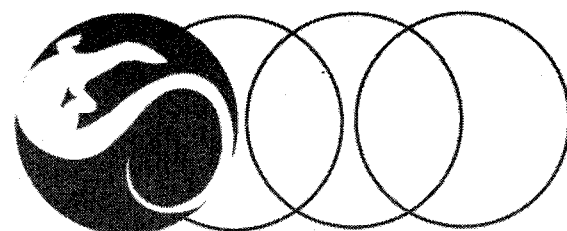




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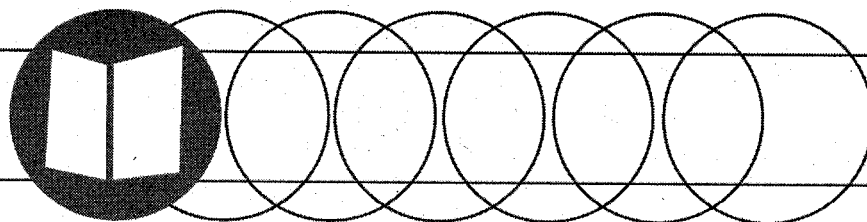
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"Among people who have learned something from the 18th century (say, Voltaire) it is a truism, hardly deserving discussion, that the defense of the right of free expression is not restricted to ideas one approves of, and that it is precisely in the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

--Noam Chomsky

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## Topeka voters keep sexual orientation discrimination protections

**story by >> Tim Linn**

In an election held Monday, April 4th, 2005, the citizens of Topeka, Kansas voted against a measure that would repeal an ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in city elections. The final vote tally revealed a 53% majority were opposed to the bill. Action to reinstate the ordinance would have been blocked for ten years had the measure passed.

"If you succeed in passing a gay-rights ordinance, the next morning, we'll be back on

the streets, collecting signatures," said crotchety old bastard Fred Phelps, minister at the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka.

Also in the elections, Jael Phelps, granddaughter of Phelps, failed in her campaign for a city council seat. She finished fourth in a primary, behind Tiffany Muller, an openly gay member of the council, who finished second to proceed to the general election. Some voters cited Phelps' ubiquitous hate as a factor in not only his granddaughter's defeat, but also the defeat of the repeal measure.

## Operation Falcon rounds up fugitives

**story by >> Ian Florida**

The US Marshals, working in conjunction with the FBI, as well as over 960 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, have decided to go all out on any fugitive from the law. Last month the combined efforts of these law enforcement agencies nabbed 10,340 fugitives. Their goal is another 36,000 more in the upcoming months.

Codenamed "Operation Falcon," the dragnet was the largest ever in numbers of arrests. More than 150 who were arrested were wanted for murder, another 550 were sought on rape or sexual assault charges, and more than 600 had

outstanding arrest warrants for armed robbery, officials said. The remainder were mostly non-violent offenders.

The hunt to catch these wanted men and women arose from an increase in Congressional, and budgetary support. Congress has given the US Marshals more money and authority over arrests and has strengthened their ability to go after terrorists. While refocusing the FBI's mission to stopping terrorism in the wake of Sept 11, Congress gave the Marshals more tools to go after fugitives. Operation Falcon was the product of those tools.

## Counter Clinton Library granted tax-exempt status

**story by >> Ian Florida**

The Counter Clinton LIE-brary, to be built just blocks away from the Clinton Presidential Library in downtown Little Rock Arkansas has just received tax-exempt status from the Federal Government. The library, which plans on opening its doors by the end of the year, includes over 40,000 pieces of anti-Clinton propaganda.

On his website, [www.counterclintonlibrary.com](http://www.counterclintonlibrary.com), Richard Erickson, the founder of the organization, describes the museum as a "permanent thorn in the sides of the Clintons." The dedication of 40,000 pieces of literature and artifacts about the Clintons pales in comparison to the 80 million documents in the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library.

The museum is set to feature a brief video

about the Clintons which will continually play in the "orientation" center, which, ironically, also contains information on how Clinton tried to "subvert American morality," by allowing gays in the military. The film is narrated by Sean Hannity. Also featured in the library will be a room filled with dioramas depicting a timeline of his presidency and exhibiting "his own immoral behavior," through miniatures. Another section of the library claims that "Throughout Bill Clinton's political career, opponents and others who sought to expose the truth about "Slick Willie" often ended up dying under mysterious circumstances."

Aside from accusing Clinton of murder, theft, burglary, and treason, it accuses Al Gore of stealing vast amounts of money from Buddhist monks.

## Chirac pushes for French passage of EU constitution

**story by >> Ian Florida**

Recent public opinion polls show France rejecting the Constitution for the European Union. The numbers have 53% of French citizens rejecting the charter. Despite the majority opposition, French leaders show no fear in claiming that some kind of EU constitution will be adopted by France. French President Jacques Chirac fears that French lack of involvement will only hurt France. Many of those opposing the EU constitution in France are young liberals.

Chirac discussed the "Anglo-Saxon" enemies of the EU residing in both Britain and America during a two and a half hour interview with some of his nation's youth. He told them that those "Anglo-Saxons" would be delighted if the French reject a constitution "largely inspired by France and French values." He fears that without participation in the new Europe, France's voice will be silenced.

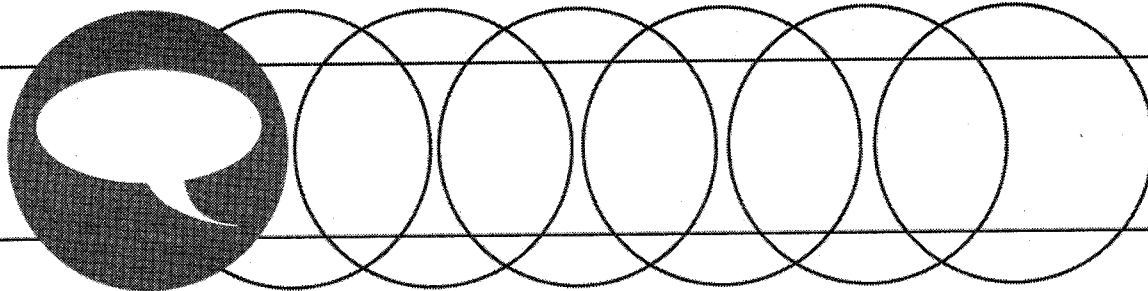
French voters expressed doubts about the new legislation, not because they disagreed with it, but because it is "vague." Many French citizens have questions that are not so easily answered. The main question seems to be "how does this help France?" To that President Chirac has offered little explanation. Many expressed concern over the legislation's possibility of damaging France's economy, and with an unemployment rate currently hovering at 10%, those fears seem justifiable.

Chirac claimed that a French "oui" to the referendum would create a boom in French trade with Eastern Europe. If the legislation goes through, the treaty would uplift women's rights internationally and increase co-operation against international crime.

*Editor's Box*

Yeah, like you care what we have to say.

*Jon Lawinger*  
*Andres Delgado*  
*Frances Dusseault*



## A good place to start: anti-sweatshop activism

**Sweatshop issue offers students, young progressives an ideal entry point into activist politics**

**opinion by >> Matt Killmeier**

The French have a saying, "l'argent n'a pas d'odeur" - money has no smell. In other words, as a medium of exchange, money masks the smell of labor. In an increasingly global economy, transnational corporations such as Nike have taken this a step further.

Searching for a cheaper and more malleable workforce, Nike and its ilk in the apparel and shoe industries seek to keep the scent of exploitation away from their products. Circumventing the globe like a postmodern imperialist, Nike maintains a network of global sweatshops. Despite strong efforts to hide it, people have recently detected a foul odor emanating from the (in)famous Swoosh.

A presentation on April 12 by Jim Keady and Leslie Kretzu brought this to TSU in a tactile manner. A former assistant soccer coach at St. John's University, Keady researched Nike's labor practices while working on his M.A. in theology. The abhorrent conditions led him to refuse to wear the contractually required Nike equipment. University officials told him to drop the issue or resign. He chose the latter. Curious about the real world of Nike's Indonesian workers, Keady and colleague Leslie Kretzu adopted the lifestyle, diet, customs and culture of the factory workers and lived on their prevailing wages over approximately a two-month period. Excerpts of their research and edifying resources are available at [www.educatingforjustice.org](http://www.educatingforjustice.org). Keady and Kretzu bring a strong moral stance to the issue, drawing upon Catholic social teaching, but their work complements one of the more vibrant, successful, and educational movements in recent years-the anti-sweatshop movement, which during the late 1990s was a central focus of college activism.

The sweatshop issue has the potential to unite disparate interests and revive progressive movements and politics. If you're concerned about human rights, women's rights, social justice, globalization, the predatory role of transnational corporations, global trade, and the role of governments and universities in the global economy, sweatshops are tangible entry points that open up into a larger

landscape.

As one of the co-founders of a United Students Against Sweatshops chapter at the University of Iowa in 1999, I saw such potential develop from latent possibilities into real progress. What follows are some reflections based on this experience that I hope will spur education, engagement and activism at TSU.

