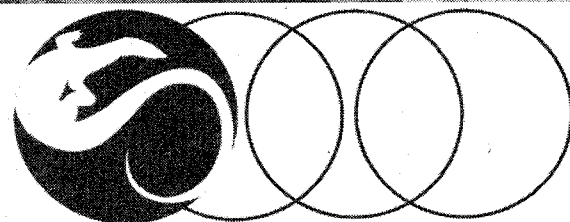




# the monitor.



volume 11 >> issue 4

a campus collective.

October 26, 2005



**the monitor.**  
campus collective  
independent quality since 1995

**volume 11 >> issue 4**

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The Monitor is published every other Tuesday.  
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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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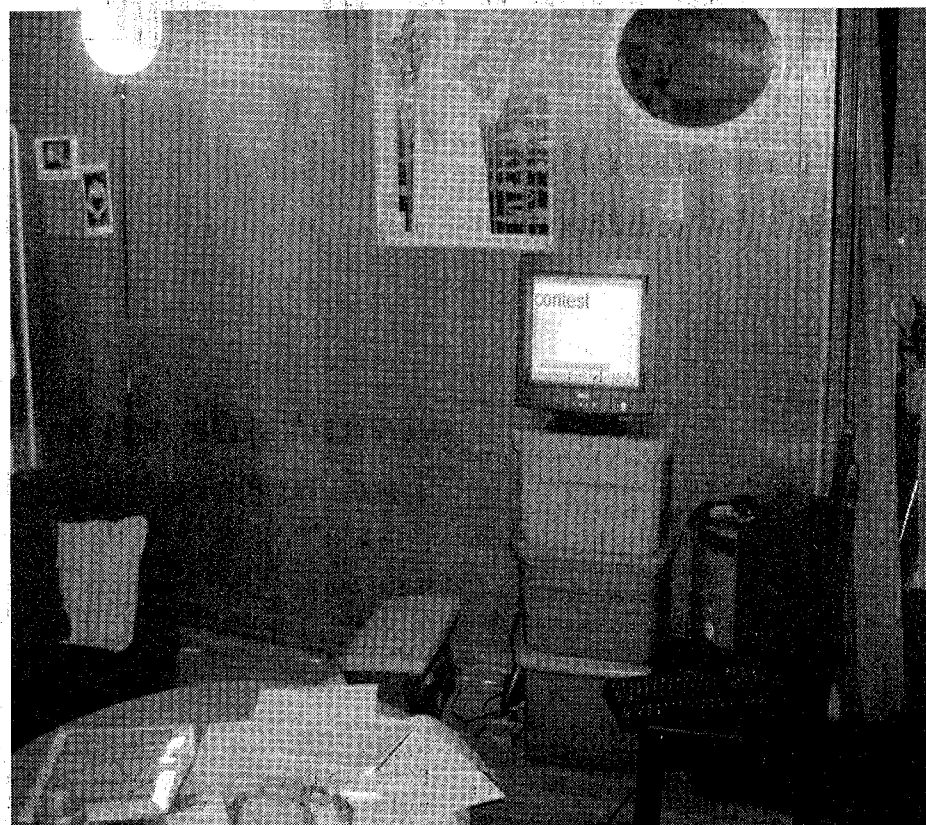
Thanks for picking up this Monitor!  
It has been a crazy weekend putting this  
thing together, but the results seem to be  
superb. Thanks to everyone who submitted  
material. You are the Monitor. Obviously you  
can read the ad directly above this box, but  
don't forget to submit to the short story con-  
test. It is a fun time for us picking the winner,  
and you might make some fast cash. There's  
really no reason not to submit.

There has been overwhelming response  
to the last issue's satire on guns control on  
campus. (Well, two letters is pretty over-  
whelming, you must admit.) Sorry about the  
misunderstanding on that one, readers. Oh  
wait, we're not sorry; we were the ones who  
understand the tone of satire. One request,  
though: if you want to send letters to the edi-  
tors (and we want you to), keep it clean; keep  
it kind. Monitor editors are people, too, you  
know.

Send us your pictures, your news sto-  
ries, your reviews of anything, your comics,  
your poetry, your art, and anything else you  
can conceive of being printed.

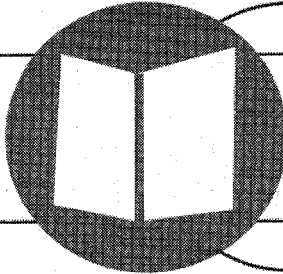
Thanks for everything,

Emily Randall  
Ian Florida  
Tim Linn  
Jon Lawinger



Totally awesome, totally ironic current setup of the Monitor office: the new issue is "built" on old issues; or  
at least on top of boxes of them,

photo by >> Emily Randall



## The hammer falls

story by >> Ian Florida

Although Tom DeLay's trial has only recently begun, its origins can be traced back to 2001 when Tom DeLay, John Colyandro and Jim Ellis created "Texans for a Republican Majority." Their creation was a political action committee which was designed to assist in the election of Republicans to the Texas Legislature. Their organization ran into some trouble when money began to dry up. In order to increase donations they hired one of DeLay's associates, Warren Robold. Robold is accredited with pulling in \$600,000 from various corporations. Over half a million dollars was spent on fundraisers and pollsters in an attempt to raise more donations for Texas candidates.

Last March Joe Hart, a Texas state District Judge, ruled that Texans for a Republican Majority violated the state ban against spending



Tom DeLay

money received from corporate funds in connection with a campaign. Since then Travis County grand jurors have indicted DeLay, Ellis, Colyandro, Robold, eight of their corporate donors and two separate organizations on charges ranging from a first-degree felony of money-laundering to Wednesday's lesser felony charge of conspiracy.

Defense attorneys representing the Republican Organization have argued that the ban on corporate donations is "vague and unconstitutional." What exactly is at stake for the individuals involved is millions of dollars of fines and damages as well as time in jail.

Wednesday's indictment was about

whether or not DeLay, Ellis, and Colyandro arranged to disobey state law in 2002 by giving \$190,000 of corporate hand-outs to the Republican National Committee, which, in turn, contributed the same sum in noncorporate money to seven Texas candidates.

Tom DeLay's attorneys claim that the trial is politically motivated and nothing more than retribution for his success in Texas politics. They are claiming that Ronnie Earle, the district attorney, "wants to destroy him" and his career. DeLay's first move in court was to ask Judge Perkins, the judge for his case, to recuse himself. In a twist, DeLay, who accused the prosecutor of playing political games, asked Judge Perkins to recuse himself because he is a democrat and has contributed to Democratic causes recently.

DeLay's main concern is Judge Perkin's association with the liberal group Moveon.org which he says has clear bias against him. However the extent of Perkin's association with this group is a small donation during John Kerry's presidential campaign.

## Cervical cancer vaccine created

story by >> Emily Randall

This month, the drug maker Merck & Co. announced the creation of a cervical cancer vaccine that is 100 percent effective.

The vaccine, Gardasil, may be available on the market as soon as next year.

The study included 12,000 women from around the world between the ages of 16 and 26. The study followed the women for two years. The study found that the vaccine is 97 percent effective after just one dose.

Cervical cancer is caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV). The Center for Disease Control says 50 percent of sexually active people will acquire genital HPV infection at some point in their lives. By age 50, 80 percent of women will have had an HPV infection.

Cervical cancer is the second-most common cancer in women. It is the second most frequent cause of cancer death in women.

# letters



## Bush administration at fault for Katrina

In the October 12 issue of The Monitor, Joey Puricelli complains about those of us who blame George Bush for Hurricane Katrina. Puricelli argues that Bush is not at fault for a natural disaster.

