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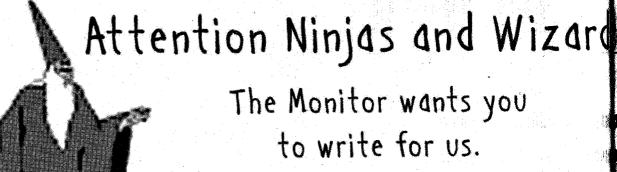
All contents @right ! 2005 The Monitor Campus Collective otherwise

The Moniferpublished every other Tuesday. We meet every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in BH 346 Each writer is responsible for his or her own work.

Among people wholeaved something from the 18th century (say, Voltaire) it is a truism, ly 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 signif

--Noam Chomsky





Come to Baldwin 346 every Thursday at 8 pm and send your submissions to monitortrm@hotmail.com

*Individuals lacking fatal powers of stealth or magic still encouraged to participate



Editors Box

Hi. This issue is very funny. It has a duck on cover. Or - it used to until Jon said "we could do this with the phallic thing on it." We figured it out, thou It's a psychic robot flying a plane into a humano

Also, several contributors covered international al news issues; from France, Iraq, and South Amer There's a lot to talk and care about in these places.

For the upcoming national day of sex, we recieved seductive mad-libs and Valentines. Clipth out and they'll help you look like you're not really sta ing that certain someone. 'Cause when they catchy you could just pull one out of your pocket an say,"H I just wanted to give you this." Thus, keeping your in the "ambiguous stalker" zone. It will make you ke just legitimate enough to confuse them.

But - anyway, stop, you know, jacking t Read. Write. Create something printable.

Email your stuff to monitortrm@hotmail.co or just show up to our meeting for more info. BH3 8:00, Thursday.

letters

ry Writer offers plogy. abundant f-depreciation

ljust recently reviewed my entries for word or less short story contest. I de that my story, "Repeated For sis" was1400 words long. I for one am mbarrassed by this. Therefore, I pubapologize for my story entitled ated For Emphasis". It was not in good a submit a story without first chequing was 1000 words or less. It was also not best interest to submit that story is it was absolute crap. I wasted a page that could have gone to some more sting stuff such as news, comics, or blank space. That was me trying to

work with dialogue. It obviously did not fare well. So, once again, I have shamed thy memory. I apologize for the wasted pulp.

If you read that story and want a personal apology, there are a few ways to contact me:

write me a letter addressed to:
Zhian N. Kamvar
312 S. Mulanix
Kirksville, MO 63501
I will pay you back for the stamp.
or, you can email me at znk302@truman.edu

-Zhian Namir Kamvar

Editors' note: All finalists and nonabsolute-crap stories were checked to ensure contest rules for length were met.

Index reader lament/Kirk/villel/ lo// of innocence

When I picked up a copy of everyone's favorite official university news publication last week, I was shocked at what I saw. Armed convicts escaping! Young-ins facing drug charges! Arson! Rioting in the streets! Endless public slaughter of innocent whimpering puppies! Oh my sweet gentle Kirksville, what has become of my safehaven from the sad cruel world?

-Jeff Higgins

Preacher retreat/ reader rejoycer/

Finally, one of the holy screamers got so little attention when he showed up on campus one morning that he went home by a little after noon. Remember people, they're like stay dogs, if we keep giving them attention they'll never go away.

-Noam Plum

Send your letters to The Monitor mailbox in the CSI, or to monitortrm@hotmail.com.

Letters may be edited for length.

onitor Newswire

r/Activist Ossie Davies Dies at

Ossie Davis, an internationally nized civil rights activist and actor on Feb. 5 in Miami.

Davis is known most for his roles in with issues of racial injustice. career began in the late '30s in m where he spent time with B. Dubois, Richard Wright and influential figures. He participated march on Washington, and will be remembered for the eulogy he gave is friend, Malcolm X.

al Davis is also known for his lifeolove of his wife (and often acting ther) Ruby Dee. They shared the sen in five movies and the stage in on plays. Most notably, they both rared in the television series "Roots: o Next Generation" (1978), "Martin er King: The Dream and the Drum" of, and "The Stand" (1994).

Former New York Governor Mario mo stated, "His greatness as a an being went far beyond his excele as an actor. Ossie was a citizen of country, first, and the world. He and wife were activists, and they took it busly."



Become a Conscientious Objector

Conscientious objecting has just been made much easier. A young man who was recently granted objector status himself has just put up a new website detailing the process. Check it out at http://www.peace-out.com.

Celebrate Marley's 60th Birthday

Sunday, Feb. 6 would have been international reggae star Bob Marley's 60th birthday. In Addis Ababa's main square, nearly 300, 000 people came to his birthday party. The party was meant to kick off a world-wide charity campaign to help raise money to help poor families in Ethiopia and Tsunami victims in Somalia.

Colorado Prof gets Shitcanned for Speaking Unpopularly

Ward Churchill, a Native American political activist and Colorado University professor has recently come under intense political scrutiny for an essay he wrote several years ago about 9-11.

The problems began when Bill O'Reilly aired a segment on his show that showed conservative protesters standing outside one of Churchill's lectures. One of the protesters lost his father during 9-11. Upset, Churchill waived his speaking fee (he was visiting a small school in upper New York State), but it was to no avail-O'Reilly fans from all over the country flooded both the school that hosted him and the University of Colorado at Boulder (his home institution) with incensed letters. Churchill has resigned his position as department chair, and his tenure is in serious question.

The essay in question discusses the massive number of Iraqi children that died as a result of UN sanctions against Iraq pre- 9-11. About the first president Bush's attack against Iraq, Churchill says: "It was a performance worthy of the Nazis during the early months of their drive into Russia." He further compares the complacency of the American people during this time to the complacency of the Germans under the

Nazi regime.

New Budget Bad for Working Women?

The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) has recently reported that the

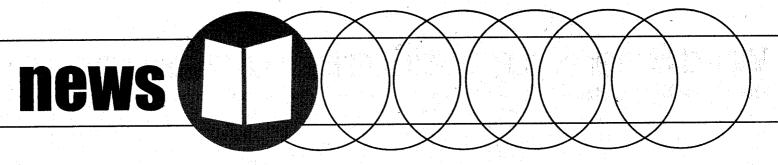
Bush Administration's new budget proposal will negatively affect working women and their families. Work-support programs like child care and Medicare are incredibly necessary for low-income women.

On February 7th, center spokeswoman Heather Boushey stated: "Access to health insurance and affordable, quality child care makes the difference between mothers being able to stay on the job and not. Unfortunately, the President's budget does not recognize the importance of these supports for helping working families."

Oil-for-Food hits a Slick Spot

Friday, the United Nations suspended the men in charge of the Oil-for-Food program in Iraq (Benon Sevan and Joseph Stephanides), under charges of misconduct. According to a U.S.-led investigation, Sevan and Stephanides received significant kickbacks, including a mysterious \$160,000 that Stephanides supposedly received from an aunt.

the monitor. 9 february, 2005



"It is a dilemma where

vou choose between a

situation which is horri-

ble and gets worse every

day, and a situation

which is open-ended

and uncertain."

Howard Znn weighs in on the US in Iraq

Interview by >> Mary Burford and Andrés Delgado

Howard Zinn is a distinguished Marxist historian, raised in a working class Brooklyn family. Retired from professorship at Boston University, Zinn is mostly noted for writing A People's History of the United States. Zinn flew bombing missions during World War II, an experience he now cites as formative in respect to his ardent anti-war politics. Zinn pleasured The Monitor with an interview conducted via email, commenting on the situation in Iraq in light of legislation proposed by Rep. Lynn Woolsey.

On Jan. 27, 2005, Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Calif., introduced a bill co-sponsored by 24 other Democrats mandating the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces in Iraq. This gesture is follow-up to a letter that Woolsey and 15 other House Democrats delivered early January. Bush in Representatives Maxine Walters and former presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich of Ohio are among those petitioning with Woolsey. It is unlikely that the proposal will even see the floor for vote in the Republican-controlled House.

Q. Do you believe the U.S. military should immediately withdraw its troop presence from Iraq, and why?

A. Yes, because we do not belong there - it is not our country, because our invasion of Iraq was a violation of international law since it was not a matter of self-defense (Iraq posed no threat to us or to any other nation), and because our presence there has brought chaos and violence and countless deaths and injuries.

For a more detailed answer, please see Mr. Zinn's op-ed piece on page seven.

