was the controversy engendered in unholy row by the reporters, columnists, and editors in the once secular *THE INDEX* in their depressingly uniform support of the "free speech" rantings of an obscure local itinerant evangelical preacher outside your and mine publically supported TSU Student Union Building in decibel loud vocal harassment. *INDEX* staff columnist Tony Albrecht posturing himself in Nixonian language censoriously of being a member of the "moderate majority" silencing with menace aforethought worthy of the fortunately dead old Quaker American president, rabidly attacked student female majority members of our local Amnesty International chapter. As allegedly not knowing what they "extremistly" believe on "god", and worse, heckling his preacher. Even though Albrecht himself concedes in contradictorily statement of his own vain moderation, this male preacher immoderately excommunicated as sinful all our local community's homosexuals and women abortion rights upholders! For good measure, too, when the, in fact, very loving AI feminist chairperson of our Fair Food Trade group student Mary Burford attempted in same supposedly accessible to we community newspaper to defend her own participation in the heckling process, in their *Letters* columns against yet further highly personalised columns assault by a male student, she was herself subjected to two things:

Firstly, an editor's last semester issue "Note", thus making it difficult to reply in this new semester, telling her and at least two professors legally the paper attacking her has no "ethical" journalist obligation to say who its "sources" are, if it makes aspersions on other people's conduct in public places. Then this AI professor twosome this new year semester receive a private letter from the director of TSU property maintenance plant in which he further critiques Burford along the self-professed born again Christian lines which *INDEX* editor Sarah St. John has ALREADY with his title permitted him to critique the hapless female student in the exact same unanswerable last issue of last semester *THE INDEX*!! The supreme irony of all this blatantly suppressive double standard, as Burford not unreasonably feels it all too suppressively amount to, in shocking intolerance of AI's free speech heckling rights against irrational bigotry and sexism, is also apparent on page two of the same issue of *THE INDEX*, of which perhaps many were unaware.

It ran a story with just ONE source, Heinz Wehlk, Division Chairman of TSU Lang and Lit, in which he discussed his decision to hire a minister of religion currently employed by the Chair of TSU Social Science, to teach Hebrew. An excellent decision, yes, especially as the gent so hired is one of the USA's all too few pro-Palestinian, actually-traveled-

there scholars. But the story gave no other sources and was, therefore not objectively challenged in a spirit of journalistic thoroughness. But this report, based solely on one source unchecked by the conservative biased *INDEX* did not tell us that Lang & Lit had sacked the reverend from the same job in the first place in budget cuts barely a year ago, which was rightly resented locally!

Nationally, too, religion and self rectitude of what in thus fact ought to be a highly questionable and challengeable sort has been controversially raising its ugliest head. "Religion", the once proudly secular but always ratings greedy US TV big 4 networks are telling us, is something they allege US voters now absolutely all now want their political candidates to address, if they are to be at all electable in their own first place. One network this last week-end of writing even claimed, on the basis of dubiously taken polls, that religion was sixth out of ten issues prioritised by the usually secular liberal Democrat Iowa Caucus voters, and second only to defense out of a similar 10 such topics by more conservative Republican voters in the Carolinas' primary presidential elections. While we all are regaled by pagan lifestyle, hard-boiled conservative TV all USA interviewer types like Chris Matthews, how unobjectively they have enjoyed forcing candidate Dean to praise the Lord OPENLY as a Congregationalist refugee from another church's upbringing.

Now immediately a lot of *MONITOR* readers, I know, are going to turn off for the pop reviews, conveniently and self-protectively in that oddly finite, curt way some of us have to circumvent necessary controversy defining ourselves as atheists or agnostics. And you will thus state that none of either this local or national religion controversy which I am perpetuating is of the slightest further reading interest to you, and anyway we, TSU professors included, all state that we are objectively above it all, in again that in reality very questionably smug "we are the greatest" in fact supremely unintelligent manner.

After all, is not the US mythological dream founded strictly on a constantly preached firm separation of church and state? And have not the Democrats in merely the last half century chronologically defied the born again Christian Right family white male value patriarchal hypocrites? They elected in presidencies JFK and BC, respective Catholic and Baptist heterosexual philanderers, and still in the last's case lived to fight a second term another day, middle class respectability considerations notwithstanding. Ye gods, too, even Robert Kennedy, the much more theologically devout and well-read Roman Catholic, partook of carnal affection with the tragically bisexual Marilyn Monroe. And the titillation the obnoxiously gay closeted himself FBI all American family values Director J. Edgar Hoover derived from illegally taping Baptist radical Reverend MLK's bisexual post rallies groupies was also all politically and maritally survivable by most of these dramatis personae, wasn't it? So where's the real worry if the *INDEX* becomes witchfinder, the *INDEX*, on our even more modern mores and lives?

All if partially so, true. But, atheists and agnostics, you for whom I as a religious liberal feel more for in rational, ethical common trespass way than I ever will for the canting, prattling concerned only with their selfish own souls Elmer Gantry preachers of this world in pathological cases men-

tally aberrantly, WE'VE SINCE HAD THE ANXIETY AND PARANOIA OF 9/11, haven't we in disastrous fascistifying effect on especially those once sexually liberal middle class US voters. And even more sickly with their puritan selves' fears within consequently reawakened in ancestries largely melting pot buried, these middle class voters have callously stood by as the USA unilaterally and flagrantly illegally in global law staged two overt invasions of Moslem countries by our US and UK born again, two Christian in their own vain eyes leaders, the under-read and over rich, Bush and Blair. Right center unified in biblical belief THEY can smugly do NO wrong. Even though correctly their own church leaders have unambiguously said they repeat the bigotry of medieval Crusader zealots in waging ruinous and unwinnable wars in real time devastation! All obvious to any one who thinks basically truthfully that it was SAUDI nationals who perpetrated 9/11, not understandably thus undeservedly punished, thus today's resistant Iraqis and Afghans.

Domestically too, atheists and agnostics resplendent, we cannot afford any longer the pre-9/11 luxury of opting out from religious controversy. Bush and Blair, those invokers of a god they do not

idolatratus of themselves begin to understand, have used this New York atrocity to show wanton disregard of HUMANIST based civil liberties of the sort in sheer eternal preciousnesses, that avowed deists like Madison and Jefferson rationally had honored and safeguarded in the 1787 Constitution, which the Patriot Act and Department of Homeland Security overrode. Discarded were the same freedoms to think and to act po-

litically, atheistically and yes religiously that John Locke and the Voltaire-Mill axis thinkers thought they had rationally enshrined too for all foreseeable time, enshrined deistically probably for good in Whig-Liberal, Democratic Socialist European and world thought. All now on the defensive concepts thanks to their anti-Moslem usage by born again unlearnedly even proudly self ignorant patriot dumbed down by US TV passive voters. Arousable irrationalities, as the *INDEX* well knows, in semi-liberal slogans like the defense of free speech everywhere. Even if, as a newspaper, it no longer really understands free speech, so called, as its minorities' and womens' reproductive entitlements these preachers want to REAL liberties curtail!

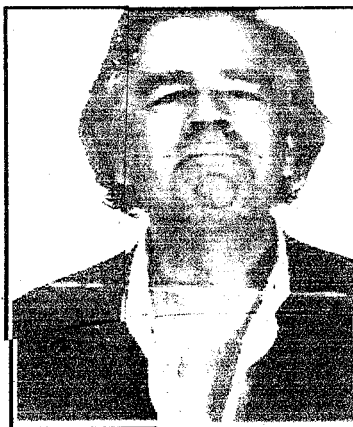
And every *MONITOR* activist of any semblance of non-religious realism which you too know, the typhoid Mary syndrome operative now in this country, and its sycophants like my own Blair Premier. Namely that by just a frown of their insincere facial features and lifting of their expensively manufactured finger nails in pagan AFFLUENZA, the Reverend PHD'S Fallwell and Robertson can on TV outlets shamefully they have free air waves been permitted to purchase quasi irremovably, dupe millions of poor US working or workless voters into handing over yet more money. Not just for their false dogma churches but for Bush II's gun anarchy, terror against women abortees and teen contraceptees, and gays. All in a mere television few false smile minutes in cash raised fabulously beyond Cretan ancient mythological gold. Far more than we progressives can raise for real freedom and social justice in a month of labor union or AI or NOW/PRISM hard solicitation appeals to people's rational sides, can we?