UISAS was started by two people in 1999, and at our first meeting one person showed up, but by the spring of 2000 we had 50 people occupying the administration building, regular rallies with hundreds of students, community members, church members, and workers in attendance, state and national media exposure, and we achieved most of our main goals. This wasn't easy and it didn't happen overnight. One thing we learned was the importance of reflective engagement, or putting your liberal arts education and critical thinking into practice. Learn about the institutions, laws, policies, practices pertinent to your issue. Learning for yourself and with others how things work, or are supposed to, is an important component of self-education. Dividing work among members and briefing and educating one another is vital to becoming an activist, and an important dimension to bringing new members into the fold. For example, we educated ourselves about sweatshop labor in the global economy, the University's licensing policies (what they required of corporations licensed to produce Iowa apparel), and used the Iowa Open Records Laws (MO equivalent is the Sunshine Law) to get the details of the coaches' contracts with Nike and others. Business students undertook the task of learning how to apply for and successfully gain University money as a student organization, and later members used their education in Spanish in visiting factories where independent unions had contracts in Mexico.

Effective activism requires that you become, if you aren't already, a competent researcher, investigator and peer educator. Don't rely exclusively on secondary sources; personal involvement and engagement make you a more effective organizer, educator and activist; when you're able to draw on personal research and investigation, you become a more credible, personable and intelligent activist. Remember, to media and the public you're automatically suspect because you're an activist not a "passivist" like the silent, compliant majority, and one way to counter some of that skepticism is to become an expert on your issues (there are certainly experts mobilized by the opposition).

Another way to reflectively engage is to critically reflect on your past and future communications and actions-be your toughest critics: read, watch and listen to media coverage of your group or issue, know your opposition to the best of your abilities (they will certainly do the same). Consider

**continued on page 4**

## Labour party faces dilemma in upcoming election

**opinion by >> Larry Iles**

I am in an unusual, yet statistically not alone, indecisive state about my native UK general election, whose May 5th result might well arrive before this Monitor explanatory piece about why its issues should matter to you! Like literally millions of traditional Labour voters, I am leaving it to the last preceding poll day. To tell my legal proxy voter, first Socialist Hove feminist former mayor, Betty Walshe, whether I'm reluctantly keeping my vote Labour or ABSTAINING! And, alienated, I am, in NORMAL loyalty, a party member of 15 years standing, having held two local government vote-raising dramatic candidacies in the famous Victorian Brighton station huge ward, and three Observer participant roles at national governing Labour policy conventions for our US chapter members sakes!

Since on past form the UK election is disgracefully the sole FOREIGN election covered by CSPAN USA, courtesy of live relays from BBC 2 or SKY UK TV, (CSPAN will try to cover on the night) here's how to understand the dilemmas of such representative Europeans as me. The problem our UK media do spotlight is the Bush-Blair connection. One so hated that an American polling firm hired for the pro-war itself London TIMES has just astounded, reported! After a survey of the highly educated but working class campus city MILTON KEYNES new city in Britain, that it cannot safely predict the result, even what would be a safe seat there! Evidently, just being shown a video of Bush-Blair lying about Iraq in their presence turned off voters of all classes from Blair, he simply cannot be trusted in their eyes on ANY issue, the shocked polling firm reported in volatility!

Yet the distrust dilemma is acute if millions of we Labour voters do abstain so losingly. Or vote for the far more obviously than we Labour Leftists, third placed national Liberal Democrats anti-war, pro-European choice. As thereby we might only indeed cause, yes, the healthy disappearance of the servile 400 strong Blairite pro-USA majority, but too something worse! We would be letting in the socially, economically reactionary Conservatives under their Welsh leader, Michael Howard!

Howard as Thatcher-Major's Home Secretary was and is a nasty lawyer type who did horrible things restrictively to new immigrants of different skin colour, to his own East European, ironically, illegal Jewish immigrant dad's modern refugee sufferers. And he

pledges worse treatment to successive sufferers now that the Channel tunnel trains are up and flying to France a mere 20 minutes underwater in case of refugee accessibility. True, in Scotland and Wales in addition to this big three party choice, voters have a better, more left wing variety of pick options in the SNP (Scots Nationalists) and Plaid Cymru (PARTY OF WALES) who are also anti-US and its wars, even leading the impeachment moves on Blair for lives lost by his and Bush's lies! Yet, because our electoral system for GB only elections is primitive, like yours, if these parties on the celtic Arthurian fringes win too well in actual MPS, its LABOUR as a government who will not be surviving.

So watch out for this result, perhaps on a record low overall turnout such is the disgust with Tony Phoney and the conceited Texas idiot here! One good certainty is that the chances of a healthy small real Labour government return have been opinion poll boosted by one early campaign decision. Unprecedentedly for a Brit PM, Blair has already been forced to surrender some of his Lloyd Georgeite ego by agreeing that this election will mercifully be his last as party leader, and that he will keep his socialist historian finance minister, Dr Gordon Brown, in that job if they survive May 5th! Whilst Brown too is sold on this particular stupid current US war, he is a personal friend of Kerry, has proved a brilliant wealth redistributionist to the poor and UK's vast elderly social security dependents, and has the enthusiastic backing of many on the trade union funders and even we Left to be the Phoney's favourite, plotting successor!

Another final thing to watch as you listen to the results analysis perhaps live and hopefully spurn too many US TV pundits' ignorant, unhistorical non-class non-sociological, Rightist selfish glosses, is to watch the vast Muslim and Black British vote flex its muscles for perhaps decisively the first dynamic time ever! I myself still don't want to get over the impact of the anti-war march of Muslim girl comrades with me outside Downing Street, and the traditional too complacent Labour allegiances have vigorously gone accordingly. Several key once Blairite seats could go the the anti-war GREEN and RESPECT minor radical parties, just because of this now militant vote and heavy student voter turn-outs protest-wise. Watch MAY 5th as for sure one Bush chum gets some merited pay back despite his fan club's best attempts to make voters forget the mess that is Iraq!



# Sweatshops

## continued from page 3

how what you say and do will be framed by media and received by the public and use such reflections when developing and planning. Everything you do or say publicly is educational; to the public, your opponents and it should be to you. Learn from your mistakes and capitalize on your strengths. As we became more public in our activism, our meetings included discussions of how we were being covered in the media, and how the administration was responding. This allowed us to become more savvy and creative in our actions and communications. We also studied and reflected upon the work of predecessors; the apartheid divestiture movement (our lawyer was active in it when he was a student), we had history and rhetoric teaching assistants participate in teach-ins that dealt with the Vietnam anti-war movement, the Berkeley Free Speech Movement and Students for a Democratic Society. And we also had a professor of rhetoric conduct a teach-in on how to effectively frame our messages and communications, and how to positively respond to criticism from opponents. This had two benefits: First, it helped provide a sense of tradition and counter the feelings that we were few in number or doomed to failure. Second, it provided creative ideas, strategic insights, and some negative examples to learn from.

In addition to reflective engagement you also need organization and education. Make the issues tangible and concrete; if they're complex and abstract, find ways of translating them into simple terms for diverse constituencies- this doesn't mean dumbing them down, but rather converting the complex into the accessible. The anti-sweatshop movement did this from the outset by focusing on clothing and university apparel as an entry point into the larger issues of labor rights, women's rights, human rights, environmental concerns, and globalization; we emphasized the tangible, widespread, everyday products that everyone, save nudists, can relate to. If we tried to talk about the larger issues first, I don't think we would have been so successful. We used the labels in clothes as a tangible, individual example that we could extrapolate from.

Another way to educate and organize is to reach people where they are. In short, identify your audiences or constituencies, and target them accordingly. For example, we wanted to target progressive religious/fair groups, so we put together an info pack that stressed the moral and ethical dimensions, a youth minister at the local United Churches of Christ church put up a bulletin board on sweatshop labor that emphasized child labor (it had a child's Iowa T-shirt along with direct, concise details about working conditions). We met with local Quakers and they communicated with their congregations locally and with the national Friends' organizations and we had priests from Catholic Worker Houses and the Newman Center speak at rallies. We also framed sweatshops as a moral issue. I wrote a column in the student newspaper that highlighted the hypocrisy of the men's basketball coach, Steve Alford, who had a lucrative contract with Nike and was fond of wearing a "What Would Jesus Do?" bracelet as well as invoking his Christianity in local media coverage. I asked if Alford's Jesus would try to start a union, would he demand humane treatment for workers,

or would he tell us the workers are happy with their lot. Additionally, we wanted to target legislators so we educated ourselves on lobbying, identified pertinent politicians, dressed up in proper clothes, and went to the Capitol in Des Moines. We also contacted Sen. Tom Harkin, who we knew was sympathetic to child labor issues, and received his endorsement during our sit-in (this had huge symbolic weight; never overlook such opportunities for high-profile legitimacy), and we made links with progressive businesspeople, faculty, and local, regional, and national labor organizations.