What Puricelli misses is that Katrina was not a natural disaster, but the political creation of the misplaced priorities of this administration. Two years ago, Bush slashed the money to shore up the levees around New Orleans. Engineers knew how to prevent this disaster, but without governmental support it was just a matter of time before this happened. In addition, some scientists believe that increasingly powerful hurricanes are a result of the administration's failure to address pressing issues of global warming.

The island of Cuba survives similar hurricanes with almost no loss of life because it has a government committed to protecting the lives and welfare of its people rather than invading oil-rich countries and lining the pockets of its cronies. Despite a rhetoric of a culture of life, the Bush administration has done nothing to improve our access to health care, education, or other issues

related to a quality of life.

If the Bush administration were not dedicated to an agenda of enriching the wealth at the expense of the rest of us, Katrina would not have been so damaging. In this sense, the Bush administration is completely responsible for this hurricane. They owe us an apology for not properly defending our lives and well being.

-Marc Becker

## Assault rifle not a gun, but good point

I'd like to address the article by Emily Randall in your latest publication.

The "assault rifle" in question was not a real rifle. While they are very realistic looking (obviously), it is impossible to fire, as it is mostly composed of rubber, hence the nickname "rubber duck".

I'm not saying the ROTC department is without blame, as careful accountability is the standard when it comes to taking them out of storage. The ROTC department uses them for Lab exercises as well as Ranger Challenge road marches. DPS and local law enforcement are notified every time they are taken out, and ROTC realizes the impeding consequences if only one rubber duck is misplaced.

There is no excuse for what happened, and I assure you that the people responsible for the equipment have been spoken to.

I think that Emily Randall had every right to be angry at the careless act performed by a military science student. She has a right think that an ROTC program doesn't belong at Truman, I'm sure she's not alone. I only ask she get her facts straight before submitting an article to be published.

-Aaron Roman

## Assault rifle not a gun, and you're a moron

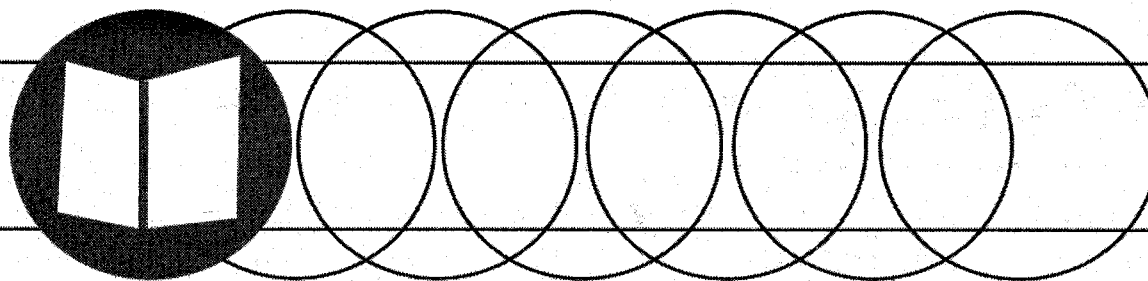
soooo... about that whole article... totally read it and the only conclusion i can come to is that youre a moron. first off that little weapon that coul kill someone, yeah..... not real, not even demilitarized. its made for practice and drill, commonly known by people who know anything at all about the military as rubber ducks. the "barrel" of this "gun" is a solid steel rod. the rest of it is PLASTIC HIGH DENSITY PLASTIC!!!!!! the weapons used by the mil sci dept. are kept at the armory..... not on school grounds. you obviously have no idea what you are talking about and should look into that ever important

main underlying theme in journalism that hold true for everything but tabloids known as research! on a side note id like to remind you that those ROTC guys volunteered to protect freedom of press, which, in your case also entails freedom to sound like a complete idiot in a mass produced article. another reminder entails that whole revolutionary war thing where your freedoms were set out on that declaration of independence thingy and then ton of people died to build this country in this thing called war or something that you seem not to know anything about either. lastly..... BALDWIN 156 A IS A FUCKING CLOSET!!!

just thought youd be interested to know about that one ; )

electronically signed as Nic Beurskens, the son of a 24 year veteran of the US Army who believes in your right very much to speak your mind.... he even faught for it. if you would like to reach me for a random rant or an apology or w/e might strike you my profile has all of my contact info ..... if you got this far congratulations at least you can take criticism without throwing a tizzy

youre an idiot  
-nic Beurskens



## The Four State News

stories by >> Ian Florida



### Distracted at the Wheel

On Thursday October 20th the Illinois State House of Representatives voted to fine teen drivers who use their cell phones while driving. The House approved the measure 78-27. The new law would require drivers under 18 to pay a \$50 fine if they are caught talking on their cell phones while operating a moving vehicle. The Senate must still approve the measure. Eleven states and the District of Columbia limit cell phone use among young drivers, while some ban hand-held cell phones completely. States with restrictions on wireless communication while driving are Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee and Texas.

### Danforth and Stem Cells

Former U.S. Sen. John Danforth is a moderate Republican and ordained Episcopal minister, he is also a supporter of embryonic stem cell research. He has stated that he sees stem cell research as consistent with his pro-life stance. During an address to a St. Louis press club, he was asked how the fusion of his pro-life views and support of stem cell research came about. His response was to state that scientists say the research has the potential to produce cures for many diseases including: diabetes, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's, as well as spinal cord injuries. He then related his point in an analogy, "if a house was on fire, and in one room was a 3-year-old baby and in the other a petri dish with a bunch of cells with no chance of being implanted in the womb, and you could save one or the other, which would you save?"

### Inmate Receives Abortion

A Missouri inmate received an abortion three days after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the state's appeal of a judge's order for the procedure. The woman, identified only as Jane Roe, was transported to a Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis Thursday from the prison in Vandalia, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. She returned to the prison eight hours later. The state Corrections Department changed regulations earlier this year to deny inmates transportation for abortions, visits to sick family members and funerals. At court hearings, lawyers representing the state argued that the rules were in line with a state law denying public funding for abortions. A federal judge last week ordered the state to transport the woman to a clinic.

### Giant Spider

Just in time for Halloween, the Kansas ExpoCentre is seeking buyers interested in purchasing a giant inflatable spider. The spider, abandoned by a former tenant, was the mascot of the Topeka Tarantulas, a minor league hockey team. After 30 days the spider had gone unclaimed, at which point it became the property of the ExpoCentre. The advertisement states that the dimensions of the spider are 40 feet tall, 53 feet wide and 55 feet deep. According to the ad the spider is in good condition and "only saw the ice one time."

### Kansas Windfarm

Citizens all across Kansas are concerned with the threat wind farms could pose to animal habitats. Some conservation groups have asked the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission to create new rules for wind energy developments. The absence of guidelines in the State of Kansas worries many conservation groups. Even though rules for wind farm placement, and regulation are largely left up to county commissioners, conservationists want rules that spread over the entire state, and are not county to county.

### The Death Penalty

GOP leaders in the Iowa legislature are planning to renew a debate over reinstating the death penalty. The death penalty, which was banned in Iowa in 1965, is a very touchy issue throughout the state. The debate was brought up again last session when the Legislature toughened prison terms and post-prison supervision for sex crimes against children. Opponents tried blocked debate on the death penalty. Senate Democratic Leader Michael Gronstal has accused Republicans of "purely playing politics." He says the tactic will fail. The debate comes as state lawmakers prepare for the 2006 election and a battle for control of the Legislature.

### Avian Flu

Residents packed a county meeting near Decorah Iowa when a meat processor last spring proposed building a confinement facility to house a quarter-million chickens in a nearby township those residents resoundly opposed the project. Among their concerns to the facility was that it would increase residents' risk of catching avian flu. A deadly strain of the virus which since 2003 has killed millions of domestic birds and 60 people in Southeast Asia. Agriculture and public health experts say the state's large poultry population does not put Iowans at higher threat of infection. The vast differences in production methods employed in the state of Iowa as compared to Asia make spread of the virus less likely.

