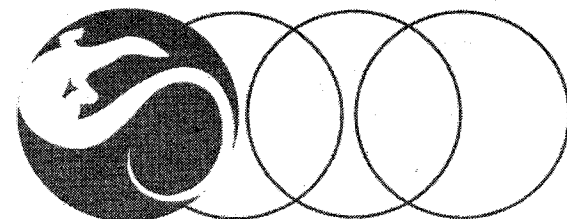




# the monitor.



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a campus collective.

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Each writer is responsible for his or her own work.

"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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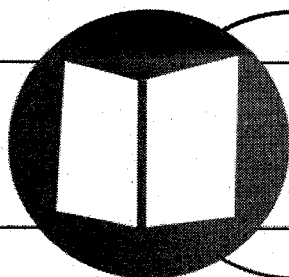
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**Presents**  
**our semesterly 1000 words or less**  
**Short Story Contest**  
**Deadline: November 19**  
**Prize: \$50**  
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**Editors' Box**

Hello again, my friends, and welcome to this,  
the newest issue of the Monitor. It's red hot, so  
watch it. This issue features tons of news, reviews,  
and about 8906890385 opinion articles. But that's  
all moot if we don't have submissions, sooo... submit.  
Our email address is monitortrm@hotmail.com, and we  
have meetings every Thursday at 9 p.m. As if that  
weren't enough information for ya, we also got the  
short story competition comin' up, so start flexing  
your head. That's about it, uh, don't not read this  
paper. San Dimas High School Football Rules!!  
Love (eh?),

The Monitor

**SOCIETY**  
**Will Crumble**  
**without your**  
**Submissions**  
Meetings every Thurs.  
@ 9:00pm in BH 312  
(You should go)  
Send submissions to:  
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## Mercury in fish poses health risks

story by >> Jeff Keeling

Two summers ago I went to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) workshop in Kansas City, KS. At this workshop I learned about the harmful effects of mercury on the development of fetuses and small children. Because the world's waters are saturated with chemical pollution, fish carry large amounts of mercury. Shark and swordfish have the highest levels of mercury in their bodies.

Adults can consume quite a lot of mercury from fish before it becomes harmful. However, fetuses are far more sensitive to its effects. According to the EPA, "Methylmercury exposure in the womb, which can result from a mother's consumption of fish and shellfish that contain methylmercury, can adversely affect a baby's growing brain and nervous system." Pregnant women are not the only people that should limit their consumption. Women nursing can pass mercury through their milk to their child and damage the child's still developing body. Also, any women that wish to become pregnant should watch their consumption of fish. Mercury levels in a body may not drop for about a year and thus can affect a developing fetus in the future.

Already the FDA is warning pregnant women of the dangers of eating canned tuna. California is also pushing to have fish with high lev-

els of mercury to have a warning label in grocery stores. The tuna industry, which in the past has killed dolphins that got in the way of their prized fish, are now trying to hide this dirty secret from the public by possibly engaging in a widespread advertisement campaign to highlight how "healthy" canned tuna is.

If you would like to eat fish, it is recommended to avoid fish high on the food chain like shark, swordfish, king mackerel and tilefish. The following fish are relatively low in mercury: salmon, pollock, and catfish. Wild fish have lower levels of mercury than farm raised fish. Also, be aware that shellfish, like shrimp, carry mercury in their bodies. If you are fishing, call a wildlife agency to find out if the body of water is safe.

## Parade descends without warning

story by >> Ian Florida

5 pm Kirksville Missouri - the pedestrians quietly marching down S. Franklin were suddenly disturbed by the appearance of several emergency vehicles. The vehicles: fire trucks and police cars, drove slowly down Franklin from downtown toward Patterson. Students stopped to look at the commotion, students peered from their windows to see where they were going. Soon after the emergency vehicles passed by McClain hall several officers walked out into the street with large orange cones, they blocked off the northbound lane and directed traffic into the

parking lot between McClain and the S.U.B. One student asked aloud "why don't they go down a couple of blocks to a street," she continued, "why are they directing traffic into that parking lot." The answer was obvious: to make way for the Kirksville High Homecoming Parade. Truckloads of football players and cheerleaders passed by. The spectacle was sudden and unexpected. It all happened so quickly that this reporter did not even have enough time to grab his camera. The parade may have inconvenienced some drivers, but many walking down the street stopped to pick up candy that children on a hay-wagon were throwing.

## Bearded Child Film Festival stops at Kirksville Infoshop

story by >> Tim Linn

The chairs were haphazard and the temperature was nagging, but the Bearded Child Film Festival rolled into Kirksville on Saturday, October 8, anyway.

The Festival is run by one Dan Anderson, a resident of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, who looks a bit like Hunter S. Thompson and hauls his equipment and bed around the country in a

weathered 1978 Chevrolet van. On this particular night, his van actually died two blocks from the Kirksville Infoshop, his stop for the night. It was as if fate had intervened, only a block away.

Anderson started the Festival about five years ago, when he was in high school, and has since received submissions from around the country, and beyond, with some films coming from Minnesota's neighboring Canada.

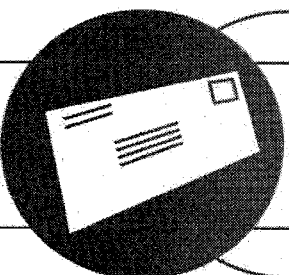
In an interesting turn of events, everyone

was trying something new, with Anderson shooting from the hip as far as film selection goes.

"I'm gonna do this however I feel, dj style," he said. With that the lights went out, and we had nothing but the screen to look to.

The films ranged from comedy to drama, and some were very artistic, while others were made by what seemed to be very deranged people who live in basements.

continued on page 11



## Even political label-shunners have options

I appreciate Joey Puricelli's argument in his article "'Christian Right' is a Worthless Term" that the coupling of religious descriptors and political labels is fairly worthless. There certainly is more complexity to the intersection of religion and politics than a simple label allows. However, it must be noted that where Puricelli bemoans a lack of options, there are many. He points out that a true pro-lifer is one who has cultivated a life ethic that treats all human life as valuable and therefore opposes war and the death penalty in addition to abortion. But the article seems to imply that while those opinions exist among

some, there are no outlets for them to express their views. While the mainstream parties that dominate our political discussion have yet to reconcile their views on war, abortion and the death penalty, there are people working within the system to do so, Democrats For Life being the most prominent example (democratsforlife.org). I admire people who are actively working towards helping our dominant parties reconcile their incongruous stances.

The point is that options to reconcile your religious views, your life ethics, and your politics exist. In fact, many people see these as inextricable from one another. So when some read the words of a Jesus who feeds the poor, rescues the marginalized, and feasts with the outcasts and believe that in our time, in our context, he might have done the

same things--sought welfare for the poor and the hungry--they should know they have options to act on that (see [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net) for one example). Rather than decrying our lack of options we need to learn to act in practicality--if it matters that much to you, seek out options to express your beliefs. Shun the labels, pursue what is right.

-Allison Schmidt

## Student raise caused Res life headaches

Hey, I just saw Jon's article about student workers' increased pay. And I had a bit of a comment. While the university gave student workers a raise, it did not provide the dorms with more money to give to those student workers. And the university did not tell us about the raise, or the lack of increased funds, until after we hired people and put them to work. So that was a little obnoxious for people who have to deal with the issues that arise from this sort of thing. I just wanted to share.

-Random Res Life Bitch

Send your letters to The Monitor mailbox in the CSI, or to [monitortrm@hotmail.com](mailto:monitortrm@hotmail.com). Letters may be edited for length (but never really are).

## Critical Mass rides in Budapest

story by >> Emily Randall

Last month, one of the biggest Critical Mass rides ever took place in Budapest, Hungary.

The popularity of Critical Masses has steadily increased since the 2004 World Carfree Day, when Hungarians put on a Critical Mass of 4,000 bikers. Another one followed on Earth Day, with a Critical Mass of 10,000 people.

The September 22 ride, however, had an estimated 24,000 to 30,000 people. The record-breaking ride in Hungary was organized and publicized by bike messenger groups.

A Critical Mass is a large bike ride that blocks roads to cars in conjunction with a political message, such as a call for public transit. In the Budapest Critical Mass, the issue is a lack of a decent bike lane network, reports indymedia.org, even though European cities are already much more biker-friendly than American cities. It also may have been in part a bike pride demonstration.

## Japan loosens bomb-benefit rules

story by >> Jon Lawinger

The BBC reports that Japan has decided to allow atomic bomb survivors living abroad to collect benefits without returning to Japan.