Another way to educate and organize is: use, don't be used by, media. Media are, like it or not, what passes for the public sphere in America. You are probably all aware of the structural limitations of media because of the increasing corporate concentration, but to dismiss the mainstream media at the outset is defeatist. They, television in particular, are the main educational forums in society; they're where people will first hear about you and your issues. While you can't control media, you can certainly learn to conduct your actions and communications in ways that are more conducive to their routines and practices. A couple concrete things you can do to get and improve media coverage: learn how to write an effective press release, and do them for every event. Regular contact won't guarantee coverage, but not contacting media, or doing so haphazardly or in what they perceive as unorthodox ways, will hinder coverage. Learn how to write effective letters to the editor and do so regularly (various members not the same people, increase the likelihood of publication). Ditto on editorials or guest opinions; newspapers love conflict and are more prone to running an op-ed piece than you might think. Learn how to speak in concrete soundbites for TV, radio and newspapers. Craft 10 or 15-second statements that capture the most important element you wish to convey (15 seconds is eternity in TV). Designate effective communicators as spokespersons; if you don't media will either do it for you, or talk to someone who may not be articulate. Craft your actions and events for maximum media impact; consider time and publication deadlines, send out press releases well in advance, critically evaluate the visual elements of events (signs, slogans, place of event, colors of and clothing of participants, particularly spokespersons). Remember on the front lines of the news media are people; reporters, photographers, etc.-find out who specializes in what, address your press releases to the proper, named individual, and if possible, spend time getting to know them and educating them (reporters often will seek out members in advance to get some background or to educate themselves, make yourself available and treat them politely and with respect; don't underestimate the interpersonal dimension). Be aware of and try to impact your opponents' use of the media; make sure your perspective isn't included in a story, write a letter and insist on balance and fairness. Co-opt opponents' staged events, press conferences and all attempts to frame the issues. For example, following the arrest of several of our members during the sit-in, which occurred around midnight on Saturday (most likely to mitigate the impact in the student newspaper which only ran Mon. -Fri.). We found out about and showed up at the administration's press conference the following morning. I'll never forget the look on the PR person's face; we were able to dismiss trumped up claims (they claimed we were

smoking in the building, which we challenged them to support with facts, they could only offer cigarettes found in a member's bag), and basically undermine their attempts to frame the arrests (one of our more media savvy members told a reporter it was like the Sat. Night Massacre, referring to Watergate, and this quote appeared in the paper the following day).

In addition to reflective engagement, organization & education you need

agitation and advocacy, which are probably the most visible, high-profile component of activism. Imagine and communicate an alternative-even if your activism centers on an institution or practice you're opposed to, think about and develop alternatives that you support (every anti-should have a clear pro). Frame your issues in positive terms, not just in negative ones. It's not compelling enough to condemn something, such as war, when you're trying to build a movement or broad coalition, but to also envision concrete positive alternatives. A couple of reasons why: First, you undercut the standard knee-jerk responses and a common way the media will frame dissenters; i.e., you're just reactive, thoughtless people who will oppose anything, or that you are only united by what you're against and have no idea what you're for. While many Americans might support your opposition, actively participating in an opposition movement is socially taboo; you make it easier for them to support you and get involved if your opposition is tied to positive propositions. Second, most Americans are pragmatic, optimists; they're more receptive to concrete alternatives than opposition, and they prefer issues framed in positive terms. Third, alternatives, concretely communicated in basic points or a clear plan, make for complementary education and organizing, particularly through media. Fourth, if your activism is successful, either partially or completely, you'll need to have thought through alternatives. In SAS, we organized around our opposition to sweatshop labor and the university's role in it. But we developed three propositions, which became demands once our activism escalated to civil disobedience, that were easy to communicate and conveyed our positive pragmatism; we were against sweatshops but supportive of concrete, positive alternatives. We demanded a University code of conduct, withdrawal from the Fair Labor Association (a corporate front-group created by the Clinton administration and the apparel/shoe interests), and joining the Workers' Rights Consortium (an independent organization created by SAS).

Another way of effectively agitating and organizing is to build coalitions or networks of groups that will actively support your actions when needed. One of the great hindrances to progressive movements is the factionalism of social and civil life, but you can help to mitigate it by making connections between issues and activist groups. Most issues relating to oppression, for example, are not tied exclusively to racial, ethnic, class, gender, or national divisions; making and maintaining connections with other activists and groups, and reciprocating, is an effective organizing tool. For example, we built bridges to the Feminist Coalition, the International Alliance for People's Movements, the GLBT group, religious groups, labor groups, human rights groups, etc. We were able to reciprocally support each other in actions.

Similarly, another way of effectively organizing and agitating is to stay focused on the strug-

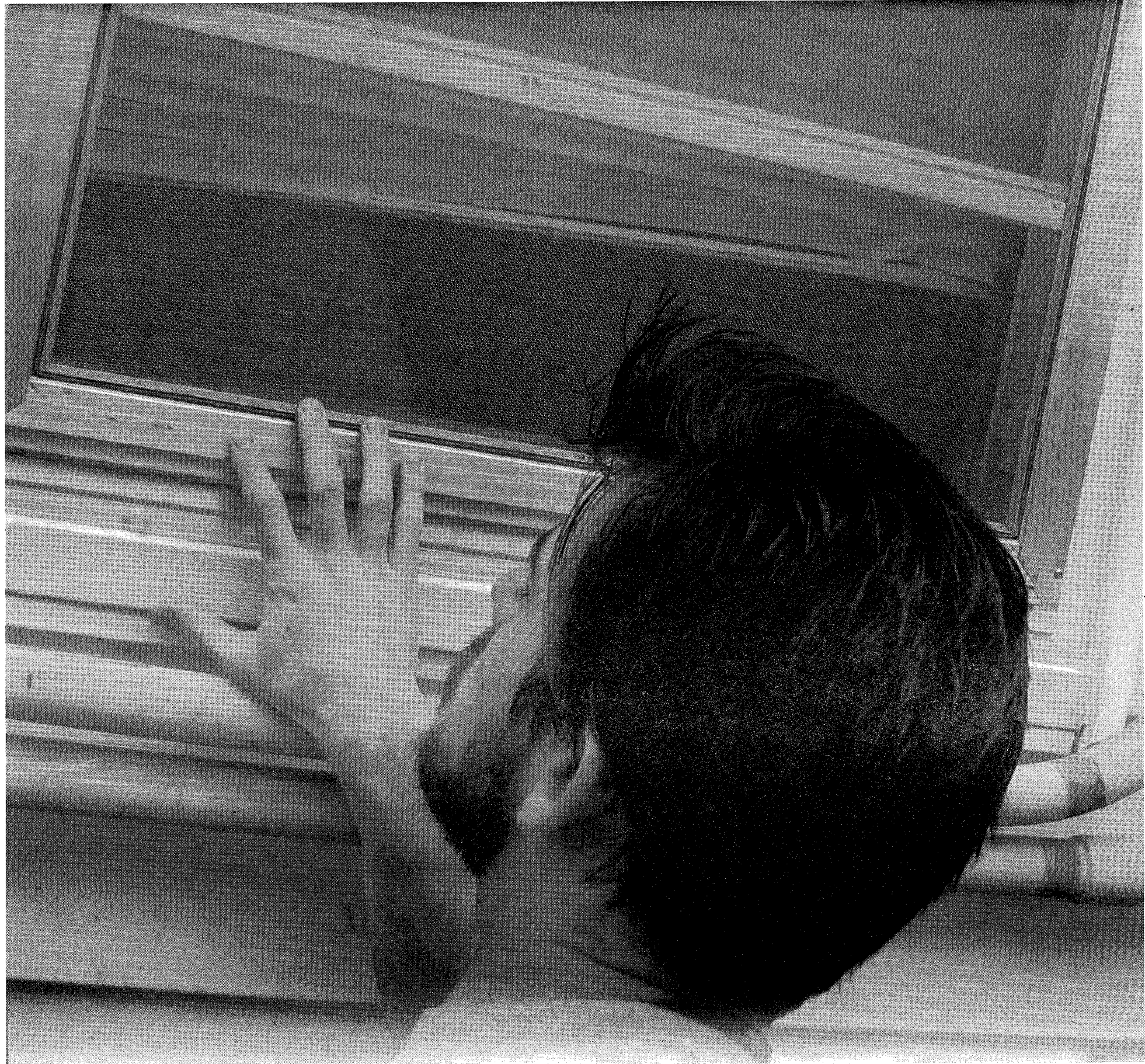
gle and avoid infighting. Too often, progressives and dissidents, for whatever reasons, lose sight of the issues and turn on one another, which undercuts their efforts and may ultimately defeat movements. I'm not advocating a false consensus or the rigid orthodoxy of a political party; differences and disagreements are part of any political engagement, just don't let them overshadow the issues you're organizing around and the goals you're trying to achieve.