Essentially like it or not *MONITOR* readers, religion of the worst hypocritical and hateful sort

akin to Hitler and Himmlers impurely nominal Catholicism is now salient in the simpleton reality of US life world model imposed upon the rest of us by our lazier educators and politician/media types in their own sheer status, money acquisition insatiable greeds. TO PRETEND this religious dominance of the mentally crackpot isn't paranoid streak, as historian Hofstadter called it, present in USA life is to pretend that you yourself are getting a real education, when in truth you are living the life of an ostrich whose head is buried in the sand. This non-observation paranoia applies, whether it is the self-censoring one source only *THE INDEX* or in the classroom if your so-called scientist steers away from any evolution theory teaching or debate. Because he fears born again Christian students going to VPAA Gary Gordon, to complain that they'll stop their fees to TSU if such folks go up the professorial promotion ladder. Equally too, if the person hired to teach you especially with a PHD IN THUS LEGALLY RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION isn't spending most of your time teaching you the subject or the foreign culture in its own lingo he or she is paid to do, then challenge him/her, or the system that denies you the critical training of your liberal arts intellect from fear that you may find it impious or too difficult.

So my overall recommendation in this clarion call to wake up secular Left and center true to the menace of the US white male, born again religious Right is to see it for bigotedly what it really dreadfully and despicably hydra is in pervasive perversion of folks' real spiritual and ethical quests legitimately. And indeed to end by pleading that we on the global rational, liberal religious Left get ourselves together. So that the Mary Burfords don't have to join the AI brain drain to other universities possibly elsewhere as too often they do (I wonder why consultants never interview them as to falling TSU enrollments). If we argued together we would win the argument as GOD, ALLAH, THE BUDDHA HELPED GIVE US MINDS TO THINK, TO CHANGE ALL OF SOCIETY FOR THE BETTER. And you know what! History is on the religious left's thinking side, even in anti-intellectual post 9/11 USA and born again terrorised by the media elsewhere. After all, who manned the successful US Slave Abolition movement, as much as WEST WING actor radical Catholic Martin Sheen gets arrested outside US defense misnamed NUKE bases? Who pronounced Christ a likely DESIRABLE gay and prostitute dignity defender in his affections for John and Mary Magdalene, but also Christian radical Episcopalian bishops, John Robinson and Hugh Montefiore? Who's been consistently damning the death penalty USA or China/Saudi Arabia and the Iraq war, but the Polish Pope and the UK Archbishop of Canterbury? Who led the Vietnam war US draft card burnings protest which the late Greg Peck immortalised in his film *THE TRIAL OF THE CATONSVILLE NINE*, but none other than those politically meddlesome priests, the late Berrigan brothers? Who are the refusniks in that quintessentially at its best secular state Israel, but of course thousands of both Jewish sexes who refuse for jail or fines military service against occupied Palestine's poverty and denied statehood by US and UK arms terror for Sharon, but of course intensely religious and secular liberal Jews? IT'S TIME WE SECULARISTS REALISED THAT WE OF THE RELIGIOUS LEFT ARE OUR BEST SOURCES FOR COMBATING OUR CHRISTIAN RIGHT PERVERTERS OF ALL OUR NOW THREATENED COMMON LEARNING AND WORLD IMPROVEMENT POTENTIAL

Larry Iles  
exclusively for *The Monitor*.



Opinion by I Larry Iles

## F E A T U R E S

monitor

## POINT

Rory and Phil are gay

Point by | Rach Spavone

I decided a few days ago that Rory and Phil should not have a monopoly on the point/counterpoint format for this campus, so I asked Rory if I could do a point/counterpoint with him one week instead of Phil. He was horrified and said, "Point/counterpoint is something for just me and Phil". This got me wondering: what else is just for "him and Phil?" As a poli sci student I am taught to critically analyze using and form a thesis supported by evidence. After carefully considering every reason why Rory and Phil seem so gay, I finally concluded that they probably are gay.

Last week during the ATO rush, I attended a root beer keg that was sandwiched between a "transfor(square)mer" event and some other stuff that had to do with robots (obsession with robots seems a little queer too, if you ask me), and there seemed to be an awful lot of gay guys at the party. Do gays not hang around other gays? Anyway, this was a perfect opportunity for me to confirm my suspicion, and drink a ridiculous amount of root beer. I asked the gay guys, "How can you tell if a guy is gay or straight?" and they gave me what they characterized as a fool-proof test. I wanted to hear more but the song "Gay Bar" came on and they ran downstairs to dance, along with Rory and Phil.

The next day, I went over to Rory's and Phil's house (they are "roommates") to execute the test. The test the guru of gay told me was to take over three magazines, a Maxim, a People, and a gay gay Gym magazine and see which one the "breeder" would pick up. I went in so smooth and told them that I wanted to get a glass of water and go to the bathroom. I set the magazines on the table and left the room. When I got back five minutes later, Rory had picked up the Gym mag, Phil was reading People, and they were making out. Hmmm. They either failed the test or passed with flying colors, I am not really sure.

This is almost irrefutable evidence, but maybe they are just really close and like to discuss their dicks a lot in independent campus newspapers. This can happen. So, I called Rory to interview and ask him point blank whether or not he was gay with Phil. He got on the phone and I asked him if he had a minute to talk. He said no. Apparently he had to go scrapbook with the ATO's and then perm his hair, right after dying it. Was he doing this to please Phil? So many questions raced through my mind, but all I could really concentrate on was how Rory would look with his hair permed. But, I think it is safe to say after reading this that Rory and Phil are Gay Bar-listening, scrapbooking, hair-perming, dick-talking, magazine-reading homosexuals.

## COUNTERPOINT

Rory and Phil are not gay

Counter-point by | Kels Wikstrom

What is wrong with you? Some times guys can just be friends and want to spend time together. Rory and Phil obviously enjoy each other's company, there is nothing wrong with that. What is the world coming to when two men can't scrapbook pictures of each other, and perm the other's hair with a loving touch only true friends would understand. True friends, ones like Rory and Phil, can roll around in the autumn leaves just to feel their bodies together in the cool leaves on the naked earth, that is normal. They are not ashamed of their undying love for each other and you shouldn't be either. I suppose you would also think two men walking to class together hand in hand is gay? Well... yeah, you would have me there but, Rory and Phil are so ungay the only kind of man either of them would date would be a really feminine man, the kind of man who tans and get manicures and scrapbooks, DOH! and I think that speaks volumes.

Anyway. Phil has a girlfriend. I have personally seen Rory talking to a girl on THREE separate occasions. Sure when Rory was talking to the girls he was looking longingly at Phil, with eyes of intent that seemed to say, "You, me, my room, five minutes," but I'm sure I was simply reading too much into that. What he was probably meaning to say with his look was, "You, me, my room, right now." Rory and Phil like girls, that is all there is to it. Of course they like each other too, but they have a special place in their hearts for each other. This special place is decorated with lace and ruffles, it has little flowers and bears and some unicorns, but it is purely platonic.

As for your "irrefutable evidence" it is all circumstantial, none of it concrete. Maybe they are playing a gay gay joke on you. Maybe Rory just needed a new look for the New Year. Maybe their dicks have mange and they have no one to turn to but each other. Maybe Rory chose the gym magazine because he wants to bulk up for Phil, uh, I mean a girl he likes. And the only reason they would ever make out would be to practice (for a girl). That is definitely not gay.

Hmmm, I have reread your argument, and I am going to have to go ahead and change my counterpoint.

New Counterpoint: Phil is not gay  
Phil has a girlfriend.

## Mother Strength

Feature by | Ben

I hear it in her voice - she is not telling me the truth.

"Everything is fine."

My mom is having a hard time right now. She is getting fired from her job as a kindergarten teacher.

She's worked at the same school for 18 years and was the second longest serving member on the faculty. For as long as I can remember, it has been her dream job, and one of the only things other than her children that she has taken real pride in.

She revolutionized early childhood education over the course of her career: She kept her classroom on the cutting edge of technology, even when it meant going to outside resources for grants to buy digital cameras and scanners. She introduced a discrimination simulation experience for a class of second and third graders during their Civil rights theme that sent kids home crying, and personalized why people are willing to fight so hard not to be treated like second class citizens. She has always pursued the learning interest of the children she taught, with focuses on art, critical reading and writing, outdoor education, social studies and especially the physical sciences, even at the risk of setting herself up against the school administration.

