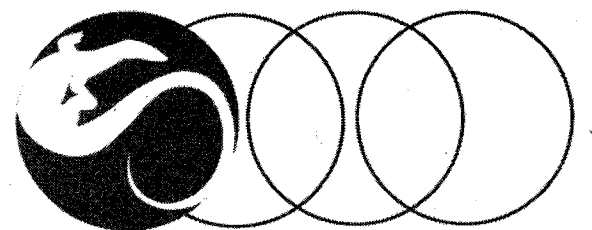




the monitor.



volume 11 >> issue 9

a campus collective.

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noted.

The Monitor is published every other Tuesday.
We meet every Thursday at 9:00 p.m. in BH 312.
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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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE MONITOR

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if you're reading this, the monitor wants your submissions. we don't have any official
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the monitor doesn't censor submissions. we only edit for spelling, grammar, and
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NO AGENDA

the monitor isn't pushing any political ideology, religious belief, social theory, or
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NO RESTRICTIONS

our practical limits of space and printing format are our only restrictions on types of
content. we regularly feature things like news, opinions, photos, and comics, but we'll
gladly include recipes, manifestos, sketches, and anything else you can come up with.

NO HIERARCHY

we're all in this together. the monitor is put together entirely by whoever volunteers
to help out. the people who take on the responsibility of making sure everything gets
done are called "editors", but it's a title of appreciation, not authority. if you want to
get involved just show up to BH 312 any Thursday at 9pm or send us an email.

MONITORTRM@HOTMAIL.COM

Editor's Box

Hey everyone. Welcome to the Monitor again. We've done
our mamas and papas proud with this issue. There's some good
stuff in here, and although I say that for every issue (almost, any-
way), this time I think I might mean it. Sorta. But seriously,
there's a big article about the 3/4=1/4 campaign that really digs
the dirt. I mean, only one- fourth of us students are having three-
fourths of the indiscriminate sex on campus? I dunno man, that's a
big responsibility.

Well, until next issue, enjoy this picture I found of myself.
It's kinda old, and I'll be the first to admit I haven't aged the best.

Signed,

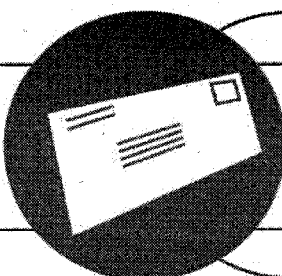
Tim, and then keeping their distance, Jon, Ian and Annie



photo by >> Pam Linn

Ah, the good ol' days: Tim Linn, 1987.

letters



Reader laments Iles's English

Dear progressive Monitor type enthusiasts,

Many times with the visual comprehension of the writings by Larry of the British Isles, and wondering if he truly madly deeply purple monkily dishwasherly the English language? But fear not the lack of commas even in excruciatingly running on sentences such as the ones in his piece about peace or as they say elsewhere, using, too, many, also, verily, irritatingly, lacking, a predicate. To be, what? Adverbs, too, usingly often suchly that they indeed certainly helpfully distractingly from OVERUSED and misplaced capitalization, FOLKS! Shine get!

If I may disagree for A moment OF YOUR time, but I can't, because confusingly the tosh is scribed by a drunkily lunatic hencefore, I am un-warily OF what IS being stated through-out. After all your base, why quotate what is NOT neceSSARILY obvious, like as the nAme of "Kirkville", do we? A winner is you, the

master of unlocking!

Garry Trudeau sums it up best: "A verb, senator! We need a verb!"

And I'm not even a Lang/Lit student, Al Hayfever

Iles laments lack of event coverage, overlooks article

It, to put it at its mildest, "bothers me" that whereas one used to be able to have reliance that our two campus community papers would print at least some report and even commentary on a campus student-yourself organized event, in fact neither your last or any INDEX edition has had a single report published on the anti-WALMART mass meeting last month which I, AND NEARLY A QUARTER THOUSAND PEOPLE, attended in the Baldwin hall auditorium.

My good publicizing organizer friends, Tamara Banks and Jasmyne Diez of STUDENTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE and Elizabeth Hobbs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL might as well have

labored in vain, evidently. Even though two of the overseas exploited female workers, one from Nicaragua, the other from the Philippines, whose names protectively I omit deliberately, face further punishment if their main other sponsor, THE US INTERNATIONAL LABOR FUND, cannot whisk them back to their homelands for their valorous informational trip to us crowded, if middle class all, that very momentous night.

Because what did they confirm about WALMART, at last locally facing a WALGREENS competition source and, as ever, good satire from some old former KALEIDOSCOPE friends small traders of ours, Andy and Dot! They told us that all such workers are lucky in so called "free trade zones" if they can bring home, to large families, a mere five dollars a day in inadequacy, of horrible machines, and US executive males who connive with elite local conservative governments to ignore and sack union activists in the world's largest corporation - one that just happens to rival shoot-em-up Cheney's Halliburton and NRA lobbies as this country's biggest USA REPUBLICAN party contributor in snide rich misgovernance.

Now this is a story I would have thought worthy, at minimum, the MONITOR'S coverage, as we know from past issues you do care about such travesties in unfair sweating sexism! Of course, too, some

critique could and should be made, notably two rival events draining away, for a similar KC rally workshop, Kirksville's limited activist base in bad planning the week before. And the fact that with the exception of a UNITED STEEL WORKERS competent Spanish translator, the vital US labor movement was, as I vocally myself complained as local SOCIALIST organizer, not mentioned! But complete omission in this area, sole PROGRESSIVE record, come off it guys, this lacunae is indefensible to your women COMRADES.

Larry Iles

Editor's Note: The Monitor does not assign stories or determine what campus events will be covered in each issue. Each individual contributor decides what he or she finds worthy of coverage, and The Monitor is a collection of those individual submissions. However, Mr. Iles might be interested in reading the article "Wal-Mart: who pays for the low prices?" featured on page 9 of The Monitor's last issue, published February 9, 2006. It covers an event that he seems to find compelling.

Send your letters to The Monitor.
monitortrm@hotmail.com

Schwengel Lincoln Contest

Winners in all three divisions

Prize: \$300 cash or a trip to Washington D.C.

In his recent book of art and commentary, *Encounters with Lincoln*, Prof. Thomas Trimborn writes:

Today we encounter the face of Lincoln all the time: in the hundreds of statues across the country, in ads on television and in newspapers around Presidents' Day, and of course on the pennies and five-dollar bills that change hands millions of times every day.

... we can see the beauty of his character in his common features. And the nation he called the "last best hope of earth" has come to embrace and share the strength and sensitivity of his countenance as an American icon throughout the world. (Chapter 3, "Icon, the Faces of Lincoln")

The Challenge: Make use of an informed understanding of Lincoln, and of Prof. Trimborn's many verbal and visual illustrations, to explore the ideas of this layered insight into the relations of Lincoln and America and the World. (*Encounters with Lincoln* is available in Pickler.)

Essay Contest: Prepare a 1,000-1,500 word paper. Include a list of works cited as appropriate. Contact Prof. Chett Breed (x5981, BH278B) for more information. Turn in to Lang & Lit Division Office.

Oratorical Contest: Prepare the same, but also be prepared to deliver the speech before an audience at a time to be arranged after March 6th. Contact Prof. Barry Poyner (x4063, MC330) for more information. Turn in to Lang & Lit Division Office.

Art Contest: The same challenge but a visual response. Contact Prof. Nelson (x7332, OP1221) for more information. Turn in to Fine Arts Division Office.