Agitation and advocacy are inherently strategic, and their success is predicated on strategic thinking, planning, organizing and acting. Progressives are marginalized in society, activists even more so, thus it's necessary for us to employ our limited resources for maximum effect. Activism is the civil society equivalent of guerilla warfare; when you're outgunned you need to not only fight harder, but more intelligently. Develop communications and actions that are creative and strategic. We closely studied the rhetorical framing, organizational hierarchy, and practices of the administration; much like a football team watches videos of their opponents, we tried to know our opponents better than they knew us in order to help predict their moves, to effectively construct our own, and to think and act strategically. They had an effective PR apparatus, lots of money, and local media favorably predisposed toward them; we had our wits, committed members, and a strategic approach to everything we did. Strategic thinking applies not only to what you do and how you do it, but also to the ways you make decisions within the group. The group should be organized so decisions can be made relatively efficiently and in a democratic manner; all members should have input, but the decision-making process needs to be structured for the effectiveness of the group and its goals. It should be an effective coherent group, not an inefficient, disparate grouping of individuals. If you give greater weight to individual views and input than to the effectiveness of the group, you might make individuals content, but risk destroying the group. Activism is a political activity; social concerns should be subordinate, and make sure you educate new members accordingly.

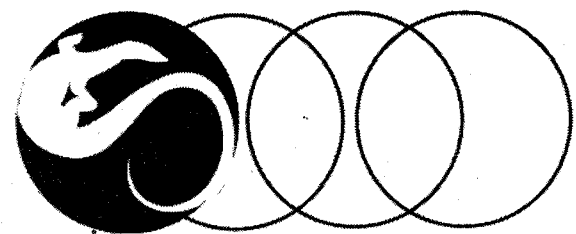
The sweatshop issue, despite the effective efforts of the anti-sweatshop movement, remains with us, but progress is possible. Recently Nike, after years of refusal and the demands of the anti-sweatshop movement, agreed to release the names and locations of each of its subcontractors, which will greatly enhance activists' capacity for monitoring them through independent groups such as the Workers' Rights Consortium. This is not a sign of good will or a change of heart, but rather a pragmatic response, however delayed, to the real pressure of the anti-sweatshop movement. Similarly, Yum Brands, the parent corporation of Taco Bell, acquiesced to the demands of tomato pickers and their activist allies following a nationwide boycott spearheaded by students. Although not easy, real change is possible if we educate, organize, and agitate strategically. Truman students and community members, it's time to just do it.

Dr. Matthew Killmeier  
Assistant Professor of Communication  
Former member of University of Iowa Students  
Against Sweatshops





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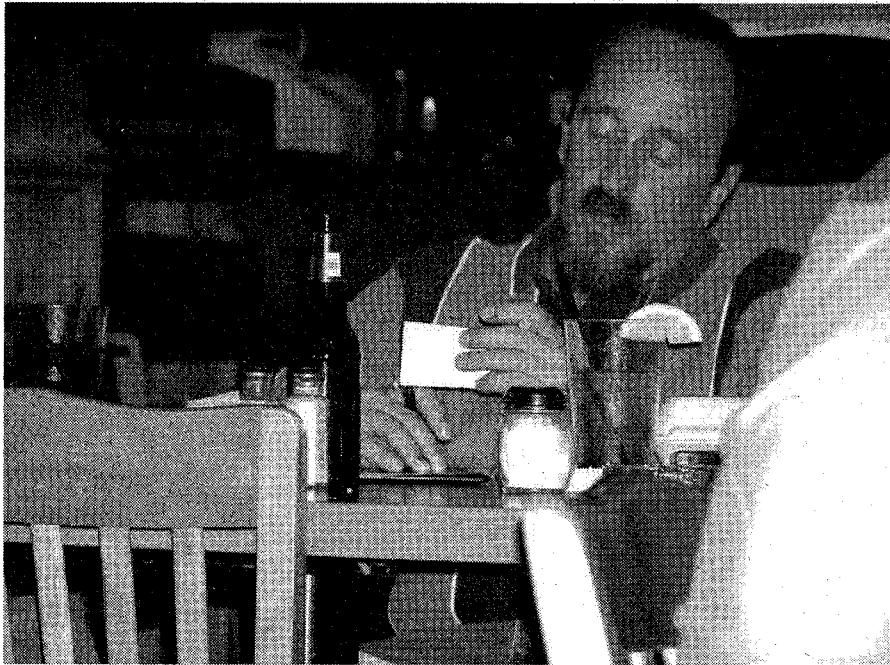
a stalker collective.

april, 2005

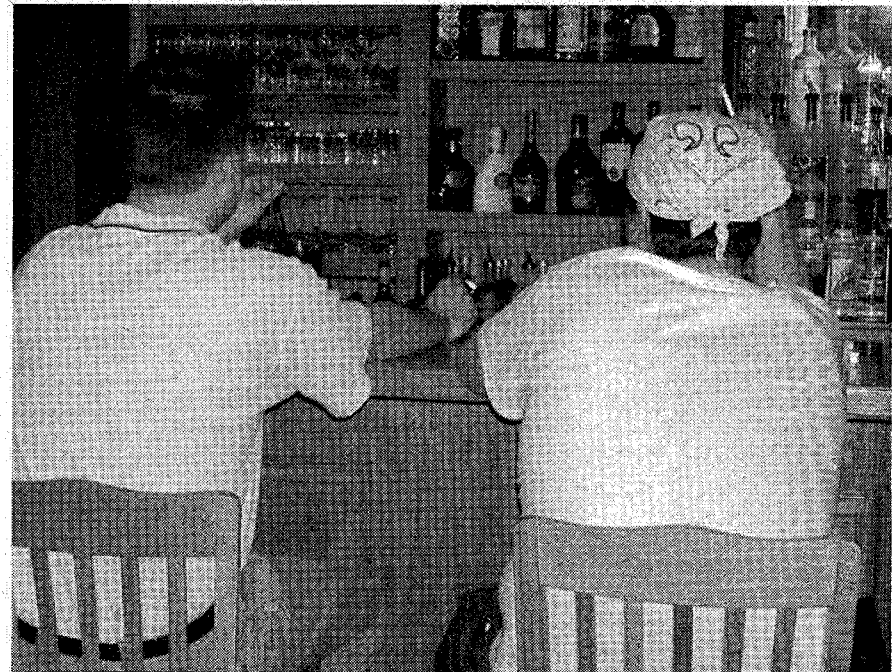


# STALKER PHOTOGRAPHY

MONITORING YOUR EVERY MOVE



STALKED BY >> JACLYN PAYTON



STALKED BY >> JACLYN PAYTON



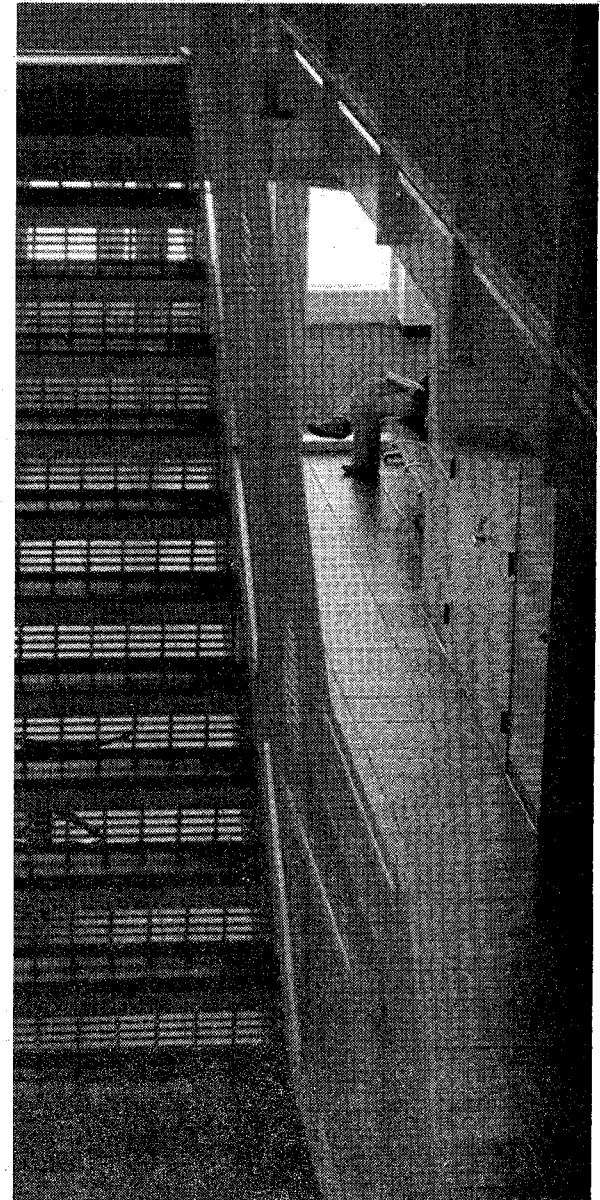
STALKED BY >> DAVID YONCE



STALKED BY >> DAVID YONCE



STALKED BY >> JON LAWINGER



STALKED BY >> JON LAWINGER

# A night with the

# Missouri Statesman

story by >> Annie Schippers

At 7:06 PM on Thursday, April 14th he arrived late to Baldwin Auditorium for "Behind the Swoosh," a presentation on Nike sweatshops in Indonesia. He took a seat in the fifth row, left side, leaving rows between himself and all other attendees.