Now she's been asked to not come back next year because she refused to bend over backwards for the new principal. If she was working at a school with

a teachers union, she'd be making twice as much money as she does currently and never be at risk for losing her job, but it was a small private school run by a bunch of hippies, with frequent retreats and an oversight committee. A union always seemed like an unnecessary waste of time. Until a new boss came a long and took advantage of the lack of organization and structure, rewrote the entire policy book of the school, to "better fulfill its vision", and took control without a word of protest until it was too late. Now the only people who could stop him are the rich white parents of children destined for private high schools. Dreams die.

My Mom is an amazingly strong woman. She has survived 14 years with my formerly abusive drunk junky step-dad, now just a verbally abusive and manipulative ultra-patriot with no communication skills other than commands and self-repression. If one had the desire to speak well of him, they would say that he played soccer and probably was at least partially responsible for bringing two amazing children into this world. (I say probably because I have always kept alive the dream that one of my mom's many secrets is that she has a secret lover who was responsible for my two sisters. It's childish I know, but none-the-less true.) I think he has been acting all fucked up again, but my mom wouldn't say anything.

"Everything is fine, come home soon."

I asked her directly if he had touched

any of them, she said no, and I think she was telling the truth, but I never feel certain when she tells me that. She needs to leave him, move away from St. Louis and take my sisters with her, but she can't. He'd kill her if he thought he was losing his two daughters. The man is a tyrant.

I've prayed for his death since I was ten (my mom married him when I was eight). But even beyond the threat of violence, which has hung over our heads so long that it almost seems surreal, my mom doesn't want to raise another two children as a single mother.

It took so much out of her with me that I don't think she could handle it again, especially not with my 7 year old little sister, Liberty Rose, who is a wild one to say the least. So she'll continue to live in the

occupied territory that is her home, because it is what she has been doing for over a decade, and she believes that it's better than the alternative.

My mother is a strong woman. She works magic I don't really understand to maintain the semblance of reality enough to make it through every day, and give her children as good a shot at happiness as anyone can get in this all-consuming monstrosity we have created as our society. But something is not right. I can hear it in her voice. She wants to tell me something, but she won't. Not right now. Right now all I can get is an "Everything is fine, come home soon..." and all I can hope is that when I do, I won't be met with the same lies and silence that she has met me with for the last 23 years when I ask her how she is doing.

## The Monitor Wants Your Sassy Style!

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# Christian columnist makes debut

Feature by | Shane Griggs

To kick off this column, I'll reveal the basic truth that defines my existence. I am a Christian. I have faith that the God who created this universe sent His Son to live on this earth as Jesus of Nazareth, God Incarnate. He was crucified for our sins amongst criminals on a hill beside Jerusalem circa A.D. 30 and on the third day God raised Him from the dead, giving us the hope of life everlasting. He appeared in his resurrected body to His Apostles and to a few hundred others until, nearly 50 days later, He ascended to Heaven. I write simply as a soul convicted that through this—the defining event in human history, God graciously offers us all freedom from sin and death and the gift of everlasting life.

I am fully cognizant that some of you have already pinned me down for the fool that I surely appear to be. After all, don't we live in a postmodern generation beyond God? Haven't Darwin and his disciples finally cured intellectuals everywhere from supporting the fantastic notions of the so-called God hypothesis? How can blind faith in archaic myths challenge the raw, empirical conclusions of modern science?

Tragically, these questions usually remain unasked and unanswered. There are no questions more fundamental to our lives. From where did we come? What, if any, is our purpose? What happens to us after death? Are all religions merely cultural institutions without credibility? Are morals the by-products of socially accepted norms? Without a doubt, our answers candidly reflect who we are. So why do we often endorse the taboo, muting serious dialogue about religion? In an effort to just get along? If we freely converse about our cherished beliefs will we ultimately come to blows?

I'm well aware of a prevalent view that blames religion for most of the horrifying wars that have afflicted mankind. But we must not confuse religious pretexts with the religion itself. The Crusades and the Inquisition were shocking atrocities carried out in the name of the Christian religion. No argument here. Both events invoked God to excuse transparent political agendas. Those familiar with the New Testament could scarcely feign to employ its inherently peaceful message, "Love your neighbor as yourself," and, "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also" to defend recovering the holy land at any cost or proselytizing at the

point of a sword. In some respects, the Bible is not an atypical book. It is possible to misconstrue its message. Therefore, rejection of the Bible's claims should not be based on the perverse distortions of its principles that some have perpetrated. Many so-called Christians have worn the name while abysmally failing to live the life.



The uncritical but widespread dismissal of the Christian faith illustrates two key issues. First, many denounce the faith because it seems *wrong* to them. This assertion is surprisingly ironic within its context of postmodern ethics. If we are to simply live and let live, then how can Christianity be wrong? What does "right" or "wrong" connote in a system of self-defined ethics? If each of us is truly the final authority on

morality, then how may we compel anyone else to adopt our moral judgments? For example, if we scold, "You should not try to convert anyone to your religion because that's disrespectful/rude/wrong!" then we may as well expect this apathetic reply: "Well, that's just what you think." Clearly this feel-good "non-judgmental" moral philosophy manifests gratuitous chaos. If we live and let live, then *should* and *ought* are verbs that disappear from our vocabulary, as the only lasting moral obligation is to live however we see fit. Now some of you may argue for this corollary: "We should live and let live *so far as we don't restrict another's capacity to live*." Nonsense. After all, again we may face this protest: "I don't agree. That's only what you think and doesn't bind me." Is the solution to leave impassioned unresolved? Must we remain silent about moral quandaries and harbor pompous attitudes, secretly knowing that we're right and all opponents are wrong?

Second, at this juncture it is appropriate to remark that many people misunderstand what Christianity actually is. The Christian faith is the only answer to the above ethical stalemate. Were I not resolutely convinced of this intrepid claim, by no means would I write this column or open up my beliefs to public criticism. Where all other ethical systems fail, secular or religious, Christianity prevails. Hence, I hope to use this column to answer the sundry questions I've raised, to clarify at least some popular misconceptions about the faith, and to illuminate the transcendent import of our verdict concerning the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ as recorded in the New Testament documents. The Grace of God be with you all!

# WSF empowers civil society

Feature by | Marc Becker

Over 100,000 activists from all over the world gathered in Mumbai, India from January 16 to 21, 2004 for the fourth annual meeting of the World Social Forum (WSF). The forum provides a space for social movements to discuss alternatives, exchange experiences, and strengthen alliances in a struggle against neoliberal economic policies. Delegates debated a broad variety of issues including those of economic globalization, military imperialism, land rights, racism, gender, labor, and the media.

Globalization is one of the main topics of discussion at the WSF. Advocates of neoliberal economic policies argue that a privatization of government services and a reduction of trade barriers will lead to economic growth. Opponents contend that these policies have resulted in a dramatic increase in inequality between the rich and the poor. Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate and former advisor to the Clinton administration and chief economist at the World Bank, told participants at the forum that neoliberalism results in political instability due to an erosion of workers' earnings. These policies must be modified in order to assure a protection of social security systems and worker rights.

Other speakers disagreed with Stiglitz that a reform of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was possible, asserting that an abolition of capitalism was necessary to lead to economic progress and social justice. For example, Trevor Ngwane from South Africa argued that "only the struggle of the oppressed to overthrow capitalism will end oppression." Ngwane pointed to the important role of the WSF in forwarding alternative visions to capitalist systems that place profits before people. Capitalism is antithetical to democracy, Ngwane contended, because it removes power from the people.

A second major theme of the WSF is a rejection of imperialism and militarism. Writer-activist Arundhati Roy called the Bush administration's war and occupation of Iraq "the culmination of both neoliberalism and imperialism" and urged participants "to become the resistance in Iraq." She urged activists to identify corporations that benefit from

the war and to use the unified power of an organized civil society to "shut them down."

The first meeting of the WSF was held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in January 2001 to provide an alternative to the World Economic Forum (WEF), an invitation-only annual gathering of corporate CEOs and trade ministers who travel to the Swiss resort town of Davos at the end of January every year to plot the future of corporate-led globalization. The open spaces for civil society that the WSF creates provide a dramatic contrast to the exclusive and closed door meetings in Davos where elites plan the future of neoliberal economic policies. Moving the forum for the first time from South America to India changed some of its flavor. Gone were the Che t-shirts that were ubiquitous in Porto Alegre, replaced instead with an emphasis on such

issues as castes including the rights of Dalit (untouchables) and Adivasi (Indigenous peoples). Next year the forum returns to Porto Alegre, and organizers are contemplating holding the 2006 forum in Africa. In the meantime, a regional meeting of the Americas Social Forum will be held this summer in Quito, Ecuador.