People affected by the World War II nuclear attacks are eligible for living allowances, health benefits, and funeral expenses. Since 2001 these benefits have been available to individuals living in other countries as well, but previously they were required to come to Japan to claim such benefits. Now, over 1000 survivors who have not recently received help because they are too sick or otherwise unable to travel to Japan will be able to claim their benefits again.

Thousands in Japan and surrounding countries are still suffering the effects of radiation from the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki sixty years ago.

## Stampede in South Korea kills 11

story by >> Tim Linn

After waiting two hours to enter a Sangju stadium for a concert, a single gate was opened through which about 5,000 people tried to enter through as quickly as possible.

As a result of this rush, 11 people, mostly young children and elderly people, were trampled to death.

The concert was part of a weekly program by the regional MBC network, and was to feature songs popular among older people. The concert was canceled after the 11 deaths and dozens of other injuries.

The stampede was caused by the long wait the crowd had to endure outside, as well as the fact that one gate only was opened to the entire crowd.

MBC has said it will investigate the incident.

## Filipino president protested

story by >> Ben Dansby

Massive protests have been staged in opposition to Filipino president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. She has been accused of "anti-national and anti-people" policies. New developments have also come to light indicating that she cheated her way to victory in the 2004 elections. Three impeachment complaints have been filed against Macapagal-Arroyo. However, it is not expected that these complaints will go very far as the president controls most functions of government.

Source: <http://indymedia.org/en/2005/10/825290.shtml>

# The Four State News



### Governor presses for more aid for heating bills

Iowa governor Tom Vilsack asked all Iowans to prepare for what could be a cold, costly winter. However, state officials say it's the poor who could be hit hardest. Heating fuel prices are expected to jump 35 percent or more compared to last winter. Vilsack called on Congress to add \$1.2 billion to the \$2 billion already earmarked for LIHEAP funding. The current \$2 billion proposal would leave funding unchanged from last winter, including a \$34.4 million share for Iowans. Vilsack said he currently has no plans to direct state dollars to bolster the program. He said state officials would wait to see what action Congress takes.

### Report says farming still important to Iowa's economy

One new report from Iowa puts farming as an important pillar to Iowa's economy. The research was into the effect of agriculture on Iowa's economy and is being distributed by the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers. Aaron Putze, spokesman for the group says that agriculture, food production, and the agro-food industries related to food production employ ten percent of Iowans. He says "more than 180 thousand Iowans are directly employed because of what takes place in our farm fields and in our feedlots." One author of the study says that is a decline from what farming was in Iowa's past. Putze says the power of Iowa agriculture also extends beyond the farm gates. According to the study, in 2002 farm and food-processing sectors accounted for 8.2% of gross state profit, the highest percentage of any state.



### Fixed tuition not fixed in the future

A proposal to guarantee at least four years of fixed tuition rates for University of Missouri undergraduate students received only a lukewarm reception at UMSL on Wednesday at a forum that drew only about 40 people. Fixed tuition means that rates would be locked in place at least four years for incoming freshmen. Gov. Matt Blunt has expressed support for the proposal. For about two years now, public universities in Illinois have had guaranteed tuition. This option is a response to tuition increases of 7.5, 19.8, 14.8 and 3.5 percent in the past several years. These price hikes stem from reductions in state funding.

### Hunters feed the hungry

Thousands of needy Missourians will have meat on the table this fall, thanks to a powerful combination of citizen action and corporate cash. Hunters donated more than 138 tons of venison to food banks and other charitable organizations through a program entitled Share the Harvest. This program allows hunters to bag a doe and drop her right off at the deer processing facility without paying a dime. The meat then finds its way onto the plates of the less fortunate. This program helps hunters unload meat they don't need and puts cheap meat on the plates of hungry: everyone wins, except the deer.



### Could gas close school? Maybe but not here

The academic year is only one month old, but escalating fuel prices combined with high consumption school buses already have school officials worried about running out of money in their transportation budgets. School Districts across Illinois are scrambling for ways to save on fuel in any way they can. Some actions taken to curb fuel consumption include cutting down on extracurricular activities, canceling field trips and merging bus routes. In one case Peoria Public Schools estimated \$250,000 for fuel for the district's more than 100 buses. Officials now say they'll need 125,000 in addition to the money already appropriated. Most districts increased their fuel budgets after steady increases in gasoline prices over the past year. But increases due to the hurricanes off of the Gulf Coast caught officials off guard.

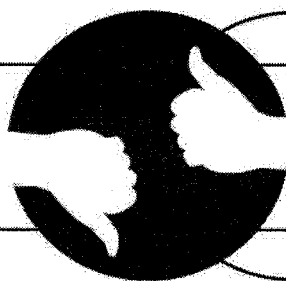
### September in Illinois was wet

Last month was the seventh warmest September since 1895 and the third warmest September on record in northeastern Illinois. It was also the fourth consecutive month of temperatures above normal and the seventh warmest June-September on record. September temperatures averaged 70.6 degrees Fahrenheit statewide, 4.4 degrees above normal. Temperatures ranged from 97 degrees Fahrenheit at Belleville on September 22 to 32 degrees Fahrenheit at Mt. Carroll on September 29," said State Climatologist Jim Angel of the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS). September rainfall averaged 3.91 inches, 0.73 inches above normal, but rainfall since March averaged 18.90 inches, 7.12 inches below normal making this Illinois' sixth driest March-September since 1895. While most of the state enjoyed the extra rainfall in September, rainfall north of I-80 was only 2.79 inches, 0.54 inches below normal. Nashville had the highest one-day precipitation total with 3.58 inches on September 20. Lebanon had the highest monthly total with 10.11 inches. But if you're from Illinois you probably already knew that.

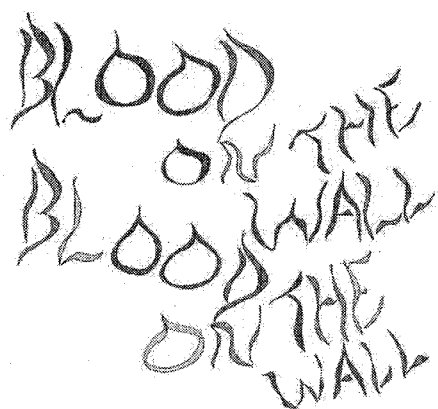


[http://www.kansan.com/stories/2005/oct/06/free\\_for\\_all/](http://www.kansan.com/stories/2005/oct/06/free_for_all/)  
Go there and read this. One word wtf?





## Blood on the Wall: indy rock cornucopia



### Blood on the Wall - Awesomer review by >> Tim Linn

Someday I hope to be a dad. No wait, I wanna be a granddad. But one of the cool ones, not the ones who are kinda mean and wear diapers. I want all the fixin's too. I want my grandkids to ask me questions, like:

"Granpaw, why do dogs have to die?"

"Granpaw, is everything in every Quentin Tarantino movie a reference to another film?"

And,

"Granpaw, what is indie-rock?"

You know important questions. Anyway, thankfully, I think I found an answer to that last one. Y'see, I recently picked up *Blood on the Wall's* second LP, *Awesomer*, and this thing is like an encyclopedia of indie rock. The band is a trio from Brooklyn, but they don't sound like Gang of Four or the Fall, so that's kinda weird.

*Awesomer* starts with an underwater bass tone, fuzzed out and beautiful, which ends up being a recurring theme of sorts. Then the drums

kick in, little surgical strike hi hats and Ritalin drum rolls. Thus begins "Stoner Jam" which features the smoky vocals of Courtney Shanks, one half of the brother sister combo at the heart of the band. She and her brother Brad trade pretty evenly throughout the whole of the album.

From there, we get "Reunite on Ice" which is straight *Sister* territory. The guitars scream from the abuse they're taking, but only get occasional squeaks out, because they're being pummeled so harshly. It's a great bombastic piece of riffing that kicks the album's first side into high gear.

"I'd Like to Take You Out" is another fine cut from Courtney, this time with a song that sounds like Liz Phair's *Exile in Guyville* waiting to be shot into space.

The second half gets a bit more raucous, with "Mary Susan", which in an alternate universe came between "Mr. Grieves" and "La La Love You". "Get the Fuck Off My Cloud" should be pretty self-explanatory, and "Rite to Life Tonite" could kick your next party in the ass, in a good way.

So, what of it? I don't know if I like this or not. I mean, look at the pedigree. Sonic Youth? Duh. Liz Phair? Yes please. Pixies? Sounds good to me. I personally find the post-modern cut 'n paste thing to be bordering on aping at times, but it's also kinda cute, and they're not exactly borrowing things from the most trendy bands. This album's like finding a mixtape from 1993, except not for me cause back then I listened to the B-52's and Soundgarden, not the most cutting edge indie music. If you like that, then you'll like this. Hell, you might like it anyway, because in the end, the fun factor really just outweighs the "jeez, wasn't this a Pavement b-side?" of the whole thing by a pretty significant margin.