He wore a black, long-sleeved shirt with the sleeves rolled up, black cargo pants, a black watch, red and grey New Balance tennis shoes, and white socks. He was dressed to kill.

Promptly after arriving, he left his seat and exited the auditorium for exactly one minute. During this time, it is likely that he was either checking on his stocks or looking for Larry Iles.

After twenty-five minutes of video and discussion on what it's like to live on \$1.25 per day, there was still only a title written on his legal pad. He then began fidgeting: he scratched his brow, cracked his knuckles, and

bounced his gold and red pen on his lower lip. Perhaps he wasn't paying attention because he was thinking about how the government/University/student, government/sweatshops were screwing him out of his free time.

At 7:34 PM, one of the speakers mentioned Wal-Mart. He perked up and wrote a note in the margin. He wrote another small note a minute later when the discussion moved to the responsibility of Americans to be socially aware, but this one crept its way out of the margin and into the mid-section of the page.

At 7:43 PM he reached into a folder, looked over a sheet of paper, and then neatly folded away all of his papers into a black binder, which he tucked under his arm. Four minutes later, he was gone, more than an hour before the program concluded.

Big brother is watching

## Stalking Bulgarians fun, educational

story by >> Emily Randall

Stalking isn't easy. It requires stealth, agility, endurance, and a keen wit.

On April 17, an associate of mine and I began to stalk a certain attractive international student on a whim. We spotted him at 6:57 pm on the quad, and our journey was not complete until 8:28 pm.

We were fully prepared for an evening of Bulgarian-tracking, as we had our notebook, large black sunglasses and walkie-talkies readily on hand.

Within the first six minutes our cover was nearly blown three times, first by a chance meeting with a raucous neighbor of ours, second when our subject made an unexpected turn for a restroom and caught sight of us, and third when a friend walked by our first stake-out and spoke a single word: "incognito."

We were in McClain Hall for the first thirty minutes of the chase. Situated on an orange couch under a harsh, hot light and wearing harsh, hot sunglasses, we came to discover that the subject was logging into a computer of the language lab and spending that time chatting with two friends in the hallway. Clever guy. During this period, we made frequent contact with the subject, as he is someone we are acquainted with. What he didn't know was that we were writing down every word he spoke, every move he made.

For a full 23 minutes, we listened to the subject and his two friends, who were soon to become new subjects, speak in their native language of Bulgarian. It would have been easy at this point for my associate and I to give up, as we could not gather information from listening to their conversation. We, however, are no quitters.

At 7:28 pm, our three subjects exited McClain Hall and headed north on Franklin St. We surreptitiously pursued by running down a parallel alley, hiding behind buildings. The subjects' destination was the Kum 'N Go. They stood in front of the convenience store for a full 11 minutes, during which my associate and I darted from end to end of the building getting different angles of sight on the subjects.

At 7:42, ice cream sandwiches and cigarettes in hand, the subjects moved to the back porch of

Patty's book store. After three minutes of frustration from not having a position in audible distance from the subjects, my associate and I made a risky decision.

We circled the bookstore and planted ourselves on the west edifice, just around the corner from where the subjects sat. If at any moment they decided to walk back to campus, there would be nowhere and no time to hide. My associate couldn't handle the pressure, so we crossed the street to get a front view.

Crouching behind a silver Chrysler New Yorker in the parking lot adjacent to Killmeier's place, we could easily watch the subjects without being watched ourselves. The subjects appeared rather bored. My associate and I, however, were not.

We had an awkward encounter when a white truck pulled up directly behind us at 7:56 pm. A man was behind the wheel, and he dropped off a woman and a baby. I thought they would at least ask why we were crouching behind a car in their driveway, and I feared the baby would toddle over to us, but, shockingly, neither event occurred.

At 7:58, after 16 minutes on Patty's back porch, the subjects stood and walked back to campus. My associate and I had to wait until they were to the spotlight before we could emerge from our watch-post, so as not to be seen. Then, to catch up, we had to run. I was wearing sandals, which made the task all the more difficult.

Arriving at McClain Hall at exactly 8 pm, my associate and I had another close call at being discovered. Lacking a visual on the subjects, we entered the building, only to spot them standing at the vending machines to the left of the door. We bounded back out the door just in time and were not discovered.

Suspecting the subjects were headed back to the language lab, my associate and I raced up a different stairwell in attempt to beat them there and be in our old orange chairs again when they arrived. This was foolish, however, as it turns out they were only passing through the building.

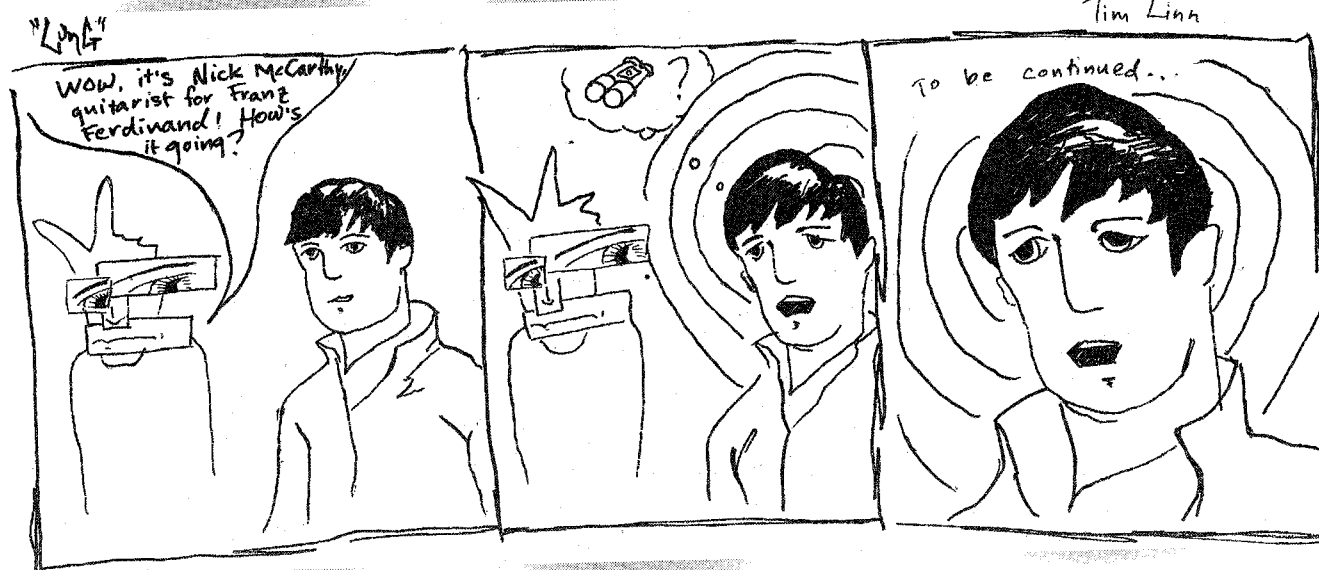
Fearing we had lost the trail, my associate and I emerged from McClain Hall. We narrowly spotted the subjects by the library before they turned out of sight. We followed them into the library and watched them check out laptops and find a table.

Once the subjects were seated on the north end of the first floor next to the windows, my associate and I crouched behind a bookcase and peaked through the books at them. We suspected they knew at this point we were on them, and when one repeatedly passed us, we began to wonder if they were performing counter-stalking on us.

The original subject was listening to an Ipod and typing on his laptop. He and one of the others were chewing gum, which we speculated to be Big Red.

At 8:19 pm my associate and I spotted Aaron Baker and were nearly distracted from our mission. At 8:22 pm, we took our final position outside the window by their table, behind a column. From there we attempted to identify the content of the subjects' computer screens, and were able to perceive that one was on Facebook.

At 8:28, my associate and I abandoned the mission, feeling we had achieved an insight into the lives of the three Bulgarians. An evening well spent.



# My Right Behind You Pages....

Hello.

**FIRE WALKER**  
**BEARFOOT, SILENT**  
**THROUGH THE WOODS**  
**FOR THE THRILL**  
**OF THE ALMOST-SEEING ME**  
**THE INTUITION TURNING YOUR HEAD**  
**FOR NO REASON**  
**WHY LOOK AT THE WOODS, ITS**  
**ALWAYS BEEN THERE**  
**SEEING IF YOU WON'T LOOK THIS WAY**  
**A MATHEW WALKER**  
**WAITING FOR ITS DAY**  
**AROUND MY NECK**  
**CRANED IN YOUR D'ERECTION**

*I love the sweet fragrance  
that fills the cool night air  
it's just like I imagine  
the way your  
silky soapy skin  
would smell*

*but Ouch!  
the sharp thorns  
cut deep*

*why would you  
plant rosebushes  
in front of your  
bathroom window?*

I once met a Peeping Tom.  
At first I thought he was the bomb.  
Till I glanced at the window  
He'd been staring in through  
And glimpsed way too much of my mom.