The WSF grows out of what some term an anti-globalization movement, but in reality it provides an alternative and positive example

of globalization that benefits people rather than corporations. The WSF champions the power of civil society, which some have termed "the world's second superpower." Much more than what it opposes, the WSF is marked by what it affirms. Under the slogan "Another World is Possible," it presents (as stated in its Charter of Principles) "an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a planetary society directed toward fruitful relationships." Sometimes termed a "movement of movements," the WSF empowers civil society in its struggle for social justice.



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## Great Scott!

Feature by | Scott

Well friends, it's a new spring semester, and you know what that means... you guessed it; it's time for Great Scott's Annual Super Bowl Party!

January isn't complete without a Super Bowl party, and this year's festivities were not to disappoint. I invited a bunch of cats from around the neighborhood over to cheer on our favorite NFL team, the Panthers. We were in for a night of drinking and eating, meowing and scratching, and an-all around mindless time.

And mindless it was. What, with all this political tension in the air in this country, a war, an economy in the litter box, and the looming threat of an amorphous entity called "terror-

ism," it's no wonder the Super Bowl appeals to so many of you humans; it's escapism at its finest. But I must be the first to admit, escapism is not without its fun; our party rocked cat balls!

Super Bowl Sunday started out just like any other day. I gave Gary, the tabby down the street, a cat call to come over and start the day off right with some sweet Moroccan catnip that I got when I was in Europe. We rolled around in the grass for what must have been a few hours, until it was time to get set up for the party.

I made some more cat calls, to the Siamese cat twins Ramona and Rebecca that I met at the Humane Society a few years back, and to a buddy from my alley cat days, Bill. Unfortu-

nately, Bill just came down with a bout of cat scratch fever (he's been listening to a lot of old Ted Nugent records), and wasn't up for the party.

A few more cat calls were made to round out our party with a nice sampling of Kirksville's finest felines, and drinks were served. This year we decided to have a Kentucky Derby theme for our Super Bowl Party, so we all just smoked cigars, wore derby hats, and drank a lot of mint juleps (the official drink of the Kentucky Derby); it was a jim-dandy time!

I don't really remember much from most of the party; by the time the game started back up after the freaky half-time show, I'd had about 13 or 14 bowls of the mint julep concoction, and Gary busted out the rest of the catnip stash. The next thing I knew, the game was over, and I woke up curled into a ball in my litter box. Gary was the only one still around; it was about 2 am and he was just holding the fort down until I woke up from my bourbon-induced slumber.

According to Gary, after mint julep #17, I got into a heated argument with Tom, our neigh-

bor, about whether the Panthers should really be called the Pansies after what he called the "biggest disgrace to football-loving cats" in the history of the world. Infuriated, I kicked him out of the party, and I apparently went on a tirade about how a cat could watch so much football and still have no clue about how the game works. I then proceeded to stumble to the litter box and fall face first into a pile of my own stinky, dust-covered dooks.

After Gary told me that the Panthers had lost, I felt terrible. And I couldn't believe what I had done. I pledged to never drink mint juleps again, and to watch my short fuse when talking about football to Tom. Gary said that it wasn't a big deal, and that sports were just a tool of social control and an excuse for complacent idiots to feel like they have insight into a pointless display of testosterone-ridden homoeroticism. I told him that he may be right, but that wasn't going to stop us from having a Super Bowl theme for our Kentucky Derby party in a few months, and this time the right team will win. GO PANTHERS!



## R E V I E W S

monitor

## Petra refuses to fade out

Petra

*Jekyll & Hyde*

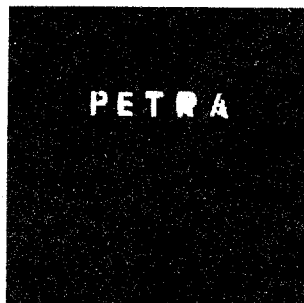
## Review by | Cory Milles

When a band has been around for 30 years, you'd expect their music to eventually become repetitive and unoriginal, doomed to fade out and live on only in greatest hit collections. Such has been the prediction by critics for Petra, a rock band which formed in 1972 under award-winning songwriter Bob Hartman. But once again, Petra has given the critics reason to be embarrassed of their predictions, and has delivered another hard-hitting album.

*Jekyll and Hyde* is the name of the album, and hard rock is the style Petra has chosen to deliver their message in song. This album actually marks Petra's return to their rock roots after dabbling in different styles such as adult contemporary, acoustic, and grunge rock. But the band is best known for their arena-rock style, which packed concert halls in the early 90s. And it is this type of sound which pulses throughout the album.

The album seems to focus on reflections of life as it is lived, with songs such as "Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda," a piece about having no regrets in life, choosing not to dwell in the past but to focus one's efforts on the choices they make in the future. "Test of Time" is in a similar vein, but the lyrics give the title a different meaning than is traditionally applied to it. We usually think of something passing the "Test of Time" if it lasts, but this song views the test not of how long something will last, but how well that time is used in the present, and what choices are made in that time.

Perhaps the best song on the album is



the title song, which opens the album. "Jekyll and Hyde" explores the dual nature that each human possesses: *I have a secret that I let nobody see/An evil shadow that's been hanging over me/My alter ego that I try to hold at bay (but)/Despite my good intentions he can always get away.../The one I feed is the one who lives/The one I starve will be the one who gives.* The song searches the two opposites in our being that influence the way we choose; on the one hand, there's the part of us that wants to do good, but there's also the "Hyde" in all of us that wants to do the opposite of what we know we should do. The analogy is a very intriguing way to explore the mysteries of human nature and choice, and translates well into song format.

As a whole, the album is great, and has the great classic rock sound that made Petra famous. As of this date, the album has already been nominated for a Grammy. On the negative end, the album only has ten songs, and is just over a half hour long. It seems to do a disservice for fans who have waited for the group to bring back its signature sound. But for fans new and old, *Jekyll and Hyde* is a great album that not only contains great music, but also has songs with thought-provoking lyrics that Petra is known for.

## Rush week: ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

## Review by | Andrés Delgado

I rushed the fraternities for the first time this semester as a junior. I thought I'd try my best to write you all an article summarizing the experience. Keep in mind that I'm not from Russia, however.

The beginning was unpromising. The first few of the 14 Rush Chairmen of the fraternities spoke to our opening assembly about pride and brotherhood, and it was vaguely unconvincing spoken to a crowd of 70 strangers. Then ATO, the Curly of the IFC, gave its talk as a cardboard Optimus Prime, healing my mind and transforming my perception of the previous speakers.

The best way to explain it would be to say that speakers who were taking this assembly most seriously would sound as amusing in 2040 as people in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century footage do today. You're all like, "Duh, that's just the unavoidable effect of cultural influence." But the robot would be as cool in the future as it was that day, kind of like The Three Stooges are still cool.

After all of the fourteen fraternities had spoken their piece, Rushes had to work around the first floor of Violette Hall talking to rooms full of fraternity members, gathering signatures from each one. Almost everyone was out-of-this-world friendly, and there was free coke, condoms, and baby nonzas. When everyone had collected all of their signatures, the fraternities repaired to

their houses and the Rushes were free to visit those houses or return home. From this point onward, the Rushes charted out their own schedule based on posters and handouts of scheduled fraternity events. Yes, as annoying as it is for me to set the stage for this article, that's how annoying the first night of Rush was. Now for some characteristic highlights of the rest of Rush.

ATO root beer kegger. The root beer was actually root beer. What was the point of even serving it? Who likes root beer other than IBC? I might be angry that I didn't get it going for the Michael Jackson that was awesomely played, maybe due to fatigue and messed up, bleeding sinuses from breathing flour at the Aquadome blowout earlier that night. For whatever reason, I didn't feel it there that night, although millions of other people did.

Sig Tau. What? An amazing house. In Kirksville. Their upstairs is breathtaking. And not along with huge dues, supposedly due to generous alumni. The event that I went to at this house was the best out of the week, even though it didn't revolve around interaction with the Sig Taus themselves. The event was a beauty pageant with ten girls selected on the basis of being smoking hot.