Q. What competing interests are

at tension in the decision of whether to totally withdraw troops in Iraq vs. maintain a troop presence for longer? What individuals are the primary players?

A. The chief interests for maintaining our presence come from the oil corporations, from the contractors making billions out of the occupation (Halliburton, Bechtel, etc.), from the historic drive of the U.S. for imperial expansion throughout the world, from

the political uses for the president as the public rallies through a false notion of patriotism around the war and around him, from the value to the president of focusing the American people on war rather than on his ruination of the environment, his enrichment of the superrich, his cuts in

superrich, his cuts in human services, and his creation of an enormous debt.

Q. Do you have any comment on the recent elections in Iraq?

A. Elections in themselves do not add up to democracy. These elections cannot be called free, taking place in a military atmosphere, surrounded by American troops. They will not change the fundamental situation in Iraq, which is the continued destruction of that nation by our military presence.

Q. Why do you believe the U.S. invaded Iraq?

A. Oil, which has been the basic motive for U.S. policy in the Middle East ever since the end of World War II. The deal F.D.R. made with Ibn Saud in 1945 to keep the Saudi dynasty in power in return for U.S. domination of Saudi oil, the overthrow of the democratically elected Mossadeq in Iran in 1953, the support of Saddam Hussein

in his war against Iran in the 1980S, the Gulf War of 1991 (pretending to be concerned about the invasion of Kuwait) - all have been part of the long-term policy of controlling Middle East oil.

Q. What do you predict for the next four years in the arena of US foreign policy? Is the intention for full scale invasion of any particular country clearly indicated?

A. I doubt a full-scale invasion. The invasion of Iraq shows the futility of that and the public has turned against the war to the point where it would not support another war. Air strikes might take place to

intimidate other countries.

Q. What would it mean for the future of Iraq's government if the U.S. withdrew completely?

We don't know. It is a dilemma where you choose between a situation which is horrible and gets worse every day, and a situation which is openended and uncertain. Better the uncertainty following the U.S. withdrawal than the certainty of violence and death if the U.S. stays. The odds for reducing that uncertainty and having a peaceful Iraq become greater if the U.S. withdraws and an international group comes in not with guns but with food, medicine, engineers, and as peacekeepers to work out a solution for a federal Iraq, giving some satisfaction to Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds.

Q. Do you draw a meaningful distinction between the circumstances leading to the U.S.'s engagement of the Vietcong and the March 2003 invasion

of Iraq, because the U.S. was at on its home soil on Sept. 11?

A. No. In both cases, an in was used to justify invasion. there is no connection between 11 and Iraq, it was just an excattack, just as the falsified 6. Tonkin incident was used as an to invade Vietnam. Iraq did not the U.S. on its home soil any monthe Vietnamese did. On the conthe U.S. attacked both nations on home soil.

Q. As a historian, do you a the premise that at the time of sion, Iraq was determinably a super of anti-West violence?

A. There's no evidence of and even if there was, that would good reason for bombing and at the Iraqi people. The moral just tion for doing violence to other only be that you are focusing at on people who are doing violence are hiding out in a neighbory you are not justified in bombin neighborhood and killing into people.

Q. What are some historic suggested bottom-up approaches students to affect a policy change lraq, i.e., bring home the troops?

A. Historically, it's a matter educating and informing the Ame people about the reasons for the sion, the history of U.S. foreignp human consequences Americans and for Iraqis of the sion, so that more and more of will express their opposition to the and eventually force the government withdraw. That's what happened if Vietnam years, a gradual grow understanding among the Ame people, helped by the anti-war m ment, about what we were doing Vietnam.

World Social Forumparticipants deary hierarchy and privilege

Story by >> Marc Becker

Every year at the end of January. the world's corporate and government elite gather under tight police security in the Swiss resort town of Davos for the World Economic Forum (WEF) to plot the future of corporate-led globalization. Five years ago, community organizers, trade unionists, young people, academics, and others began to meet in Porto Alegre, Brazil to rethink and recreate globalization so that it would benefit people.

From these humble beginnings, this alternative annual meeting called the World Social Forum (WSF) has grown into the world's largest meeting of civil society. Stretching for several kilometers along the open spaces of Porto Alegre's Guaibal

riverfront, from January 26-31 of this year 155,000 participants from 135 countries joined together in 2500 activities in 11 Thematic Terrains under the Southern Hemisphere's summer sun.

For um

Ascrefronte Intercontinental Youth

With the slogan "another world is possible," the forum is filled with speakers, workshops, panels, debates, marches, and cultural events. The forum provides an open platform for activists to discuss strategies of resistance to globalization and to present constructive alternatives. Although hardly known or recognized in the United States, the World Social Forum has quickly grown into the most dynamic and important political event in the world.

The WSF has grown so large that it has become impossible for one person to comprehend the scope and extent of activities carried out under its umbrella. Activists use this meeting to debate many different proposals and to launch various campaigns and actions. For example, a new campaign for a Currency Transactions Tax (CTT) attempts to stop currency speculation and redirect funds toward economic development.

A series of panels on "Breaking Down the Ivory Tower" examined the role of universities in the creation of another world. The discussions viewed

relationships between scholars and social movements, moved to an examination of the role of academics in the struggle for social justice, and ended with the formation of a transnational network of scholars and activists to promote collaborative actions around common concerns. Another group of critical scholars held a series of informal meetings and created an activistoriented research network.

Activists who have been involved in the organization of social

forums in North America gathered to share their experiences and to chart directions for future action. Bringing a model of mobilizing civil society from the south to the heart of the empire is a fundamentally subversive from indymedia.org and profoundly radical activity. It is precisely

> this attempt to smash capitalism, one organizer noted, that makes it so hard to organize a social forum in the United States. Nevertheless, activists hope to hold a United States Social Forum during the summer of 2006.

> Some consider the youth camp program to be the truest expression of the social forum. Here, participants dispose of hierarchy and privilege, as they work together in a common project to transcend race, class, and gender barriers. Dubbed the "International Youth Camp," this program drew 35,000 people.

> At the edge of the WSF activities, 400 delegates from 100 Indigenous groups met in a "Puxirum of Indigenous Arts and Knowledge." In the Brazilian Tupi-Guarani Indigenous language, Puxirum means "a joining of efforts for a common goal." Their meeting ended with a declaration that "another world is possible, and we are part of that world."

> Although a broad range of issues and concerns drew activists to the WSF, the overriding theme was a confrontation of neoliberal economic policies and to stop the U.S. war in Iraq. This issue unified diverse activists from Brazil to Palestine to Korea. The enemy has a name, some participants observed, and that name is Bush.

> > Leftist Brazilian president Luis

Inácio Lula da Silva came to the WSF to launch a Global Call to Action Against Poverty. The biggest celebrity to visit the forum, however, was left populist Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. Packing to overflowing a huge sports stadium, Chavez strongly condemned neoliberalism and imperialism that takes resources away from the poor in order to benefit the wealthy. He framed his message as "the South stopping the destruction of the Bush doctrine." If the enemy has a name perhaps so does the people's champion, and for many people at the WSF that name would be Hugo Chavez.

Placing elected political officials at the middle of WSF discourse is rather ironic given that the forum began explicitly as a gathering of civil society that discarded state-centered solutions to social problems. Many activists, however, are rethinking the relationship between social movements and political parties. This has led back to an emphasis on the importance of the state in achieving fundamental social changes.

Next year the World Social Forum moves to a decentralized model with regional meetings planned for Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. A hemispheric Americas Social Forum is scheduled to take place the last week of January in Venezuela. In 2007, plans call for another global meeting of civil society-this time in Africa.

Marc Becker teaches Latin American History at Truman State University and attended the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil at the end of January. More information from the forum is available on his webpage at http://www.yachana.org/reports/wsf5/.

Bigots vs. Bankir Bevok: tolerance. The video has come under harsh

Opinion by >> lan Florida

"Tolerance is a personal decision that comes from a belief that every person is a treasure. I believe that America's diversity is its strength. I also recognize that ignorance, insensitivity and bigotry can turn that diversity into a source of prejudice and discrimination.

To help keep diversity a wellspring of strength and make America a better place for all, I pledge to have respect for people whose abilities, beliefs, culture, race, sexual identity or other characteristics are different from my own."

