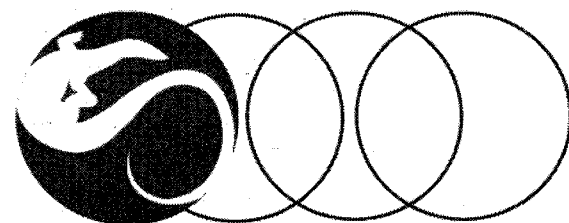




# the monitor.



volume 11 >> issue 12

a campus collective.

12 april, 2006

**the monitor.**  
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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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# Last chance!

## short story contest deadline:

### Monday April 17th

1000 words or less

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

## letters



### **Christians everywhere reader wants face- booker**

Dear Monitor,

I read this in the Facebook profile of a man whose name shall be Withheld, and it truly baffled me: "I have 13 weeks of Christian Prison left!!! Thirteen weeks until I am liberated from this nightmare called Christendom. My soul will fly high once it is released from a contract with demons. A contract for 9 months.....I wait in expectations of that day when I will leave Kirkville. I long for that day of liberation."

This doesn't make even the slightest bit of sense. If the individual who wrote this means that he's waiting to leave Christianity, then he seems to be a bit oblivious to the fact that he can leave whenever the heck he wants; there's no waiting period except in his own mind. If, however, he means that he's waiting to escape Kirkville itself because it contains Christians...well, I challenge him to find a place on this planet with no Christians where he won't be killed either by the climate, by a faith which executes atheists, or by a totalitarian government which executes political dissidents. See, every place on Earth that would accept the residency and sustain the life of Mr. Withheld also does the same for Christians, whether the country itself endorses a religion or not.

Your friend in Allah/Buddha/Christ/Nothing/Ra/Terra/Uncertainty/Vishnu/Yahweh/Steve,

C.J. Mullagan

### **Habitat expose pretty darned inaccurate, reader says**

Dear Managing Editors of The Monitor, but more specifically, Anonymous on page 2 of Volume 11, Issue 10,

I found your opinion on Habitat for Humanity- or dare I say "inhumanity"- amusing. I found you using the title "anonymous" amusing as well. Why not claim your opinion since it was clearly a well thought-out argument? I do not know if you actually believe Habitat for Humanity to be evil, or if you were trying to create a pseudo attack on them just to stir up some drama. The only thing I know is that if the world followed your code of conduct on helping others, we would die in a matter of days.

For example, say you get sick, and your doctor has decided not to help you- because what right does he have in helping you and not every other person in the world with a cold? Are you hungry? Well, mom says it is up to you to cook... Oh wait! You're sixteen months old? That sucks.

If I take Matthew 7:1 in the manner that you have interpreted it, then it would be wrong for me to say that you, Mr. Anonymous, are at fault of this so-called "judging". To say that Habitat for Humanity is "judging" others by "determine[ing] who deserves a house and who doesn't", only forces one to ask, are you not "judging" them simply by bashing their organization that you claim "heartless"? And who gives you the right to call them heartless- this is a judgment in itself- and around and around we go pointing fingers at each other. (And that's just plain obnoxious, so let's stop!)

I think it is time to look at the context of Matthew 7:1. Here, we have Jesus talking to a large crowd (5:1). His goal is to teach people what a joyful and Christ-like life looks like. He addresses issues such as murder, adultery, divorce, loving enemies, giving to the needy, prayer, worrying, and finally, judging others. Jesus tells man to correct their faults before addressing another man's downfall. People misinterpret "judging" in the Bible- Romans 11 discusses that it is not man's role to judge whether or not one is saved but to encourage one another in their faith, whether it exists or not. TO say that Habitat for Humanity is judging who they are going to build houses for is a pathetic accusation, because they are doing their best to restore hope in the lives of a few families by building them something as simple as shelter. Habitat for Humanity is not a multi-million dollar organiza-

tion; however, they raise money to bless as many people as they can. Last fall they raised \$6,500, and the fifth home in the Kirkville area was dedicated. Having friends in Habitat for Humanity, I would say their hearts are in the right place and their desires are self-less.