Submission deadline: 5 p.m. on March 6th, 2006

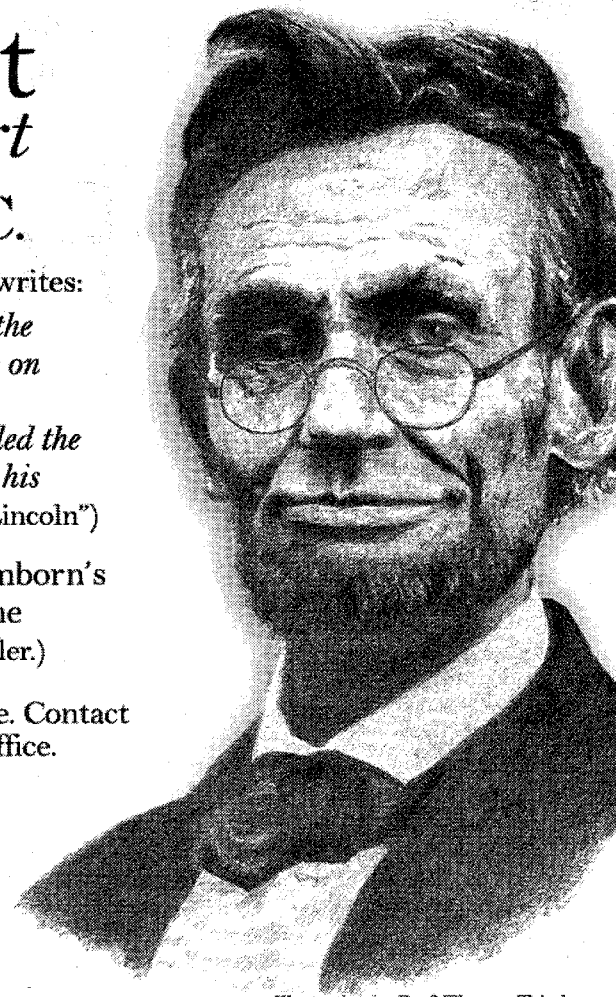
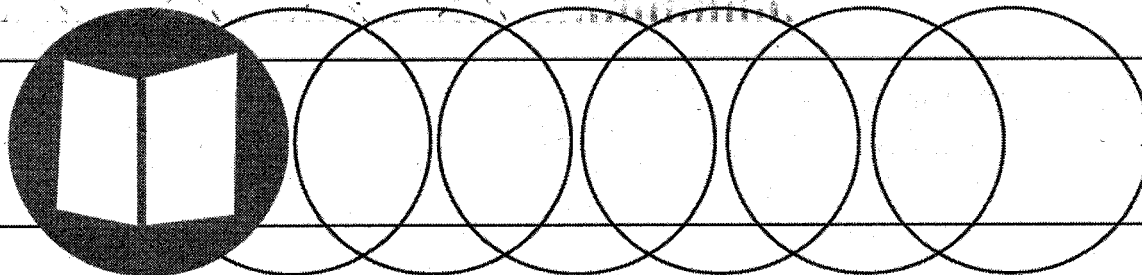


Illustration by Prof. Thomas Trimborn



The Four State News

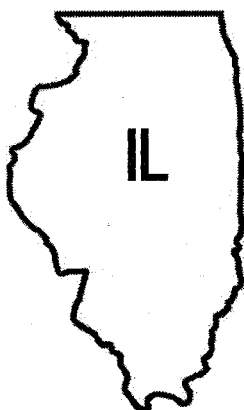
news by >> Ian Florida



Gay Rights

A Jackson County Circuit Court judge recently overturned a Missouri Department of Social Services regulation barring gays and lesbians from becoming foster parents.

The case involved a Kansas City lesbian who was not allowed to take children into her home as a foster parent because, according to an unwritten policy, she was in a relationship with another woman. The State argued that this discrimination against homosexuals was justified because there is a state law banning sexual intimacy between same-sex couples, however that was rendered unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. Texas* two years ago. In her 16 page ruling, Circuit Judge Sandra C. Midkiff said, "No moral conclusions may be drawn from a constitutionally unenforceable statute. It is expected the state will appeal the ruling. Currently there are nearly 2,000 children in Missouri in need of foster homes.

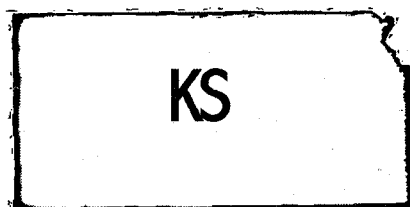


Student Newspaper Editors Suspended for Running the Danish Cartoons

The Feb. 9 edition of "The Daily Illini" opinions page contained something that cannot be found in any major media outlet, pictures of six of the currently controversial Danish cartoons. The cartoons caused a furor all over campus, prompting a student task force and the Illini Media board of directors to look into the decision to print the cartoons. Editor-in-Chief Acton Gorton and Opinions Editor Chuck Prochaska produced the page, and have both been suspended from the newspaper for their actions.

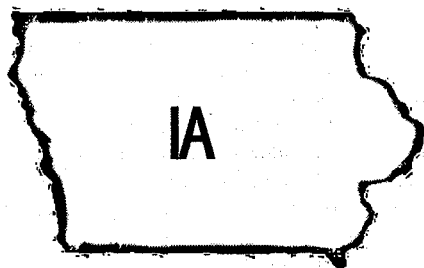
Gov. Enters Race

Illinois Governor Blagojevich, who was recently interviewed on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report," recently made his reelection bid official. His first TV ad announced he would kick off his re-election bid with a two-day, eight-city tour of the state. The announcement came the day after Blagojevich gave his annual budget address where he proposed increasing state spending by nearly \$1 billion for a wide array of education, health and public safety programs. His tour will begin in Springfield and continue to Marion, Chicago, Rockford, Rock Island, Quincy, Cahokia and Peoria.



Guns

One current bill, SB 418, would allow concealed handgun permits for any resident of Kansas ages 21 and over, with only a simple background check. The measure passed the Senate 29-11 on Thursday, and is expected to pass the House. Despite passing the Senate by a comfortable margin last week, the proposal to allow concealed weapon permits may not have enough lawmakers on board in the case of a gubernatorial veto. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, vetoed an almost identical bill in 2004. If that happens to this bill, the bill will most likely die. If Sebelius vetoes the bill, a two-thirds majority in both chambers will be needed to override the veto.



Eminent Domain

The Iowa House on Feb. 14th approved legislation to put greater restrictions on local municipal government's power to take private property for public purposes. This new legislation, House File 2351, is a direct response to last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision that ruled governments are allowed eminent domain to increase business development. The bill moves for consideration in the Senate, where similar legislation is already being considered. Senate leaders and the governor's office all say they want to continue working on the issue. City and county leaders warn that the proposed changes would dramatically hold back their abilities to encourage economic growth. The Iowa Statehouse joins a packed club of state legislatures considering or enacting legislation that affects how a government can take private land. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, More than 90 percent of states have or are addressing the issue. The top priority of the bill's supporters is a measure that excludes the use of eminent domain for economic development reasons, such as activities that would increase tax revenues or employment opportunities. The supporters are also happy with a provision that shifts the burden of proving a project is in the public good to government and requires a "clear and convincing" threshold.

Stem Cells

Legislation was recently introduced into the Iowa House and Senate which would remove one of the largest barriers that both houses have enacted against research using stem cells. The legislature is calling for the repeal of prohibiting legislation, so institutions throughout Iowa are able to reap the benefits of new advancements in stem cell research. If the current legislation were to be left on the books, it would be illegal for Iowans to partake in treatments or medications which involved or had been advanced through stem cell research or therapeutic cloning. This would drive business as well as research and development out of Iowa.

Offended Muslims retaliate against Danish cuisine by renaming dessert

world news by >> Nick Wilsey

Iranian bakeries have renamed one of their most popular items - Danish pastries - in response to the Danish government's refusal to apologize for the publication of twelve cartoons depicting Mohammed in a Danish newspaper.

The confectioners' union behind the name change directed its members to modify their menus to list "Roses of the Prophet Mohammed" instead of Danish pastries.

"This is a punishment for those who started misusing freedom of expression to insult the sanctities of Islam," said Ahmad Mahmoudi, a bakery owner in Tehran.

Islamic tradition has long condemned depictions of Mohammed, the 7th-century founder of Islam, and other religious figures to prevent idolatry, which could detract from the worship of Allah and focus on his messengers. A few of the cartoons portrayed Mohammed negatively - one even associated the venerated prophet with terrorism - and thus doubly offended many Muslims.

"No one is allowed to make fun of our beloved and respected prophet," said Hassan Nasserzadeh, another Tehran bakery owner.

The name change met mixed reactions among customers. Some enthusiastically accepted the catchy "Roses of the Prophet Mohammed," while others scoffed or raised their eyebrows.

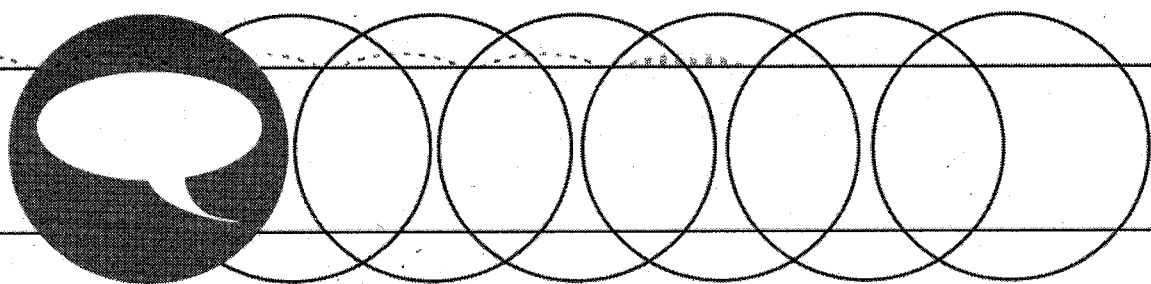
"I just want the sweet pastries. I have nothing to do with the name," said homemaker and pastry connoisseur Zohreh Masoumi.