## Go! Team in London: One Year Later

### review by >> Chris! Scott

It might seem ridiculous to review a show a whole year after the fact, but as any fan of music, hipster or otherwise, will tell you, some outings are just so terrible, they tend to stick with you. While studying in London for a semester, my group of friends and I often frequented a venue called The Mean Fiddler, known for bringing an onslaught of up-and-comers every Saturday night. The place was absurd and confusing, but they did tend to secure fairly talented bands I was usually too drunk to really remember including (possibly) Bloc Party, The Rakes, Radio 4, Ratatat, and on and on and on. One of the only bands I remember with any clarity was the International Noise

Conspiracy, and that's because it was my birthday and I was wearing a fake mustache and screaming a lot. They were awful, and it's telling that their centerpiece-an off-kilter, lazy rendition of "Capitalism Stole My Virginity"-made me want to fuck capitalism even harder than I already did. But nothing could have prepared me for this band I'd never heard of called The Go! Team.

To begin with, I was under the impression they were some sort of American pop punk band, and I guess I was thinking of someone else, but either way, we got off on the wrong foot. Apparently their thing is a lot of sampling (Confession: I've never actually gotten around to sitting down and listen-

continued on page 11

## Sweet CDs: Apple, Fantômas, Garbage

### reviews by >> Ben Dansby



#### Fiona Apple - Extraordinary Machine

What's this? A new Fiona Apple record? Surely, this must be some mistake. Apple disappeared off the face of the earth six years ago, right? Not quite. You see, she completed this album in 2003, but her label refused to release it due to a lack of a surefire radio hit. Luckily, the internets have come to the rescue in the form of a leaked version of that record, apparently entitled *Extraordinary Machine*. The idiosyncrasy of the record labels continues to expand beyond the limits of the known universe, as evidenced by the strength of this album. Apple's throaty, husky voice and aggressive piano chords keep this one going strong throughout its duration. Touches of big-band waltz, and string arrangements spice up the proceedings and give the album a slanted, almost circus-like feel. Apple mostly writes about relationships, but her deep voice and quirky lyrics make it all seem so much more profound than that. A damn shame that most people will probably never hear this fine record. Death to corporate oligarchies!

Note: since this review was written, *Extraordinary Machine* was released on Sony records.



#### Fantômas - Suspended Animation

The twisted and ingenious mind of Mick Patton (who you may remember as the lead singer of Faith No More) rolls on. After the 50-minute one song "surgery soundtrack" that was Fantômas's last album, *Delirium Cordia*, Patton and crew take things back to basics. Which is to say, complete insanity. 30 tracks, only one over three minutes, and many well below that, of death metal cartoon madness. Insane blasts of guitar and speed metal drumming followed by Warner Brothers samples followed by atmospheric wind chimes followed by the sound of Patton exploding on the mic, followed by insane blasts of guitar. This album is heavy, weird, bizarre, trippy, fast, and fun. The best work by Fantômas to date.



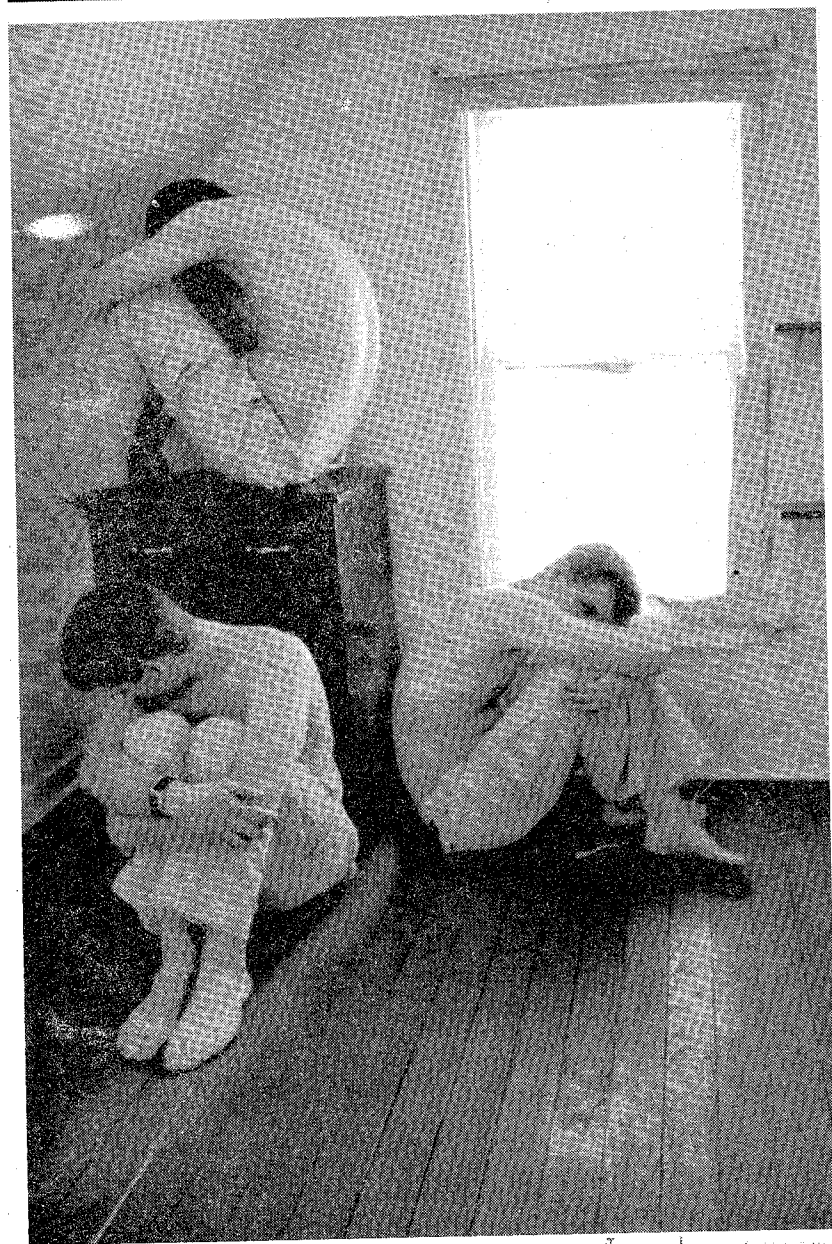
#### Garbage - Bleed Like Me

Perhaps the lukewarm (that is, nonexistent) reception to 2001's electro-fueled *beautifulgarbage* shocked them back to 1995, but Garbage's latest album sounds like it's living in the height of post-grunge fashion. The synths here are scaled back to minimal usage, and in their place are rough-sounding, head-pounding guitars that moan and scream. Shirley Manson is still a pouty, masochistic seductress, but with some differences. The moments of levity in *beautifulgarbage* are mostly gone, as is the vengeful banshee of the first two albums. Manson seems more vulnerable than ever here, which is a little disconcerting, but perhaps not so surprising given the reportedly ugly conditions under which this album was made. *Bleed Like Me* mostly precludes the softer ballad-esque moments of *beautifulgarbage*, and, to a lesser extent, *Garbage* and *Version 2.0*. This album mostly just rocks, hard and heavy. The record never misses a beat from start to finish. Given the contrived and inherently commercial nature of the band, that's not surprising, but it's nice to know that Shirley, Butch, Doug, and Steve can still give the fans (me) what they want.