## Soldiers burn Taliban bodies, violate Islamic traditions

story by >> Ian Florida

After a firefight which ended the lives of one American soldier, one Afghan soldier, and two Taliban soldiers, US soldiers reportedly burned the remains of the two Taliban soldiers.

The report came from an imbedded Australian journalist, Stephen Dupont, who filmed the US Army psychological operations unit earlier this month. The soldiers reported that they needed to burn the bodies for "hygiene" purposes. However, while they were burning the corpses they began to taunt the remaining Taliban soldiers through a loud speaker.

"Taliban, you are all cowardly dogs," the soldier identified as SGT. Jim Baker began, "You allowed your fighters to be laid down facing west and burnt. You are too scared to come down and retrieve their bodies. This just proves you are the lady boys we always believed you to be."

Another soldier who remained unidentified stated "We know who you are. Your time in Afghanistan is short. You attack and run away like women. You call yourself Talibs, but you are a disgrace to the Muslim religion and you bring shame upon your family. Come and fight like men instead of the cowardly dogs you are."

According to the Third Geneva Convention, Article 120: "Burial of the dead must be carried out individually if possible and must be preceded by a careful examination in order to confirm death and establish identity. The burials should be honorable and, if possible, according to the rites of the religion to which the deceased belonged. Graves must be properly maintained, with adequate record keeping, so that they may be found later."

The actions of these American soldiers is in direct violation of Islamic tradition, which requires the bodies of Muslims to be washed, prayed over, wrapped in white cloth and buried within a 24 hour period. The alleged violation of International Law and Islamic tradition has upset many Muslims. During his report, Dupont said that the US soldiers who burned the bodies said they did so for hygiene reasons, but that the messages later broadcast by the psychological operations unit indicated they were aware that the cremation would be perceived as a desecration.

"They used that as psychological warfare," Dupont said. "They used the fact that the Taliban were burned facing west (toward Mecca)."



The Monitor: a tasty treat every other week!



# WORLD NEWS for the people of Earth

## Human rights activist arrested story by >> Ben Dansby

Uzbek human rights activist Yelena Urlayeva has been declared insane by the Uzbek government, says Human Rights Watch. After being arrested for distributing political pamphlets, she underwent psychiatric evaluation and was declared sane. Instead of being released, she was sent to a more "severe" hospital and declared insane. A court ordered her to undergo treatment against her will. Urlayeva says she fears the treatment, as she was arrested four years ago, sent to a psychiatric hospital, tied to a bed, and given injections of psychotropic drugs. The activist's latest troubles may stem from her involvement in the Free Farmers, an opposition group calling for political and economic reform in Uzbekistan.

## Rwandan charged for 1994 massacres story by >> Holly Rudolph

Desire Munyaneza, a 39-year-old Rwandan living in Toronto, was charged with war crimes against his home country. The charges include two counts of genocide, three of war crimes, and two of crimes against humanity.

In 1994, Munyaneza was living in Rwanda when nearly 800,000 Tutsis and Hutus were massacred, one of the most devastating acts of genocide in that century. He has been accused of playing a role in these murders.

He moved to Canada in 1996. Around this time, an investigation of his war crimes began after members of the Rwandan community tipped-off Canadian police.

## Google changes map of Taiwan, angers the Chinese

story by >> Jeff Keeling

The search engine Google has encountered protests after its move to modify a map of Taiwan. After complaints from the pro-independence Taiwan Solidarity Union, Google removed the words "province of the People's

Republic of China" from the map. The group wanted Google to refer to Taiwan as an independent state in its map. A Chinese official has said Google's move is disappointing.

China and Taiwan have had tense relations, because China views the island as a part of China, while Taiwan does not. In response to the modified map, the Chinese media reports that many of the Chinese are considering boycotting Google's China service. Google has so far complied with China's request to filter searches of websites banned by the government, so called the Great firewall of China.



## Sigma Alpha creates cornfield maze

story by >> Ian Florida

Sigma Alpha's fourth annual corn maze will begin Thursday, Oct. 27 and will continue through the Oct. 30. The maze is located on the University Farm. Parking will be available as will concessions including: popcorn, candy apples and hot chocolate. Admission to the maze is \$3 and includes a hayride and a fun filled adventure through winding passages stocked with ghosts and goblins. The maze is bigger and better than last year's. Hours for the maze are: Thursday 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday 8 p.m. to 12 a.m., Saturday 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Sunday is kids day, and the maze will be open from 3pm to 6pm.

Sigma Alpha is a professional agriculture sorority promoting women in the pursuit of careers in agriculture. The maze, which these women press out of a field on the University farm themselves, will be decorated with terrifying scenes both traditional and unconventional. They always work it themselves, dressing up in horrific costumes and popping out of the stalks when you least

expect it. If you are looking for something to do this Halloween weekend, the women of Sigma Alpha highly recommended it.



## MISSING



Reward: \$50\*

Name: Queen Astra  
Occupation: Funny guy/gal  
Height: Unknown  
Weight: Unknown  
Eye Color: Unknown  
Race: Unknown  
Signifying Trait: Sunglasses

Have you seen me?

\*Eligible for reward only if you win the short story contest.

# Photography

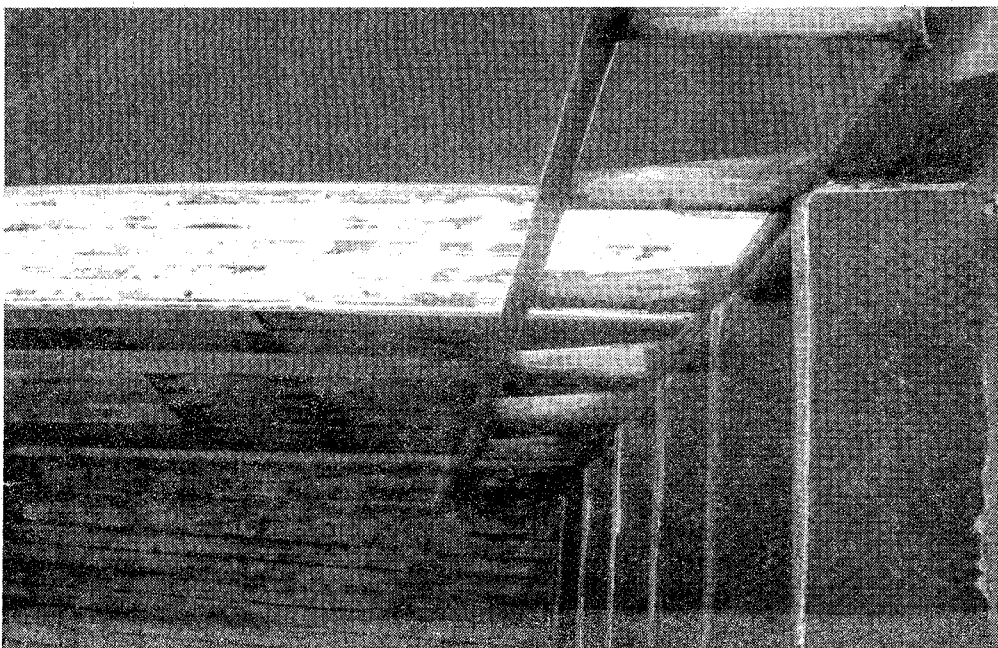
send your photos to  
[monitorphotos@gmail.com](mailto:monitorphotos@gmail.com)



Ever since whining about not getting enough submissions two issues ago, I've had a hearty pile of photos to choose from, which is excellent. Big thanks to all you new contributors for sharing your work. This is good stuff. But don't stop now. Keep sending your sweet shots our way.