The cartoons were originally published in a Danish newspaper in September 2005, but more and more newspapers in Europe began reprinting the cartoons in January and February, many of them expressing their support for freedom of the press. Only then did violent protests embroil the Middle East and Muslim communities around the globe.

To many, the retaliatory renaming of a lump of dough seems to bite deepest into the Danish spirit amid the burning of Danish embassies in Syria and Lebanon and the deaths of more than a dozen people from demonstrations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other Middle Eastern countries. Almost all of those killed in the demonstrations were protestors.

"We will redeem our Prophet Mohammed with our blood," chanted Palestinian demonstrators

continued on next page



Curling: not quite America's national pastime, but maybe it should be

opinion by >> Adam Dorhauer

It's 2006, and that means that the Winter Olympics have indeed crept upon us. The games' minimal promotion may have yet to crack the radars of some American Idol enthusiasts, but most of us have by now flipped by NBC and exclaimed to our friends, "Holy shit, go back!" as they continue on through the shopping channels.

Undoubtedly by now you've hung on the edge of your seat as Shani Davis took gold in the 1000m long track and as Bode Miller flew face-first into a gate in the Super-G. Surely you found yourself yelling obscenities at your screen as the U.S. men's hockey team barely managed a tie against Latvia. But had your friend continued his channel-surfing into the 40's or 50's, you would have discovered the true joy of the Winter games: curling.

Danish...

continued from last page

as they torched a Danish flag.

Although the pastries are baked fresh in Iran, many products imported from Denmark or manufactured by Danish companies, including cheese and Legoes, were boycotted or swept off the shelves, costing the Danish companies millions of dollars in lost sales.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the prime minister of Denmark, welcomed and supported the newspaper's apology for printing the cartoons but refused to issue an apology of his own on behalf of Denmark.

"The Danish government and the Danish nation as such cannot be held responsible for what is published in independent media," Rasmussen said.

The name change might stir up memories of the short-lived "Freedom Fries" episode from 2003, when two U.S. House representatives spearheaded an internal operation to rename french fries in House cafeterias, which Rep. Bob Ney called "a small but symbolic effort to show the strong displeasure of many on Capitol Hill with the actions of our so-called ally, France." The French government opposed military action in Iraq.

French fries actually originated in Belgium and were probably named after the process by which they are made, the French embassy acknowledged afterward. "We are at a very serious moment dealing with very serious issues. We are not focusing on the name you give to potatoes," said Nathalie Loiseau, an embassy spokeswoman, in March 2003, just before the American-led invasion of Iraq.

Sources: AP, Reuters, BBC, CNN

Reflections on the truth fish

opinion by >> Robin Sommer

While trying to find my car in one of our many small and crowded parking lots, a small emblem on the back of a vehicle caught my eye. It was a fish emblem, shining in the afternoon sun. Now, like most Americans, I've seen more than enough of the famous Ichthus Fish to know what it is, and what it stands for. I'm sure most people have also seen the Ichthus Fish's counter-emblem, the Darwin Fish, a fish with legs and the name "Darwin" inside (one of which adorns my own car). However, this fish was different. This fish was a rebuttal to my adorable footed fish. The Truth Fish.

If you've never seen the Truth Fish it is an Ichthus Fish with the word "Truth" inside, and it is eating a Darwin Fish- yum. It is a creative stab at those who believe in evolution if I've ever seen one. Or is it?

It seems that being bigger, the Truth Fish has overpowered the small Darwin Fish, swallowing it whole, Jonah style. The bigger,

better, more fit fish wins and he survives to meet another day.

Wait. Survival? Fittest? Ring a bell here folks? It seems that the creationists have supported Mr. Darwin's theory. The larger fish lives, ultimately I assume he'll mate, and pass on 50% of his genetic material to his progeny, who will have the great genes of their father to give them an advantage over the competition. They in turn survive to pass on their genes because they are better than the other fish. And that, in a nutshell, is natural selection.

Does that make sense? Of course it does! You can easily understand the logic behind this because higher learning capacity is a trait that helped Homo sapiens become what it is today- a clever college student who voices his religious and political beliefs on the bumper of his car.

Creationist lecturer relies on flawed logic for support

opinion by >> Ian Florida

Most professionals would not base their entire presentation around one illogical statement. Brad Harrub is not most professionals. Brad Harrub has a Ph D in Neurobiology from the University of Tennessee Memphis, and he is here to save you from our University's lies. Brad Harrub has all the answers and he wants to share them with you.

Here is his truth: God created everything, even man, in one literal week composed of 24 hour days, God did this less than 10,000 years ago, when God did this dinosaurs walked the Earth with modern men and women, atheists make bad teachers, give me money. He then goes on to present for over an hour rarely citing relevant sources while making logical fallacy after logical fallacy.

"But Brad," you want to shout, "how can we believe anything you say when your conclusions are biased and illogical?" First let us examine what I mean by biased and illogical. (This article is not a defense of or attempt to prove evolution correct, that would take more space than I have here and an author more competent in the field of biology than me. This is an analysis of Brad Harrub's lectures on our campus.)

First: bias. Brad Harrub is the head of the scientific department for Apologetics Press, a Christian foundation whose goal is to spread the word of Christ and the message of

God through scientific evidence. They have a stated goal of finding information that backs up their conclusion, not examining information and finding a conclusion, and that makes me think they don't have the best interest of science at heart. Brad Harrub led a seminar on the failures of organic evolution on Feb. 17 during which he expressed the opinion that anyone who did not believe as him was an atheist and therefore stupid- seven times.

Now let us examine what I deem to be illogical argumentation. First, I will list several of the logical fallacies, and then I will explain a few. These are their common names: the straw man fallacy, the spotlight fallacy, misleading vividness, hasty generalization, false dilemma, composition, genetic fallacy, burden of proof, poisoning the well, appeal to authority, and begging the question. Most of these are directed to discrediting certain professionals for not believing in God, or failing to accept their claims because they do not point to a God. However, Harrub often used phenomena to generalize about the way the world works. He claims that because there has been discredited evidence for the theory of evolution, the theory itself should be cast away. He cites several hoaxes individuals have perpetuated for self-aggrandizement and claims that the lack of proof for evolution has caused others to create more proof, thus proving evolution's error. There have been hoaxes and scams, yet, these are few and far between when the entirety of the evidence is examined.

The most important fallacy within Dr. Harrub's presentation was located in one of the first and last statements he made: design requires a designer.

He posits that there are numerous gaps in the theory of evolution which can never be explained by science. He further claims that these gaps lend credible evidence to his argument. He states that because some biological entities are really complex, they must have been designed by someone, and that the designer is God. This is several of the above stated fallacies all rolled into one. I love it.

Here is his argument summarized: there are some things so complex that evolution could not have created them, therefore they must have been designed to be the way they are, because they were designed they must have a designer, that designer must be God.

As to the first part of the statement about the extent and power of evolution, that question is best put to a biologist, however I believe we can address the second part of the statement. Design requires a designer. Begging the question? Confusing cause and effect? Hasty generalization? Take your pick. Some designs are designed by a designer, while some designs occur naturally, and are thus coincidences; some designs are designed by a group of designers: our curriculum, the law, religious canon. His entire argument can be summed up in one huge fallacy, but he's more worried that "we teach this stuff [evolution] as fact."