Above is a pledge which will be handed out to children in 61,000 public and private grade schools. The pledge will be introduced to the younger children with a video featuring the likes of SpongeBob, Big Bird, Clifford, Arthur, Barney as well as many other cartoons. All these characters have been brought together by a number of organizations including the Anti-Defamation League, Disney Channel, FedEx, Nickelodeon, Nile Rodgers/Sony Publishing/The Bernard Edwards Estate/Warner Chapel, Nelvana, Scholastic, Sesame Workshop, and WGBH-TV.

The lovable children's characters dance and sing "We Are Family," while

criticism from the organization Focus

on the Family, an Evangelical Christian organization. The group specifically objects to the inclusion of other sexual orientations in the pledge. Focus on the Family views the use of these characters and the video as an "insidious attempt to brainwash our children."

When James Dobson, founder and former chairman of Focus on the Family went to CNN and Fox News in an attempt to defend our nations children by decrying this video he must have forgotten about the 6 to 14 million children who have one or more gay parents. And the 8 to 10 million children being raised by a homosexual couple must have skipped his mind. In striking out in "defense" of the family, Focus on the Family has failed to include a large number of healthy and happy families.

The We Are Family Foundation has posted a response to Mr. Dobson's allegations on their website.

"These lessons aim to put the video's themes of respect, understanding and appreciation of diversity into practice."

"Cooperation and unity are the most important values we can teach children. We believe that this is the essential first step to loving thy neighbor."

Xander Kennedy writes winning short story

Student awarded \$50 for his experimental writing piece

Interview by >> Frances Dusseault

Theater and English Major, Xander Kennedy, won the semesterly

short story contest this Fall. So we put together a profile of the man behind Flores para los muertos, our grand-prize winning story.



Q. Have you written other short sto-

ries for publication before? Just for class? Do you write short stories or anything else as a hobby? (Basically, what's your 'writing experience' before this)

A: I've never attempted to have anything published before. English is one of my majors though (theatre is the other) and I have a concentration in composition so I do a lot of writing. I've pretty much exhausted Truman's supply of creative writing classes, and I've enjoyed every one of them. I even regularly attempt to twist essay assignments into creative projects because I'm

much more likely to devote genuine effort to a creative project.

Q: Do you have any plans for your \$50 winnings?

A: Well actually, I think the \$50 will end up going towards application fees for grad school. I'm right now trying to get into a creative writing program in the LA area.

Q: Was there any particular inspiration behind the story?

A. I honestly have no idea. This was actually a story I'd written a couple years ago for a class and though it's by no means my favorite, it was one of the few that came in under 1000 words. I've not written anything else about twisted serial killers, but you've got to try your hand at it sometime if you're hoping to be a writer. I guess as I'm sitting here trying to recollect what inspired me to do this piece, I'm remembering some scene of a movie where a woman's genitals were referred to as her flower...that's about all I can give you.

Q: What was your favorite part of the story? What was your favorite part

about writing it?

A: The fun part of this story was actually finding the quotes that I could somehow relate to flowers and death. It's also nice to try out different formats, and in this one I was experimenting with brief, almost cryptic dialog separated by extensive descriptions of setting and action. I'm not sure that it worked perfectly, but it was a worthwhile endeavor.

Q: Are you a monitor reader? Do you like the paper? Why? Have you contributed things in the past?

A: This is the first time I've ever contributed anything to the Monitor, but I've always thought about putting a piece of poetry on the back page. I appreciate your paper because it has less rules. It's a more genuine forum for discussing a myriad of things, many of which aren't quite pc. A college campus needs this sort of outlet, especially when it's trying to be liberal in such a conservative setting.

Every semester, the Monitor holds a 1000 word short story contest and awards the winner with a \$50 prize. Keep your eyes pealed for this semester's contest you too could be a fiction superstar like Xander!

New Burt healthcare proposal full of outs and holes

Opinion by >> lan Florida

The newly elected governor of Missouri has laid out in his legislative agenda a proposition to improve the health of Missourians. The proposition, entitled "Improving the Health of Missourians" opens with the following quote from governor Blunt: "We must address the health care crisis head-on to ensure that health care is affordable and accessible for all Missourians." The impoverished and mentally handicapped must not be on Blunt's "to do" list. Blunt has slashed over \$626 million, the most of any of his cuts, for Medicaid. Medicaid is a state run program which provides care to people living well below the poverty line.

Matt Blunt ran on a platform highlighting moral integrity and sound ethics. His moral compass must have been malfunctioning when he made recommendations to shove the poorest people of Missouri to the gutter. If Matt Blunt cannot look out for the least of us, the poorest, the handicapped, the mentally challenged, the homeless, how can he show compassion towards anyone.

Medical malpractice reform is another issue focused on in his healthcare plan. The plan highlights key goals expressed during the Bush administration's



Matt Blut dring a recent visit to the University

recent visit to the St. Louis metro area. The brunt of the plan is to limit the amount which can be paid out for pain and suffering. The amount is to be set at \$250,000. This may seem like an awful lot to some, but to a person who lost both their legs due to the negligence of a doctor, or permanently blinded, to the person who had their amputated unnecessarily, or lost their child due to the incompetence of a doctor, this sum can do little to

Be Pro-Accu

Opinion by >> lan Florida

There are pink flags and blue flags waving through thin sheets of snow all around Kirksville. These flags are part of a "Pro-Life" campaign against abortion. In addition to the numerous flags around town, there are many signs posted to draw attention to the movement. These signs say a number of things but the following two are the most common: "169 abortions are performed every hour on the hour," and "4000 children are killed every day from abortion."

I would have no problem with this campaign if the numbers suggested were anywhere near the actual figures. First and foremost, 169 deaths multiplied by 24 hours does not come out to 4000, it comes out to 4056. I'm not just being nitpicky here. A campaign that places emphasis on the sanctity of life should not be so totally irresponsible as to round off 56 deaths a day. That, however, may not even be a factor. The actual statistics as reported on the government website for the Center for Disease control place the most recent number of abortions performed at 853,485 per year. This is not nearly as high as the 1,480,440 that the local Pro-Life campaign suggests. Many Pro-Life campaigns refuse to use the numbers generated by the government studies. Instead they rely on private surveys performed at the clinics offering the procedure. This method has proved no more reliable or accurate than the one our government pumps millions of dollars into perfect-

This is a campaign which bases itself on moral principle but has inflated or otherwise projected numbers that are grossly exaggerated and in doing so proven it to completely disregard ethical reporting.

replace the part of their life which has been forever removed. To them \$250,000 is a pittance.

Instead of attempting to improve the quality of Missouri's doctors or weed out the bad doctors from the good, Blunt seeks to protect these bad doctors and disarm the average per-

Here is the beginning of four years of Matt Blunt. We're only at the beginning and Blunt is turning his back on Missourians.

311120

opinions

The logic of withdrawal

Oninion by >> Howard Zinn

It is striking, and an unhappy commentary on our nation, that no major political figure, no major newspaper, has had the courage or the wisdom or the will to say what should by now be obvious: that we must withdraw our military from Iraq, and the sooner the better. The reason is simple: Our presence there is a disaster for the American people and an even bigger disaster for the Iraqi people.

It is a strange logic to declare, as so many in Washington and in the major media do, that it was wrong for us to invade Iraq, but right for us to remain. A recent New York Times editorial, headed "Hard Truths," sums up the situation accurately: "Some 21 months after the American invasion, United States military forces remain essentially alone in battling what seems to be a growing insurgency, with no clear prospect of decisive success any time in the foreseeable future."

And then, in an extraordinary non sequitur: "Given the lack of other countries willing to put up their hands as volunteers, the only answer seems to be more American troops, and not just through the spring, as currently planned....forces need to be expanded through stepped-up recruitment."

Here is the logic: "We are alone in the world in this invasion. The insurgency is growing. There is no visible prospect of success. Therefore let's send more troops." Is this not the definition of fanaticism (or is "fantasy" a better word?) that when you discover you are going in the wrong direction you redouble your speed?

In all of this, there is an unexamined premise: that military victory would constitute "success." Conceivably the United States, possessed of enormous weaponry, might finally crush the resistance in Iraq. The cost would be great. Already, thousands, tens of thousands, perhaps a hundred thousand, have lost their live (and we must not differentiate between "their' casualties and "ours" if we believe all human beings have an equal right to life.) Would that be a "success"?