- Jon

Fosh Jenton



Amanda Hackney

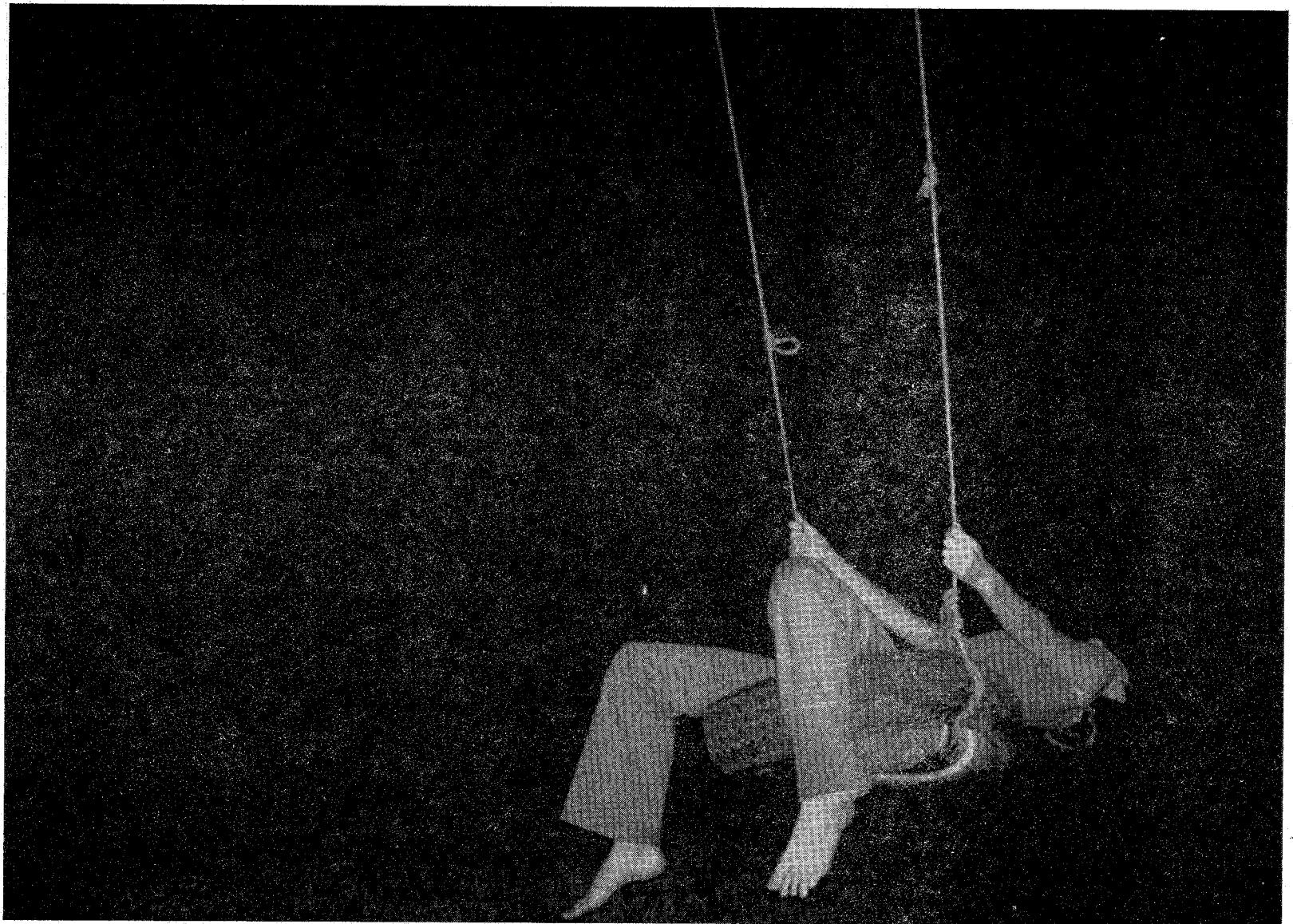


Holly Rudolph



# Photography

send your photos to  
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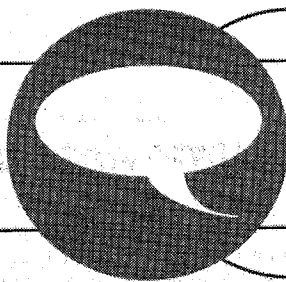
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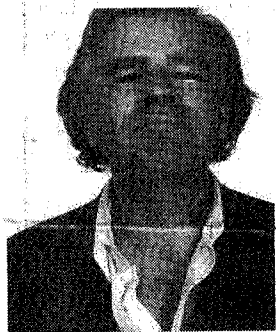
T. H. Ferguson



## It's the quiet fascist one should worry about

**opinion by >> Larry Illes**

Occasionally, you know you have struck the proverbial Achilles heel amongst meriting opponents.



When I start being stigmatised as a Communist as I was in the INDEX last month by somebody vaunting themselves as an alumnus of 20 years standing just because I query Truman the A-

bomber and bigotedly lifelong anti-intellectual pointy heads as inappropriate name choices still for the state's twenty-first century designated liberal arts premier campus, then one too knows that a raw nerve has been exposed by such a hollow designation. Hope that the world renowned Hiroshima University and such ultra conservative name insulters of basic humanity can be given some exchange input by Dixon.

Another means by which I realize the other side's lack of their own confidence in a poor case is when they start to give one insults and censorship calls if you label the local or US national FAR RIGHT as fascist! One young right-winger tried to create an incident over such a charge I mumbled just before the last US Presidential election after we had both, seated far apart, been watching a free Moore documentary showing on Bush babe. Mistiming his moment, as most of his intended audience had left, he accused me as I was leaving of daring to use a certain term; I, shocked by his now livid face by not denying it; as my language was inspired by the sequences where an Iraqi woman and her daughter's home was being ransacked, to their sheer terror, that had elicited the mumble from me in disgust in the first place!

So Americans by this definition are exempt from historical comparison even when they fit the unsavory bill, as Churchill the fellow Brit did when as Lloyd George's Liberal UK colonial secretary in then British misoccupied Iraq, where already then the huge supplies of oil were known to we greedy whites in the early 1920s, he ordered Iraqi villages RAF experimentally saturation bombed as the habitations of resisting savages!! Indeed, if the US and we anglo-saxons such Churchill types were honest in our thus evasive lack of our own real ethics, they would claim to be Nietzsche supermen in ruthless ends justifying exemptingly such ends cleansingly. As Bush and Rumsfeld nearly admitted in their first reaction to New Orleans by wishingly to racistly shoot cleansingly alleged looters.

Yet I am coming to the conclusion, that the US FAR RIGHT that dominates this pathetic White House as rabidly smug as it covertly does, a spinelessly afraid set of US TV networks probably less resembles such overt Germanic ruthlessness as Nietzsche the over-emotionalist but resembles more the less successful fascism of cowards represented by its French and British forms historically and ongoingly. Martin Pugh in his massively referenced HOORAY FOR THE FASCISTS book, out this year, shows, for instance, that the UK fascists have been at their most effective not when they split off in the shape of ex-cabinet minister Sir Oswald Mosley whom I can recall from youth TV as a worrying charmer of myths. But rather when they latched on to the principle party of the right as us born agin sexistly, racistly have on Lincoln's party GOP! Indeed Pugh fails to feature my own TSU Women's History presented favourite first woman MP M. Wingtrimham, even though she and THE NEWS CHRONICLE exposed conservative MP Mike Beaumont as a fascist, a hater of feeble democracy. She did so by securing over eleven thousand votes for herself against the suave gent in the 1935 in his small town Aylesbury.