Photography

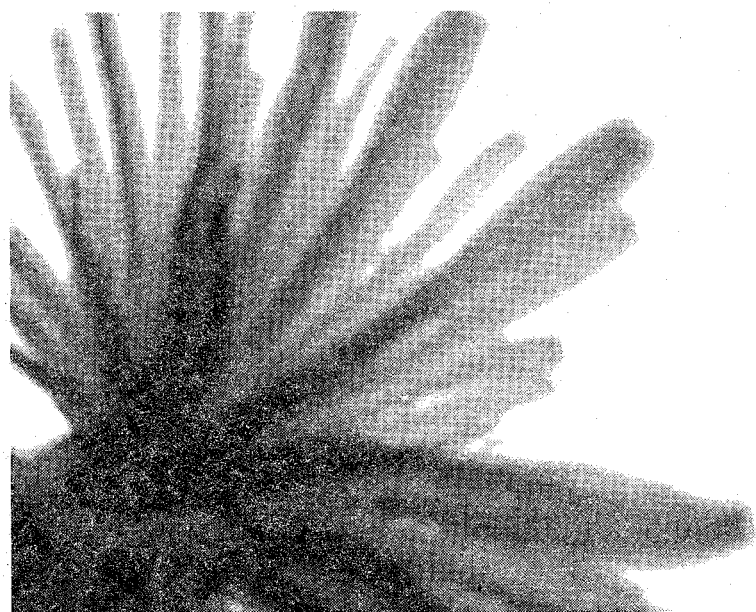
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Peter McEvoy



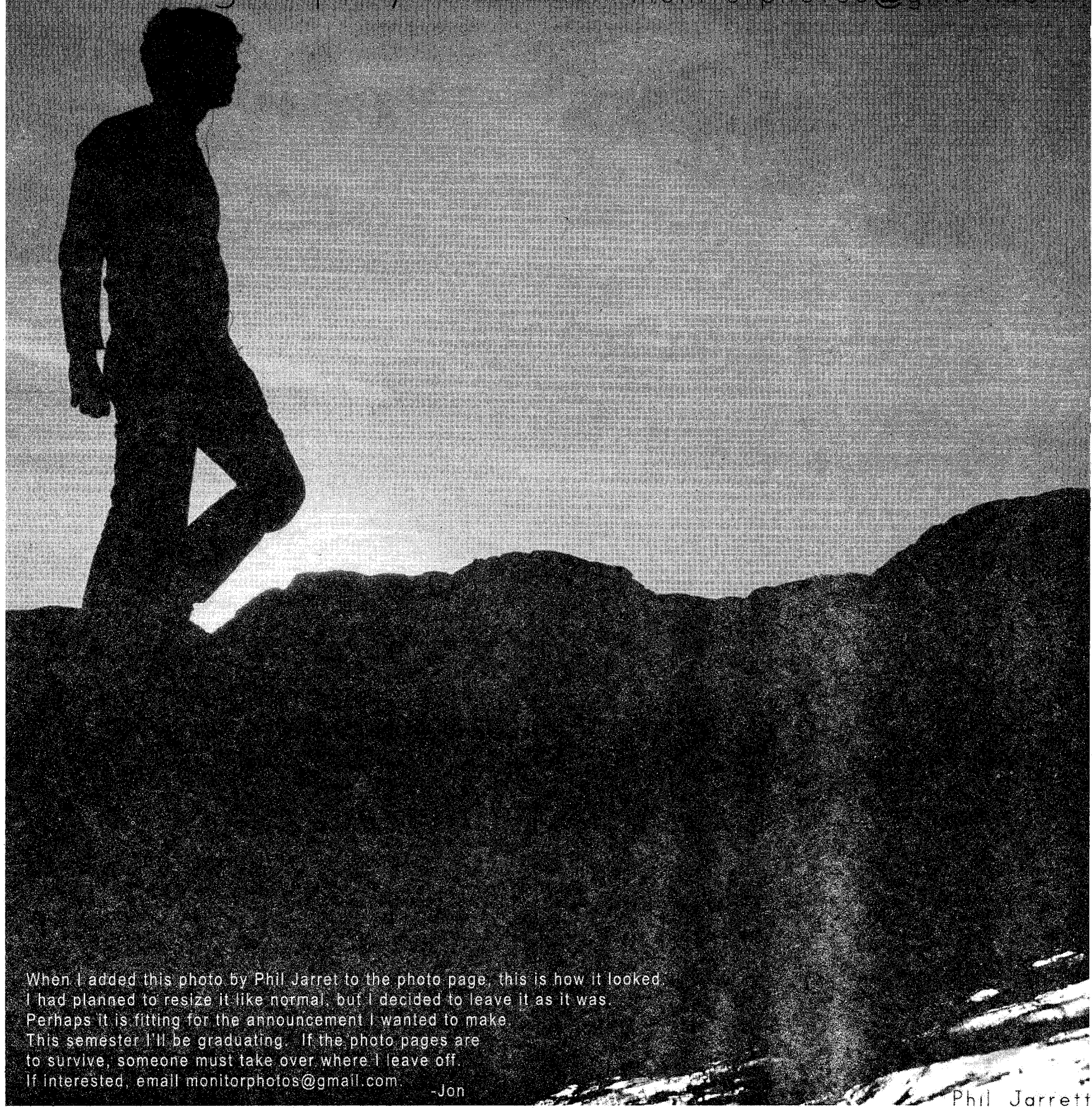
Ben Dansby



Luke Gardener

Photography

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When I added this photo by Phil Jarret to the photo page, this is how it looked.
I had planned to resize it like normal, but I decided to leave it as it was.
Perhaps it is fitting for the announcement I wanted to make.
This semester I'll be graduating. If the photo pages are
to survive, someone must take over where I leave off.
If interested, email monitorphotos@gmail.com.

-Jon

Phil Jarrett

WHY NOT? Women's and Black herstory TSU celebration months colliding

opinion by >> Larry Iles

Guess what, folks, one of the nicest times to be a submitting MONITOR opinions contributor calendarically is seasonally exactly now! 'Because just as we all rush out of national and often global Black history MLK and all that celebratory month, we move on to Women's TSU Herstory month with this year's theme of Women and Empire. In other words, if, reader, your potential columnist juices don't start mentally flowing at such a devoutly wished conjunction of energy, then you, liberal artiste yourself, do not merit this paper!

Yet, mournfully, I can almost guarantee that an opportunity provided by both festivities coinciding so fortuitously will not, 2006 beginning, be taken again. Especially as when I last raised it in the INDEX letters column as part of an alternative campus name protest suggestion against Truman's A bomb terror 2005 commemoration, an alumnus was allowed to drop a first initial name to produce a racist obscenity against her, BSU!

So, the literally most well-known Missouri African American woman of them all continues to be lost in this, her home state, historically. Despite the fact that TSU has some of the largest membership black sororities and Black Collegians bodies of all, as well as best all-races resourced Women's Resources Centers in this otherwise nearly all-white Northern Missouri area, demographically speaking! So, we hear nothing about JOSEPHINE BAKER festively, even though from light-hearted farces like the current CLOUSEAU Paris/New York movie where her memory is used as a supportive prop for singer Beyonce Knowles to HBO 1998 WINCHELL movie where Veronica Platt plays her in her famous NAACP backed clash with the white columnist over his racist Stork club seating refusal, she is the TOPS!

So, sisters, I am going to push the envelope and demand YOU, yes YOU speak up about this COWARDLY neglect by you in her home state where one knows less about her than any London or Paris tourist who can find her younger dancer shape in nearly every card stand or artefact sales venue TODAY. Let me illustrate how progressives of all races and nationalities could harness Baker's potential. Not just to more appropriately rename this sexist TruMAN warmongery campus. But also to nationally and positively embrace an iconography of joy. As well as suffering that was the EQUAL by Baker, frankly, of Coretta King and Rosa Parks, albeit celebrated more in her final citizenship country of France than here. But then the MALES W.E.B Du Bois and Henry James both concluded their lives also by protesting as author-activists too, as respectively Ghana

and Brit citizens. And yet no one trivialises or forgets their AMERICAN essential radicalism gender-wise in imperial diaspora, do they, folks?.

Let's affectionately, I stress, bowdlerise some of my great friend Professore Linda Seidel's WOMEN AND EMPIRE call for submissions public pink sheet in BAKER'S direction and what do we find accordingly? WANTED? Women who opposed Empires, male fascist particularly. outspokenly so! Josephine did so, by smuggling messages for the RESISTANCE in Nazi--Petain misoccupied 1941-44 France, and when the Gestapo and the Millice cottoned on to her, their military secrets purloining, she still defied them! By using her humour (CAUSTIC!), her semi-nude burlesque, to perform at her brave official-disapproved insistence to shows with DESEGREGATED US Allied combat troops, in being liberated North AFRICA!

SOUGHT! Women who made major-innovative contributions to our understanding of dissent art against imperial male patriarchal corset constraints and mores of their day! JOSEPHINE, post-WWII rigidly more segregated initially than pre-Malan apartheid South Africa and the USA, did precisely so! By confronting white lynch mobs when bringing her famous repartee and review shows down to a harsh DIXIE club-land. Well before the over-rated Elvis and Sir Mick started tauntingly gyrating their own sexy hips emulatingly! WANTED! Women who made decisive personal testimonial progressive voices and lives against male ignoring of critics of their patrimonies and hierarchies! Well, rather than remain terrorised into St. Louis washer-woman inferiority in post WWI race riot, by whites that town, or stuck into Broadway New York near dance prostitution, BAKER emigrated with her heightened song and AFRICANISED beauty. To both the more appreciative Paris and Berlin stages and even with Paul Robson the next 1930s decade London stages, IN BODY SONG AND BEAUTY praiseworthiness alike.