Two years into the American escalation in Vietnam, in the spring of 1967, a book of mine was published, called VIETNAM: THE LOGIC OF WITHDRAWAL. It was the first book on the war to urge an immediate departure from Southeast Asia, and at that time I heard the same arguments against withdrawal that we are hearing now. The United States did not pull out its troops for six more years. In those years at least a million more Vietnamese were killed,

and perhaps 30,000 U.S. military.

We must stay in Iraq, it is said again and again, so that we can bring stability and democracy to that country. Isn't it clear that after almost two years of war and occupation we have brought only chaos, violence, and death to that country, and have no prospect of creating democracy? Can democracy be nurtured by destroying cities, by bombing, by driving people from their homes?

There is no certainty as to what would happen in our absence, but there is absolute certainty about the result of our presence: escalating deaths on both sides. Mostly, the loss of life is among Iraqi civilians of whom the British medical journal Lancet reports, perhaps 100,000 have died as a result of the war, many of them children. But even the smaller casualty toll on the American side includes thousands of maimed soldiers, some losing limbs, others blinded. And tens of thousands, as was recently reported, facing psychological damage in the aftermath.

Have we learned nothing from the history of imperial occupations, all pretending to help the people being occupied?

The United States, the latest of the great empires, is perhaps the most self-deluded, having forgotten that history, including our own. Did our fifty-year occupation of the Philippines, or our long occupation of Haiti (1915-1934) or of the Dominican Republic (1916-1924), or our military interventions in Southeast Asia or the Caribbean throughout the 20th century, bring democracy to those places?

Our military presence in Iraq is hurting, not helping. It is inflaming people in the Middle East, and therefore magnifying the danger of terrorism. Far from fighting "there rather than here", as Bush has claimed, it increases the chance that enraged infiltrators will strike us

In leaving, we can improve the odds of peace and stability (leaving aside the delusion of "democracy") by encouraging an international team of negotiators, largely Arab, to mediate among the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, working out a federalist compromise to give some autonomy to each group. We mustn't underestimate the capacity of the Iraqis, once free of both Saddam Hussein and the U.S. occupying army, to forge their own future.

But the first step is to support our troops in the only way that word "support"can have real meaning - saving their lives, their limbs, their sanity, by bringing them home.

France panel discussion re

Column by >> Larry lies

In the course of a too "American" defensive presentation for this European radical's taste. TSU Political Scientist and panelist Dr. John Quinn (a good personal, nonetheless, ami, by the way), at one "Friendly Foes and the US" November 18 TSU Panel and Audience debate, carefully mentioned 'la force de frappe'. This, as he explained very well, is the independent nuclear deterrent program which France under President General De Gaulle developed distinct from the USA's. The loose strike-back-at-will meaning it is often given, in translation, in France's own formidable press might indeed serve as a motif for this well-attended, going on 75 folks, packing out in Violette Hall's 1010 auditorium event.

Led by young TSU French Historian Dr. Torbjorn Wandel in an admirably succinct historical overview of 200 years plus of often tense Franco-US relations, strong defenders of France's right-to-be different such as moderator French Professor Dr. Tim Farley, senior French and Québécois colleague Dr. Betty Louise McLane-Iles, and their fellow Division Language and Literature member, Communications Professor Dr. Matt Killmeier poured out rebuffs to both Fox News and what the last derided as the now unfortunate 'mainstream' US TV media. All of them arguing in Farley's memorable sarcasm: "France has had a hard-cheese bad deal" from this country's media. This had been done simply but dumbly by this country's media, Wandel contends, because the "America selfimage...and mythology" cannot itself take rationally on board what McLane-Iles critiqued Mrs. President Laura Bush sillily calling "France's unhelpful attitude" in non-support for the UN illegal ongoing Iraq war.

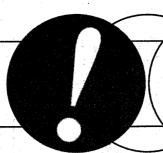
Some extracts from their remarks and those of the audience are worth strong record citation in the progressive Monitor before I proceed apace. Farley cited how even in restaurants as near as Macon (ironically once, surely, originating from a French name)

you "still" are confronted by "French" fries removed menus, for Bushite "Freedom" fries fare instead, in absurdity. McLane-Iles in a speech punctuated by supportive audience laughter (and some nervous trembles too!), and called "passionate" by her colleague Prof. G. Siewert, rounded on critics of France for the strong last Presidential election showing there by Fascist Leader Le Pen, that "at least unlike us".... just now in 'une crise de conscience'. "the French did not elect a fascist." Killmeier, angrily too, bristled, citing especially so-called mainstream US CNN Judy Woodruff "who has military connections" that the US "unlike France and nearly every other democracy... has virtually no self-critical, as others see us, 'liberal' media left". To even begin to see itelf as France CAN see us! And English Professor Martha Bartter wondered whether US unreasonableness to French critique of its war was due to US rightwingers' needs for a 'demon', now that the bogey of Communism has been vanquished. Well-travelled TSU graduate student and Catholic Progressive Activist Todd Ruecker suggested, with French business and english students backing, that French students, unlike too many of the US public, could like individual Americans; unlike Fox, they are able to make the distinction between governments and peo-

So, apart from providing a vital soundback, a 'force-de-frappe' occasion, what else in my opinion did this event teach us usefully? Well, US policy explicator (not necessarily defender as he was at pains to stress rightly when I challenged him during "Q" and "A") TSU's Pol Sci John Ishiyama explained that France has an older "multi-polar" view of how our world should go to overcome terrorism and other problems, versus "the unilateralist Bush neo-conservative" view. But although he cited even Americans like Henry Kissinger as having started paradoxically the first view, he neglected as did Pol Sci John Quinn to point out that many of we Europeans endorse this first view, as not only peaceful UN cooperative sanity but also as a diplomatic path that, as I said, stresses "normative" values. Or what McLane-Iles in, her own better half greater eloquence, called the "cultural" contributions of drama, philosophy, and so on by which France has long shaped even US world mindsets. Or more recently, the last European Parliament Commission scouting process where French "Liberal" (Giscardian) elected members played a key role in outing a homophobic, women-back-to-the-closet proposed Italian Papal-friendly Communist nominee for European Commissioner, the very week US bigots were marshalling the vote in local hordes, etcetera, for such fundamentalist backwardness here in last week of US's own presidential election!

continued on page 9

features



Queen Astra

Feature by >> The Oueen

Aries [March 21-April 20]

Years from now, your dental career will be marked by ridicule because once, and only once, and granted, you will be drunk at the time, but still...anyway, you're going to use the term "gingivitis" without calling it "the gurn disease gingivitis." Your colleagues will laugh and laugh. For years. One will actually die from laughing.



Taurus [April 21-May 22]

Does this sign have anything to do with the car? Because that might add irony to your upcoming accident.

Gemini [May 23-June 21]

Savor the present moment. In five minutes the dreaded "I'm going to punch you in the back of the head and run like hell" bully is going to deliver, just as he has promised.

Cancer [June 22-July 24]

No. This is the last time I'm going to tell you. Your sign doesn't necessarily mean that you are going to get cancer. But there is always that chance.

Leo [July 23-Aug 23]

Your friendships may blossom this week, provided you remember to shower.

Virgo [Aug 24-Sep 23]

Your boyfriend continually assures you that no, he doesn't think you are boring. However, if you recall that little tequila incident...well, you know what I'm talking about. Seriously. You make Boswell's Life of Johnson seem as exciting as Die Hard with a Vengeance. I mean it. I can't stand you. And your boyfriend, let us not forget, is fairly ugly.

Libra [Sep 24-Oct 23]

You will make national headlines next week, becoming the only man in history to actually stick his foot in his mouth. Unfortunately, you will die as a result of your foolishness, and your entire family will die of shame.

Scorpio [Oct 24-Nov 22]

I don't want to be the bearer of bad news, but something awful is going to happen to you...but I'd hate to ruin the hilanty for everyone else.

Sagittarius [Dec 22-Jan 20]

Your love for physical humor will lead to many failed romances when you finally become sexually active.

Capricorn [Dec 22-Jan 20]

Wise Man once say: "Steve, seriously, the time has come for you to realize that no one, I mean no one, is going to tolerate that shit. I don't care who your father is."

Aquarius[Jan 21-Feb 19]

The tone of voice you use in conversation, you know, that inflection pattern you have when you're trying to sound intelligent...it's not working. It just makes people think that you're from Rhode Island.

Pisces [Feb 20-March 20]

Hawthome says that I'm a fuck? Was that in The Scarlet Letter? Or was it "The Minister's Black Veil," or The Blithedale Romance? Because I can't remember coming across that anywhere. Incidentally, Whitman wants you to fuck off.