Here in France too I was reminded of the small town nastiness that the US Far Right flatters and palliates excusingly as somehow patriotically pure by a visit to Besançon in eastern France near the Swiss border. Even if I had wanted to so do, I lost all interest in Victor Hugo, the writer's birthplace and the ancient Roman Marcus Aurelius arch, after I had witnessed the fortress musée maintained by the labor unions atop the hills in honor of the Holocaust and Résistance in the now militarily abandoned seventeenth century Vauban fort. (1958)

You see it's not the one hundred shot, including a priest poet-painter cleanly by the German overt fascist army that so much revolts you, but forcing yourself as I did to go to the second floor, forbidden wisely to pre-adolescent kids! There you see the photos despicably of fellow French executed by the milice, the collaborator fascists of the Far Right. A gruesome sight in awful hateful tortures and mutilations. French TV nationally reminded us less graphically about this by showing the late U.S. married Louis Malle's classic LUCIEN LACOMB, a film about one such ignorant chauvinist male from Malle's recollected own WWII youth. In short, it was, folks, the alleged patriots wed to the national slogans of Vichy: "country", "family", "work", and "God" who were the most bestial and censorious of these right-wing respectables. They are in control of your own country so nastily now and will always be, as self-democratic criticism is beyond their pride, if they are not challenged by you, student and teacher.

## All State portrays false stereotypes

**opinion by >> Emily Randall**

Jeers to Allstate insurance company for their current television add portraying dumpster diving in a negative light.

The commercial spot opens with the spokesman standing in a harshly-lit, daunting-looking alley lined with dumpsters. He delivers his line: "Someone went dumpster diving...and stole your identity." He goes on to describe the ways Allstate protects its customers from such peril. To top things off, the last image in the commercial is a black cat crossing through the frame. Wow, Allstate, thank you so much for contributing to the already dire misunderstanding of dumpster divers.

It seems to me that far more people dumpster dive to save food from wasteful restaurants and grocery stores or even for their own survival. But, then again, I guess you would not care too much about those people, Allstate. They can't afford insurance.

## Pillow can't beat the real thing

**opinion by >> Annie Schippers**

A Japanese inventor offers relief to all the lonely ladies and gentlemen who can no longer bear



the idea of sleeping without some "manly comfort." The h e Boyfriend's Arm Pillow. The pillow resembles a half-torso and arm complete with white

and puffy fingers. Wearing either a blue or pink button-down collared shirt, the pillow is appropriate for reassuring power-naps in the office or for a fancy evening at home. One website boasts that the arm contains "an alarm which vibrates you awake (avoid salacious use)." Kameo, the corporation responsible for the pillow, has reportedly sold upwards of 1,000 of the \$77 basic boyfriend arm model in

the past year online and is working on both a more muscular version of the arm and a skirt-wearing lap pillow specially designed for men, consisting of a set of feminine legs and hips, abruptly slicing through the torso at the belly button. Of course, if you consider that you can buy 308 condoms at Planned Parenthood for the price of one Boyfriend's Arm Pillow, it seems that it would be more cost-efficient to start sleeping around, with the added bonus of body heat keeping your home's heating costs down in the winter.

## American Girl is not just a toy company

**opinion by >> Adam Dorhauer**

Many Americans have grown up with American Girl. The line of books, dolls, etc. portrays fictional characters from throughout American history who are described on the Mattel line's website as "courageous and spirited characters from the past, whose stories inspire girls of today to be their best." In addition to this, American Girl has a reputation among supporters for providing accurate historical portrayals of America and is known for its patriotic themes. This has helped make their products particularly successful among conservative Americans.

Until recently.

Many conservative groups, such as the AFA (American Family Association), have called for constituents to petition or even boycott American Girl. This is because American Girl recently began selling bracelets to raise money for three programs run by Girls Inc. (previously Girls Clubs of America). In addition, American Girl pledged a \$50,000 donation to the same company. Girls Inc. is dedicated to helping girls through a wide variety of programs and focuses largely on girls in underprivileged areas.

However, it is their specific support for a few issues that has conservatives concerned. AFA.net provides a statement urging members to express their dismay to American Girl citing the following as problems with Girl's Inc.: "they particularly support abortion and a girl's right to abort an unwanted baby...Additionally, Girls Inc. supports contraceptives for girls...They also support and offer resources encouraging lesbian and bisexual lifestyles, actually offering resources for girls."

The donation and proceeds from American Girl are being directed into three

continued on page 9



specific Girls Inc. programs: Operation SMART, Discovery Leadership, and Sporting Chance. These programs support education in math and science, development of leadership skills, and increased athletic ability and cooperation respectively and have nothing to do with the support Girls Inc. pledges toward any of the issues addressed by conservatives.

Girls Inc. and American Girl both issued statements expressing disappointment in the politicized reaction to American Girl's "purely altruistic motives." American Girl says it has no intention of canceling its support for Girls Inc., whose "mission to help girls develop their self-esteem and self-reliance" aligns with American Girl ideals.

I applaud American Girl for working to make their image of "courageous and spirited" girls the norm in America despite the heat they are taking from their consumers and the probable negative effect it will have on their sales. Bracelets can be purchased for \$1.00 online at <http://store.americangirl.com/shop/ican.php> or retail at Bath and Body Works and American Girl Place.

## Swift installs rotisserie in coffin

opinion by >> Joey Puricelli

Jack Thompson. If you aren't already either laughing or sneering, you're not a gamer. For those of you who don't know, ol' Jack "and Jill" Thompson is a lawyer from Florida who, until recently, was best known for a mash note he sent to Janet Reno asking if she was (a) homosexual, (b) bisexual, or (c) heterosexual (check one). How very 1st-grade of him.

Lately, however, Jack "Buck" Thompson has been doing pro bono work "representing people" in a series of class-action lawsuits and allegations pertaining to various video games. (Oh, and by the way, he has a book coming out soon, not that one has anything to do with the other). Jack is alleging that the vast majority of violent crime in this country is caused by video games, particularly Grand Theft Auto and Manhunt and pretty much anything else with the name Take-Two/Rockstar on it, despite (or perhaps in spite of) the evidence to the contrary in the vast majority of the cases, such as the fact that the national crime rate is at a 30-year low, while video game sales are at an all-time high. Logical fallacies are Jack "Daniels" Thompson's best friends; most of his cases are post hoc assumptions, most of his views are based on gross generalizations, and most of his responses to critics are either direct threats or ad hominem attacks. The offenses are too many to list in print; you can email me for web links, [grandhighman@yahoo.com](mailto:grandhighman@yahoo.com).

"But, Joey," says the hypothetical-conservative-mouthpiece-reader (come on, you knew it was your turn), "Mr. Thompson is just standing up for the morals of our society, protecting the law & order of the nation! Besides, he works with liberals too, like Joe Lieberman!" Well, hypo-con-mouth-reader,

Jack "Dalton" Thompson isn't doing a very good job of protecting squat; if anything, he's driving more people AWAY from his camp, people such as the National Institute on Media and the Family, a group which also dislikes violent games, but which simultaneously believes in backing things up through legitimate evidence and in parental responsibility. And Lieberman's been a punch-line since Mortal Kombat.

Today we're going to focus on the lovable lunatic's most recent faux-pas. Jack "in the Box" Thompson surprised everyone with a challenge he made to game developers: Bring his game idea to life, and he would donate \$10,000 to the charity of Rockstar Games' choice. His game's title? "A Modest Proposal." Hence this article's title. (Again, for the specs of the game, email me). Needless to say, the many years and millions of dollars involved in making a major console game render Jackie's idea somewhat pointless for a big studio to develop, but the online community has no such financial restrictions, and in a matter of days, no less than three independent playable versions of Thompson's not-remotely-modest proposal were available on the internet, from GTA modifications to original Flash games.