Finally, I rest my case. It is time to fight back folks, and not dance to the conservatives' and puritans' censorious own smutty tunes. BAKER abroad died, yes, destitute! So did VAN GOGH. Because she adopted orphan poor of all races and ugly animals no one else wanted, to chateau home provide for them. But she died, with medals of valor from both France and America. And with a life so well-esteemed that there has already been one movie based on her memoirs, many lovers of both sexes left, and three books about her in global biography, in just the last 2 decades alone. It is time TSU ditched the A-bomb incinerator and his high fees and went towards love and internationalism, in positive campaigning to our agenda, and with some courage too!

Everything starts at the Seam...Shop

opinion by >> Joey Puricelli

Now that the U.S. Senate has stopped delaying Sandra Day O'Connor's well-earned retirement by finally approving the Supreme Court nomination of a well-qualified judge with no major scandal to his name, maybe we can all look at a much more local issue for a moment.

I am a Theater major. Some of you may know this; some of you (like the registrar) may not. "But Joey," I'm sure you're saying right now, "Didn't you just tell us that you're a Math major?" Yes. I did. Because I am. It's called double-majoring. And the registrar's office doesn't seem to catch on that students with two majors need to be accounted for in both departments. I missed my Freshman Theater Seminar because of that oversight. And the Theatre department in general is getting profoundly abused now because of that same oversight.

Our beloved Truman State University wants to raise the student-teacher ratio to 16:1 (of course, 6,163 students to 370 staff tells us that the ratio is already there, even before checking departmental enrollment), because of budgetary concerns. By the time this rant reaches print, you will all know that already, since I'm sure it will be brought up at the University Conference on Wednesday the 15th, but as of this writing, the only public revelation of the plan has been a passing mention in an Index article (2/9) that was published over a week after the faculty had been informed. The only reason I knew about it before the Index story (indeed, the only reason I even read the Index this week) was that I overheard one of my professors talking about it to a colleague. Way to keep the student body informed, Barb; there's nothing suspicious at all about the black cloud of secrecy over this.

The school wants to achieve this new figure not by firing anyone, but simply by not replacing anyone who leaves. This sounds all well and good until you realize that Theatre Prof. Lee Orchard is leaving this year...and his department already has only 5 teachers to teach 89 majors. That's already 17:1, folks, and by not replacing him it jumps to 22:1. This is before

adding Theater minors into the count. (Of course, the registrar's office doesn't have this count of theater majors because of their aforementioned mistake.)

How the heck do they expect us to believe the ratio here is only 15:1? As far as I can ascertain from the witnesses, a great deal of manipulative statistics are at work; thus, according to my proof in the last issue, something evil is being used against us. Not just against theatre, mind you-I use that as an example because I'm right in the thick of it-but also against every small department on campus! We can't put up with this, everyone. Truman is an esteemed, respected liberal arts college, and it is absurd to allow the administration to damage that reputation by effectively destroying these departments that are so much a vital part of the liberal arts, and also destroying the academic lives of those studying these fields. We're on the edge, quite frankly, of a dire slippery slope, and we need to be sure not to go over it.

Meanwhile, President Dixon says the theater program will remain at least as long as she's in charge, but common sense says that it will be a mere shadow of its former self, as the remaining 4 professors are forced to take on a workload almost double that of most other faculty here. Never mind the obvious fact that Prof. Orchard is tenured with seniority, and any replacement would be paid thousands less in entry-level non-tenure-track salary; never mind that this would save a ton of money AND maintain the full curriculum; never mind that the degree program will become impossible to complete with only 4 professors; no one is getting replaced.

I'm a Math/Theatre double major. People ask me how the two relate. Looking at all the numbers I've just typed, I'd like people to tell me how they don't.

(NOTE: Total number of students is from the official TSU FAQ, which also claims that Missouri Hall isn't carpeted. I guess what I'm looking at right now is just really fuzzy concrete.)

Shooting shows danger of hunting

opinion by >> Adam Dorhauer

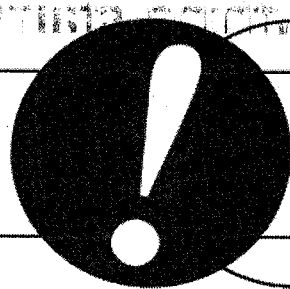
Recently, Dick Cheney became the first active vice president to shoot another human being since 1804, when Aaron Burr shot political rival Alexander Hamilton, by shooting 78-year-old Harry Whittington. Perhaps coincidentally, both victims were lawyers.

Cheney admitted to drinking on the day of the incident, but alcohol was not ruled a factor in the shooting. Cheney's BAC level at the time of the incident is not known because police were denied access to Cheney by the Secret Service until the next day. (Hey, isn't that when we found out about all this?)

To further complicate matters, it was soon learned that Cheney not only shot a lawyer, he was breaking the law when he did it. Cheney had violated Texas hunting regulations by failing to purchase a \$7 upland game bird stamp. Texas does not sell such stamps to hunt attorneys or senior citizens, such as Whittington.

The incident has sparked much discussion, surprisingly little of which has addressed the dangers of hunting. It seems that no one wants to say that the idea of a group of people going into the woods, sometimes with alcohol, trying to be undetectable and shooting to kill is inherently dangerous for fear of being labeled a radical P.E.T.A. sympathizer. And regardless of what the NRA might tell you, I have to believe that any gun that can hit someone on the ground thirty yards away in the face, neck, and chest when fired at a bird in flight is unsafe.

But that's not really the issue, is it? I suppose the story loses a bit of its comedic edge when you bring up the nearly 100 human hunting fatalities that occur each year. Especially when you add that very few of the victims are lawyers.



Lies, damn lies, and $3/4 = 1/4$: oversimplification, statistical manipulation, and non-representative sampling in the "Most Dogs Don't" campaign

feature by >> Jon Lawinger

The Student Public Health Association certainly seems to think it's onto something big. It's been covering campus with flyers flaunting a provocative proclamation of mathematical inaccuracy - $3/4 = 1/4$! Since the semester began The Monitor's CSI mailbox received two flyers featuring nothing more than that mathematical (in)equation and a question mark. But why would the Student Public Health Association seek to promote such algebraic blasphemy, the likes of which would undermine our most basic foundations of fractional computation?

Fortunately, the third flyer offered an explanation - "3/4 of Truman students consume 1/4 of all the alcohol at Truman" - and a link to the 2005 CORE survey data at <http://mostdogs.truman.edu>. Apparently the flyers are an extension of the long-running "Most Dogs Don't" campaign.

So the big three-flyer-campaign-worthy news is that drinking at Truman is... not evenly distributed? Seriously? The flyer proclaims that "a large majority of students do only a small portion of the drinking that takes place at Truman," but says nothing of how much alcohol is consumed. Even my fellow English majors must realize that this also means the remaining 1/4 of Truman students consume the other 3/4 of the alcohol at Truman. Is that supposed to be a good thing?

Well, English major or not, I decided to go to the source and do a little statistical analysis myself. The first thing to note is that the CORE survey in general is more than a little questionable on the accuracy front. The "Most Dogs Don't" website describes it as an anonymous random sample of Truman students. It does not state how students are "randomly" selected to participate, but the sample clearly isn't representative.