Sincerely,  
Megan Elizabeth Petry

### **Reader finds criticism of editor unfounded**

Dear Monitor,

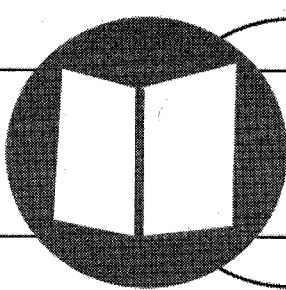
Upon reading your last issue, I was appalled at Dr. and Prof. Iles' for their attacks on editor Jon Lawinger's actions. The Monitor is a free-submission paper and has always has been; that's very reason its readers enjoy it. The same policy that allows Larry Iles to send any column he desires and know for a fact that it will be printed also allows Alex Hayfever to send any letter he wants with the same security, and to suggest that Hayfever's letters should not have been run is to vote for dissolving the very principle that lets Iles see his work published. As for the comments about the reproduction of Larry's letter, I don't think it was a very fiendish decision, nor were the editors intending to obscure its content; I, for one, had no trouble reading it whatsoever.

By the by, to Betty McLane Iles, I know the man who uses the name Hayfever personally, and I can assure you that he is in no way connected to Lawinger; in fact, the two have never met. And to Larry Iles regarding his viciously fallacious denigration of email, there is no dishonor in emailing contributions to a newspaper; one would assume that an editor on deadline appreciates the ease of copying the text file rather than retyping a paper submission.

With all due respect,  
Nathan Rator

Send your letters to The Monitor  
mailbox in the CSI, or to  
[monitortrm@hotmail.com](mailto:monitortrm@hotmail.com).





## The Four State News

news by >> Ian Florida



### Mountain Lions in Missouri

Missouri has recently removed the Mountain Lion from the rolls of its endangered animal list. The Conservation commissioners voted earlier this month to remove the animal because they did not want the animal to repopulate this state. Their decision came as a surprise to many environmentalists who had been under the impression the large cat would be allowed to repopulate in this, one of its native, states. The number of sightings of mountain lions have been on a steady rise since 1996. This trend has delighted many conservationists, but frightened rural Missourians. There is a distinct concern in some parts of the states about the safety of the situation, both for family and farm. In 1973 the existence of a small population of mountain lion in the Ozarks was part of the reason the animal was placed on the endangered species list. Now that the animal's population is growing in other places around the state, and citizens are fearing for their safety because of it, that motivation is being called into question.

### Missouri to Track Sex Offenders With Bracelets

The state of Missouri has recently begun a pilot project which tags sexual offenders with a Global Positioning System tracking device. The devices have been growing in use since a law was passed last year allowing for their use. The Department of Corrections has plans to put the devices on an additional 47 offenders sometime soon. The devices are currently used in several other states. They work by displaying a layout of the area and portraying the offender as a green dot on that board. If the offender strays too close to a zone deemed off limits, such as a school zone, the green dot turns red and alerts are sent out to his parole officer and to the GPS bracelet worn by the offender.



### Mentally Ill Man Charged with Threatening the President

A Palestinian man faces federal charges in Illinois of threatening the President. A Federal Grand Jury indicted Mr. Arafat Nijmeh on two counts of knowingly and willfully threatening harm to President Bush while he was a mental health patient at an institution in East St. Louis. Nijmeh is accused of two counts of the violation. His first offense allegedly occurred when he threatened to castrate the president. When his caretakers notified the authorities about the threat, two secret service agents were sent to the mental health facility where Mr. Nijmeh allegedly told the two secret service agents the same thing.

### Parts of Illinois Declared Disaster Zones

Gov. Blagojevich released a statement which said that in the last two months, Illinois has been hit by strong storms and tornadoes which damaged more than 560 homes and nearly one hundred businesses. The damage occurred in 18 counties. The damage has been declared, after an inspection by states officials, to be warranting of disaster relief. Included in his press release was the activation of the State Emergency Operations Center in Springfield. The SEOC will work with local emergency management officials to determine how much monetary assistance counties will require to clear debris and help citizens get on with their lives.



### New Law Establishes Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science

Governor Kathleen Sebelius recently signed SB 139 into law. The law establishes the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science. While signing the bill, she commented that Kansas needs an educated workforce to carry it through the 21st Century. This new institution will provide an accelerated program for high school students who are academically talented in math or science. A total of 40 students will be admitted, with the students admitted from throughout Kansas. Twenty will be chosen based on residence with no more than five residing in a single congressional district, and 20 chosen without regard to location.



### Iowa Begins Tracking Drugs

The Senate proposed a bill earlier this month with a 99-0 vote to allow for Iowa's prescription orders to be tracked on a statewide computer system. The proposal was adopted in order to allow doctors and pharmacists to spot patients who are trying to trick them into approving orders for narcotics and other addictive drugs. The Bill almost died amid concerns from patients that the Bill would be an unjust invasion of privacy, however, lawmakers promised to strictly limit access to the database by police and state regulators and to ensure that only doctors and pharmacists would have regular access to the information.

## British villagers hire rabbit-slayers to vanquish ravenous beast

world news by >> Nick Wilsey

Terror grips the town of Felton.