At this point, I have to devote a paragraph to those contestants. Really, they deserve an entire opinion column, but it'll have to suffice to

## Elvis: alive, in building

Elvis Presley

*Self Portrait*

## Part I of V

## Review by | Tom Usted

Forty-four years ago, an RCA album sleeve declared that Elvis was back. He was, for a while, and then his music disappeared in an ocean of Hollywood schlockpoppin' garbage while he spent his time treading water as a Film Actor. As the old story goes, he came back in 1968 with a TV special and a pair of lousy heartstring-tugging-type ballads before really hitting stride with his Memphis album and his first real stint in Vegas, and then waited out the rest of his existence playing rodeos and Madison Square Garden and Hawaii and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the first true Elvis Impersonator. And then he took his final deadly shit while reading either a sex book or something about the shroud of Turin, take your pick, in his majesty's bathroom at Graceland. Out of that dungheap grew a whole industry, like the roses that bloomed from dead lovers' bloodied corpses in days-of-yore balladry, and for the past twenty-six years Elvis has grown wealthier in death than all but a scant few of us have in life.

Only thing is he's been alive and well and living in eastern Michigan this whole time. The exact circumstances of his faked death are far too complicated to delve into here (besides, in our interview he refused to let me tape him or even take more than the most rudimentary of notes, and for those he allowed me a small stack of leftover Taco Bell napkins), but Elvis' relative proximity to the noise factory of Detroit during these past decades has given him a new musical vitality, which has been stunningly captured on his forthcoming record album, *Self Portrait*, to be released this spring. So the kiddies'll all be groovin' to the fresh pot of sonic stew that is Yesterday's Sound Today, whilst drinking and screwing their merry little spring break crotches into the sands of many an exotic beach. Anyhoo, Elvis of course has

a home studio up in Michigan, and he's been laying down tapes since his initial retreat into the great beyond, but he says those are nothing special and he doesn't plan to issue any of them in the future. In fact, the reason he's decided to return to proper recording at this juncture is that RCA is undoubtedly reaching the bottom of their looming silo of all musical things Elvis, and they're scraping their fingernails off for every speck of previously-unheard-thirty-seventh-take-of-"Queenie Wahine's Papaya" that they can get their sore little cuticles bloody on. In other words, the guy wants to preserve his legacy by adding something truly new to it.

With that in mind, Elvis' return to proper recording was a long time coming. Old bandmates had to be assembled, songs had to be selected, and the whole damn thing had to be kept a holy secret. After all, when the White Stripes released *Elephant*, you, gentle reader, who have spent many a long night 'neath the sheets dreaming of the day when you could take Jack White's gynormous cock, all glistening with Dee-Troit motor oil, into the orifice of your choosing, most certainly did not realize that "Ball and Biscuit" had already been recorded by Elvis Presley, as well as written for him by Big Jack. Actually, it came out of an acoustic jam session held at Elvis' place with White and James Burton. The tapes were running, and the whole moment was captured for posterity, although not the kind of posterity that comes from actually issuing the recording. See, the informal run-through was merely the basis for the finished product, which kicks off with Elvis and Burton on the guitars, winds through several verses and minutes, all the while building to a jizzy climax with the full band, plus the Memphis Horns. All in all a rock solid, cock-to-the-jugular piece of rock and roll, inarguably the centerpiece of *Self Portrait*. The acoustic version just might hafta wait till Elvis is really dead and RCA can plunder the vaults once more. Or he can have some hotshit DJ remix the thing and put it out on *Third Time's a Charm*, the hits compilation scheduled for release this summer.

say that they looked amazing, and it was clear to me that it was up to them to carry the event and really the entire school in a sense. Here is a public thank-you to them for putting in the hours it must take to look that good. What must it feel like to walk a runway under the scrutiny of so many eyes? If you show flaws, you're a little embarrassed, the fraternity has sponsored a somewhat embarrassing event, the spectators aren't happy, and life for the entire human race is a little less special. It's as if someone said "Show me how great the universe is" and you had to respond by just being. Special props to the alumnae of 2 South Missouri who dominated my voting.

Too bad a faculty member had to be there and all ruin the possibility of pandemonium. Seriously, what the hell?

The Phi Taus hired a massage therapist for three hours on Monday. She was excessively gentle (someone said she was new), but still so welcome. There was also a two-tv X-box setup in the basement. It was like how I envision spending a lot of my money when I get older, on massages and playing video games against people. In my imagination though, I don't repeatedly get sniped on an open plain in Halo®.

AKL had a casino night. This was going great. My first dealer was a super-friendly girl

and I would get free chips from time to time from various brothers. Again, everyone was really welcoming and hospitable, offering to get me cokes, coming by and shaking my hand. I made a huge cupful of nice Holland-made chips from playing blackjack, then increased that by taking a pot of Texas Hold-em. Someone told me this fraternity was rich, so I thought I'd probably get a DVD player or a motorcycle as a prize. But when I had to leave early to get to an 8:30 *The Monitor* meeting, it turned out all I won was the ability to hold the plastic c'hips while in the house.

Institutions work by the logic of self-preservation. That's why I waited as long as I did to check out the fraternities: what did they have to gain from being decent to non-members? Hence, I just imagined coldness and weird looks at a stranger who awkwardly showed up at a frat party. My expectations have changed. I'm not like Carrot Top or whoever but I was still treated with amazing friendliness by all the people I ran into.

One thing about it was hard. As the end of Rush approached, I realized that I wouldn't be joining any fraternity. The idea of disappointing these guys bothered me so much that I had a dream where I had to tell a frat president I wouldn't be signing his bid and he started crying. The actual bid day was less dramatic.



# Negligence

Continued from page 1

tends the smoke that the city pumped into his building amounted to. Smoke covered many old books with a film of particles, which not only damaged the covers, but also glue in the bindings, and the paper itself. He said that ultimately nothing in his collection was left untouched by the smoke, but that only a portion of it was significantly damaged.

Hildebrand subsequently contacted a professor in Canada with a business in restoration, who estimated the costs of paying a crew to clean his collection, which could take up to 18 months, at \$500,000.

Hildebrand said that cleaning rare books and documents can be a laborious process. "For instance, with a leather-bound book, it could take up to four days," he said. "What you are trying to do is lift the particles off of the leather, without actually removing the leather itself."

After receiving this estimate, Hildebrand approached the new City Manager Mari Macomber with a proposal. He offered that the City of Kirksville pay his business the estimated cleaning costs as a debt owed to FBN Press, and he would forego pursuing any legal matters.

"I thought I was being civic-minded," he said. Hildebrand said he spoke with a lawyer who felt that he could pursue a lawsuit against the city for many times the estimated dollar amount for cleaning.

"I was just asking that they pay for the cost of cleaning," Hildebrand said. "There is no way to estimate the value of the damage done to the collection itself."

After making the proposal, Hildebrand

said that Macomber said she would make a claim with Ward Strategic Claims Solutions, the city's insurance provider, and left Hildebrand with the impression that they had reached an agreement.

"She never denied any wrongdoing," he said, which amounts to a Noli Contendere admission of fault and liability.

In a telephone interview, Macomber said, "I made no promises."

Since the meeting with Macomber, Hildebrand says that the City Manager has refused to speak to him, and that they direct him to Ward Strategic Claims Solutions, who has since denied any obligation of the insurance company to pay on behalf of the City of Kirksville.

"After consideration of all the factors associated with your claim and consultation with the City employees involved and the manufacturer of the smoke candles used on City Hall, I find that we must deny your claim for damages against the City," Lance Ferguson, Senior Casualty Adjuster for Ward Strategic Claims Solutions, wrote in a letter to Hildebrand.

Five factors were listed in Ferguson's letter that detailed their decision. One of them cast doubt on Hildebrand's estimate for the cleaning. "You have submitted correspondence between you and a college professor regarding the value of those repairs. His opinion was simply that he agreed with your assessment. There was no independent assessment of the repair costs," Ferguson wrote.

The also letter cited the doctrine of public duty as being a primary reason for denying Hildebrand's claim against the City. "In order for you and your company to prove a negligence case against the City, there must be a duty and a breach of that duty... This

duty must be owed to you, specifically as opposed to the public in general," Ferguson wrote.

According to the Syllabus of the Court in the ruling of the case of Kirk v. City of Shawnee, Kansas, "When a negligence claim is asserted against a governmental agency, the court must consider the so-called 'public duty doctrine.' That doctrine establishes the general principle that a governmental agency owes duties to the public at large rather than to individuals ... Under this doctrine, the fact the governmental entity owes a legal duty to the public at large does not establish a basis for an individual to claim the agency owed a legal duty to him or her personally."