Freshmen are overrepresented in all five years posted (2001-2005), sometimes to an absurd degree. In 2002, the year's results most prominently displayed on the website, the sample consisted of 66% freshmen. Female students were also consistently overrepresented. While Truman's student body is 41% male, the survey samples ranged from 36.6% male in 2001 down to 30.2% male in 2003. The posted results don't break down any of the data by class or gender, but I think it is a fairly safe assumption that, on average, college

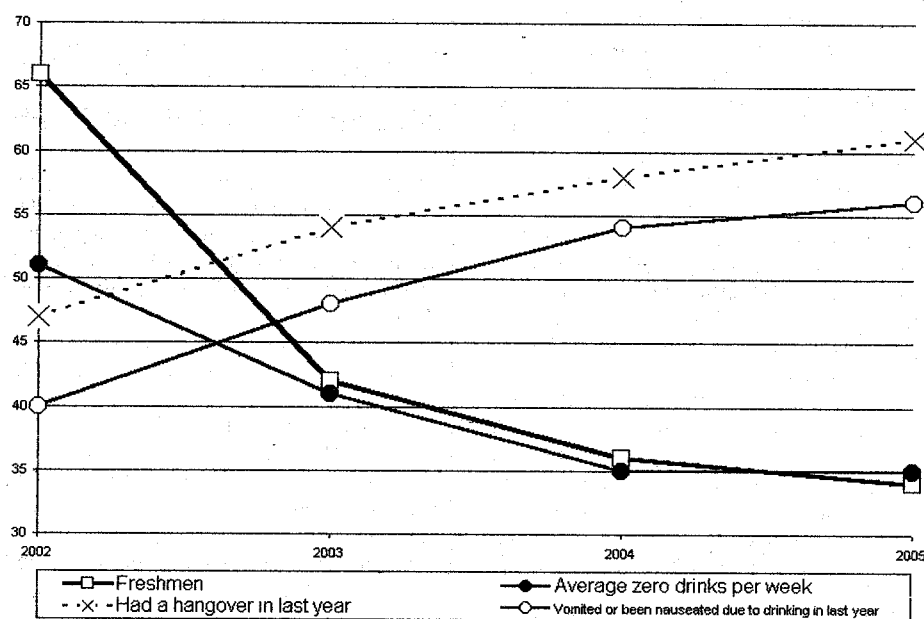
males drink more than their female counterparts, and that freshmen drink less than upperclassmen. Thus, the results are likely biased towards indicating an inaccurately low amount of drinking at Truman.

The data available suggests that these are probably not inaccurate assumptions on my part. Since 2002, the survey sample has slowly become more accurately distributed amongst classes. As it has done so, several measures of drinking activity have risen, as you can see on the chart included in this article.

Unsurprisingly, Truman has opted to emphasize the older results on the website, rather than the newer, probably more accurate, results. For example, the website declares in its summary of 2002 findings, "Over 40% of Truman students DON'T drink at all." The number apparently refers to students who answered that they had had alcohol in zero of the last 30 days - a number that has since dropped to 27%.

So, taking into account that the CORE survey data appears biased towards lower than accurate measurements of drinking at Truman, let's take a look at some other statistics the 2005 data provides.

First, how about that $3/4 = 1/4$ thing?



On this graph we can see that as the percent of the sample consisting of freshmen declined, the percent of students reporting an average of zero drinks per week also declined, while negative experiences with drinking over the last year increased.

Yes, it is accurate, but whether it indicates a general lack of drinking is more ambiguous.

With a little more information we can form a better rounded concept of what the $3/4 = 1/4$ statistic means. The 3/4 of Truman students who consume 1/4 of the alcohol at Truman average 1.5 drinks per week. The remaining 1/4 of Truman students average 15 drinks per week.

The significant factor here is that about 1/3 (35%) of Truman students consume none of the alcohol at Truman. When that 1/3 is included in a group that also includes drinkers, the average is driven way down. The result isn't statistically inaccurate, but it does tend to project the (supposed) virtue of the non-drinkers onto a larger group. The artificial division of students into two clear-cut groups leads us to imagine each group as relatively homogenous. Thus, rather than think of a continuum of increasing drinking habits, we imagine one large group of people who all drink minimally and responsibly, and we imagine a second, smaller group of people who are all out of control.

To illustrate the power of this technique, consider a more extreme example: Let's lump the 35% of students who are non-drinkers in with the 5% of students who drink

the most. It would then be statistically accurate to say that 40% of the student population averages 3.7 drinks per week, while the other 60% averages 5.7 drinks per week. When we think of that 40%, we imagine a group of people who all consume moderate amounts of alcohol, when in reality that 40% includes both non-drinkers and people who range from 20 to 76 drinks per week.

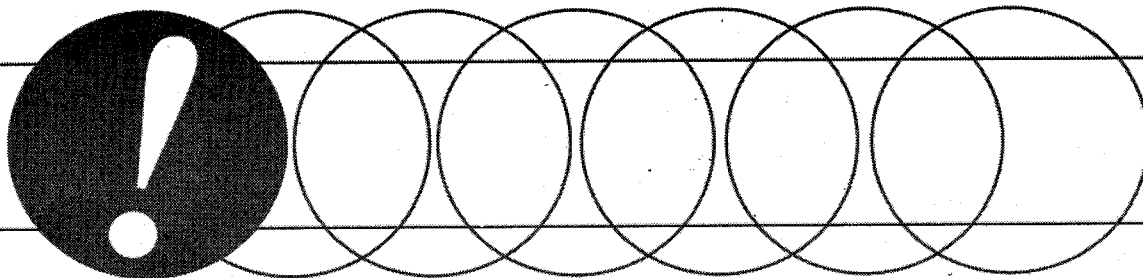
Admittedly, my example is more elaborately misleading than the $3/4 = 1/4$ campaign, but it demonstrates the ability to present a continuum of information as though it were divided into discrete, relatively homogenous groups. That is how the $3/4 = 1/4$ campaign is misleading. The seemingly innocent and responsible bottom 3/4 of drinkers at Truman includes people who average as much as six drinks per week, and the seemingly wild, decadent top 3/4 includes people who average as little as 7 drinks per week.

The bigger picture of drinking at Truman looks fairly balanced - probably better than most schools - but it is far too complex to sum up with any one statistic, no matter how many flyers you print it on in 250-point type.

The average Truman student consumes 4.9 drinks per week. The median Truman student consumes 2 drinks per week. Truman does include a substantial population, about 35%, of people who don't drink regularly. Truman does include a substantial population, about 6%, who each consume the equivalent of a (750ml) bottle of 80 proof whisky each week. Most, about 63%, say that in the last year they've never done anything they regretted due to drinking, but many, about 29%, say they've driven while under the influence of alcohol in the last year. In fact, it's harder to calculate because the survey question isn't as exact, but roughly 3/4 of Truman students perform 1/4 of the drinking and then driving at Truman. Somehow, I doubt we'll see that posted around campus anytime soon.

Note: Calculations have been rounded, possibly inappropriately at times, and performed by an English major with a decent sense of mathematics but no notable background in statistics. Insignificant variations are likely, and errors are possible, but no intentional distortion was involved. Corrections are welcome.

features



Truman professor Marc Becker featured in book of "most dangerous"

feature by >> Jon Lawinger

The promotional material on the inside flap of David Horowitz's new book, *The Professors: The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America*, presents Horowitz as a brave "academic reformer" and the book as an "exposé" - a bold stand against the "thousands of radicals who teach our young people." Apparently "witch hunt" didn't carry the desired tone of righteousness.

Horowitz's book primarily consists of 101 profiles of college professors, intended to be representative of the vast majority of university faculty, who are supposedly ruining the American university system. Horowitz does not attack their competence as teachers. Instead, he suggests that their ideological beliefs and political involvements make them unfit to occupy the ranks of the academy.

At least that was the impression I got while paging through the book at Hastings, where it was prominently displayed directly in front of the entrance. I certainly didn't

want to financially support its existence by buying a copy. Many others have, though. In its first week of release it hung around the number 50 spot on Amazon.com's top 100 best-sellers, and each night that week Horowitz appeared on Fox News's *Hannity and Colmes* to discuss a new professor profiled.

As I paged through Horowitz's profiles, I started to realize that if all my graduate school applications hadn't been sent off months ago, the book might have been worth a hard-earned twen-

ty bucks. He seems to have unwittingly compiled a veritable who's who of the most interesting, unique, and intellectually innovative (if not necessarily agreeable) academics teaching today. Among the names I recognized were Howard Zinn, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Noam Chomsky, Amiri Baraka, and Gayle Rubin - any of whom I'd be thrilled to take a class with.