Half-chewed turnips and chilling eyewitness testimonies are all that remain after a voracious rabbit of unprecedented dimensions sacked and plundered several gardens in the English countryside.

Jeff Smith, a 63-year-old gardener who first spotted the creature in February, said, "This is no ordinary rabbit. We are dealing with a monster. It's absolutely massive. The first time I saw it, I thought to myself, 'What the hell is that?' Its prints are huge - about the size of a deer. It's a brute of a thing. We have two lads here with guns who are trying to shoot it, but it's too clever. They never see it!"

Reports are still sketchy, but villagers claim the rabbit leaves massive footprints, has "diabolically shaped ears," possesses the extraordinary strength of five bunnies (enough to rip out entire turnip bulbs from the ground without breaking a sweat), and resembles a mutant cross between a rabbit and a hare.

For Americans unaware of the difference between rabbits and hares, the "Beast of Felton," as local newspapers have affectionately called the creature, merges the long legs and tall, narrow ears of the wild hare with the overwhelming appetite for destruction and chaos of the common rabbit.

Three other gardeners reported seeing the elusive creature after Smith's first sighting. One local woman said she saw the rabbit "thundering" across her lawn during an early morning rain shower and noticed red stains around the rabbit's mouth. Undoubtedly the creature sought to rinse off the turnip juice - or blood - of its latest victim.

George Brown, a 76-year-old gardener, said he caught a glimpse of the creature feasting upon grass in his backyard.

"Oh, it's a big rabbit alright," Brown said. "I chased after it, but it was just too fast for me. But it'll be caught, by hook or by crook. There's two good lads keeping an eye out for it, so we'll nail him, don't worry about that."

But the gardeners were not always so confident. Last week, they agreed to stop cowering in fear and resolved to seek out and exterminate the creature once and for all. The gardeners enlisted the services of two professional rabbit-slayers, who arrived at Felton armed with air rifles and an unquenchable thirst for bloody reprisal.

Brian Cadman, a 17-year-old rabbit-slayer, said he patrolled a series of gardens night after night, guarding the valuable crops and searching for clues leading to the location of the creature's lair. Although young Cadman insisted he was not afraid of coming face to face with the diabolical bunny, his restless fidgeting and shaky voice gave away his uncertainty of whether he was hunting the bunny, or the bunny was hunting him.

"Only a few people have seen it so far, but I've seen the evidence and I think it's going to be a biggun," Cadman said. "I've been out here at night with another under-keeper [aka 'rabbit-slayer']. We have orders to shoot on sight, but we haven't had much luck yet."

Although Cadman and his fellow rabbit-slayer have diligently investigated the crime scenes, questioned eyewitnesses, and interrogated other forms of wildlife they believe to be accomplices in the garden raids, no one knows where the nocturnal marauder will strike next.

"You can see what it's been eating," Cadman said. "It's been taking huge bites out of cabbages, carrots and turnips. It's a hungry fella."

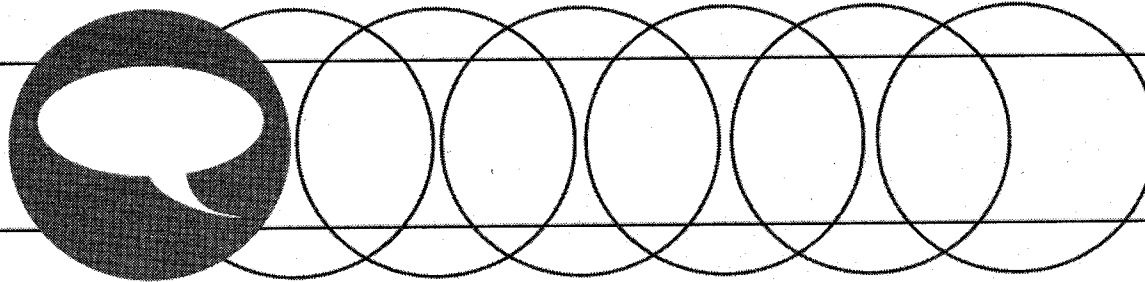
The rabbit has already devoured or destroyed enough prize-winning crops to stock an entire produce booth at a market-place. Because of the creature's insatiable appetite, the families devastated by the raids will struggle to break even when the time comes to harvest and sell their remaining vegetables.

While the cotton-tailed beast remained at large, the gardeners brought the issue to the parish council meeting. A representative from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals advised the gardeners to "set a humane trap for the animal and release it elsewhere."

Smith scoffed at the idea and told the council, "When we get it killed - when we shoot it - we are going to hang it up on a tree so folk can see it!"