Vegan Recipes

Column by >> Cassie Phillips

Being both an enthusiastic cook and a vegan, I thought one way to spread the gospel would be to share recipes that anyone can cook and everyone will enjoy. Since I am also a college student (like many of The Monitor's readers), I decided to specifically select recipes that are (1) easy (2) cheap and (3) taste great! Furthermore, since my vegan aims are primarily environmental, I also strive to suggest recipes with ingredients that are both in season and can be obtained locally. I firmly believe our diet choices are of the utmost importance. Not only is good food necessary for good health, it can serve many purposes: social gathering, soul satiating, and statement making being my top three. When one buys vegan food, local food, and/or seasonal food, s/he is making a powerful statement. Buying with conscious might not always to the cheapest option, but it is essential to stand up to the food-producing giants and voice an opinion with the all-powerful dollar.

Alright. I'll step down from the soapbox and present this edition's debut recipe:

Peanut Pasta. This recipe is a perfect opener. It embodies all of the goals I listed ed above. The ingredients called for are cheap, easily accessible to the average college student, and delicious. Put it all together for a tasty treat that can be served hot or cold and tastes awesome as leftovers (so make a double batch!).

Peanut Pasta

Ingredients:

- 1. 8 ounces of your favorite pasta
- 2. 1/2 cup smooth OR crunchy peanut butter
- 3. 1/2 cup warm water
- 4. 2 Tbs tamari OR soy sauce
- 5. 1 Tbs rice vinegar or lemon juice
- 6. 1 Tbs orange juice concentrate (I just hand squeeze an orange in there and eat the leftovers)
- 7. 1/4 cayenne pepper OR red chilies (add more if you like it hot!)
- 8. 1 clove garlic, peeled and chopped (OR 1/2 tsp garlic powder)
- 9. 1/2 to 1 tsp fresh chopped ginger root (OR 1/2 tsp dried ground ginger)
- 10.1/4 cup frozen green peas, thawed
- 11.1 finely sliced scallion, white and green parts (optional)
- 12.1/4 cup grated carrot (optional)

Directions:

- 1. Cook pasta according to package directions.
- 2. Meanwhile, combine ingredients 1-9 in a blender, food processor, or with a blending wand.
- 3. About one minute before pasta is finished cooking, add peas, bring back to a boil, and cook for one more minute. When pasta is finished, drain the noodles and peas and combine them with the sauce.
- 4. Add optional scallion and carrot. Toss together and serve. Serves 4.

**This recipe is from *The Teen's Vegetarian Cookbook* by Judy Krizmanic. Though the name sounds juvenile, the recipes are quite good, often suggest ing Vegan alternatives to ingredients.



ear The Vampire,

My pointy incisors have growing pains but I'm afraid to go to e dentist because I might eat her. What do I do?

> Yours, Plaquey Mc Plaquerson

ear Pain Fang,

I don't see your dilemma at this point. I mean, is there a PROB-EM with eating your dentist? I would say that it would do the world great service by drinking her blood. But, since you did ask for dvice on getting your teeth better without going to her, here it is. All ou have to do is raise your hand (the left one, the only one) in the air s high as you possibly can. With the other hand, place a stick lengthvise from ear to ear in your mouth and bite down on it. Grab one of he various knives that you should have hanging over your coffin...by he blade. Make sure you have a firm grip. Once you have done that, ou won't even notice those nasty growing pains.

-The Vampire

Dear Vampire,

What does blood taste like? Do vampires eat anything besides

-Curious In Centennial

Dear Foolish Mortal,

I'm surprised that you have not yet had the pleasure to taste blood. It normally has a pleasantly salty taste with a hint of metal. Sometimes, though, it has quite a variant taste depending on the peron you take it from. For example, I once took it from a man by the name of J. Ragland whose diet consisted off of nothing but candy and

sodapop. I almost went diabetic. I made the mistake of once trying to drink someone's blood while I was out at a party. I ended up driving my car into a streetlight. I could taste the tequila in his blood; As far as eating anything else besides blood. I eat plenty of things, you can actually hardly find me without food in my mouth. My favourite food are Little Debbie snack treats.

-The Vampire

Dear The Vampire,

My boyfriend doesn't know I'm a vampire. Sometimes when we're making love, he says things like "You look so undead" and "stop trying to bite me." Should I tell him the truth, or keep trying to live the lie?

-Likes it Rough in Ryle

Dear Dominatrix,

Since I do not know who your boyfriend is, I can't assess how he would take it if you told him you were a vampire. I would say that it would be a good idea to tell him. Especially if he volunteers for the blood drive when it comes around. You will never go hungry again! And, the

plus side to having him know is that you can guilt him into giving you some of his blood, and that way, you can try to control what he eats, thus flavouring the blood so you don't have the risk of shitty tasting blood from some random person. If your boyfriend objects to you being

a vampire, then he's not worth your time. Besides you really should be dating a nice vampire instead of these filthy humans. Remember, they grow old and die. We live youthfully forever. So, how 'bout it? Care to "play dead?"

-The Vampire

If you have any questions for the Prince of Darkness, he has an email address. That email address - are you ready for it? - the very knowledge has been known to drive people mad - it is: Z.Vampire@gmail.com . If any of you are still sane, direct your questions there, and look in a mirror.

On cafeta etiquete Some people are wandering about deciding what to eat;

It's quite simple.

Feature by >> Emiliy Randall

Studies show that the two biggest things that people who eat in the residence hall cafeterias need to do to make all of our meals at least 85% better are: Move it along and Pass the scoop.

Cafeterias get really hectic at about 5:30. The line to get your food is out the some are wandering about

looking for their friends' table; some are just slow. There is a lot of traffic. The last thing we need at these times is you and your two friends blocking key walkways. However, this is exactly what is happening. Move it along.

In one particular cafeteria, there are but two scoops and a very limited space at the cereal counter. This usually means that

door, and seating is scarce. one person at a time can serve themselves cereal, and occasionally a small line gathers behind them. This is unavoidable. What is astounding, however, is the number of individuals, who, in the position to pass one of the coveted scoops, will return the scoop to the wall hook instead of merely passing it to the next person in line. Do not be disillusioned, hanging that scoop up does not somehow disinfect the scoop. It's the same scoop. It hasn't lost any cereal dust from your Lucky Charms, but I have lost precious time from my life. Pass the scoop.

France...

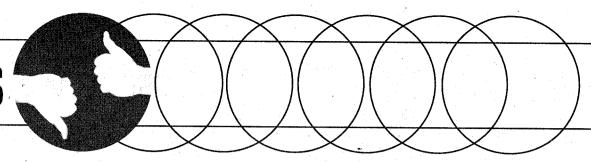
continued from page 7

Secondly, the French social republic model, as I pointed out in an article from Paris Passion magazine in 1989, gives the world a non-military path ahead. For example, in the last French socialist government the still active feminist politicians Mayoress Martine Aubry and Depute Elizabeth Guigou both overcame their respective male bosses' religious "funding" opponents in successfully implementing the 35 hour work week and 130,000 plus civil unions (including Gay civil unions). By contrast, as J. Ishiyama himself was saying after his presentation, while Americans like he think of themselves as generous, in fact, barely "even one percent" of US overseas aid is nonmilitary.

Thirdly, even when it came to the "selfinterest" or "empirical" model both TSU Political Scientists insisted upon elevating to too great a primacy, than would their peers/ scholars/professors in Europe or in Mexico. If you have a view, as Matt Killmeier brilliantly pastiched it, that is exempt from history, then things are going to go seriously awry. This is what is commonly critiqued as "US Exceptionalism". Because in Wandel's and McLane-Iles's terms, you are never going to be able to accept other people's sacrifices. (Wandel referred to the 1.3 million French WWI dead compared with 150,300 American casualties; McLane-Iles referred to the fact that France "has learned" from its humiliating WWII Petain "vanquishing" or defeat and Algerian/Indochinese invasions and through the hard lessons of history, came to understand the ire of an Arab invaded world by we Westerners today.)