It's time to pay up now, right? Wrong. Upon being confronted both by civilians and media outlets, Jack "Kerouac" Thompson let the world know that his proposal had merely been "satire," like the Jonathan Swift work for which it was named. First of all, Thompson needs a new dictionary, because that wasn't satire by any stretch of the imagination. And secondly, I'm sure all the charities that could've used the donation found the "satire" really freaking funny.

So instead Gabe and Tycho, writers of web comic Penny Arcade, wrote out a check for the ten grand (as The Brothers Chaps of Homestar Runner can tell you, selling T-shirts online can turn a livable profit) and sent it to the ESA Foundation, a charity for needy children. Oh, and they put Jack "Officer Meoff" Thompson's name on the memo line of the check.

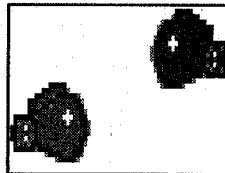
Needless to say, the man written on that memo line reacted with all the class one would expect from a man who sued Nintendo for a crime "involving" a Sony PlayStation (specifically the Washington Sniper). Jack "the Ripper" Thompson sent a message to the Seattle police (Penny Arcade is located in Seattle), requesting that Gabe and Tycho be arrested for harassment and extortion. To their credit, the Seattle PD completely ignored Thompson's request.

Jack, you've gone above and beyond the call of idiocy on this one. Video games are not the source of the world's problems; stupidity is. Stupidity such you have shown throughout your career, and most prominently in recent weeks. Gamers are not the enemy, the ESRB is not the enemy, Rockstar is not the enemy, and everyone & their mother knows Nintendo is not the enemy. You are your own worst enemy, Jack "Jack" Thompson, and it's going to be interesting to watch you slowly destroy yourself once this crime against human decency gains national offline exposure, which it will. Tick-tock.

## Punch!

opinion by >> Ben Dansby

Final Fight: It's a release: Say you're pissed off, and you want to take that out on something or someone. What better way to do that than to kick the ass of three different repeating bad guys? You've got the standard street punk, with the blonde/black/purple hair, the guy with a cape, and then you got the fat bouncer dudes. In real life, fat bouncer dudes would kill me, but in Final Fight, I, as Cody (or the Mayor) am able to kill them. Such empowerment can only be felt through the magic of Final Fight, where a simple street stiff (or ultra-ripped mayor) can become the ultimate street fighter (no reference to the games of the same name intended). In conclusion, Final Fight r0x0rz, and anyone who thinks otherwise is obviously not bad enough of a dude. Speaking of which, if you enjoy Final Fights 1-3, then I highly recommend you check out Bad Dudes, available wherever ROMs are downloaded.



## Counterpunch!

opinion by >> Jeff Keeling

Final Fight was a sweet game. Then it stopped being so sweet. Holding the right arrow button and repeatedly pressing punch got old. I could play this game blind-folded. It's the same thing over and over. Granted, I enjoy simple games, but repetitive games are not enjoyable. Just because all of the bad guys have different hair color does not equate to variety. I find it odd that the mayor of this city is so ripped and has a leather strap from one shoulder to the opposite waist (what's the deal with that?). People like to say they like Final Fight, but this is out of sheer nostalgia. People need to pull back the veil of 9-year old fascination and see the game for what it really is: lame.

## Students long for blissful ignorance of campus squirrels

opinion by >> Zia Luehrman

"I wish I were a squirrel," remarked my sullen roommate one evening after a notably grueling period of study.

A squirrel? Surely not.

But indeed, upon further inquiry, I discovered that she did. Very much so, in fact. Despite my logic that a squirrel has limited cranial capacity tends to serve as an impediment when it comes to acing an exam, she adamantly insisted that a squirrel's general stupidity would be an asset to the college student (i.e. her) seeking utter escapism (i.e. freedom from nagging intellectual burden).

After pondering the Philosophy of Squirrel for some time, I too have begun to note the seemingly infinite benefits of assuming the guise of a bushy-tailed rodent. For one thing, a squirrel sports a versatile tail that, besides being aesthetically spiffy, serves to shield its body from inclement weather.

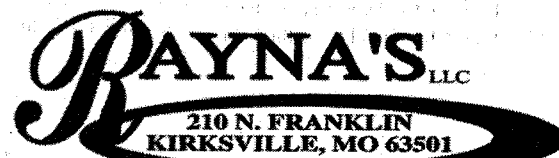
The puny human, on the other hand, is powerless without the aid of an unsound (i.e. prone to being blown inside out by gusts of wind) collapsible metal device. And with repeated exposure to Sodexho "food," acorns begin to seem increasingly palatable.

I'm starting to realize that merely dressing as a squirrel for Halloween would not satisfy my squirrelly urges to inhabit tree crevices and scamper madly across campus in search of nut caches.

Apparently, my roommate and I are not the only admirers of these intriguing creatures. I've even seen an entire Facebook group devoted to squirrel watching. Forsooth, one cannot help but be enthralled by the glassy, hypnotic eyes of the omniscient squirrel. Just the other day, whilst I was engrossed in deep cell phone conversation, I glanced up to find myself surrounded by a posse of nutty squirrels, their eyes gleaming with what I perceived to be curiosity tinged with avarice. Certain that they could detect the walnuts that I had eaten on my cereal that morning, I shielded my stomach with my satchel. I was taking no chances.

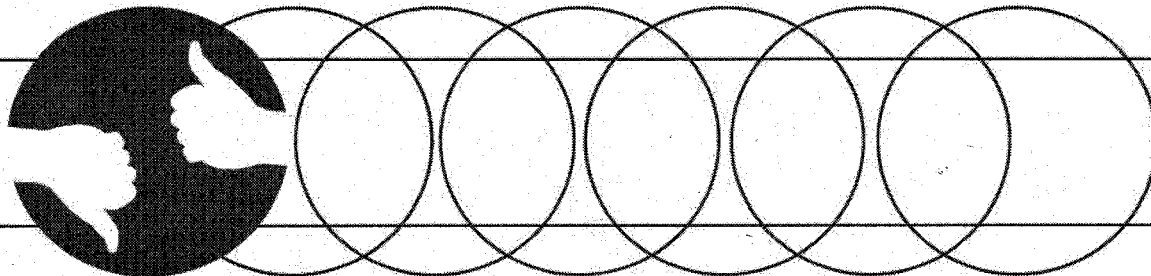
Furthermore, I've seen (and read) Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and was well aware of the possibility of my being a bad nut. I really wasn't in the mood to be tossed down a garbage shoot.

Granted, Truman's squirrel population is a bit on the eerie side, but this is only because their vacant beady eyes are enlightened with ignorance. If you listen carefully, you might just here them chanting the sacred syllable of Doh!-Om.



Weddings-Birthdays-Anniversaries-Business Functions

Owner  
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## Gang of Four rerecordings disappoint

review by >>Tim Linn

I heard a ballistics expert once say "Bullets are not subtle". So think about Gang of Four's debut LP, *Entertainment!* The retroactive hipster music press has beatified this thing, and I can't help but think the band would probably just write a sneering anthem about how one person's opinion ain't worth shit, except it would probably attack the state instead of critics themselves.

Well, since it seems every critic that listened to that album loved it, I guess the band saw no need to attack the process and the use for criticism (thank goodness). I'll come out and say a couple things right now so as to avoid confusion: I firmly believe the first two Gang of Four LP's, *Entertainment!* and *Solid Gold*, are perfect records. They are challenging politically, lyrically, and musically, but are also undeniably listenable; the other thing is I love Gang of Four's original roster of Andy Gill, Jon King, Dave Allen and Hugo Burnham (Sara Lee, who played bass on *Songs of the Free*, was also really good, but anyway).