As of press time, the rabbit-slayers have not yet deployed the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch.

Sources: *The Times*, *Guardian Unlimited*, *The Register*, *BBC News*, *The Daily Telegraph*



## In defense of Clean Access

**opinion by >> Tom Plummer**

First I would like to say that I do not consider myself to be an expert in the field of computers. On the other hand, I am a senior majoring in Computer Science, I have worked in the ITS Help Desk, and I have helped people fix problems with their computers since I was in middle school, so I feel I am competent enough to respond to Joey Puricelli's article "The Cisco kid was no friend of mine."

While I do not feel Cisco Clean Access (CCA) is perfect (in fact I think it needs a lot of work), I do not agree with Puricelli's judgment that it is worthless and should be scrapped. From working at the ITS Help Desk, I know that we have had far fewer students bring in their computers to have us remove the viruses and/or adware/spyware they have accumulated and I firmly believe this is because CCA forces students to keep their computers updated and protected. In contrast to what many people think, CCA does NOT scan your computer for viruses or any other kind of computer bugs. It simply checks to make sure you have antivirus software installed and the virus definitions updated. In addition, it makes sure you have all of the critical Windows Updates downloaded and installed. If a computer does not meet these requirements, it gives the user 30 minutes of access to the Internet to download and install the necessary software and updates, otherwise it allows the computer free access to the Internet.

Puricelli states, "And secondly, when I was a freshman, I received and sent a total of ZERO viruses. It's called being careful." The problem is most students (or at least a very large number) are not careful. It seems as if many students click on every single link and pop-up they see (note: this is sure way to infect your computer), and then they wonder why their computer is going so slow and is constantly freezing. The only reason CCA is necessary is because too many students do not have antivirus software installed (and if they do they probably don't have the latest virus definitions) and they don't download the critical Windows Updates (or even worse--they don't even know how to do these things). I hear tons of people complain about CCA because they already know how to take care of their computer and keep it updated, but because other people aren't smart enough to keep their computer updated I think CCA is a good idea and the rest of us are just going to have to suffer (and wow what suffering it causes...NOT!!!).

I especially want to say that I am

## Care about agriculture?

**opinion by >> Robin Sommer**

Let's face it, without agriculture we'd be nowhere. We wouldn't have food, drink, homes, clothing, furniture, and millions of things that we take for granted in our lives. The sad fact is that Americans don't seem to appreciate what is available to them thanks to our country's hard working agriculturalists. When is the last time you said "Hey, thanks for growing this food for me?" Of course, this is a hard thing to do without actually knowing who it really was that grew your food. Wouldn't it be nice to know that person? The members of Students Advocating Justice think so.

On Thursday, April 6th this group put on a presentation of a film called "Broken Limbs: Apples, Agriculture, and the New American Farmer." The film told the story of a small Washington town where apples were life. The filmmaker's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather had all made a substantial living off of the land by growing apples. However, with increasing globalization the world of the Washington apple is fading. Family orchards are burned and the growers and pickers are pushed aside by importation and orchards of hundreds of acres. Big business

has taken the lively hood away from these apple men, and as some people see it, from thousands of farmers throughout the country. How can we stop this injustice? How can we return to the glory days of the family farm?

Sustainable agriculture. That's what I was told on Thursday night. If Americans would start to care about their food and spare a few extra dollars to buy their food from farmer's markets, co-ops and organic stores this country would be a much better place. Factory farms will fade away if we'd only stop supporting them. Bigger isn't better, it's just impersonal and evil. America would be better if farmers grew food for their communities and towns sustained themselves, moving through the seasons in a "natural food cycle." In time, food costs would go down and money would stay in your community. Sounds beautiful doesn't it?

Sustainable agriculture is indeed a system that sounds wonderful, but the way that Students Advocating Justice wants our agriculture to run is not only narrow minded but incredibly short sighted. What this entire argument fails to mention is that the USA is the largest exporter of food in the world! What happens to international trade that brings in billions of dollars every year? The top

five exported commodities alone earn over \$30 billion. If farmers are only growing enough to sustain their immediate communities what will happen to people in this world who aren't able to grow food on their own? Poor souls, oh well, at least I get to chat with the man who grew my carrots.

Another problem that nobody seemed to think of was vulnerability. If there is a drought or flood, or if it is too hot or too cold, crops and livestock could be less successful or even die. If a community is faced with a food shortage, and other communities only have food for themselves, well I guess they're just out of luck. Where will your family get food now? I need to bake some bread, oh wait; the crop was destroyed by wheat rust.