Lastly, I would add a slight critique of all the panelists that G. Siewert had the originality to himself challenge them all and us about: "Why no mention of religion and Islam particularly?" Siewert went on laudably to note the fact that mainland France has now 9% or 7 million Muslim citizens, and often in "horrible poverty". Too, the Gaullist rightwing government has controversially refused to allow Muslim female students to wear their religious head scarves at schools. In short, the problem for USA and France alike, as the rest of this benighted planet, is how do we accommodate such religious, perhaps social, difference without repression and violence. Despite the controversy of the scarf, there is the path of international tolerance for diversity as President Chirac has just suggested during a London visit lecture to celebrate the UK/French 1903 Entente Cordiale, ending centuries of warfare just across the Channel. France does have a better path for all of us, especially for Americans and Brits, the Bush/Blair go-it-alone "force majeure" which world resistance will rightly spurn.

reviews



The Last Disciple hallenges tradition of Jerusalem and the ensuing al interpretation hands, they realize that within it is

By Sigmund Brouwer & Hank Hanegraaff Tyndale House Publishers

Review by >> Cory Milles

Since the late 1990s, one book series has consistently been on numerous best-seller lists, as well as a staple in Christian bookstores: the Left Behind series. Perhaps the reason for its success is that it focuses on a mysterious book, the book of Revelation. Or perhaps it is because it deals in paranoia and endtimes cataclysmic events. After all, just look at how many disaster movies are successful. But the views presented by the Left Behind authors are not the only ones that are accepted by theologians, as evidenced by a new book by Hank Hanegraaff and Sigmund Brouwer.

The Last Disciple draws on a position of the end times known as "preterism," which has as its roots the word meaning "past." Preterists believe that most of the events foretold in the book of Revelation, as well as significant portions of the Olivet Discourse in Matthew, actually pertain to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. Therefore, when Jesus said, "Many who are standing here will not taste death until all these things are fulfilled," he meant it literally, not symbolically.

The Last Disciple revolves around the persecution of Christians by the Emperor Nero in the late 60s AD. Accounts from that time reveal that Nero engaged in some horrific practices, including using Christians as "candles" for his garden parties. The novel centers on Vitas, one of Nero's trusted advisors.

Through a series of events, Vitas encounters much political turmoil in his home of Rome and also witnesses firsthand the escalating tensions in Jerusalem. As the Tribulation continues, word spreads of a secret letter written by one of Jesus's downfall of Emperor Nero. As different contained a code that can tell them of future events.

The book overall is interesting. It is refreshing to see a different, and more historically-based, point of view on the end times. While the book is didactic in a few instances and very episodic in points, it quickly ties together. Most refreshing is that the same publishers of the Left Behind series are the ones who are publishing this novel, desiring to present differing viewpoints and letting the reader decide which is more sound.

Unlike the Left Behind series, The Last Disciple does not revolve around a "rapture" and ensuing tribulation. Instead, author Hanegraaff, host of the "Bible Answer Man" broadcast, points out that one cannot understand Revelation without first understanding the Old Testament literature, to which half of Revelation refers. There is no "antichrist," but the Beast, which was personified in the person of Nero Caesar. There is no physical "coming" of Christ, but a coming in judgment as is denoted in many Old Testament references. Readers who are not familiar with this type of thinking will need to re-adjust their methods of interpretation.

Perhaps the best part of The Last Disciple is that while it is entertaining, it also presents an interpretation of Revelation that keeps the original context of the letter intact. John had written it to a specific audience at a specific point in history, and this is made clear in the book. Overall, the book is a great glimpse into history, and readers who are interested in the study of eschatology will find within its pages a unique and historical view of the end times.

Coconut Dave_The Big Bantoo

Review by >> Frances Dusseault

Coconut Dave, who recently performed upstairs in the SUB this past week, got a big turnout. Probably because there was nothing else going on. And his name is "Coconut Dave." Even if he turned out really really lame, his lameness looked like it would be entertaining, too.

He came dressed in a bright Hawaiian shirt with a beach scene on it, longish hair, and a box of free straw hats and plastic maracas. And managed to keep the seats filled for more than half his performance. How did he do that? He was corny. He was cheesy. But he was so relaxed, you could barely believe it. He just a guy who loves entertaining and seeing people have a good time. The audience warmed up to him quickly.

He started with a few radio tunes, like "It's 5:00 somewhere." On the steel drums. At first, it sounded like some weird Musak elevator song versions, but then he would get to the 'guitar solo' parts and let it loose on these steel drums, and it sounded really cool. He played like he was playing a symphonic instrument. Plus, the steel drums have this wonderfully pleasant sound. They are soft sounding, but not soft enough to put you to sleep. It's like listening to trickling water making music.

And every time he sensed interest waning, he'd throw out a few Frisbees. Which would fly into lots of raised hands, because it's cool to have a Frisbee that says "Coconut Dave" on it. I hate getting useful things I'm afraid to use in front of other people because they say embarrassing things on them; like a fruity grape "The Harvard of the Midwest" frisbee embossed with gold. Way to try to hard, PR people. It's a Frisbee, dude. I'm trying to be cool here.

He joked around just enough to relax people, and most of hi jokes were actually good. He also snuck in interesting bits of informa tion, like that his instrument is historically the newest acoustic instrument in the world. And that it's "made from the bottom of a steal drum, and hammered out into notes by someone much smarter than me," he says.

Once the audience warmed up to him, he started with classics like Bob Marley's "Mount Zion," which sound ed wonderful with his very smooth and rolling voice. The voice was perfect for lines like "everything will be ooooookaaay...."

Dave's original songs highlight ed the night; they showed his original and contagious sense of humor. The first one got everyone laughing and smiling. It was about an island boy who found more than one girl he loved, and to each girl his dad said "that woman's really your sister...but don't tell yo' mama, cause yo' mama don't know...." So the boy gets sick of this and tells his mama. His mother says "that's okaaaay...cause yo daddy's not yo' daddy, but yo' daddy don't knowwww..." hap-"It pens," says Dave, "It's a small island."

The next song alluded to all the folic symbols he could think of, many from tropical islands. It was called "The Big Bamboo." At one point the lyrics went 'I like the coconuts, but I want the treeee toooo..." to which he looked at the audience and shrugged Don't think to hard, he seemed to say, it really just doesn't make any sense. It was so quirky and funny that afterwards, people rushed up to the table of his free CD's to get that track for their own collections.

The audience had fun with this friendly, funny steel drum player. It was a good time on a weekday night.

The Melisma New Infection

usstones Records ww.melismatics.com

ieview by >> Royce Kallerud

Each Melismatics album takes hem another step closer to rock heaven. heir last, Postmodern Rock, had them harting on CMJ and piling up fab eviews for their effortless pop manistos (the opener "Can't Relate" starts with the defiant: "I don't like the voices in my radio"). Their latest, New infection, ups the ante: It's not alternative, even though they get compared to the Replacements and Pavement, it's not traight-up pop, even though they get compared to Cheap Trick and The Cars, and it's not metal, even though they get compared to AC/DC and Van Halen.

So what is it? Usually rock thrives on hero worship, on the distance between band and fan. Think U2's "Mysterious Ways" or Van Halen's "Panama": No one would think those songs were written to them. Now here's what The Melismatics sing: "Take a look around you / Things are as they're supposed to be / You don't see where you fit in / Well it's right here ext to me." The Melismatics sing right to you and they play as if the world ended now. Their live combo of Springsteen-esque endurance and Knacklike lack of pretension (make fun of "My Sharona" but most songs aren't a hundredth as good) emerges as you listen to New Infection and that's what makes the album fantastic.

That said, New Infection is a studio album, the songs are polished and subtle while still capturing the Dionysian



abandon of their live show. Maybe the comparison to Van Halen explains it: These are both party bands, immediate and not interested in anything like angst, but where Van Halen's albums have long since become products for the masses, The Melismatics are still what music should be, singing to the people who shell out fifteen bucks for a CD and get out to see them live. I'm not sure what they're talking about when they sing "It's easy to say things are going okay / It's easy to say things are easy to say" in the gloriously silly "(Let's Get) Sublimated!" but I know they want us to sing along, they believe every word of it, and they're having the time of their lives.

The Melismatics play live and in person at the DuKum Inn on Friday, Feb. 11 with two of Kirksville's finest bands, Beggars Can't Be Choosers and the Pussy Posse, opening. Doors open at 8:30 and advance tickets are available at the DuKum and Washington Street Java Co.

Classic movie review. The Good, the Bad, and the Ugy

Review by >> Joseph T. Pini

"Fuck you, I am not Aaron Baker." I muttered this phrase no less than twice during my freshman year at Truman State University. The first time was to a girl who mistook me for the handsome actor who read with her during A Midsummer Night's Dream auditions. I was terribly confused because she was congratulating me for being cast in the show, which I was, but she nonetheless had me confused with another.