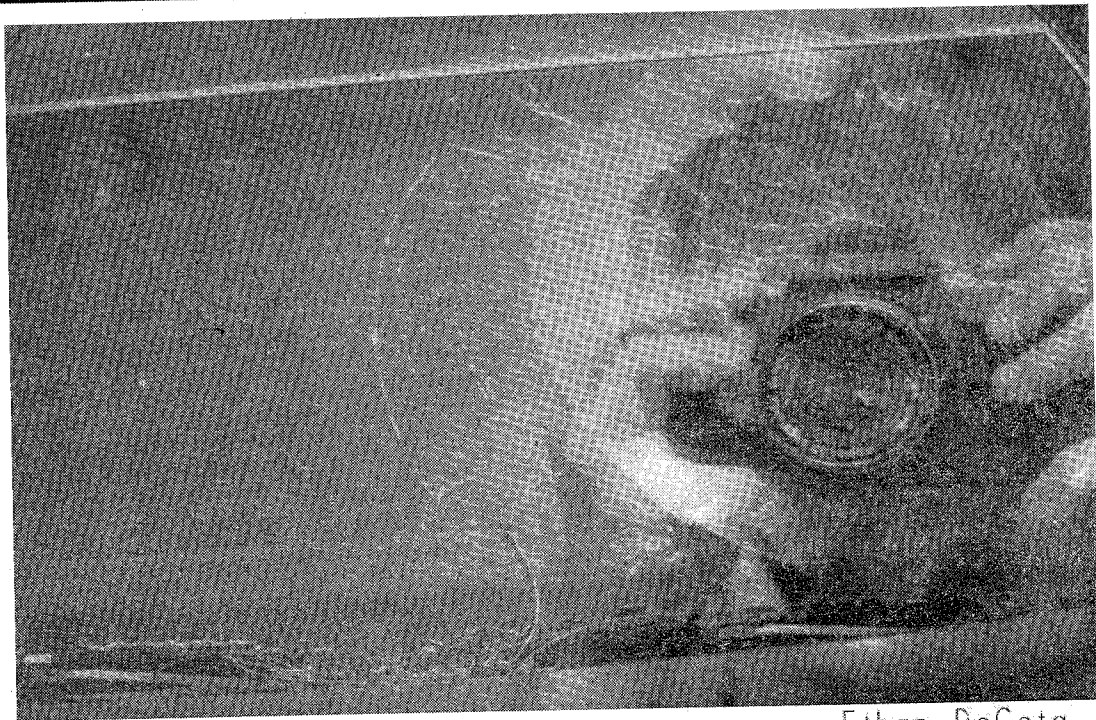


# Photography

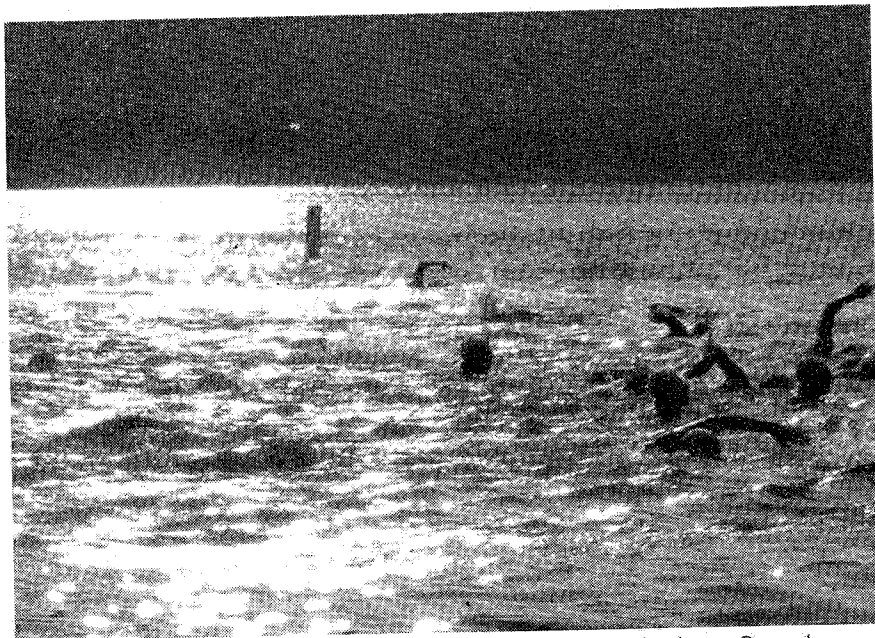
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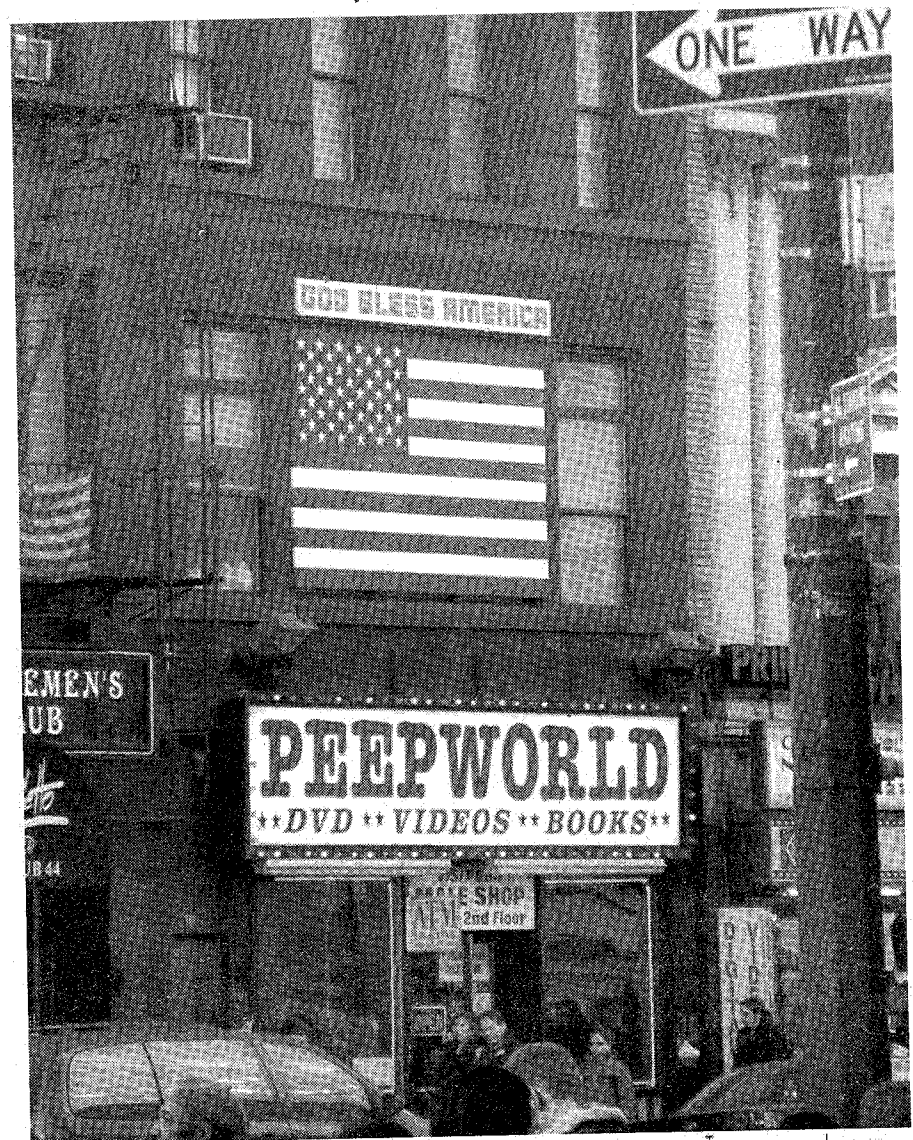
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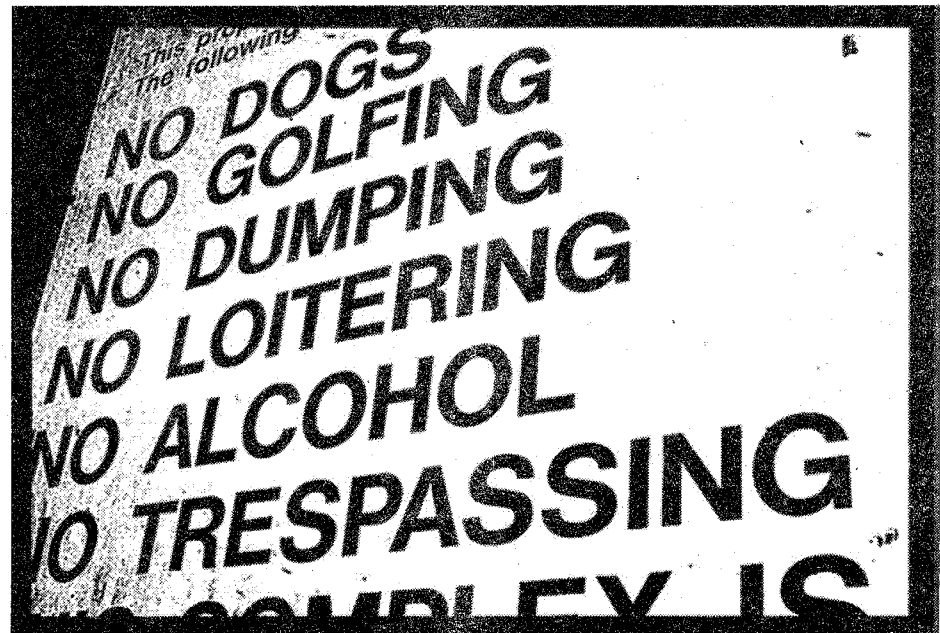
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Victoria Weaver