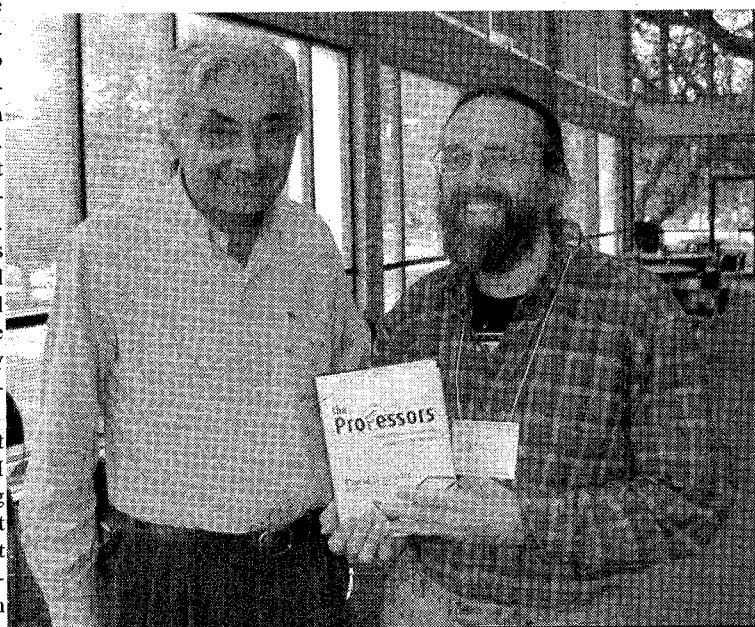
Most surprisingly, Horowitz's list also includes Truman professor, and frequent *Monitor* contributor, Marc Becker. Becker teaches Latin American history and is currently publishing findings from his ongoing research into Indian

be described as an undercurrent here, as it so fully saturates Horowitz's approach. He doesn't feel compelled to explain why Becker's political activities make him dangerous or in any way inadequate as a teacher. He doesn't offer any evidence that Becker indoctrinates students or disrespects those who disagree with him. Meanwhile, the first sentence of Becker's teaching philosophy posted on his website states, "Underlying my teaching philosophy is the belief that it is more important to teach students *how* to think than *what* to think."

Horowitz doesn't even overtly claim that Becker is wrong - his political ideas should apparently be so appalling to us that they need not be actually debated. Instead, he simply refers to *Historians against the war* as having an "anti-American message," without explanation beyond that they hope to "expose 'U.S. war crimes and government deception.'" So being opposed to war crimes now makes one anti-American? By that definition, America is a pretty self-loathing entity.

Similarly, Horowitz describes Becker's life as "filled with radicalism and antipathy towards the United States," without documenting this antipathy in any way. Horowitz seems to equate active opposition to current U.S. policies to hatred of the United States. By Horowitz's standard, are pro-life protesters also filled with antipathy towards America? Furthermore, almost a third of the profile is dedicated to Becker's opposition to celebrating Columbus day. This is a debate my Catholic, suburban grade-school teachers were already encouraging us to consider.

In the end, it probably doesn't matter whether Horowitz supports his arguments or explains his choices. He's clearly preaching to the choir. His book is aimed at a conservative base who aren't interested in examining it's content - people like one Amazon.com reviewer who lamented the fact that in American universities "long disproven theories like Marxism and post-modernism are able to still flourish and emit their poison into the greater culture." These people want confirmation, not stimulation, and they'll happily work themselves into a rage over Horowitz's profiles, however insubstantial they are.



Professor Marc Becker (right) with fellow "dangerous" historian Howard Zinn (left).

and peasant movements in twentieth-century Ecuador.

What offenses did Becker commit to deserve inclusion in a list of America's most dangerous academics? The roughly 500-word profile touches on several of Becker's political involvements, focusing on his role as an organizer for *Historians Against the War*, his opposition to free trade policies in Latin America, and his protests against the celebration of Columbus Day.

The McCarthyism at play can hardly even

In His Own Words

*Marc Becker was at an *Historians Against the War* conference this weekend, but he found the time to answer a few questions over email.*

What was your reaction at being included on Horowitz's list? Surprised? Angered? Honored?

Stunned. I'm not worthy! I'm not worthy! (Think *Wayne's World*). Some friends tell me I should feel honored. I don't feel I do enough to be ranked at this level.

Have you ever felt pressured (by school administration or any other forces) into toning down your political activity in order to keep your job as a professor secure?

Sometimes colleagues tell me to be careful, but I've never felt any pressure from West McClain for what I do or say inside or outside of class.

How do you deal with conservative students in your classes?

Same way I deal with moderate, libertarian, liberal, anarchist, and others. The University is an open space for dialogue and exchange of ideas. Everyone is free to share their ideas and I try to encourage such open exchanges in a mature and respectful environment.

How healthy do you think the overall state of academic freedom is in this country? Is Horowitz the exception or the rule?

Horowitz is a wing nut, and picking on people like me just shows how out of touch with reality he is.

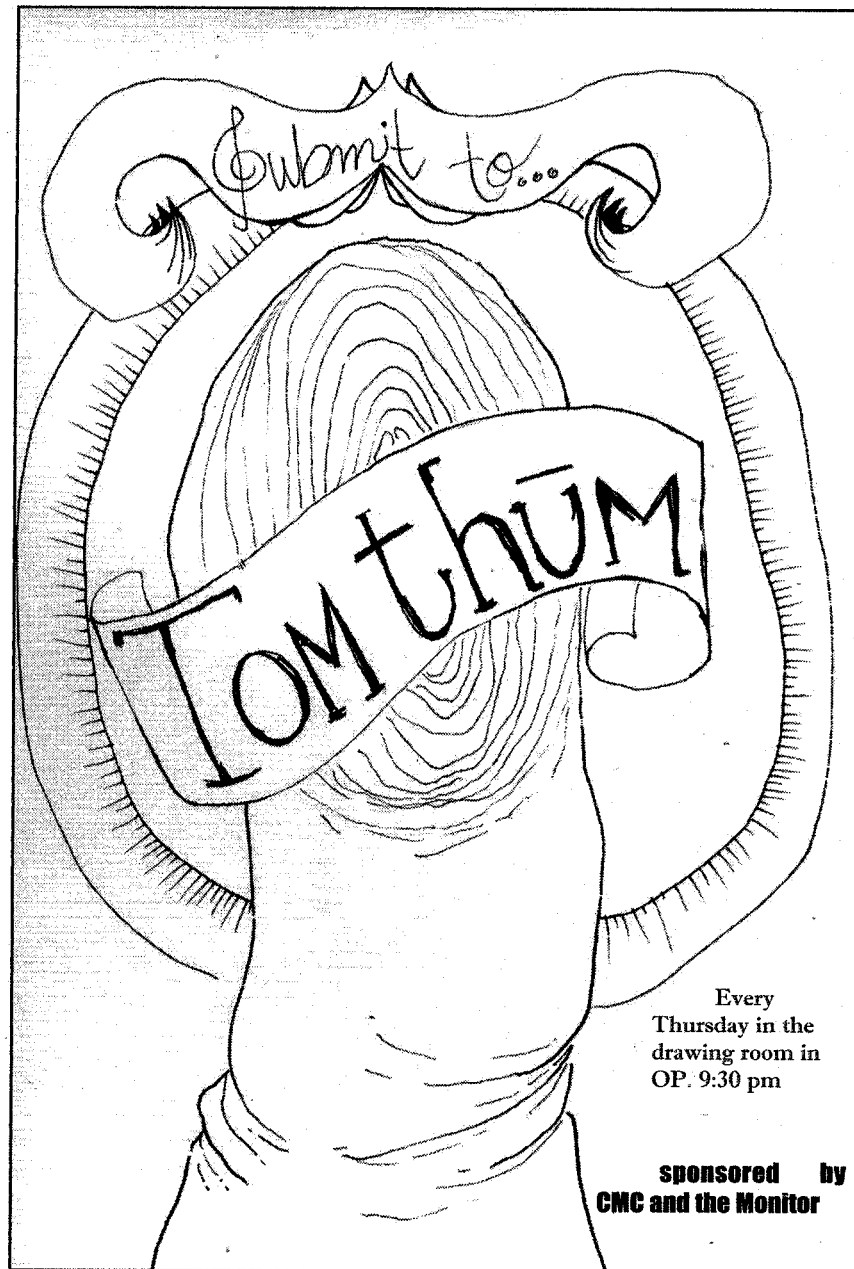
We live in perhaps the most undemocratic country in the world in terms of people's engagement with the political system and a sophisticated understanding of politics. Academic freedom is like muscles in that if we don't use it, it begins to decay. We need more people who are willing to speak out against social injustice in the world. Academic freedom will be fine as long as we claim the right to political expression. Horowitz wants to intimidate people like me who oppose imperialism and neoliberal economic policies into being quiet. If we are quiet, than we have lost our academic freedom.

Do you make lists of people you don't like?