So, when I heard the news that this particular lineup was reuniting, I got all excited, but couldn't help but think it was all done because the band is definitely enjoying a renewal of interest. But then I heard rumors of a new record.

Then I got excited again. Return the Gift, the original lineup's first recording since about 1981, is that record.

So awesome, right? Well, ironically(for this band anyway), these are not new songs but instead rerecordings of old songs, most of them from the band's first two albums and ep's. And it's called *Return the Gift* you say? Interesting.

That being said, and using logic culled from above statements, this should also be a perfect record. And it certainly starts that way, with a feedback screaming into "To Hell with Poverty", which locomotives right through your skull with a determined propulsion. So what about the rest of it? Is it perfect?

Well, sorta. The good news is the album plays sort of like what would have happened if the band had only made one album. It's a little disjointed, in that *Solid Gold* songs tend to be less conventional than *Entertainment!*'s. Also, there are some songs that probably should have been included (the song the album is named after and "I Found that Essence Rare" are both missing). Then again, that's personal preference, and this isn't a greatest hits album, after all.

So what it really comes down to is the sound of it. Is the band still full of vitriol and energy? And how about "that guitar sound"?

To be fair, if these guys had just used the

exact same sounds and methods to redo these songs, it would hardly be worth anybody's money. So, people who already own this material are probably looking for a different, albeit subtle, take on these standards.

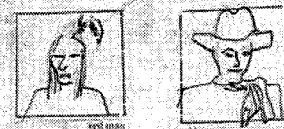
So let's take a look at Andy Gill's guitar, the most talked-about feature of the group. Well, the sound is still POW camp tortured, with nipple clamps and everything. However, this time around it doesn't seem to be as brittle, instead melting a few more layers of distortion to the treble. The result is mixed at times, and works at others, sometimes in the same song. "Not Great Men" gets a much thicker sound during the verses, and the whole song benefits, sounding much more intense. "I Love a Man in a Uniform" is really helped out, too, as is "We Live as We Dream, Alone", both songs from the band's first post-Allen/Burnham album *Songs of the Free*.

But as many times when these songs are pushed over the edge by the heightened production, there are other times when the sound just makes things seem too forced. I have no idea why the opening bass line of "Ether" sounds like Korn, but it really bothers me. "What We All Want", possibly one of the band's finest moments, is really tamed in the tone of the guitar and the pounding drums. What once sounded like a ferocious mantra on the problems associated with the concepts of "love" now sounds rather placid, a man correcting what he once said. The

guitar parts in this particular song once ran through as a foil to the lyrics, providing further commentary through some parts so dissonant they rattle your speakers.

They're not all bad: it seems impossible for that to happen, as much of the source material was genre-defining to begin with. However, many of these tracks suffer from a desire to push boundaries, something the band had no problem with when the songs were originally penned. In the end, this is what hurts this idea the most: the guys obviously had no desire to change their sound completely, but instead wanted to tweak it. Art students are always advised not to overwork certain medias. Looks like arty post-punk is the same way.

## GANG OF FOUR



return the gift

## Another show ruined by jerks

review by >>Holly Rudolph

Nothing takes the buzz out of seeing one of your favorite bands live like a short guy with a videophone.

On Monday night, the men of Hot Hot Heat graced the stage of the Blue Note in Columbia. Being the eager concert-goer that I am, I knocked back a Red Bull, pocketed a twenty dollar bill, and hit the road, humming "Bandages" and "Island of the Honest Man" for all I was worth.

Although the fan base was built mostly of seventeen-year-olds and college girls with thick black-rimmed glasses, I made myself at home against the bars separating the audience from the stage, trembling in anticipation of being within ten feet of Steve Bays and his mighty musical company. Lights down, band takes the stage, and...

What the hell? Two inches to the right of my face is a cellular phone. Upon investigating, I find that the cell phone is attached to a hand that is attached to an arm that is attached to a short, sweaty teenage boy. Due to the audience desire to be near the stage, we have been shoved into a very intimate position, his stomach pressed firmly against my back. I pay no mind, assuming he is calling a friend to celebrate the greatness that is Hot Hot Heat.

Three songs pass. This kid still holds the

phone over my shoulder, impairing my dancemosh intentions. I am growing angry. Suddenly, something becomes clear to me. This kid has a VIDEO phone. He is recording the concert. My anger becomes pure violent rage. As the show continues, he leans in closer and closer, his armpit nearly making direct contact with my ear. Fury. Insane hatred. I cannot move away, doing so would be giving up my hard-earned (and choice) front-and-center position. What's a girl to do?

In a perfect world, I would have turned around and said something along the lines of: "Get your sick cellular piracy out of my face before I turn you into a stain on the floor, you sock-chewing, parade-raiming, smelly kid!"

But I didn't. Instead, I opted to tolerate this disaster area of a human being for the hour and a half of awesomeness that was Hot Hot

Heat and then return to my dorm room, bitch about him to my roommate, and write an article about it for the Monitor.

My point is this: I know, you want to show your friends how cool the concert was. I understand, but please... go away. Don't ruin what very well could have been the best concert experience of my life. Please.

Also, take a shower. Thank you.

## A nostalgic look at a classic: Chasing Amy

review by >>Adam Boughton

Every now and then someone, somewhere, gets one right. Every now and then we remember why we sing these damn songs in the first place. Such is the case with Kevin Smith's 1997 installment to his legendary "Jersey Trilogy," *Chasing Amy*.

Now, if you've already seen this movie you probably just ejaculated with nostalgia when you noticed that epic title once again in publication. If you haven't seen it, you're probably thinking, "Who the hell is Kevin Smith and why is this guy reviewing a movie that came out when we were in diapers?" Either way, keep reading. Trust me, it's important. (Oh, and if you were wearing diapers in '97 you were probably at least 10 years old. But hey, no one here is going to tell you how to live your life. That's over on the opinion page.)

Anyway, Kevin's masterwork *Chasing Amy* follows aspiring comic book writer Holden McNeil, (Benjamin Geza Affleck) and his inker/tracer sidekick Banky Edwards (Jason Lee) along a mesmerizing trail of New Jersey mediocrity; comic-cons, videogames, and arguing about whether Archie and Jughead are gay or not. And then she showed up.

Enter our female lead and the reason this movie wasn't *Mallrats*, Alyssa Jones, (Joey Lauren Adams...you haven't heard of her) resident comic book hottie and the soon-to-be romantic interest of our boy Holden. So now you're thinking, "Ok, boy

meets girl, big deal! Where is the pizzazz?" Pizzazz? Pizzazz? Oh, we're gonna give it to you. Soon after Holden and Alyssa share their first moment, things veer toward the tremendously awkward when he learns that Alyssa isn't exactly batting for the same team. (because she is a lesbian, get it?)

*Chasing Amy* is everything we are ever supposed to be, or want to be. Throughout the film, Smith spirals us through his Jersey streets of love, lust, and passion; turning good into bad into excellent into awful into ambiguity. As our society has entered into the dark days of cinema at hand, it is becoming increasingly rare that one gets to bathe in the emotional experience the movies used to be. Smith's feature is that breath of fresh air we've all been waiting for; presented in the form of an armada of tornados ripping apart the Midwest wasteland of love and bad movies. *Chasing Amy* will tug at your heartstrings until they tear, then tie them back together and staple them to your balls (or ovaries).

In closing, do yourself a favor and go out and grab a couple of copies. My advice would be to place one right next to your box set of *Boy Meets World* and give the other to somebody you love. Maybe even that somebody you love.