I care about farmers, I care deeply for agriculture. Pioneer Hybrid Seed Company is paying my way through college and I'm returning the favor by majoring in Agriculture. Our lives depend on the food and materials that farmers bring to us, but so do people in other cities, other states and other countries. What's more important, making friends over a less diverse plate or the potentially empty plates of thousands of people half a world away?

## Past Bush statements on leaks don't match current stance

**opinion by >> Adam Dorhauer**

"There are too many leaks of classified information in Washington. There's leaks at the executive branch. There's leaks in the legislative branch. There's just too many leaks. And if there is a leak out of my administration, I want to know who it is."

That, Mr. President, would be you.

According to new developments in the investigation of the 2003 leak of a CIA operative's name, specifically grand jury testimony from Scooter Libby, President Bush authorized the leaks of classified intelligence, although he has not been linked to the disclosure of the

operative's name. This news comes as polls show Bush's approval rating is already at a new low: the lowest, in fact, for any president since Nixon was forced to resign.

Rather than refute this new evidence, the White House instead rushed to defend (and concede) Bush's actions, saying that as President, he has the authority to declassify information, and no crime was committed in his doing so. Spokesman Scott McClellan spoke out against critics by saying the leaks did not compromise national security but were in fact "in the public interest" and that anyone who failed to see that was merely "engaging in crass politics."

He failed to explain, however, why, if this information was declassified for the public interest, Bush and others in the administration, including McClellan, were so avidly opposed to the leaks for three years before Bush was named in the investigation. Why not just let us know it was for our own good when you did it? And what exactly did Bush mean by "I want to know the truth, and I'm willing to cooperate myself"?

Perhaps the public is just not ready to accept a president so outspoken on the dangers of leaking classified information doing just that for political gain. Even if it is in their own interest.

99.999% sure that CCA has nothing to do with the problems Puricelli is having with his laptop battery. Running programs do cause a battery to drain faster, but not in the way Puricelli describes. I would be very surprised if CCA caused more than a minute decrease in battery life. To the best of my knowledge, CCA does absolutely no work except for when it is logging into or logging out of the network. CCA is constantly loaded, so it does take up some RAM, but I find it hard to believe anyone would notice any difference in system performance and battery life. I think it is much more likely that his laptop battery is getting old and

just needs to be replaced (have you ever had to have your car battery replaced?).

I do agree with a couple of Puricelli's arguments. It is pretty inconvenient to not be able to change your password from your own computer on Password Tuesday. Also CCA should not say "The virus definition update has launched successfully," when it is not true. I think it causes a lot of confusion and the message should be removed immediately (are you listening Cisco?). I think the biggest problem with CCA, that Puricelli does not mention, is that it does not detect all antivirus software. I can understand how this would be a hard task,

but Cisco should definitely devote more time to it. Several students have purchased antivirus software just to find out CCA would not detect its presence. On the other hand, there are several free versions of antivirus programs CCA does detect. AVG for example, and the university provides a version of McAfee to students free of charge (to get it go to its.truman.edu and look for "Student Anti-Virus").

For more information about why CCA is a good thing, I'm sure there are many people at ITS who would be willing to talk to you about it. Be a responsible computer user...don't surf the net without the necessary updates!