Hildebrand maintains that the duty was owed to him specifically, because he tried to stop the city workers from doing more harm by alerting them to the situation, and the City Manager specifically refused his request upon being alerted to the damage already done.

Hildebrand further argues that, just because the insurance company does not feel obligated to honor his claim for damages, does not mean that the city is absolved from the debt.

"If you cause a car wreck, and your insurance company decides not to pay for whatever damages you have caused, that doesn't mean that you won't get taken to court and have to pay for it," Hildebrand said.

Since the insurance company's decision, Hildebrand says that the City just directs him back to Ward Strategic Claims Solutions, essentially hiding from their obligation to pay him. Further, Ferguson has told Hildebrand that "[t]here will be no further discussions of this matter directly between you and the City."

"Any dealings with Wade Financial are between the City of Kirksville and their insurance carrier and have absolutely nothing to do with this company or the City of Kirksville's obligation to pay the moneys that it owes for the damages it has caused," Hildebrand wrote in a press statement.

Hildebrand has yet to receive any contact from Macomber, and continues to send the City of Kirksville a bill for the debt owed to him via certified mail, with compounded interest.

"I must counterbalance my civic desires with my responsibility to my company and its management, employees, vendors, and clients," Hildebrand wrote to Macomber. "This has led, after much soul searching, to the decision that what was in the best interest of both parties would be to avoid litigation," he added.

However, Hildebrand maintains that his "retail businesses in Kirksville, their employees, vendors, management, and suppliers have all been substantially damaged by such an act of hubris on the part of that City Manager," he wrote in a letter to City Councilman Martha Rowe.

Since the smoke incident in 2002, Hildebrand has been forced to close down several stores in surrounding communities, and he has cut nearly all of his employees at his local store Eddie's Books and Comics. He has had to decrease his hours of operations multiple times, with the store now being open only Thursday through Saturday, noon to six.

Hildebrand has had to begin the work of cleaning his collection on his own, without the city's payment, because waiting any longer would only further damage things. He also says that, barring litigation, there is nothing that he can do to make the City of Kirksville pay him.

## KTRM

Continued from page 1

ing).

So how can someone with aspirations of DJ glory get on the air? Just about anyone can become a DJ if you don't mind working for free and can manage to pick up an application on the Edge door (basement of the SUB, back behind Tierra del Sol), fill it out, turn it in (at the station, as well), and pass a mic test (to ensure your radio coolness). All DJs start out working at least one 3-hour shift of format radio play per week. For all you kids with great ideas for specialty shows (see sidebar for a schedule of current specialty shows), you'll have to have at least one semester of format experience under your belt before they'll let you out on the airwaves with your own CD collection. And if you're interested in doing a hip hop show, you're in luck because they're in need. Disbro says that, "We'd really like to have a hip hop show. We've had one in the past, and we're really missing it."

So, aside from inexperienced DJs, what makes the Edge an alternative to the rest of the radio dial? It basically boils down to non-commerciality and personal taste. KTRM is classified as a non-commercial radio station which means that DJs have four extra rules to live by: no calls to action (vote for him, you should buy this...), no giving prices of products (can't even say 'free'), no incentives to buy (hey, I'll give you something special if you buy

that CD), and no comparatives (this band is way better than that band).

Their non-commercial status definitely has certain advantages, though. Reiter says that "We get funding just for being a non-commercial station." Another benefit is that "Due to our non-commercial status, when businesses advertise with us, it's called 'underwriting' instead of a commercial, and so they can qualify for a tax write-off," Reiter said.

Besides benefiting the financial side of the Edge, being a non-commercial station also gives KTRM more freedom over its music. While most commercial radio stations have to play pre-selected songs that are sent to the station by a parent company, the Edge has its own Music Department that decides which tracks off which CDs are good and deserving of airtime. The Music Department enlists the help of volunteers who come in and review CDs, and then it uses those reviews to make their format rotation decisions. If you want to get your favorite unheard-of band on the Edge, then the Music Department would probably be the place to start and Disbro says that "We're always looking for volunteers to come in and review CDs." This process allows KTRM to actually be an 'alternative' to the other commercial stations in town and gives the DJs some control over their shows. "Our play list doesn't get sent to us, that's the best thing about working here," said DJ Katie Ramatowski.

Being a non-commercial radio sta-

tion also means that the Edge can't rely on advertisements for funds, though there are two local businesses that help sponsor KTRM by paying about \$600 a semester for 'underwriting' spots that run four times a day. Fortunately, the Edge also has an agency account with the Lang. & Lit. department that provides them with about \$13,000 a year, and this is their main source of funding.

This money has been stretched thin in the past, though. In the spring of 2002, there was a cycle of equipment failures that forced the Edge off the air for months. Currently, the Edge has about a 30-mile broadcasting radius, meaning it almost reaches Macon to the south, Memphis to the east, the Iowa border to the north, and Milan to the west. Of that area, Disbro says that it's hard to estimate their audience size or demographic since, "As a non-commercial station, we don't get ratings, so it's hard to tell. We think it's primarily the high school and college kids."

Regardless of who's listening, the DJs at the Edge are getting paid in nothing but experience for providing almost 3000 square miles of northeast Missouri with an 'alternative' to commercial radio stations, and as Continuity Director Ben Baker says, "It is really cool to do something on campus that allows you to help those in the community learn about new music." He adds that, "Pushing buttons is fun, too."

## Special Show Schedule

### Monday

9pm-12am Punk and Ska

### Tuesday

9pm-12am Metal

### Wednesday

10pm-12am People & Their Guitars

### Thursday

9pm-11pm: Dr. Silk's Soul Hour

### Friday

5pm-8pm Free For All  
8pm-11pm House Party  
11pm-2am All-Request

### Saturday

10am-1pm What The...  
5pm-8pm Madhouse  
8pm-11pm Pantheon of Subterfuge  
11pm-2am Happiness In Slavery

### Sunday

3pm-4pm Guest DJ when applicable  
4pm-5pm Backtalk: Staff  
5pm-7pm Chasin' The Train  
7pm-10pm Instrumental Eclecticism  
10pm-12am Mountain Music Show

## Continued from page 4

useable nuclear material or having clandestinely obtained such material." The senior Bush Administration official who admitted this discrepancy to NBC also said that "What happened was, we formed our own conclusions based on the report." As for the photo, the IAEA came out to say that it had been misinterpreted, and was not evidence of WMD or WMD production. Bush was quoted as saying, in reference to the report and the photograph, "I don't know what more evidence we need."

In the summer of 2002, Vice President Dick Cheney made numerous visits to the CIA headquarters in Langley, VA. These visits, a very unorthodox approach to intelligence gathering, were to "talk with the analysts on the intelligence assembly line, who warned that they had no evidence showing that Saddam was reconstituting his nuclear program. These visits have been chewed over in the press, decried by retired [Central Intelligence] Agency officials, and condemned as attempts to pressure the CIA into producing more damning intel," according to an article in a December 2003 article in *The*

*New Republic*.

With all this evidence that points to the contrary, it is truly amazing to watch the news media try and pitch this "intelligence failure" as something that isn't completely in opposition to things that they themselves were reporting on in just this last year. Especially given the degree to which those that disagreed with this WMD claim were called "unpatriotic".

And now that Kay has come out and said that "we" were all wrong this whole time, Bush has had this look on his face like he just crapped his pants and he isn't sure if the other people in the room can smell it. He almost looks like he's going to cry. And rightfully so; he knows his days are numbered. He knows that the American people are on to his games of deception and flat out lying at the expense of American lives. He knows that the only thing that can save him now is another terrorist attack, because the only thing that he has used to maintain popularity is a combination of fear, deception, carefully placed lies and emotional manipulation of a country still recovering from the atrocity of September 11, 2001.

# Truman enrollment woes fixed by LCD Program

Feature by I Go Roke

Truman enrollment decreasing? Well naturally I have the answer. I have had it all this time, but I have been so busy doing stuff and stuff. Let's see, why don't we start at the top?

Enrollment has been decreasing here at the arvardHe of the idwestMe for a number of semesters. This would be OK, of course, if the administration were still getting all that government cheese that it used to get for running us through a paper gauntlet, testing every aspect of our academic and personal lives throughout our collective college "experience."

So, with fewer students and fewer monies available to the U, we are seeing larger class sizes (gasp!) which in turn probably means that we are receiving the 'lower standard of education' that the University always said was to be had at schools with larger class sizes. Of course, the lower standard of education was always to be had in onicaMe aronBe and arthaMe arterBe's classes, which has been the decisive factor in an area of concentration change for at least one (ahem) student here at Truman State. But I digress.