*Chasing Amy* is what you need. Take care of each other. "She was a girl... I know that now"



# Investigative Report

## Monitor Exclusive: Dieting in Kirksville

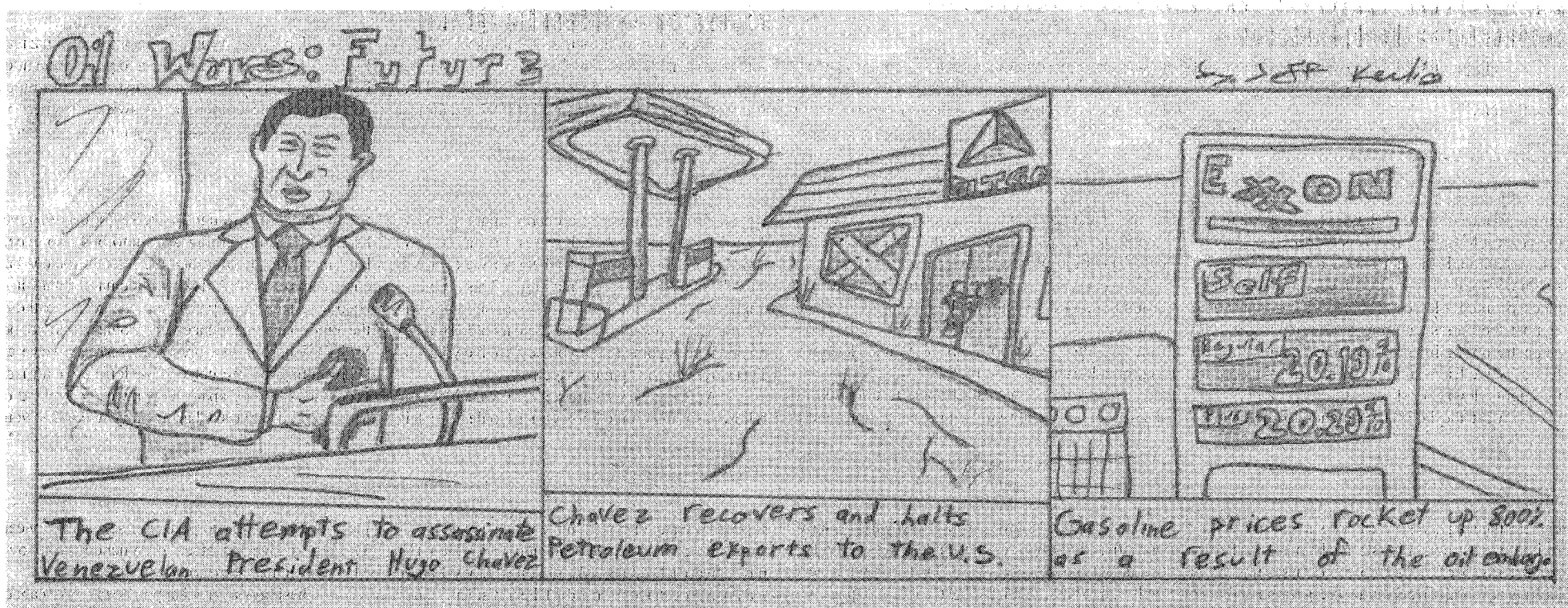
We are sacrificing our bodies to science in order to uncover the truth behind some of the weight-loss options for local people. Over the next month, we will each follow a (bottle-) recommended regimen of diet pills. We will keep our diet and exercise practices unchanged, so as to isolate the effects of our pills. Pray for us.

**Annie Schippers**

**Dru Parrish**

**Emily Randall**

height, weight >	5'5", 138 lbs	5'11", 173 lbs.	5'9", 150 lbs.
Measurements >	40"-35"-43"	36"-35"-42"	38"-30"-44"
Diet Pill >	Total Lean Multi	TrimSpa, baby.	Turbocharge
Desired weight loss >	5-10 lbs.	172 lbs.	0-2 lbs.
Exercise Routine >	Biking, mostly as a functional thing.	Smoking and masturbating	Biking and regular trips up the stairs to third floor Baldwin.
Eating Habits >	Eating is an addiction for me. I do it every day or I can't function	Smoking	While I don't eat meat, I eat my weight in cheese every day.
Inspiration >	Anna Nicole Smith	Anna Nicole Smith	Anna Nicole Smith



# My Back Pages...

I love to lie in bed awake  
hovering between my dreams  
and the sound of the radio in the next room  
You are already up and about  
busy making tea and coffee  
and when you come back to wake me  
I pretend to be fast asleep  
You kiss me and hold me in your arms  
coaxing me, little by little, to leave  
the delicious warmth of the bed  
and take my first stumbling steps  
into today.

-the artist formerly known as The Gracerino

There is this song  
By the mountain goats.  
My favorite song  
Actually.

By them.

There's this part  
Where John says,  
"...stay the hell out of our way,"  
I always thought,  
He should say fuck.

Maybe he thought it was too vulgar.  
Maybe he didn't like the way  
The soft "u" sounded.  
At any rate,  
He's a better writer than me.  
I mean I.

-Adm Boughton

unlimited want. finite means. scarcity and extraction of knowledge  
through money. money money. talk some more about money. devote some  
more time to money. more pages in the new york times. more more  
more. give us more. we don't know what enough is. we don't know  
what anything is. tell us, show us, we're so blindfuckingdumb from  
our years of sucking up breakfast cereal and stupid bullshit tv that  
we don't know what the fuck is up anymore. black is white white is  
black we don't even care anymore. we just want someone to shepherd  
us. but don't tell me what to do, I'll spit in your face and sell it  
to you. cos I gotta get rich before I die.

-Luke Gardner

Everywhere you look  
The stamping hordes of cattle  
The mob of red and white  
Surrounding  
Overcoming  
Closing in on you  
The clip-clop of their heels  
Exploding in your ears  
Their piercing red  
Raping your eyes  
The choking clouds, like  
Fumes, fill the air  
Wheezing, gasping you  
Stumble past the  
The conformities of three letters  
Three foreign letters

-Brandi Graham

This loud classroom is crazy  
But I feel more comfortable  
without the last laugh.  
Who cries for the victims of an unknown meteor?  
And I stayed till they cleaned out the old house.  
After the cleaning, I was the first to take a bite.  
True freshness overtook me and I slept well.  
Grabbing the crust of the earth in my fingernails,  
how nice it is to see you after all these years.  
Then I turned to the side my ancestors spit out of  
And spat back. "Fuck you!" I said.  
"Cuz guess what, you already tried that!"  
And then he took a shit on the mudslide.  
The shit went inside me. I loved it.  
Nevermind what the doctor says, my innards quaked.  
Nevermind the schooling they had  
They are Holla back girls.

-Emma Williams, Christian Muckerman, Tim Linn,  
Keith Watson, Pam Sounders

Dearest Back Pages Reader,

The aforementioned danger theme has  
been abandoned. Please enjoy it  
anyway.

Fondly,  
AHugeManatee@gmail.com

At the recycling center  
I come across a plastic bag  
Inside:  
-1 empty box of ibuprofen  
-3 empty packs of cigarettes  
-1 empty home pregnancy test box

-Jeff Keeling

Silently I observe the world  
Afraid to be touched,  
Afraid to be heard.  
Because I am human,  
My eyes are blind  
Closing with long lashes,  
Black arcs that fall like half moons.

Because I am human,  
I shut down my mind,  
Choosing to instead ignore the truth.  
Pretending not to see you  
Till it felt like you were never really  
there.  
Just like the victim  
Who goes on crying long after the  
crime,  
Just like the woman who hides bruises  
Behind long turtlenecks and dabs of  
blush.

Because I am human,  
I've surrounded myself  
With pieces of broken glass  
And rusty steel,  
Proclaiming a bleeding heart to the  
outside world.  
Because I am human  
I cock the gun back,  
Feeling the familiar weight of the gun,  
The weight of the world on my shoulders.  
Because I am human  
The round loses itself.

-Gemmicka Piper