FACT: Both Aaron Baker and I performed in the spring 2005 production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. FACT: Aaron and I danced the sevillanas together. FACT: I had long hair and wore thick framed glasses at the same time as Aaron. FACT: Fuck you, I am not Aaron Baker.

Confusing me with Aaron is like confusing Woody Allen with Benicio del Toro who as far I know have never worked together and Benicio doesn't wear glasses but that doesn't matter because I am not actually Jewish.

Over Thanksgiving break I found a pair of cowboy boots just my size for only ten dollars. I also bought six samural swords at the flea market but that is neither here nor there. I have worn those cowboy boots almost every day since. It feels

wonderful to finally be fleshing out my childhood dreams of being a cowboy. When my friends saw them their initial reactions were "Who are you, Aaron Baker?" I responded accordingly and went about my business.

Over Winter Break I rented The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. I had never seen any films by Sergio Leone and was thoroughly impressed. Who knew the Italians could make awesome Westerns? This gave me hope, being of Italian descent, that I could break the racial constraints and be the first Italian cowboy to shout "Fuck you, I am not Aaron Baker!" to the world.

Do you remember that scene in Back to the Future II when Biff is in a hot tub with some bodacious babes and Marty interrupts the party to bring up Gray's Sports Almanac? Well the movie Biff is watching is A Fistful of Dollars, which is not The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly but it is still a pretty awesome movie.

I always wondered if Marty observed what part of Fistful that Biff was watching and recollected it during Back to the Future III when he is fighting "Mad Dog" Tannen. Or perhaps Marty simply thought of it on his own. Either way, that kid's ass was saved.

Several thoughts on Dave How We Are Hungry: Sto

Review by >> Aaron Baker

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11

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monitortrm
@hotmail.com
If you send it
It will print

the monitor.

9 february, 2005

Happy Valentines Day! "Your Special Holiday Wish"	IO	(E. S.)
(an excerpt from The Fine Art of Erotic Talk by Bonnie Gabriel)	O	
If your wish is to make in the at the local drive-in,	NY	C
you may both decide to do just that. (Drape your car (s) for privacy, (something see-through)		
though!). Or, you could just pretend that you're at the drive (sexual-ing word) (emotion)		
in while cavorting ly in your own (anice feeling) (anice noun)		
You might continue by "(izing)" the scene. In other words, use all of	Goto C	ottonFactory.
(bodypart) (bodypart) (bodypart) (bodypart) (bodypart) (cerb) (bodypart) (cerb) (cerb)	it's really funny	
(body part) You feel so I just want to	prints ingeniously r	Service of the servic
(adjective) (body part) (a pretty word) (a funword) you."		by >>Tim Wittmann wardrobe downdate? Cottonfactory.com
Your partner might with, "Let's get out of our right (this, that, or the other thing)	might just be your hoo	ok-up. Offering both his and hers tees in a ts, the fine folks at the Cotton Factory will
way. Please help me" To which you might add, "Here, (vab)	inject retro euphoria in	to your life for from \$4.00 to \$18.00 a hit. ts with the Factory's classic "1980 World
against this for support while I take off your (clothing item) (clothing item)	Pong Champion" or "	Gnome Sorcery Federation" tee. Sporting only make you one stylish mofo, but grant
Oh, don't move. That's a nice Mmmm."	a +5 enhancement b	onus to all Hit on Demographically- g Babe checks as well. And, if you be a
Created by: The MAD LIBeration Front	But maybe that's	not your style. Don't despair! The Factory
	new "I Caught You A I	yone. Feeling silly? Go with their spankin' Delicious Bass" shirt. Really excited about
Make your own satire!	Their "New Jersey-W	tee on for size. Swelling with states' pride? e'll Take Anybody" or "Iowa-Our Trees
President Bush discusses the environment in "The State of the Union Address" (an excerpt from the State of the Union Address by President George W. Bush)	Saucy, studly, or bold a	Ainnesota Sucks" tee begs for your torso. nd beautiful? Their "Stud Muffin" (and the nstantly cornball, in the best possible way-
Our third goal is toenergy independence for our country while dramatically (verb)	a mustached muffin lift are made for getting at	ting a barbell) and "Polish Princess" tees tention.
ing the environment. () I have sent you a comprehensive energy	sweaters, hoodies, and,	ain squeeze is their printed tees, but their yes, even lingerie are worth checking out,
plan to promote energy and to develop technology, (nice adjective) (nice adjective) (adjective)	cerned, eep! We're talk	
and to produce more at home () I have sent	people in fun, vintage	ne thing the Factory does well, it's putting clothes. And if clothes aren't your thing, east spend a couple very entertaining min-
(important noun) (something politicians do) you Skies legislation that mandates a % cut in air pollution from	utes perusing cottonfac	tory.com. I mean, come on, where do they lesigns anyway? "In Loving Memory of
(adjective) (sincere sounding number) power plants over the next 15 years. () I have sent you a	Tape?!?!?" That's just g	genius. IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
(something politicians do) (adjective) Forests Initiative, to help prevent the that devastate, kill		TAPE
(something bad) (something you like), and burn away millions of acres of treasured (Applause.)		ONO
(something nice) (something else nice that you like)		1915-1992
I urge you to these measures for the of both our environment		
(verb) (sincere sounding word) and our economy. () Even more, I ask you to take a step and	Fen	cing (Fig.)
(something politicians do) (adjective)	A Line III	urts
protect our environment in ways that generations before could not haveeded.		a lib
Created by: The MAD LiBeration Front!	I .	हमित्र विमित्व
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Delgado bits ... Of Life

Feature by >> Andrés Delgado

Ever since The Monitor lost our sports reporter to the illicit whore that is the Index, there has been a noticeable silence on its part on current matters in the world of sports, national and local. Now this writer flips the lights back on to re-illumine the missed drama and debates that are the hallmarks of sports

Jim Brown: he was fast. It's time to put this debate to rest - clearly Jim Brown was pretty fast, or at least good at not being tackled, or perhaps both. Once, Jim Brown outran a motorcycle, you should have seen it. From that day forward, he was known as Crazylegs Jim Brown.

Here's a name you might not know very well, but which you'll soon be hearing a lot: that of Andre Ward. Light heavyweight Ward took home the U.S.'s only boxing gold medal in the 2004 Olympics, and so far has a 1-0-0 record, with the win coming by way of knockout. The tough Oakland native's path is beginning in the same way as those taken by previous gold medaliststurned-professional megastars Oscar De La Hoya and George Foreman. Indeed, he is even drawing comparisons to a young Rocky Marciano, the legendary heavyweight who unified the heavyweight title at the age of seven in 1923

The Black Eyed Peas will be featured in the opening ceremonies at the New York City Special Olympics, performing their hit single, Let's Get Retarded. The song is this year's Special Olympics theme and will be played sporadically at nonsensical times throughout the Kirksville Olympics, perhaps at an incorrect stadium.

Of course, Jose Canseco's book is the topic of much scorn from sports pundits and former teammates and other people with too much time on their hands. I really have no comment on this.

The Murderers basketball team have begun their preseason training in preparation for the annual No-Rules Streetball Tournament that takes place at the Rec in April. Last year, the team was only shut out once, and this year

fiction by >> Jon Lawinger

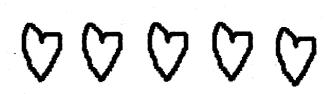
- I don't know doc. Not really. I mean, I had this nightmare last night. It was pretty crazy. I mean, I'm driving down this empty freeway in the middle of the night, like cruising full guns, a hundred miles per hour, when I hit this construction zone. All of a sudden the road is lined with those orange barrels, and they narrow the wide shoulders and two lanes down to the width of a car after a little while. Staying between these reflective orange stumps whipping by is easy, so I don't even slow down. Then they start to snake from side to side, leading me from lane to lane and out onto the shoulders. They don't make any sense but I follow them anyway. They start to swerve more drastically and edge off the shoulder from time to time. My knuckles go white navigating this unexplained highway obstacle course, but I don't stop or even ease up. Maybe that seems kind of crazy, but it's really not. I mean, in the dark you can't see what's ahead, so you trust those orange barrels, you know. You follow them wherever they go. Sure, the weaving seems odd, but I keep going. They straighten out a little and just when I'm starting to relax they veer hard left, right off the road. So I'm bouncing and fighting with the steering wheel and somehow end up back on the road again still going full guns between those barrels. As soon as I get back up to speed I notice headlights coming straight on and realize I'm jetting a hundred miles-per-hour through a narrow orange-barrel alley down the wrong side of the road. That's when I woke up. I mean, I just don't understand it. But hey, you're the shrink... so, you know... what's that supposed to mean?
- I asked you if you were sleeping well, not what you were dreaming. Dreams don't mean a damn thing. What's been going on in your life lately?
- I spend all my time at work or with my girlfriend. I hate my job. I hate my girlfriend. I've been thinking about quitting. Or breaking up. Or both. Simultaneously if I can think of a way to do it.