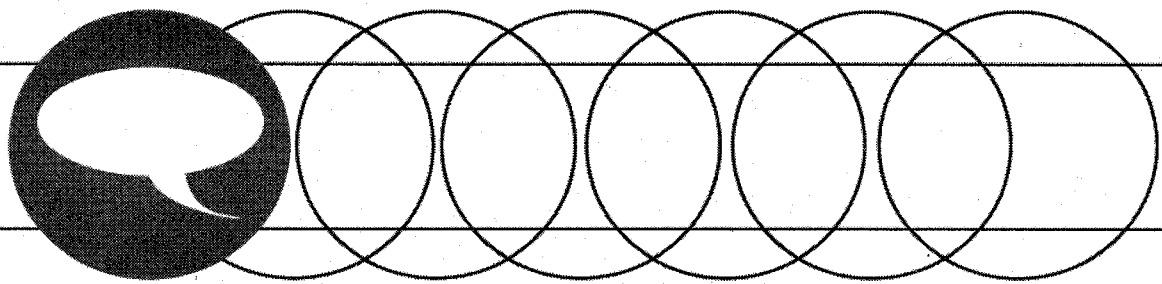
Amanda Hackney



Holly Rudolph



Jon Lawinger



## An apology is owed

**opinion by >> Joey Puricelli**

There was a benefit special not too long ago about Hurricane Katrina. You may have heard of Katrina; it was an ocean-born swirling wind storm that taught us not to build major coastal metropolitan areas below sea level. Anyway, there was a benefit special. All the stars were there, including rapper Kanye West and actor Mike Myers.

Kanye needs to apologize.

In the middle of their rehearsed presentation about the devastation and horrible conditions in New Orleans, West went off-script a bit, rambling nervously about the situation. At first it was no big deal; aside from Myers looking slightly confused, everything still seemed fine. But then, just after Mike said something about the phone number for donations, Kanye just seemed to lose control and blurted it out:

"George Bush doesn't care about black people." (Good job politicizing a natural disaster relief effort, but I digress.)

Needless to say, Myers was stunned. So was the control room staff, which had only been checking for profanity in the few-second delay and didn't catch the mistake to switch cameras until a few seconds had passed and Mike Myers was trying to get back on track. There was a low-level uproar over the incident. People from all walks of life were arguing over whether or not Kanye should apologize for his comments. One person even said that although he shouldn't apologize for what he said, his publicist will probably make him do it anyway.

I really don't care about what he said. I disagree, but the man has a right to his opinion. Truth be told, I've gotten a bit jaded when it comes to celebrity political rants. It pretty much takes something as inane as Michael Moore's Oscar speech for a celeb to get me angry nowadays. Besides, it's not like he lost my business or anything; he never had my business

to begin with.

"But, Joey," says the hypothetical-liberal-mouthpiece-reader, "Bush should've done more! It's his fault the levee broke because he didn't strengthen it when the storm was coming, and it's his fault no one got out of there because he didn't provide free evacuation for the poor!" Well, hypo-lib-mouth-reader, between the time the hurricane formed and the time it began flooding Louisiana, we could have made that levee strong enough to last maybe one more day, if we got lucky. And anyone who doesn't get out of a town that was literally built in a sinkhole when they hear a hurricane's coming deserves to stick around and earn himself a Darwin Award. Poor people have legs, too, you know. Yes, this is Dubya's fault. But it's also Clinton's fault. And Old Bush's. And Reagan's. And Carter's, et cetera. Every administration since Jefferson bought the place should have been strengthening that city's defenses. (Okay, I'll give Lincoln a free pass, as his entire term was spent just trying to *keep* Louisiana.) Besides, none of that has anything to do with Kanye West. I really don't care about what he said.

But I DO care about people's idiocy harming other people. Because, see, you do NOT go on a show about compassion and caring and consideration for others and then completely bleep over the person you're sharing the stage with by sticking in a plug for your political agenda where it doesn't belong. I really don't care if West apologizes to America or to the president, but there is one person who needs a little justice here.

Kanye West needs to apologize to Mike Myers.

It needs to be a public apology, too. And don't try to tell me that he did it on Saturday Night Live; I saw that episode, and he didn't apologize for jack squat. Myers showed incredible class for agreeing to appear, but West was going to be there anyway, and not a word he said even resembled an apology.

I'm waiting, Kanye.

## You may be comfortable, but others aren't: a call for etiquette

**opinion by >> Brad Brown**

Though they lack support, boxers are a wonderful thing. There's nothing quite like loose-fitting cotton or the gentle breeze it allows on your nether regions. They are also more functional than other forms of male underwear; when you change clothes, your roommate is less weirded out if you're wearing boxers as opposed to hanging out of a leather thong. And briefs just aren't hip. Boxers, though, are hip and also great for sleeping. And lounging, too, for those who find pants confining.

Lounging in boxers isn't really my scene, but if you're into it, that's cool. That's your business, not mine. However, I do ask that you be courteous in your lounging.

And, people, I can't overstress the importance of buttons.

Recently, I have been victimized by irresponsible lounging. In one instance, I was leaving a dorm lounge and had the misfortune of seeing a gentleman's member protruding through the fly of his boxers. He had prepared himself for bed and thought to lay upon the couch and indulge in some TV. That was fine, but somehow his equipment, in all its wrinkly glory, had pulled itself from the depths, up towards the light, and out the opening in the front of his boxer shorts. Uncomfortable situation for me, yes, but it's not a big deal. Nothing to write an article about.

Except it's happened more than once.

And I feel if I can be victimized on multiple occasions, then there must be others who suffer silently every week. I feel I must give voice to this victimization. Somebody must speak out.

Seeing another person's genitals can be great fun. Often, it brings people closer together. However, unintentionally spying another person's genitals (gender is irrelevant) is always a socially awkward situation. What does one do? Does one point out the mysterious mound of flesh leering from between the cloth? Does one just ignore it and allow the person even more possible embarrassment later? Or are you supposed to admire it? After all, the other person may find it flattering you find their body so pleasing.

But more than likely, if you stare at it, they will just punch you in the teeth.

So I wish to implore the students of Truman to help others avoid these socially awkward situations and lounge responsibly. This may require the investment in boxers with button flies. I know buttons can be a drag. They take away the easy access feature of boxers that every guy finds simply delightful after a long wait for the restroom. But by sacrificing convenience, you gain by helping your fellow man. Sometimes, some things must be given up for the common good. And buttoned-fly boxers are not all bad. I have a pair promoting Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*, and they kick arse. Like, seriously, dude, they are bad-a.

## How low can the pants go: are Bratz Babyz encouraging pedophilia?

**opinion by >> Jennifer Neiman**

Bratz™, MGA Entertainment's all-permeating brand of chic fashion dolls, has come up with a new version of sleazy: Bratz™ Babyz! The idea was spawned from the nationwide success of the preteen Bratz™ dolls, originally launched in 2001. The MGA website asserts that the six younger versions of the Bratz™ gang "know how to flaunt it and they're keepin' it real in the crib!" Toddlers should not know how to 'flaunt it!' Amazon.com suggests that these Bratz™ Babyz are for ages sex (excuse me, cough) six and up and describes them as 'adorable.' These 'adorable' dolls that the site describes are wearing skimpy underwear, leather jackets, feather boas, mini skirts, and hip huggers. This isn't toddler-wear but rather 'adult'

apparel! They shouldn't wear hip huggers—they should wear hip Huggies™! Perhaps Bratz™ would do well to coin a new slogan: 'Be sexy-be three!' It should be noted that Amazon.com posted a disclaimer stating that the suggested age range is based on the manufacturer's recommendation. Yet they "additionally consider what ages might have the best time playing with this toy." Would this include a full grown male? Perhaps the website should indicate a more constricted

age range such as ages six through seventeen!

The kid-friendly website 4kids.tv calls Bratz™ a "worldwide phenomenon," and boasts that "over 60 Bratz™ collections have been released and sold over 100 million

Bratz™ dolls around the world." Clearly, these dolls are successful. However, does that make them right? One doll is modeled on the box with her legs apart while spread out on a beach



blanket. Who is buying into this idea of toddlers being presented in such a provocative manner? Who are the consumers? Is it the parents who only want to give their daughter a doll in general? No, the parents are not solely to blame; the girls themselves drive the success of the company by desiring the product. Like SpongeBob™ and Hello Kitty™, Bratz™ makes an array of sleepwear, bedroom decor, backpacks, lunchboxes, video games, and movies. There are many opponents who feel that Bratz™ are 'just dolls' and not a conspiracy to make girls want to look and act older. Maybe it's not a conspiracy. However, consider Barbie™. In the 'old days,' Barbie™, though disproportionate, was at least covered! One can conclude that MGA isn't raising the bar for girls today, but rather lowering the pants.