So, not only are we getting a poorer education, we are paying more for it each semester since tuition is steadily increasing and wonderful new fees are being added to the "plate" each semester as well. Some I can understand, but "5100 for anal probing happy fun times incoming student camp"????? I have to pay more for something that I don't even get to participate in? That's crap. They're shitting in my mouth and calling it a sundae.

I haven't even gotten to the part where I say that we are getting to hang out with fewer new people (being as fewer people are arriving each semester) and we have to stay here for longer (on average) to (hopefully) get our degree(s). "Yes, Yes, Yes," I hear you saying to yourself, "I know this but what is the answer, o, you ambiguously-named stranger?"

The answer is my carefully designed undergraduate degree earning program. I have care-

fully analyzed everything that all previous graduates from Truman, and some other universities, thanks in part to the intense testing required at some of them, have done in their entire 3-7 years of undergraduate study.

The solution? My "LCD Program" can cure what ails you Truman. The LCD (Lowest Common Denominator) Program will drastically change the way students worldwide expect to graduate from universities.

The tenets of the program are based off of the studies mentioned previously. Specifically, I have answered the question, "What do all graduates have in common?" and taken it a step too far.

What do all college graduates have in common?

- go to class better than 50% of the time
- do some to more than some of the homework
- take most of the tests for each class
- go to class drunk at least one day per semester

These are the four tenets of the LCDP. In order to graduate with this program, one must simply fill in the appropriate bubbles on your admission paperwork, choose a major, and "jump on it." Go to your classes half of the time or better, get some homework done sometimes, if you feel like it, get your test on occasionally, and go to each of your classes drunk at least one day per semester.

Now I realize that not all college graduates have gone to their classes drunk each semester, but we had to add other things to the list, after all we don't want to make college too easy or fun. Also, please note that I am not advocating bringing alcohol onto campus (and bear in mind that your body is a container around here), but you are going to need to get crafty and find a way around this. Trust me, you'll thank me later when you are a P.E. teacher at some crappy junior high school in Alaska and the only thing that keeps you going is your monthly ass-waxing and that big mug-o-"juice" in the morning.

# Truman's Vagina Warriors

Story by I Nicole Rainey

Every year, Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" is preformed by communities around the world, and every year, Ensler, places the show under a slightly different lens. This year, she has christened the nation-wide event "Vagina Warriors," focusing on the strength of women who face incredible violence in their daily lives. Suzanne Chappelow, a graduate student who is both performing and doing organizational work for Truman's production of the monologues defines a vagina warrior as "basically any woman who has experienced or witnessed violence in her life and has turned that around to help others in her community."

The Vagina Monologues was formed in 1998 as Ensler traveled all over the United States and the world, listening to stories from different women about their relationship with sexuality. Everywhere she went, she found herself encountering women who were hurt—as a result of domestic violence, rape, incest, or genital mutilation. Emotionally united with the pain that she observed, Ensler compiled a series of monologues that she felt would both unite people interested in ending violence against women, and spur political movement. In our community, the Women's Resource Center regularly puts on a version of the monologues every Valentines day, as well as an extensive series of events to accompany them. Joselyn McGeonigal, a sophomore acting in the WRC's version of the monologues had never heard of the play until this semester. She's found it to be a "releasing experience," and says that "it makes women more aware about violence—not just the Vagina Monologues—but all the events that take

place." McGeonigal continued, "sometimes people forget about violence, and it takes one whole week to make them remember."

Every year, Ensler adds new monologues to the performance. In the past year, having traveled extensively around the world (Afghanistan, Jerusalem, Cairo, and on), Ensler has added monologues showing the universality of violence against women, and the beauty in the women that struggle to overcome violence. On her website, Ensler writes, "I have seen the worst. The worst lives in my body. But in each and every case I was escorted, transformed, and transported by a guide, a visionary, an activist, an outrageous fighter and dreamer. I have come to know these women (and sometimes men) as Vagina Warriors."

"The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler Balwin Auditorium, February 12-13th, 2004. \$2 and \$5. Dir. Dana Kuhnline. Other related events include, (but are not limited to!):

Friday, Feb. 6, 8 p.m. V-Day Benefit Rock Show, S.U.B. Down Under

Monday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m. Vaginal Art & Writing Workshop, S.U.B. Down Under

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. V-Day/Amnesty International presents a Juarez

Documentary/Discussion Baldwin Lil' Theater

Saturday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Student Speak-out! Open Mike and Monologues-People of all genders are encouraged to write their own monologues or perform a favorite piece

S.U.B. Governor's Room. Send early submissions to b1378@truman.edu, walk-ins welcome.