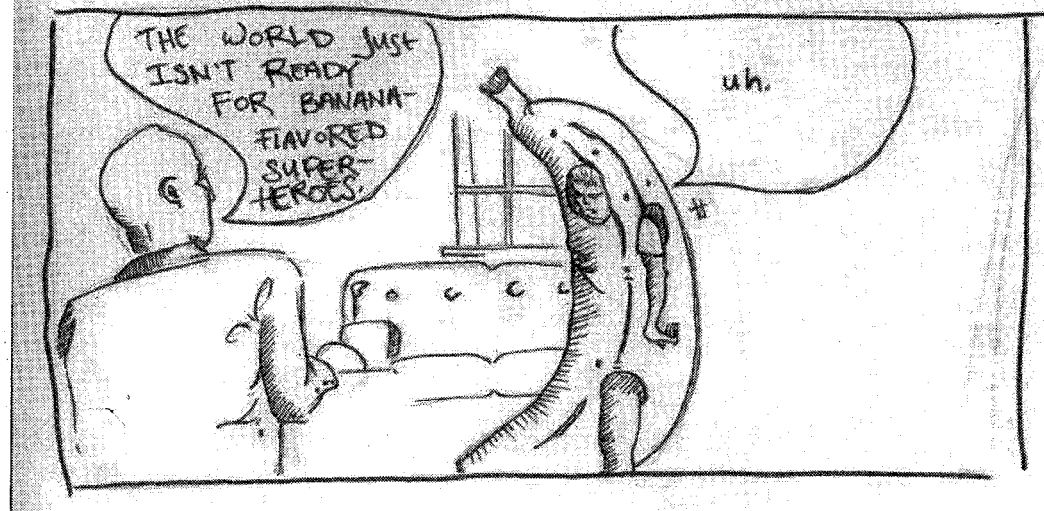
You should send them to the Monitor.

Or get professional help. Or both!

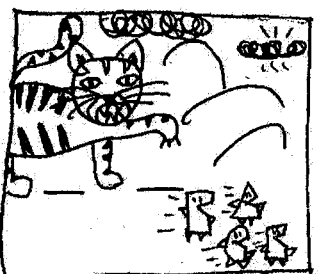
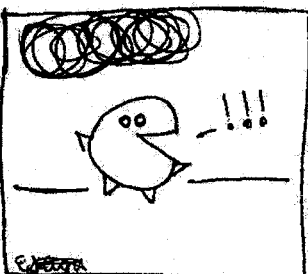
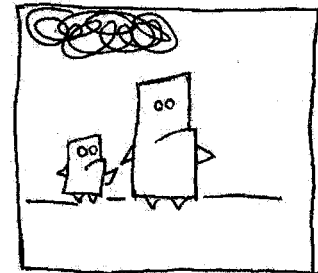
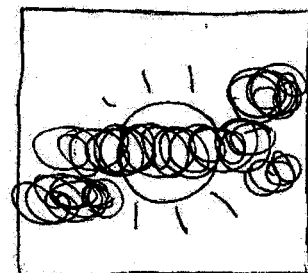
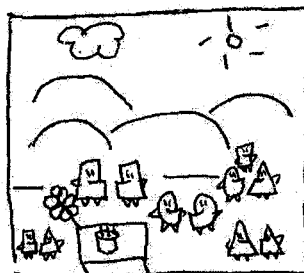
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The Lucrative Field of Business Management



The Cat

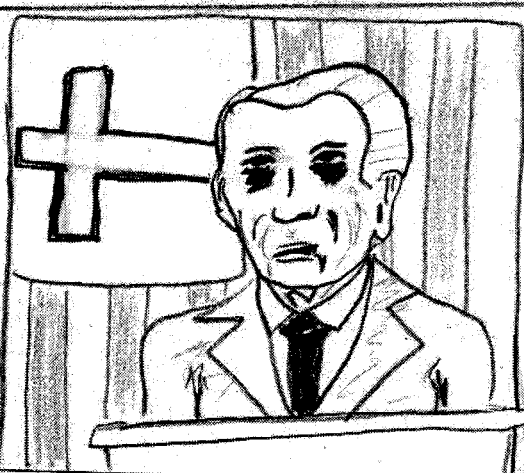


OIL WAR: Post



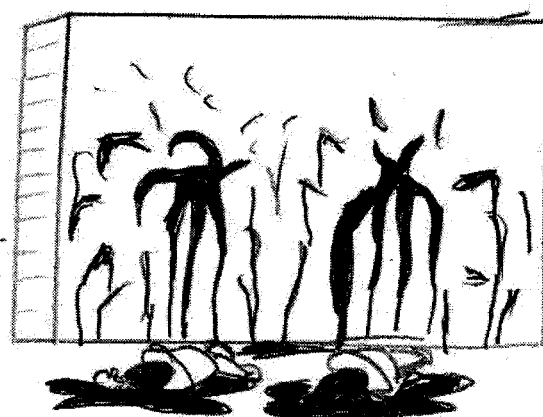
Primary Targets

Living in the largest urban centers in the U.S., most liberals are vaporized in the bombings.



In the ensuing power vacuum after the oil wars, ultra conservatives assume leadership with their widespread support.

by: Jeff Keeling



citing dissent as the cause for the U.S.'s loss in the oil wars, thousands of dissenters of the new government are executed.



Shoot the moon

Choke the sheep

Bag the cows

Stab the pillows

Ruffle the sheets

Smoke your lights

Bleed the eyes

Tell the god damn crickets to shut up!

Beam your lights

Bang the pans

Breathe the dawn

Pump the blood

Increase the heart

Still not ready?

Cook the eggs

Collect the feathers

Make the bed

Throw out the sheep

Collect the glass

Wash the clothes

Throw the dishes

1..2...3....4.....5

Sleep?

Why?

Okay.

-StarCandyCube

Today's Forecast

A heavy snow is falling;
It covers the earth with white.
I know I have a problem,
But I tell you I'm alright.

And when the wind blows, I don't wear a jacket;
I say I'm not that cold.
You couldn't have predicted this
When I was five years old.

But during the rain, sometimes—
The sun!
And soon I'm warm and dry.
My name is _____, and I'm an alcoholic.
Please, Mama
Don't cry.

-A Truman Student

An Accident

A bottle cap inside my baby shoe
A prelude to what I intend to do

My first step, I tripped on a bottle of rum.
A foreshadow of what I have become.

When I was four I cut Papa's hand
While playing with that knife.
And I feel I've done the same thing again
By fucking with my life.

Here is disappointment:
Once the top of my class,
Now empty cans and broken glass.
Awards and trophies and high test scores
And nights half-dead on bathroom floors

I want you to read this—that's why I wrote it,
Yet I know you never will.
But I hope that you say something soon;
Your daughter is very ill.

-A Truman Student

A Compilation: The Banquet

Behind The Scenes, The Kitchen
-----And-----
The Formal Event, The Dining Room

Bend to-and-fro
And dodge the
Stares of a
Crowd of Cretans
Who are hungry
And you're the Chef
-Sharol

Filled to the
Brim,
The Barrel started
Overflowing
Its goopy contents
Onto the cement
Floor
-Flauna

Without the other
Hand knowing, A woman's
Hand stole a
Grapefruit
-Gary

Reactions were
Stranger than most,
For an unusual fruit
Was found in the
Banqueters' salads
-Simon

Fried in a yellow grease
The main dish emerges
A pig's foot, garnished
With Mandarin Oranges
-Maybelline

-Dan Fister

A History by Dan Fister:

She was buried in a Glacier
Ten Thousand years ago
She was survived by seven children

-The End

Scrumtulesscent Haikus: 5 7 5 GO!

!.
I stick my big toe
into the sand, returning
with it a crab, Ouch!

@.
Downloading music,
so illegally from the
pirate ship's cabin.

#.
I feel pity for
the giant squid, because he
doesn't have a smile.

\$.
Some lust for the swell
of ass and tits accented,
GIVE ME MORE CANKLES!

%.
Cool blast someone with
fire extinguisher freeze, shrug,
and claim drug abuse.

-Floyd Whipple

Missing You

I felt love once. Four years in the making.
It was all I ever wanted. The glue that held my life together.
We used to stare into each other's eyes, holding each other closely.
"Let's stay this way forever" she used to say.
I should have never let go.
I stare at my ceiling every night, this tightness in my chest just won't go away.
It's been three months, yet I cry every day.
Love is blind.
Yes, I'm scared of the future too, but all I really need is you.
I miss you so, so much. I am so tired of missing you.

-Love, Matthew

I was born on the Tundra,
Twelve Hundred years ago.

I was born on the Tundra,
In the Rain and in the Snow.

I asked my dear Mother,
Who was dying very slow...

"Why must I be Born at all,
And Born an Eskimo?!"

-Dan Fister

Your hands are adept at lying,
Proliferous affirmations of intimate dirt
feckless intentions.
I killed the swarm
And saw the lucidically curtailed amiss.

Your hands are tears too weak to be mine.
hurried sloppy and greedy,
thin and gone,
I will no longer carry you.

-A. Martin