# The great challenge of our new century

opinion by >> Ian Florida

On October 6, President Bush delivered a speech addressing the situation in Iraq and the state of America's war on terror. Bush delivered the speech during a period of ongoing lows in both his Presidential approval rating and support for the war effort.

Aside from making his stale declarations that Iraq is inextricably tied to our war on terror, he had little to say. In the opening, he invoked the imagery of the charred ruins of ground zero and focusing attention to our constant vulnerability. Besides the attacks on 9/11 he briefly cited recent terrorist attacks in Mombasa, Casablanca, Riyadh, Jakarta, Istanbul, Madrid, Beslan, and Taba. He warned that current threats exist "in places like Somalia and the Philippines and Pakistan and Chechnya and Kashmir and Algeria." He warned that these terrorist organizations do not wish to simply destroy, they want to dominate and topple nations; they want to usurp democracy and take power for their own. That is their danger. Bush warned that their goal is to "overthrow all moderate governments in the region and establish a radical Islamic empire." He continued to compare Zarqawi to Hitler, Stalin, and Pol Pot. He warned that other fanatics "consumed whole nations in war and genocide before leaving the stage of history." He called them "Evil men obsessed with ambition and unburdened by conscience."

The continuing advance in technology has only helped to train and arm terrorists. "They exploit modern technology," Bush claimed. This has increased their aptitude for violence.

"Some have also argued that extremism has been strengthened by the actions of our coalition in Iraq, claiming that our presence in that country has somehow caused or triggered the rage of radicals," Bush continued. "I would remind them that we were not in Iraq on September the eleventh, 2001, and Al Qaida attacked us anyway."

Next Bush listed the litany of justifications terrorists have used for their violence, including "Israeli presence on the West Bank or the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia or the defeat of the Taliban or the crusades of a thousand years ago."

Bush then continued to compare "Islamofascism" to communism in no less than five bullet-points. Laying out the ways we are meeting the challenge, Bush elaborated on his plans. Our path requires determination "to prevent the attacks of terrorist network before they occur," as well as "patience, constant pressure, and strong partners in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, Asia and beyond."

He ended his speech by stating that "In Iraq, there is no peace without victory." He said that now that we are in this far we must stay the course until it is finished. We cannot compromise; we cannot falter; we must fight until the fight is done. Leaving now would only embolden our enemies and strengthen their power. He described the war as a "difficult, long-term project."

Again, a western nation marginalizes any participation in hardening enraged extremists' resolve to usurp our democracy and speaks only of the sacrifices we must render to destroy it. George Bush claims that the great struggle of this century will be in the conflict which rises between free people who love liberty and violent ide-

logues who wish to enslave humanity to their religion. I believe he is wrong. The great struggle will reside in rationalizing the protection required to ensure our lives with the liberty required to assert our title as a free people while also recognizing the wrongs committed by our fathers so that we may not repeat them. When Bush discusses the wrongs of the Western World on the Middle East he mentions current affairs and massacres of millennia ago.

Where does his speech mention the Hussein-McMahon Correspondence which promised freedom and autonomy to Middle Eastern nations for their support in taking out the Ottoman Empire in World War I? Instead of addressing the actual misdeeds of the Western World, and recognizing that there are some real reasons for their cruelty and violence, he marginalizes our participation in the formation of their present character.

What happened to the Hussein-McMahon Correspondence? Well, France and Britain had a different idea which is recognized in the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The agreement, implemented in 1919, contradicts the agreement the British made with the Arabs at the start of the war (the Hussein-McMahon Correspondence), which promised the Arabs independence of what is now Syria, Palestine (Israel), Jordan, Iraq, and the Arabian Peninsula.

Why do the Arabs resent the Jews, aside from thousands of years of conflict we could look at the Balfour Declaration which promised to create a national home for the Jewish population from lands confiscated from the Arabs. We do not need to go back one thousand or two thousand years to see the seeds of rage in this region of the world. While the allies are swindling land from the Arabs and negating promises, they are handing out deeds to the Jewish population.

When Saad Zaghlul leads a delegation to meet with the ruling British High Commissioner and demands the independence for Egypt they had been promised, he is refused, and is subsequently arrested and deported.

Afghanistan obviously recognized Britain's inability to negotiate and proclaims itself a sovereign and independent nation, and attacks British troops. Following the war they win their independence. Amanullah Khan rules Afghanistan for a decade, instituting reforms and encouraging modernization. He guarantees civil liberty, creates a legislature and court system to enforce the new laws. Amanullah privatizes land, abolishes slavery, and improves educational opportunities for boys and girls.

Former Ottoman-controlled territories in the Middle East, instead of being liberated, are assigned as mandates to Allied powers.

In 1920 an Iraqi rebel against the British troops stationed there is retained as a British mandate. Iran declares its neutrality at the start of World

War II, the Allies desperately need to create a transportation route across Iran and into the Soviet Union and are upset because Iran will not expel its German nationals, so they invade. Many Middle Eastern nations do not gain their freedom from Western control until the later 1940s and early 1950s. Sudan and Egypt win their autonomy after the creation of the Suez Canal and only after Egypt promises Great Britain they can use it whenever they want. Algeria becomes independent after a war with France that costs both nations 500,000 lives. Yemen does not gain full independence from Britain until 1967. In 1971, Qatar declares independence from Great Britain.

It's no wonder there is resentment at Western involvement in their political affairs. No less than 50 years ago most of these countries which Bush proclaims as harbors for terrorists, were British or French mandates. They were not independent autonomous nations. They were not run by dictators, but they were not run by themselves. At a time when America was denouncing the evils of Communism and recognizing the ultimate morality of Democracy, many of these Middle East countries were ruled by kings put in place by Western Powers.

Could that be a contributing factor in the distaste for anyone too closely associated with the American invaders? Our inability to allow these nations their autonomy is the well spring of violence; it is the root of fanaticism. Western nations have betrayed them in the past and will do so in the future. Thus Western influence is evil. We were not able to compromise and the only way Western nations listened was if the sounds of gunfire decorated the background.

This is no justification for their violence. But, in

order to combat violence which is routed in a long history of betrayal, one must recognize past mistakes so as to not give the impression that the "mandates" of the early part of this century are being reinstated.

The wrongs of our fathers and grandfathers have gone long unrecognized by anyone outside of the Middle Eastern world. The misdeeds of Europe and America are long standing and were never apologized for. They create a history of control and betrayal that lends support to terrorists by fortifying distrust for Americans. Radical Muslims do not hate our freedom, but rather despise our political policies. The overwhelming majority of Islamic nations voice their objections to what they see as one-sided support in favor of Israel and against Palestinian rights, and the long-standing, even increasing, support for what Muslims collectively see as tyrannies, and all of this is taken with the bitter taste of betrayal still lining their mouths.

When American international relations talks about planting democracy in Islamic societies, it is seen as egotistic hypocrisy. When Bush speaks of the sacrifice we must render to destroy violent extremism, he speaks in terms of human life, but what if no amount of blood can let out this poison from our world? What if the only sacrifice we can furnish that will fix anything is an ideological one?



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# Supreme court nominee a bad choice

opinion by >> Ian Florida

On Monday Oct 3rd President Bush nominated White House Counsel Harriet Ellan Miers to fill the Supreme Court vacancy created when Justice Sandra Day O'Connor resigned from the bench. Little is known about her; this is troubling Democrats and Republicans alike, but for very different reasons.

Republicans are looking to be reassured that Ms. Miers political and judicial philosophy is in line with the President's, while Democrats are seeking proof that she is at all qualified for this post. The White House has yet to satisfy either appetite.

A quick scan of her career shows that she is a woman who has made many firsts: in 1985, Miers was selected as the first woman to become president of the Dallas Bar Association; in 1992, she became the first woman elected president of the State Bar of Texas; in March 1996, her colleagues elected her the first woman president of Locke, Purnell, Rain & Harrell, a firm of 200 lawyers (she became the first woman to lead a Texas firm of that size). On numerous occasions, the

National Law Journal named her one of the nation's 100 most powerful attorneys and as one of the nation's top 50 women lawyers. But as far as judicial experience under the robe, she has none.