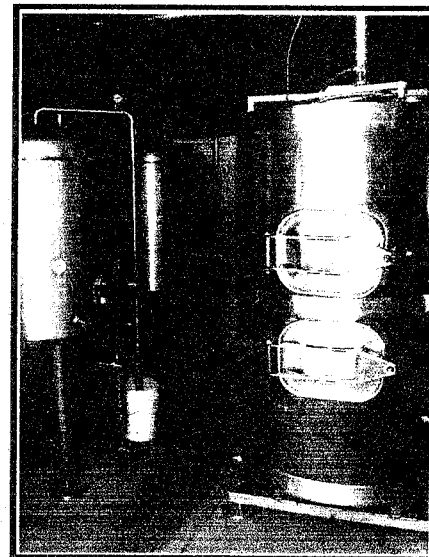


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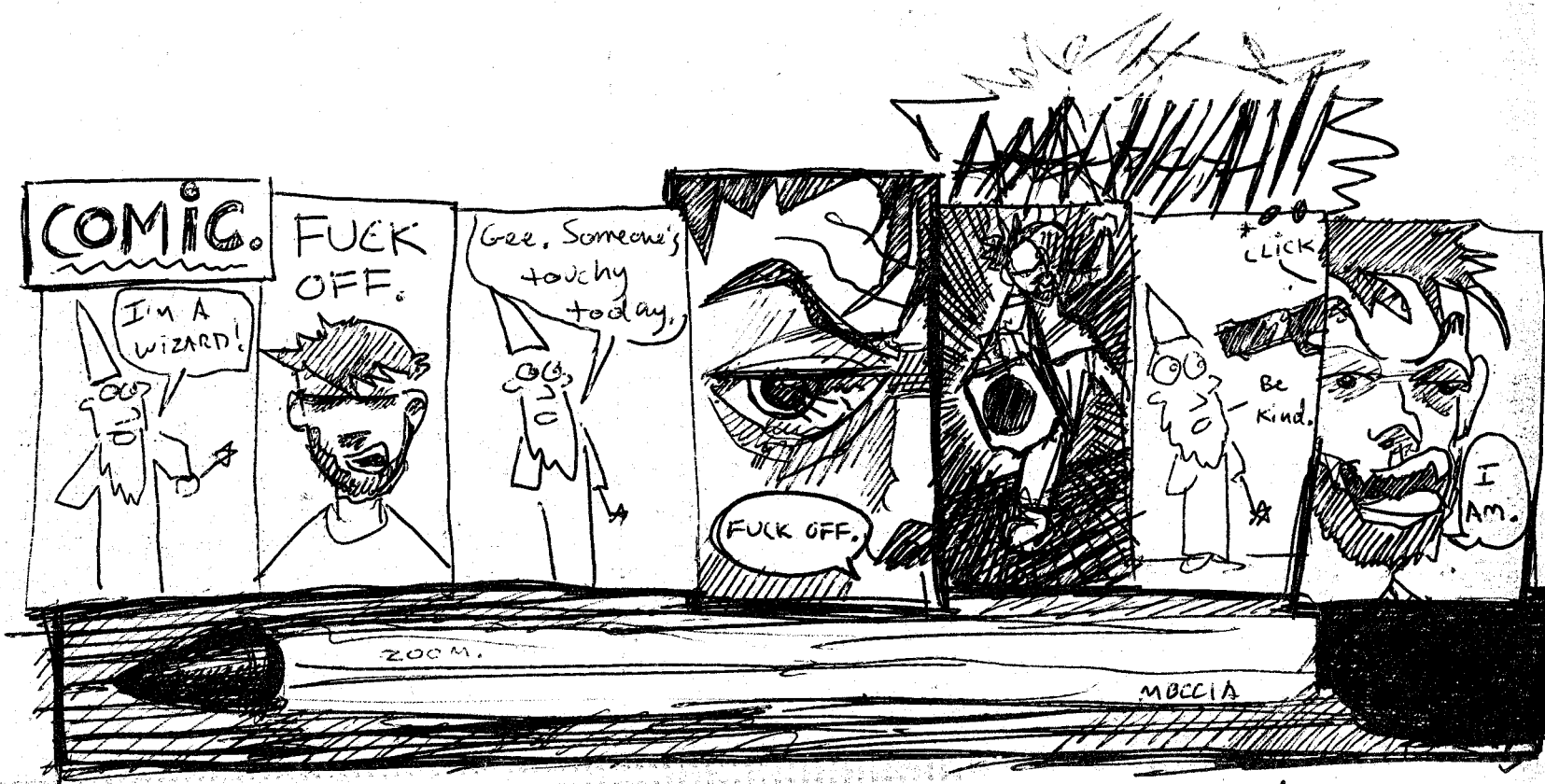
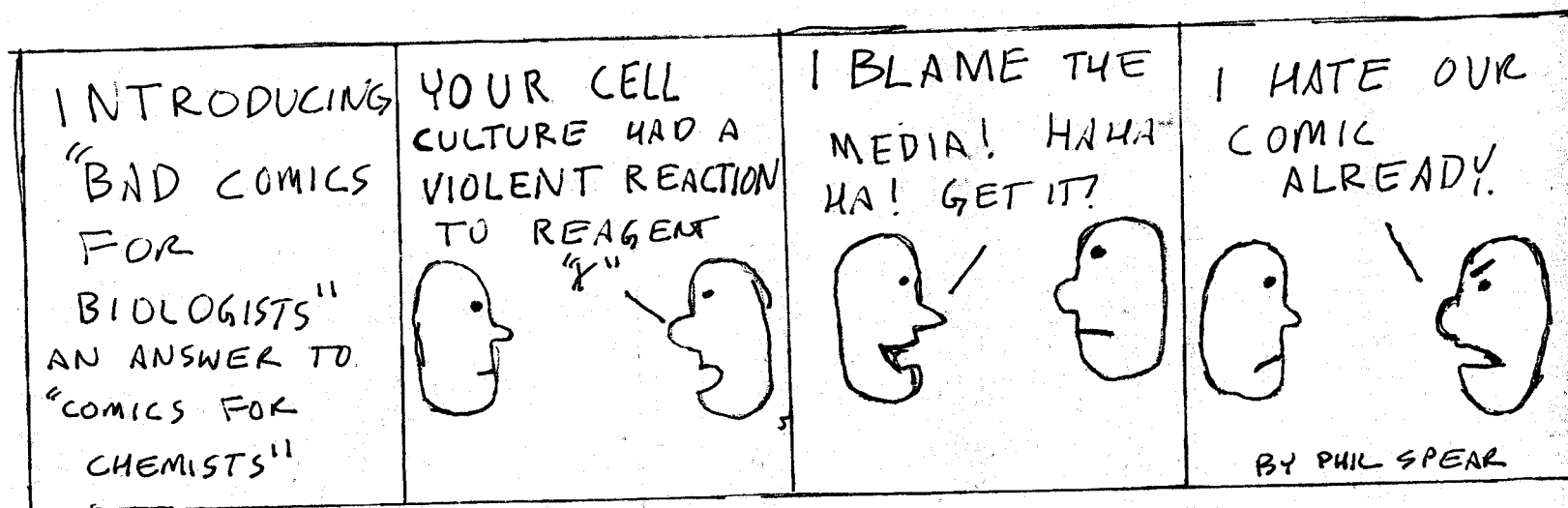
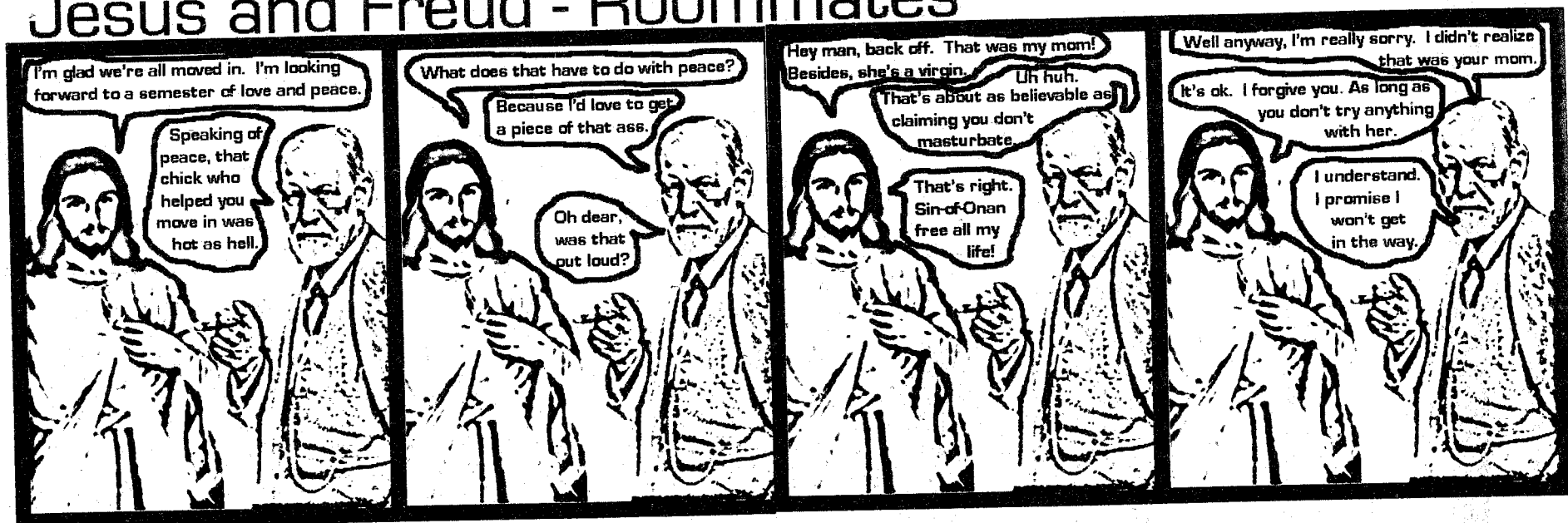


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04 February 2004

# Jesus and Freud - Roommates





# MY BACK PAGES...

What the Hell people! there's a lotta empty space down there, and i printed every submission i got! Granted, these are all quality submissions, but don't be daunted; you too can join in the esteemed and venerable tradition of back pages poets. Just send your submissions to me! at counzachula@hotmail.com. and did i mention you're looking very tight tonight? Tight like a tiger! Grrrrr!

Marcus,  
Beware the arches  
of her feet for  
they been tender.  
And if it be a ring  
you send her,  
send it proper.

The one I sent'er  
never got there.  
I'll stop there.

-Joe.

SnowGlobe

you shook me up  
just like a snow globe  
the devastating blizzard  
smothering my snow men and  
igloos  
of hopes and dreams  
crushing them till they  
can no longer be seen  
blow after blow  
snow flake after snow flake  
is there anything else YOU want?  
SnowGlobe

## Train Poem

I saw you notice stones  
railroad track, a hum,  
chalk gray, iris gray,  
a bump bump beat.

I saw you count  
everyone you love  
on fingertip-parts  
(morning prayer)  
and then the toes,

and you would kiss  
these piggies  
if it wasn't so cold-

a breath  
a train  
a mumble  
a bump bump beat.

-Emma Rose

## **A broken heart is not the end of the world, but it very well may be the beginning**

My life passes before my eyes everyday, and I do nothing but let it go.  
I know that it must seem like a Romantic fantasy, but just fucking once I would like to say that I threw caution to the wind and told the truth as I see it. That this whole world is burning down around us, and all any of us have in this world that means anything at all is each other.

But what do I do?

I waste my days sitting in empty rooms playing love songs to the wall on somebody else's bass guitar. Because I am ashamed to admit that I don't believe we as a species have a prayer unless we start learning to love each other with the same passion we love hot sex, dead Gods and our children.

And so I reserve the right to call this self-hatred a righteous anger, as long as I keep failing so miserably to say what I mean, and act upon my beliefs like I actually have them. It is one thing to be a hypocrite because you can't help it. It is another matter entirely to speak lies knowing full well you could have tried to make them more.

I will not give up on the dream that we can do or make anything of this world that is worth wanting of it, if I can look you in the eyes with sincerity, tell you that I love you and you have the courage to believe me.