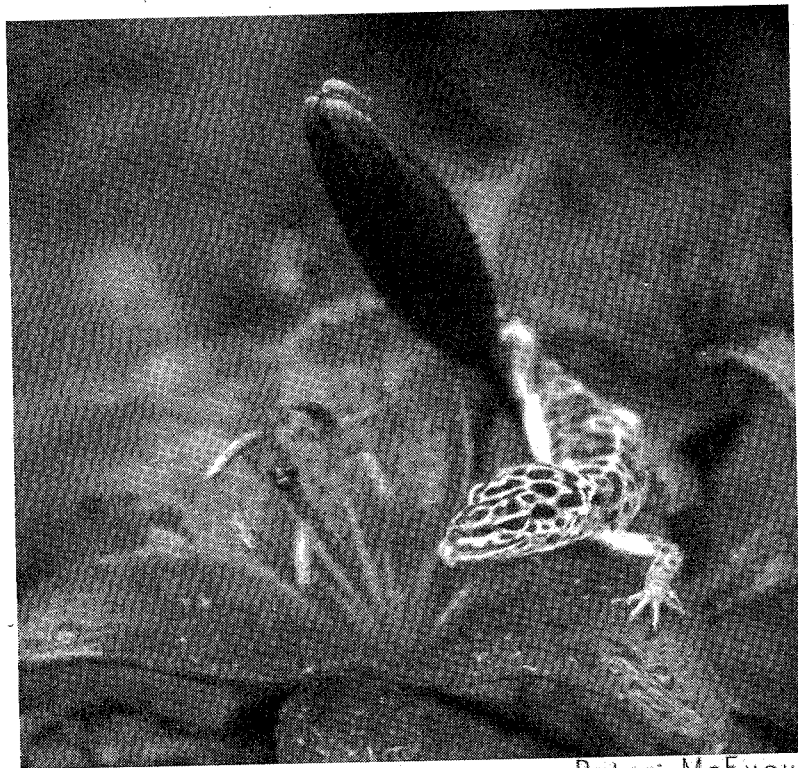


# Photography

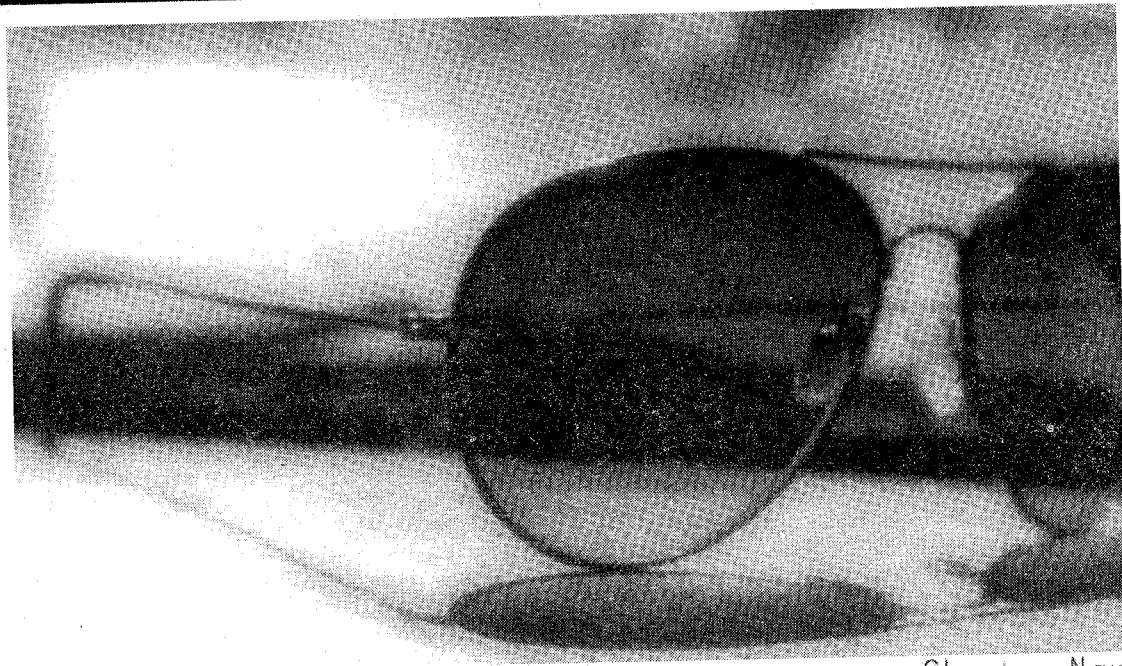
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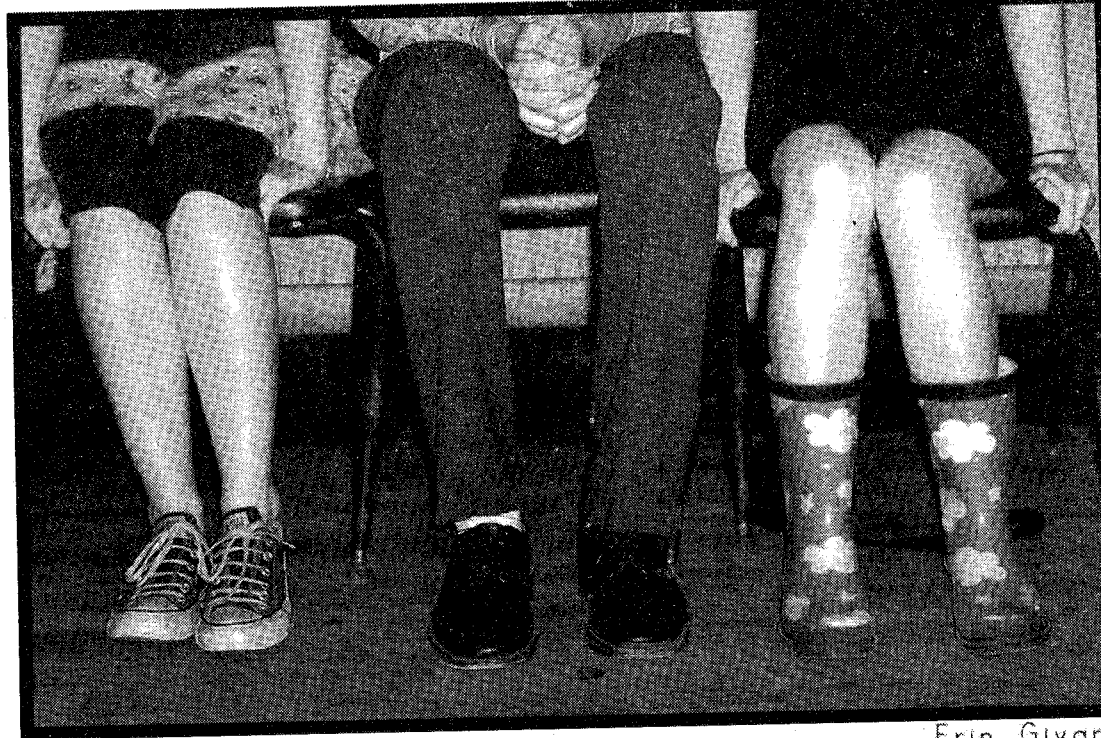
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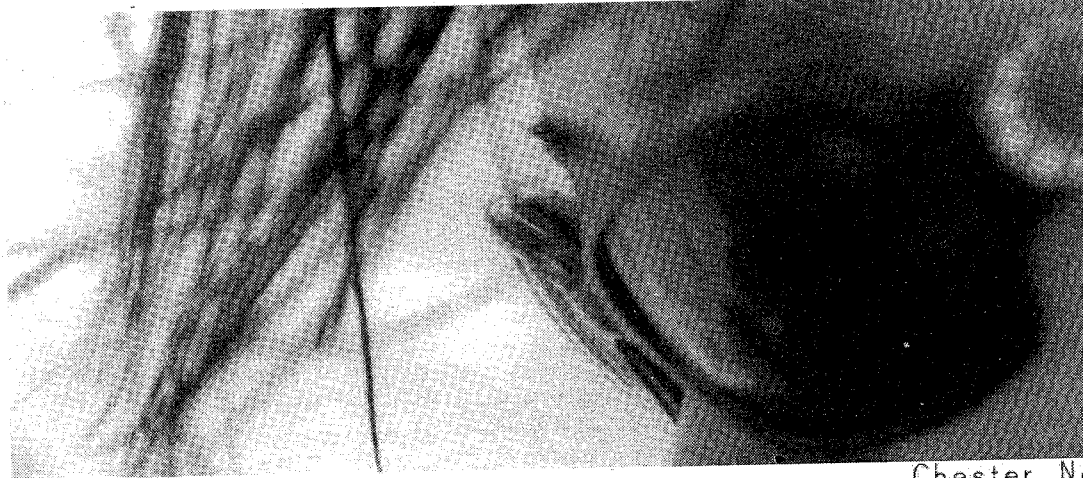
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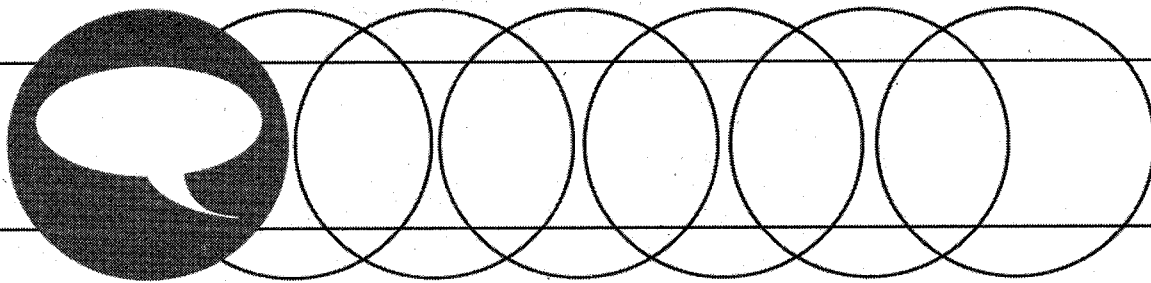
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Erin Givarz



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## Is today's Bush-Blair "Support Our Troops", White Male Imperialism Unchallengeable? The Lost Career of Judge Sir Frederic Mackarness M.P Suggests It IS, Pre WWI Cataclysm Else Otherwise Analogously in Over-Aggression!