Ms. Miers has never been and is not a judge. She also has a number of compromising ties to corporate America. Miers had a very distinguished career as a trial litigator, representing such clients as Microsoft, Walt Disney Co. and SunGard Data Systems Inc. Microsoft and Disney have recently appealed to the Supreme Court to rehear their cases; would the decision be different with Ms. Miers on the bench? She has never been a judge and therefore does not have experience using the forced objectivism a judge must maintain through a trial. She has never heard a single case, nor written a decision. She has never looked out at plaintiff and defendant from under that black robe.

Meiers has earned many awards throughout her career and has aspects that Democrats and Republicans alike can admire, but neither of those can replace the experience that years on the bench would provide. She does not possess the requisite reflexiveness and objectivity which only years of forcing can produce. She was voted among the 50 best female lawyers in the nation, she was not voted the best. So I ask, "Where are the other 49, and how many of them are on the bench?"

# Assault rifles plague our campus

opinion by >> Emily Randall

Should assault rifles be allowed on campus?

Sometimes the answer to that question feels like a resounding yes, such as when trying to bike across campus and getting caught behind a group of slow walkers blocking the sidewalk, or when those god guys come and scream obscenities on the "free speech" part of the quad.

However, I think perhaps assault rifles are not such a good idea. They can only lead to bigger incidents, such as accidental deaths, hate crimes and class wars. In fact, I'm pretty sure we already have some sort of rule against bringing them on campus.

Guns have no place at Truman, not under lock and key, and especially not sitting around in piles in the dorms and halls.

How then, did innocent by passers Annie Schippers and Mark Spitzer stumble upon such a weapon outside of Baldwin Hall 156A?

This is a question for the military science division, who are apparently becoming lax with their weapon security.

"I was just walking to class, and there was this giant gun sitting in the hallway completely unattended," Schippers said. "I wanted to touch it, but I was afraid. Luckily Spitzer came along with a camera to record the event."

Spitzer was also shocked.

"That was weird," Spitzer said.

Though Schippers, a rule-abider, did not touch the unaccompanied rifle, who is to say what some other freaks at this school might do given the opportunity and a free weapon? I don't think it is worth risking the lives of Baldwin Hall frequenters to accommodate the ROTC folks who want to prac-

tice their testosterone-pumped killing drills.

This is an outrage. Baldwin Hall is a public building. Little children could be playing anywhere. Someone could trip over a gun, inadvertently pulling the trigger and killing themselves or hundreds of others during passing periods.

This is a call for a rising up against the littering of guns around our relatively safe community. Say no to assault rifles, to war, to fear.

Send your letters to the military science division, to Barbara Dixon, to BH 156A, or to the Monitor.



photo by>> Mark Spitzer

# KTVO: fair and balanced?

opinion by >> Jeff Keeling

Don't let the headline fool you. The question mark was put there for a reason. The doublespeak coined by Fox News, "Fair and Balanced," was put into practice on October 1 with KTVO's coverage of the Choice Chain and the Life Chain.

Pro-Life supporters stretched from Illinois to La Harpe on Baltimore, on Sunday afternoon. They called themselves the Life Chain. This Life Chain was only concerned with ending abortion, which is unfortunate, because ending the death penalty is another major Pro-Life issue. In counter protest to the Life Chain (Anti-Abortion only), at least 27 people assembled at Illinois and Baltimore to form the Choice Chain.

KTVO was on the scene and began to film the Choice Chain and interview people that were part of the Choice Chain. Then KTVO moved on to film the Life Chain. KTVO filmed and interviewed both chains. It appeared as if both chains would be accurately represented in the news report that night.

No (you saw this coming). KTVO felt that because the Choice Chain did not stretch any more than 2 blocks, they had to represent it as a movement of two people. They aired the same shot of only two people, twice, even though they had plenty of shots of the entire Choice Chain.

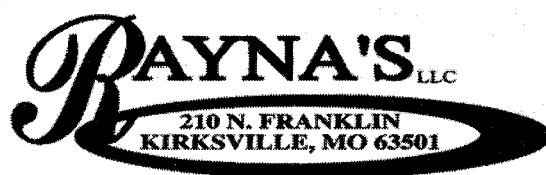
These Pro-Choice people on TV were not even holding signs related primarily to what the Choice Chain was about. There were far catchier phrases that could have been used like, "Pharmacists should dispense medicine, not judg-



photo by>> Ben Danshy

ment!" The signs shown on KTVO were promoting organizations that support the Pro-Choice movement.

The Life Chain was no where near as poorly represented on KTVO as the Choice Chain. They had plenty of footage that displayed signs to show their views such as, "Abortion kills children." Of course it is understandable that the Life Chain had more footage, considering it stretched for so long. However, if KTVO is going to mention the Choice Chain, why did the footage they used so poorly distort the numbers of the Choice Chain from 27 people to 2? Clearly KTVO has an agenda, and has gone about it with tips from the Book of Murdoch.



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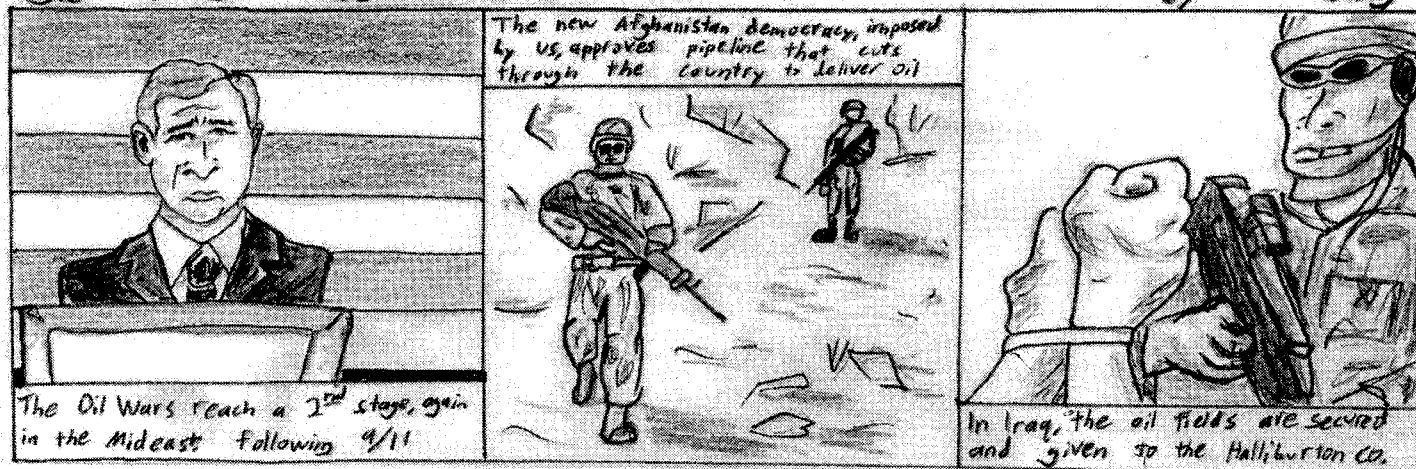
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# Oil Wars: Present



## Bearded Child...

continued from page 3

Anderson screened what became a cross-section of what the Bearded Child was all about, going from "Ablution," a film about the passage of time told through a view of the life of a man who doesn't leave home much, to a film that featured a man with scotch tape all over his face playing the Greek chorus to a man concerned with his radiation intake.

"Alright, now we get into the weird stuff," Anderson said, which triggered a mental double take for me.

The next few movies were definitely bizarre, with one being about a party with an adult woman playing a baby and characters such as "long-necked cross dresser."

Despite keeping an open submission policy, Anderson was not worried about receiving tapes in the mail that could be obscene.

"Every once in a while, somebody'll send a tape that's like the movie in 'The Ring', and it weards me out until I show it to someone else, and they'll be more skeptical about it."

Anderson is a warrior of the short film festival underground, to say the least, and keeps bags of exotic wild rice and jars of honey in his van to sell when he can't make enough money to get to his next destination.