One week later:

- I had another one, completely different from that highwa thing. This time I find myself on stage, and I realize that I'm stan ing in the middle of a play and I'm the lead actor. But the thing is don't know any of the lines, and I've never seen the play before, I'm just making it up as I go. And even worse, the play is lil Shakespearean or something, so I have to make up lines in O English right on the spot.
 - Early Modern English.
 - What?
- Shakespeare wrote in Modern English. You probably coul n't even read Old English.
- Oh. Well then I'm improv'ing in Shakespearean with all the "canst thee"s and "dost thou"s and everything. And I'm nervous hell because I don't know what I'm doing. But the crazy thing is, i working. I'm not sure how I know but I know everyone thinks i awesome and the newspapers are going to run rave reviews and n performance is going to go down in history and everything, if I ca just keep it up until the end of the play. So in the middle of the thi act, there I am pouring sweat and shouting "thou art naught but knavish fool!" when-
- Do I look like Freud to you? Quit babbling about yo dreams. I told you, they don't mean anything. How have you be sleeping?
 - Badly
 - Why?
 - I keep having these crazy dreams.

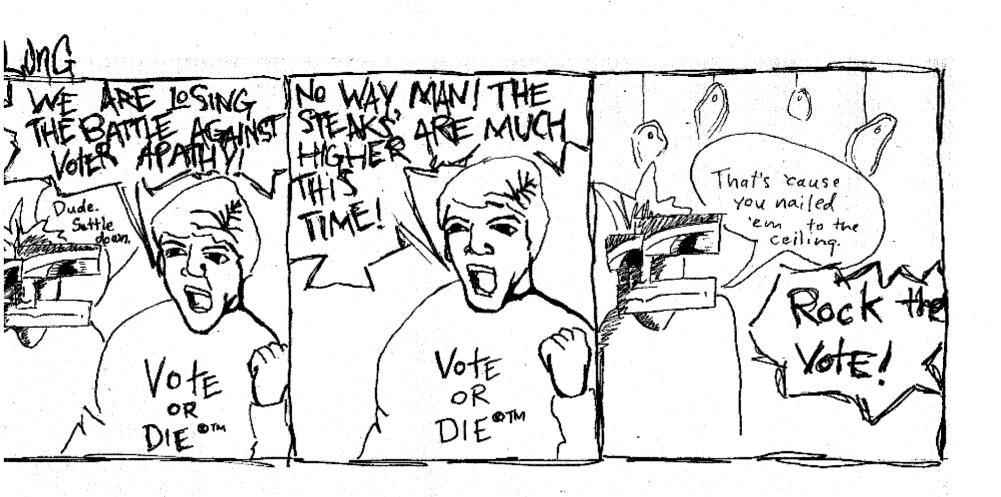
boasts a deeper bench, new Air Force 1s, and an And 1 DVD from which to learn even more dazzling tricks than were employed on the way to a respectable first-round exit from last year's tournament. Visitors to the Murderer's training court have seen attempts at Off da Heazay to mixed success, including a bloody nose.

Finally, in possibly the most exciting sports news, I was awesomel at indoor soccer in the first grade. Il was phenomenal, possibly more dominant in my league than any other player in any other sport that has ever existed. I'm not even exaggerating. I could play any position, literally score at will, and only ever allowed one goal while goalkeeping. Then somehow between second and fourth grade my relative skill level fell swiftly and steeply. I still cannot explain this. In the present I occasionally score one goal in indoor soccer at the Rec, usually by luck.









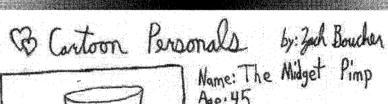
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(Fold)

00000

This card is in no way endorsed by the actual Dave. But, I think he'd like it. And, I think he'd like you, too.





Name: The mager timp
Age: 45
Likes: Women, money
Dislikes: Bitches that
don't pay what they owe.
Comments: It really doesn't
matter what I like or not.
I'm lookin' for some new
hoes for my customers. A few
of those I got right now are
retiring at the ripe old
age of 30. More of them
have so many STDs no man
wants them. So I need
208 girls to get my numbers
back to 5,732. I pay well.

Photography

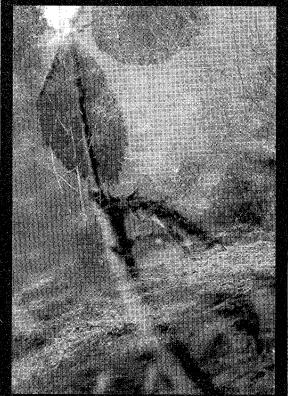
send your photos to monitortrm@hotmail.com



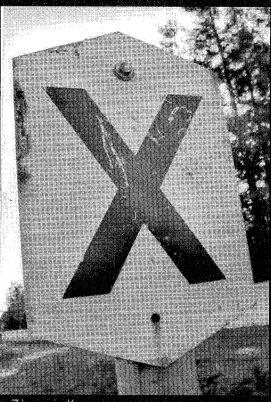
Jon Lawinger



Phil Jarret



Zhian Kamvar



Zhian Kamvar



Phil Jarret

My Back Pages

This buddy of mine thinks she's gonna find fifty poets in this town or more and have em all talk into this tape box. I think she's full of it. So I bet her \$50 that she won't do it. Help prove me wrong by sending all sorts of stuff by you or anyone you know to countzachula@hotmail.com. Suck it.

The Legend of Mister...

Ruminating in rooms with no windows or lights,
Consciousness abating, he revels in light of
the 'hmms' and 'hmms' laving the room of his mind blind.
And still leaving room in the still of the aether
he still neither ponders nor squanders the
still of the room – the doleful dolt!

Whilst oh! The icy breath of death descends it permeates interstices betwixt the cracks upon the faker's head and bends him into him, the wan faker now fixed, forlorn in flux; always gone, never missed.

Minnesota drivers are worse But New York style pizza Buffalo chicken and a side of sauce Would go well with a side of Darth Vader.

THE COUNTERSTRIKE PLAYERS.

1337 AT THE GOLDEN SHOVEL.

And a helping of Wookie, Ewoks for appetizers

California drivers are bitches

With the Empire in close second,

Closing in fase

"Luke, I am your father" echoing Pychedelic wars of the schizophrenia

An obvious allusion to this poem.

Leprechauns are funny.
They're such fiesta, ravenous, greedy little men
Those wolves with sharp teeth
Bittersweet death is closing in
And I'm loving every second of it.
The best ones have cheese.

-Clarissa, Casey, Jason, Chris

OMG. We WTF. We BRB. We

We LOL. We

LMAO. We

GTG. We Die soon.

TTYL. We

-Cooch Bandersnatch

-- A TODAS LAS QUE FINGIERON CONVENCERME

Todas las que amé y me amaron las que me dieron a beber en sus labios dorados el zumo de sus sueños y luego las otras la mujer maravilla el agua profunda de sus ojos azules el color de su sexo Jane la de Tarzán su electrizante olor a selva sus pecaminosos ojos de felino y Ruth la moabita como una espiga inclinada sobre los silenciosos campos de Booz Todas las que fingieron convencerme de que vo era el más fuerte el menos vulnerable a sus irradiaciones el más propicio para luchar contra el enganño Todas las que mordieron el anzuelo feroz de mis palabr que sepan que nunca fui Clark Kent

-author unknown

Furrowing along the Fertile Crescent of Desire longing, hoping, praying, lusting for lots of fried okra and no hanky panky.
Because that will get you in trouble Yet only trouble brings adventure And adventure will only bring trouble.
Trouble will bring the police.
The police will bring the chips and soda.

Then we'll all celebrate the New Year Cheering and ringing as dawn comes once more

Hope is alive once again.

Meredith Heist, Lindsey Walker, Katie Jackson, Tara Schneider, Katherine Goodwin

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