**There once was a Peeping Tomitor**  
**His last name was The Monitor**  
**But he got caught**  
**And all was naught**  
**At least, says he's not a quititor**

There once were two Monitor editors  
Who fell into bad straits with their creditors  
said Frances to Jon,  
If our capital's gone,  
Let's just go look at people naked through their windows.

## *The Dog Stalked Me*

I was talking down the gravel  
parting fluorescently green grass,  
sunlit and seemingly serene.  
I was walking forward toward an  
unfriendly future

Then I heard clicks behind my-  
Self apace, increasing in  
Volume; approaching me.  
I heard a panting, and a bull  
Dog overtook me.

The dog and the grass seemed  
content and effortless in their beauty

I know, though, their true story.  
Not easily, these savages survived  
where their siblings perished; and the  
Friendly dog wants food in return  
For his canine affection.

The dog lingered, strained to  
Lick my face. It left, and his  
Memory was replaced by one of my father,  
and cynicism by love.

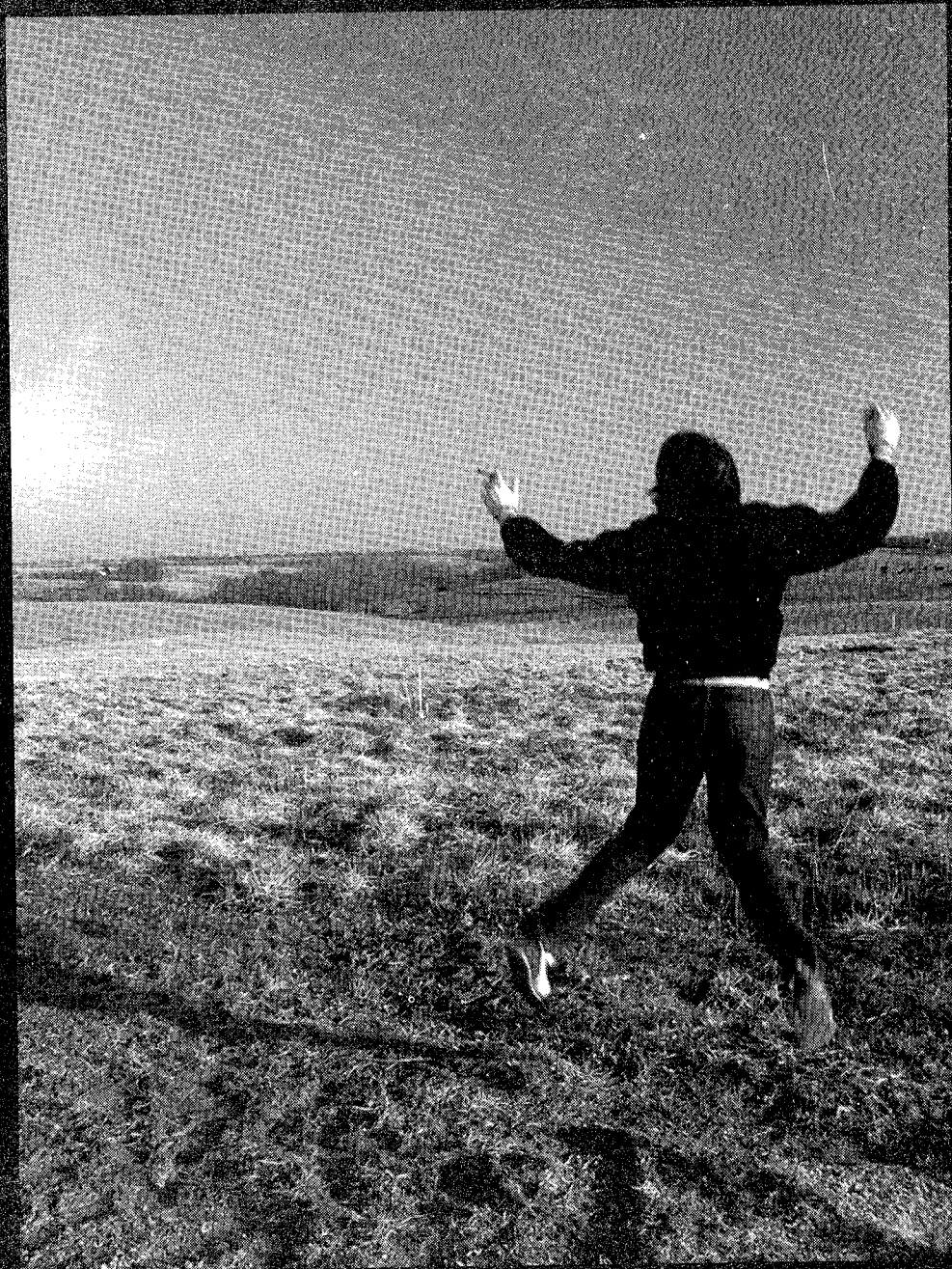


# Photography

send your photos to  
[monitortrm@hotmail.com](mailto:monitortrm@hotmail.com)



Tessa Bernhardt



Phil Jarret

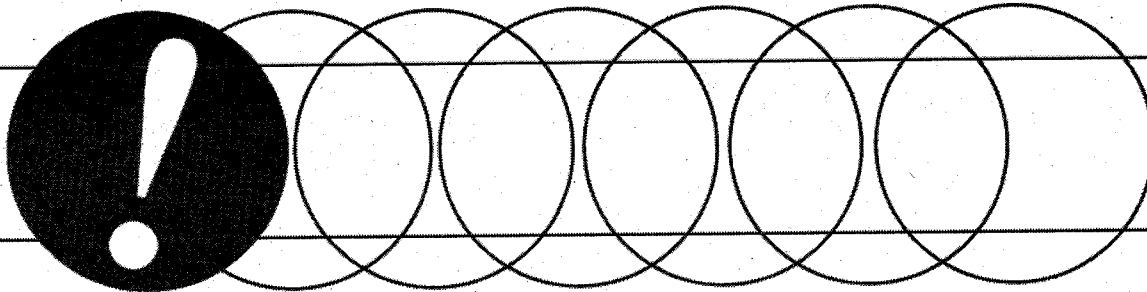


Jon Lawinger



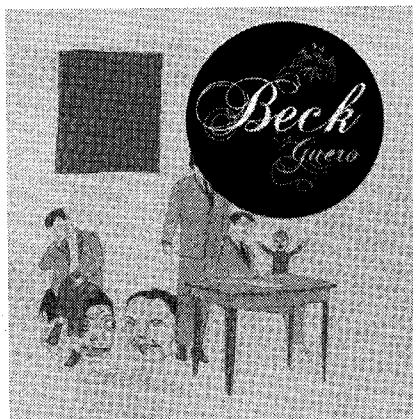
Marisol Barrera





## Tunes to get your groove on to

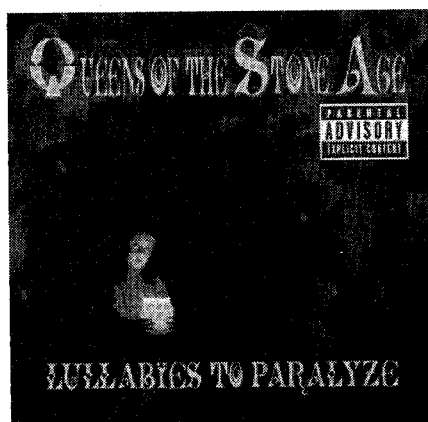
reviews by >> Ben Dansby



### Beck *Guero*

*Guero*, Beck's 10th album and first since 2002's *Sea Change*, finds him following that axiom of his career: heartfelt, acoustic-ish album followed by hip-hoppin', electronica-tinged party album. That pattern is pretty much the only predictable thing about Beck's musical catalog. Which is why some may find consternation in his latest release. *Guero* sounds more than a bit like *Odelay*. Perhaps not a surprise given that the Dust Brothers produced both, but still a bit of a shock from this chameleon of a musician. From the overall hip-hop vibe to the slightly low-fi-sounding production, this is very much the sibling of *Odelay*.

But it's a more mature, relaxed *Odelay*. Beck sounds absurdly at ease, comfortable in his role as the ultimate hipster. He no longer feels the need to try to impress us. He's making music that he likes and wants to make, and if the rest of us feel the same, then great. *Guero* is a tremendously fun album and perfect for any mood, whether that be partying, tripping, or snoozing. It is the work of a musician confident in his role and his identity. Beck may not have progressed much musically here, but he's undoubtedly grown up.