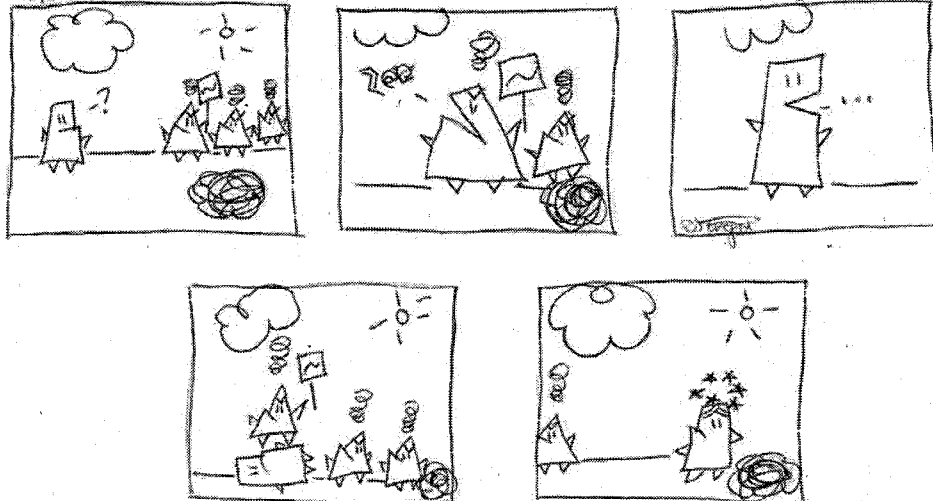
Most of the time, however, Anderson does make enough. He recently received a 300 dollar grant, enough to pay for a portion of the expenses involved with such an undertaking.

It wouldn't really matter anyway, because it's obviously Anderson's passion to show these films to an audience that may not normally get to experience them.

"We are a rural-based festival, and are really into going out to smaller towns," Anderson said.

By the next morning, Anderson had fixed his car (a botched jump made him think otherwise the night before). He took off for Des Moines, Iowa - his last stop on the tour before returning to Minnesota - rolling through town like a dusty carnival barker for the only sideshow left in the world.

The Protest



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## Go! Team...

continued from page 5

ing to any Go! Team) and yelling at the crowd. By the time they took the stage I was pretty wasted, but I think it most reminded me of a bunch of cheerleaders but with guitars, and that ain't a good thing. It started off okay: The first two numbers were just a couple of dudes with guitars playing spirited something-or-other and there were no vocals and I remember teetering between "I can handle this" and "This isn't too bad at all!" And then the lead singer happened.

First of all, have you ever seen the Go! Team? When I got back to America I soon discovered they were pretty well established among certain circles and a lot of my friends listened to them, but I mean, *have you ever seen it with your own eyes?* The lead singer is this tiny black girl with no stage presence and this is the shit she pulls: In between songs (and her voice is gut-wrenching by the way) she basically leads the audience in these idiotic cheers that primarily consist of "ALL THE GUYS SAY GO! AND ALL THE GIRLS SAY TEAM! GO! TEAM! GO! TEAM!" What really fucked me up during all of this was how everyone seemed to take it all in stride when all I could think the whole time was "No no no, I will not do this. The way it should go is, you guys play music and I get drunk and find a really cute British girl to take me home and at no point during any of this should I be chanting Go or Team" but it just didn't stop. Why would a musician make me do this, I wondered. What's really going on here? My sole act of defiance-chanting "NO" when I was supposed to be chanting "GO"-didn't seem to make much of a difference.

As far as the set list goes, I really couldn't tell you, because like I said, that was a year ago, and I was drunk, and also I don't know any Go! Team songs. I'm looking at the track list on amazon.com, and everything looks reasonable. A reviewer says he really likes the song "Get It Together," so they probably played that. I guess they only have one record, so all the songs from it stand a good chance of having been performed, and if I hadn't waited a year to write this, I'm sure I could recall with a little more clarity. I think I remember the drummer being pretty decent, but I might be thinking of another band entirely. I'm sure there were turntables involved. I've got a feeling the last number was pretty rousing.

Anyway, this was definitely one of my more sub-par nights in London, and I won't say the Go! Team ruined music for me, but they came damn close. I want all artists reading this to understand that it isn't okay to make people chant things no matter how kitschy or ironic the circumstances, and it certainly isn't okay to make people chant THE NAME OF YOUR OWN BAND. You know what? Nikki Rainey was at this show, and I'm pretty sure she didn't care for it either if that means anything to you. There you are. You've been hit by the beautiful truck.

# My Back Pages....

Crazy panic running rampant  
Clarion of the death row  
Where the hell am I?  
In Hell most likely  
Overpopulation is killing us  
Runners from a culled runt  
Leave this hellhole before you lose it  
Your house key that is  
Under the doormat.  
Lies the dead bodies  
Chopped in the lift, headed for the top floor  
Save the refugees  
No, on second thought, don't.  
Don't what? Don't love?  
Love is a waste of time,  
Is a breeze in a vacuum  
Is a fart in a hurricane.  
It stinks like sex in here.

-Josh Hanser, Kara Burns, Kim Ferrell,  
Ryan Kelley, Victoria Weaver

## 360 Degrees of Appropriate Groping

Exchanging names is not enough.  
Better—  
A tentacled probe of sensitive sincerities and 'What was it you had for  
breakfast?'s  
A touch that transcends the sanctity of nonverbal conversation  
conveying dire ambition  
Lips that grate unpleasantly at the pulpy pit of fruit and secret selves  
An echo of a symbiosis that is but an echo of fidgeting theatre coughs  
And even—  
Manic episodes of pithy, prancing Zoloft dot people strangled deaf by  
love  
/Better/  
Metronome measuring assures a lack of pulse.

-Zia Luehrman

I remember playing as a child. jungle gyms and giant playgrounds that  
spread for eternity as the raspy voices of children and the  
authoritative yells of teachers fought with each other for superiority  
in the freedom of the outside world. we would walk forever in awkward  
groups, spin in circles until we threw up and got sent home, collected  
grasshoppers in plastic bottles to later stomp on them, hid in the  
woods that surrounded the school and pretended we were outlaws  
(probably just smoking pot, that was as bad as it got in third grade),  
and got written up for scratching curse words into the mobile  
classrooms since our schools were overpopulated. I remember this but  
at the same time it's been idealized and turned into a commodity. my  
memories are scarce, they're something that have been marketed to and  
made into something they're not — glossed over, soft-focus versions of  
a life that I never lived and probably wouldn't have enjoyed at all  
because when there's that much smoke, sunshine and mischief on the set  
of your tvshow life, someone will eventually get sick or addicted to  
smack or stabbed in the back with a cleaver.

-lukeums gardner

*Dear Back Pages Reader,*  
*The next issue's Back Pages will*  
*have a danger theme. Please send*  
*dangerous poetry and prose of all*  
*sorts to:*  
*aHugeManatee@gmail.com*

Happiness lies in the soil  
FROM IT GROWS A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER  
Changing ever so much in the seasons.  
Finally a burst of fire in the trees--and fall is here.  
The leaves signify your feelings here  
Each toss, each pile, I jump in your love.  
"Jump! If you wanna taste my kisses in the night"  
I FOLLOW WITHOUT HESITATION INTO THE VOID  
Dissapearing from view, fading from light.  
The nearly headless horseman rode into the night  
and with a shrill of great delight hit a tree.  
That's what you get for living in the fast lane.

-Deana Judah, Hana Schneider, Heather Heimbaugh, Erin Sanz,  
Cent Worthughs, Joseph Grandpa

## Symphony of the Body

So like the moon  
His face shined from up above  
Like coral diamonds,  
I was in love.  
Caught up in the twist and turns  
of his swaying feet  
As they beat like drums  
Against the soft earth.

Is that the sound of thunder clashing?  
Kaboom,kaboom...  
The sound just knocks me right off of my feet.  
That smell so uniquely his own  
Twinned round and round my nose  
Teasing my senses.

The flute sung its call  
And the clarinet blew out notes so pure,  
How was I to know  
That he wasn't real?  
Hours and hours we danced  
Upon marble floors  
As his sent drew me further and further in  
And like a dummy I fell for him.

The low voiced baritone of the bass played and played,  
And the screams of the violin seemed to fill the room.  
How was I to ever have guessed that  
It was all just a figment of my imagination?  
His skin was the ice to the fire that burned  
And begged to be stoked.

Nothing but the smoothness of his skin  
Could ever quench this mounting tension.  
None but he could conduct  
This mysterious symphony  
That rid the wave of my body.  
On and on the violin screamed  
And the low voiced bass played,  
Until it to was covered in sweat.

I thought it was love,  
But it was really just my imagination.  
I thought it was love  
But it was just the touch of flames I felt  
Like whispers in my ear  
Urging me to find the relief of sweet satisfaction.

-Gemmieka Piper

## FLESH

she took you somewhere  
personal  
singing shush child  
you won't feel a thing

her eyes were torn  
like shredded love letters  
across the world to your  
hot little hand,  
ever apologetic

she waned, swinging between  
sweet somethings  
while she crouched  
one leg over  
skirt about her waist  
telling you

quiet, boy  
shush child  
sleep

running her hands  
along what once was you  
singing sour sweet  
seeking discipline  
she screamed

you didn't feel a thing

-Holly Rudolph