### Queens of the Stone Age *Lullabies to Paralyze*

It appears that pop success has not softened lead guitarist/vocalist and only consistent member of Queens of the Stone Age's Josh Homme's musical approach. If anything, the latest release from the Queens is even denser and more forbidding than their previous album *Songs for the Deaf*. Homme's fuzztone guitars are like impossibly high ramparts in some dark castle, with his soft wail of a voice like wind blowing through the turrets. A dark, scary, complex, layered album, not for the faint of heart. This album must be actively listened to to be appreciated. This reviewer finds himself missing the

multi-vocalist approach of past Queens albums, with former Screaming Trees frontman Mark Lanegan contributing to only two tracks and bassist/screamer Nick Oliveri having been kicked out of the band before recording started on the new album.

### Daft Punk *Human After All*

Those expecting a reprise of the French duo's 2001 space opera *Discovery*, be warned: this is not that. Daft Punk take it back somewhat to their 1997 debut *Homework*, but with even less pop sensibility. Repetition is the name of the game here, both in the songs themselves and in the sounds used throughout the album. That spongy, squashy sound from their first hit "Da Funk" and super-vocoderized robot vocals appear throughout. All the songs are ultra-cool for the first minute or so, then exhibit diminishing returns as the seconds go by. This is nonetheless an entertaining

album, helped a lot by the prevalent guitars. Head-nodding music if nothing else.

## Fair trade week raises awareness of international working conditions

story by >> Kelly Meyer

Do you know who makes your clothes? This question was posited by the Students for Social Change Club, which sponsored Fair Trade Week, April 11 - 15. The club's main objective for this week was to raise awareness about the working conditions of those who sew our garments, pick our coffee beans, and make our shoes. All across the developing world, there are thousands of factories doing contract work for popular clothing lines, their workers earning wages that will not even meet basic needs. In some scenarios, children work 12 hour days for just 4 cents an hour.

There are those who would argue that these injustices are the result of free trade, the system currently used by the United States to import most of its goods. Free trade allows countries to openly trade with each other, causing a global competition to produce goods with the lowest prices. In order to supply the cheapest products, factories are forced to cut costs in any way they can, so they take it out of workers' wages and conditions.

As an alternative to free trade products, many conscientious consumers choose to purchase fair trade goods. Fair trade is set up so importers pay an extra amount of money per product; and this extra money is required to go to the worker. The extra amount varies depending on the product; for example, Fair Trade Certified coffee importers pay \$1.26/lb more.

While fair trade is not the final solution to worker exploitation, it is a step in the right direc-

tion. Many certified fair trade products can be purchased online; however, there are many ways to consume goods fairly and ethically right here in Kirksville:

--Buy local! Farmer's markets are a great place to get low-price produce, and the money goes directly to the farmer. The Kirksville market runs from about May to October on north side of the courthouse. The Washington Street Java Co (107 W. Washington) serves Fair Trade coffee and receives some ingredients from Sandhill Farm in Rutledge, Missouri. Sandhill tempeh and sorghum are also available at Hy-vee.

--Buy used! With thrift and secondhand stores, the clothes you're buying have been donated, so there's no further damage done. Try The Ville (117 W. Washington) or the Salvation Army (812 N. Franklin).

--Trade! The best way to get new stuff is to swap with friends. Have a clothing exchange and invite all your friends to bring their unwanted clothes for trying on and trading.

Finally, if you have a social issue that you feel that needs to be addressed, or if you're just curious, come to a Students for Social Change meeting! Anyone is welcome, not just students. Meetings are every other Tuesday at 7 pm in Baldwin 350. Email Emily at [ess725@truman.edu](mailto:ess725@truman.edu) for further information or to sign up for the mailing list.

### Dear President Dixon,

We love you, President Dixon, we just never see you or talk to you in real life. The doors are always open. Or - at breakfasttime, lunchtime, and dinnertime - when all the cafeterias are open. Anytime.

I've listened to lots of my acquaintances, unprompted, launch into rants about what's wrong with Truman and "where is Barbara Dixon?" These are very smart, respectable kids (the kind that Truman identifies herself with). These are nice people, but they still think a lot about the imperfections of Truman State University.

As stress levels rise with less and less classes being available and less and less professors being available, these people have more and more to say about it. The situation seems to be getting worse.

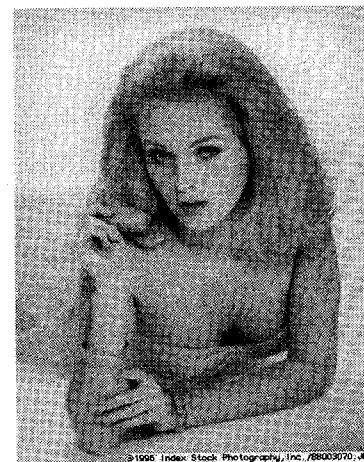
Or - maybe it's just the impression that its getting worse. For - if we never shake the hand of our president how are we to know she cares? Does she not want to know us? How are we to be understanding of someone who doesn't care to know us? Come and talk with us, President Dixon. Word of mouth rocks.

Love,

*students*

PS -- If you add a negative to a double negative, you correct yourself. :)

### YOUR MOM



WRITES FOR THE MONITOR



# Two websites find creative uses for books

feature by >> **Amanda Hackney**

"Better World Books has funded the shipment of over 200,000 books to the African continent in 2004. In just the past two years, BWB has saved over 500 tons of books from ending up in landfills."

- written at [www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com)

Do you have old books that you want to get rid of? Someone across the globe is literally dying to read them! Have any textbooks that can't be bought back? Donate them to someone who could really use them.

## Better World Q&A

Q: Do these books only go to Africa?

A: No.

Q: What kinds of books do they accept?

A: From what I could tell by the website, all frickin' kinds of books.

But if you want to know more, which hopefully you do, go check out their site and find out how you can help and get rid of some books you don't need.

The "bins" will show up at the end of the semester here at Truman. Ask around about the bins if you don't know about them. The books in the bins will be sent directly to BWB and distributed in a place where they are needed (last semester, they were sent to Africa).

To get in touch with Better World Books, you can email them [info@betterworldbooks.com](mailto:info@betterworldbooks.com), as I have, and they will promptly respond.

Thanks in advance for helping out!

"Our goal, simply, is to make the whole world a library."

-written at [www.bookcrossing.com](http://www.bookcrossing.com)

Do you have a copy of a favorite book that you want to send to all parts of the world where anyone from any country can pick it up and read it? Hope so.

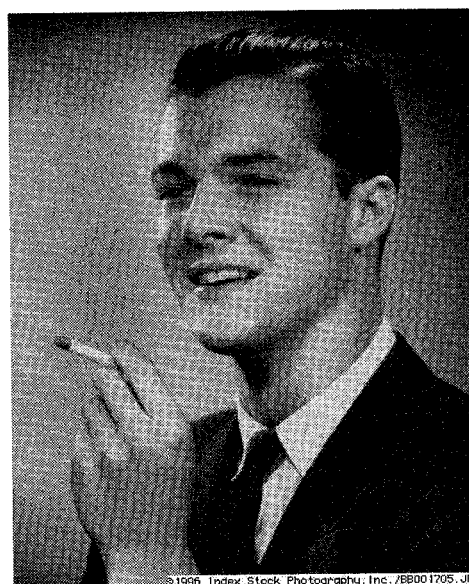
Here's how BookCrossing works: You either find a book "in the wild," or you register your own books and put them in "the wild."

To find a wild book, go to [www.bookcrossing.com](http://www.bookcrossing.com). Click on "go hunting." Find your area on the list. There will be descriptions of books are in your area waiting to be found. Specific locations are also given, such as "Ryle Hall lounge" or "park bench". Once you find a book, go back to the website. Type in the number on the cover of the book you just found, and bookcrossing will tell you which places in the world your book has been and what other readers thought about it.

Keep in mind that locations change on the website as books are found or released by their owners. Kirksville currently has 4 or 5 books listed, as of April 13, 2005 at 10:30 PM.

If you want to register your own books, go to the website and click on "Join BookCrossing Now!" (Don't worry, the idea here is FREE). After joining, you can register your book and tape an "identifier" to its cover. Which includes a special number and whatever else you want. Some people also send journals out into the world in hopes that it will reach other countries. That's fine too.

Have fun and remember to tape the website address and an explanation of bookcrossing to the inside cover of your book. This way, future readers will not get very confused.



## A smoker never grows old

feature by >> **Nawang Chukey**

Let's be honest. We know that some of you just love to smoke and I have no intention of preaching. However, it is very necessary to know what you are doing and what the consequences will be.

Whenever people are in depressions or feel lonely they feel the psychological urge and believe they can think well and regain their confidence when they smoke.

There have been quite a few attempts against smoking and drinking, but all these attempts are of little avail. Smoking, I think, is a very individual activity and you just cannot generalize the issue and come out with a solution that fits everybody. Everybody has their own reason for smoking or for not smoking, the circumstances are different and there is no single cause for smoking. However, generally speaking, youth thinks of it as a "cool" or a "happening" thing. There is an unseen differentiation that exists between youngsters who smoke, drink and those who don't. At times a guy who smokes strutting around with a cigarette does look more hip than the other. But this is only one side of the picture. We have also seen pictures which show

young people dying from cancer, a guy that coughs like crazy and still cannot get away from the addiction. That doesn't seem really cool.

Let's think without being judgmental. Smoking once or twice is certainly not a very bad thing. But let's look at the consequences. Most of the time you just take a puff and then you are hooked. However, there are really few instances of people quitting once they are addicted. Let's weigh the pros and cons of cigarette smoking. The "pros", if you can call them that, are the so-called relaxation, and having a good time with friends. A person, smoking his daily dose after tea with that relaxed look paints the picture of a content life. However, that is not the true picture. Nicotine is believed to be a long-term depressant, though it does reduce tension by momentarily releasing certain chemicals in one's brain cells (Ed: studies show the Gulf of Tonkin is also known as a long term depressant). As a kid, I

read an interesting story about the good things of smoking. A smoker never grows old, never has any trouble with the thieves and never gets bitten by dogs! The reasons: a smoker dies younger, so there's no chance of getting old; he coughs all night, so there's no danger of thieves entering his house: he must need the help of sticks for walking, so there's no fear of getting a dog-bite. Things may not reach such extremes, but there are certainly the bad effects of smoking. The health hazards come first - lung cancer, heart troubles, respiratory disease, and throat problems are some of the major health problems. For a lady, it goes one step further. There are teratogenic (embryo- affecting) effects if a woman smokes in her pregnancy.

Another grave aspect of smoking is the addiction. There are many things in life that are not under our control. Getting addicted to anything, in my opinion, is losing control of your own life. Letting something stupid like cigarettes gain control over even a small part of your life is unimaginable to me. While most of us would not like the idea of letting somebody else decide about our lives, we did not think twice before letting a cigarette dictate our moves. And there's no getting away once you are hooked. There are many cases of people suffering from hazards like mild neurosis and trying desperately to get away from the habit but failing to do so. Somebody said a cigarette is something with fire at one end and a fool at the other end. It does make a fool out of you at times.

# US denial of academic visas absurd

opinion by >> **Marc Becker**

Last week I attended a "Narrating Native Histories" conference that brought together scholars and Indian activists from across the Americas to examine how Indigenous histories are written. Esteban Ticona Alejo, a noted Aymara scholar from Bolivia, was not granted a visa to attend the conference, leaving a significant hole in the program and discussions.

Last month I attended the Colombia Support Network's annual meeting. Despite meeting all legal requirements and presenting supporting letters from the likes of Senator Russ Feingold, the U.S. Embassy in Bogota denied a visa to community activist Leonardo Padilla who was to be one of the featured speakers at the conference. An empty chair represented the absurd denial of his visa request.

Last fall I attended the Latin American Studies Association congress, an international gathering of scholars from a broad variety of disciplines. Just before the conference was to begin, the U.S. State Department denied visas to 61 Cuban scholars despite their having met

all legal requirements to travel to the United States.

These are just several examples of what is becoming an increasingly common phenomenon - the Bush administration using visa denials to curtail academic and cultural exchanges. The most recent high profile case was the denial of a visa last month to Nicaraguan historian Dora Maria Tellez to teach at Harvard University. In 1979, she helped lead the Sandinista revolution that overthrew the brutal dictator Anastasio Somoza. Even though she had traveled to the U.S. before, now the State Department says she is ineligible for a visa because of her involvement in "terrorist acts." Her supporters say she is as much of a terrorist as George Washington, and describe her overthrow of a dictatorship as a heroic act.

Even though Somoza was brutal he was a close ally of the United States. The Sandinistas attempted to feed, clothe, and house Nicaraguans instead of exporting the country's wealth to the U.S. This led Ronald Reagan to begin a terrorist war against Nicaraguan civilians. Tellez is a lingering victim of his meanspirited and outdated Cold

War policies.

Tellez's treatment contrasts notably with that of convicted terrorist Luis Posada Carriles who recently entered Florida and appears positioned to receive political asylum. Posada is wanted in Venezuela for blowing up an airliner in 1976, killing all 73 people on board. The U.S. recently secured his release from a Panamanian prison where he was held for an assassination attempt on Cuba's head of state. Internationally, he is wanted on many charges including the assassination of an Italian tourist in a bombing in Cuba.

Who is more of a threat to the lives of U.S. citizens, a Colombian grass-roots community leader who struggles endlessly through nonviolent means to bring an end to a decades-long conflict, or someone who blows

up civilian airliners?

Who is more supportive of U.S. corporate interests, a small Aymara scholar who writes about Indigenous rights movements in Bolivia, or someone who repeatedly attempts to assassinate a foreign leader who opposes U.S. imperialism?

The State Department is supposed to protect U.S. interests. By closing down cultural and academic exchanges, it is hinders rather than facilitates these interests. Giving convicted terrorists free passage not only puts our lives in danger, but also points to the hypocritical and ideologically-driven nature of Bush administration policy decisions. This administration excels at advancing corporate interests, but does little for the rest of us.

# My Back Pages....

good WASP, don't sting

I should wear sunscreen  
I should go to bed earlier  
I should not eat fast food  
I should study more  
I should work out  
I should vote  
I should pay for my dates  
I should support the troops  
I should stay awake in class  
I should just say no  
I should socialize at parties  
I should wait until marriage  
I should easily understand foreign accents  
I should always wear a condom  
I should not mind wearing a condom  
I should donate to charity  
I should be offended by pornography  
I should not think cigarettes are beautiful  
I should respect other cultures  
I should not masturbate so much  
I should not drink alone  
I should not admit I'm smarter than others  
I should not believe I'm smarter than others  
I should not quantify intelligence  
I should be attracted to intelligent girls  
I should tell my parents I love them  
I should love my parents

I should believe in God  
I should smile more often  
I should not fantasize about old girlfriends  
I should be happy  
I should not fall in love so easily  
I should not be so emotionally distant  
I should not cry in public  
I should want to get married  
I should not get molested or raped  
I should believe I'm a good person  
I should repent and not go to hell  
I should take it like a man  
I should not take it up the ass  
I should not be attracted to skinny girls  
I should not have rape fantasies  
I should believe I couldn't have been a Nazi  
I should think Ayn Rand is cruel  
I should not be attracted to family members  
I should make fun of Freud  
I should stay in touch with old friends  
I should feel bad for cancer victims  
I should not pay for sex  
I should not want to die  
I should be jealous of celebrities  
I should be fitter, happier, more productive  
I should live a meaningful life  
I should be good at Trivial Pursuit

Noam Plum

Home Videos  
nuggets of golden opportunities  
permanent reminders of how unusual a child I was  
-or still am

My Family  
laughing more with me-I pretend- than at me  
at home, where sometimes I wish I never had to leave

My Life  
stressed to no end  
not always Cinderella at her ball  
not always is there a silver lining  
not always seeing any light at the end of any tunnel

My Family  
seclusion from my chaos  
distraction from the mayhem  
ones who do laugh-with me-when others laugh at me

My Life  
never predictable  
quick to resist change in a world that is constantly changing  
But my family....

there when I need--but-- what about when they  
need me? what about when I cannot be there? what  
about when my words fall flat on the floor?  
That, that is what in my life, that moment, is what I  
fear the most

forget my life what about theirs?  
Forgive me sister, for I know not what to do  
Forgive me, for, I know not what to do

Home Videos  
capsules of my childhood sunshine  
permanent reminders of good times once had  
-and I pray, will have again

Emilee Simpson

Welcome,



to a new era in Back Pages history.  
We will be your hosts. Please send  
us lots and lots of things: poems,  
beer, love notes, what have you...  
Email us at  
aHugeManatee@gmail.com. We are  
happy to serve.

*Emily and Annie*

Apathetic Resistance  
to a Decadent Society

uncontentedly I dream  
and somewhere in between I scream  
nightmares eat me up tonight  
I worry I might lose the fight

waking up to no one  
just the lonely sun  
it burns into my eyes  
this is no surprise

cutting up my face  
I'm nothing but a disgrace  
my breakfast bagel's dense  
and I hear silence

I've built up a resistance  
because I can't stand my existence  
I walk out the door  
wondering if there is anything more

I run through the same routine everyday  
because I don't know how to get away  
I'm a shadow of a person  
my morbid thoughts only worsen

when the white moon rises  
and I've no more disguises  
the deep night hunts for my soul  
in sleep I lose all control

uncontentedly I dream  
and unconsciously I scream  
nightmares destroy me tonight  
I know I've lost the fight

I knew I'd never make it  
I knew I couldn't take it  
where did the time go?  
where did my mind go?

Sarah Carter