**opinion by >> Larry Iles**

Since TSU's Women's History Empire and Gender Conference is now concluded, perhaps a final opinion thought set for this semester Monitor should alight on a question less gender specific in resistance summons to the Empire? I must reluctantly admit a side of me is very pessimistic about destroying today's version. As even before my return from my native Europe in the New Year, whilst one had been grandiloquently told American public opinion was at belated last catching up with UK such anti-war sentiment in opposing Bush-Blair's disastrous Arab

region imperialism, NONETHELESS, all I have seen since traveling round this region is absolute nonsensical support! And all-powerful, if all-ignorance feelgood US commercial TV is so self-censoring of the VAST US and UK occupation Iraq soldiers' SERIOUS injury rates (respectively, 19,000 and 5,000 plus, way exceeding the 2,000 plus and 100 plus official DEAD) as to be incredibly deceitful in failure of wary vigilance.

At one hard sale cover-up extreme, there are the WALMART distributed automobile bumper stickers Support our troops(WHY!?) and at another softer altogether level the awful nonsense of supposed-

ly gay men and College Democrats claiming to be against this endless war assailing of Islam. But still soliciting monies for US bully boy troops as they become in "institutionalised racism", according to critical British senior officers, towards the local Arabs, like blacks here at home, once they don the armor for their fat bodies these groups have naively, oppressor-funded them "protectively" within in ROBOCOP horror for the less fed locals eyes! Politically too, the scene seems sick with hopelessness, as the 60 plus strong Congressional Progressive Caucus and the dissident UK Parliamentary Labour Socialist Campaign, Nationalist and Liberal Democrat MPs, querying all alike, the insane Bush-Blair war on terror, allegedly, seem to have made no headway in their mutual objectives of such white troops' exit dates from Iraq, as my late mentor, UK resigning Foreign Secretary Dr Robin Cook wanted me too to passionately urge for.

But stopping me from total despair, is not only the way in store and office floor conversation 'round even this region, I am hearing whole traditionally Republican families whispering the above figures of angst in vote abstentionism next November as a threat to Bush, and so many parliamentary vote defeats for a crumbling Blair at home from normally loyalist Labour MPs in protest votes FOR civil liberties of which I have temporarily lost count. Yet also fortifying me is the recollection, as a historian specializing in left-wing biography rescue, of the great guts of early last century anti-imperialists, be they Mark Twain here or Judge Sir Frederic Mackarness back home in my and his Sussex home of UK Eastbourne, including his feminist own spouse.

Remembrance, even though according to local Picklers library research colleagues, the sole biography of Mackarness is so rare in the 1920s, by his former radical Libral Bath city MP colleague, the great historian George Peabody Gooch, the US-UK philanthropist, that there are inaccessibly so far only 3 worldwide copies extant! Yet the rub is that Gooch lived himself well onto the 1960s, and as president of the English Historical Association thus kept alive both men's hatred for racist smug empire-building clothed in false religious cant, in superiority

mongery! Above all, Gooch raged down all his life, in careful diplomatic papers studies, an expose of how UK's Liberal Imperialist WWI Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey had provoked the disaster of WWI, every bit as much as the Austro-Hungarian empires by his arms race Dreadnought ship constructions. And non-Commons consulted, secretive alliances in forming selective coalitions of the willing for known rubber and oil car fuels of, yes THOSE DAYS, TOO, FOLKS.

Mackarness was the less temperate one of the duo, going for outright confrontation with his own partys' Grey types across the floor of the House of Commons whom you can read about in Picklers' HANSARD PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES, from at least 1909, although he actually, like Gooch, was only in the Commons from 1906-10. More trenchantly, he launched detailed 'Letters to the Editor' columns in both the Conservative LONDON TIMES and the Radical DAILY NEWS exposing the failure of the whites to accord "magna carta"rights to his majesty's Indian subjects, tasking the hypocrisy of the leading intellectual Viscount Morley for so restricting civil rights of non-white nationalists, and challenging historical and current injustices towards Zulus and others by arbitrary taxation or covert land dispossessions.

Finally, when ejected from his Newbury small c conservative market town area as an MP with Conservative money against him for opposing their brewery ale house local profits, and half his own party leaders glad he was electorally out, he returned to being a crusading reformer circuit judge. THE SUSSEX EXPRESS compiles amazing reports of this pamphleteer, awarding tenants rights and social justice verdicts, even in places in their day as conservative biased as, say TSU Political Science department is in narrow statistical elitism. If Mackarness can stand up for progressive values at the height of crude UK imperialism and earlier, in pre-Commons (prior to 1906), be a notable speaker in the STOP THE BOER WAR and LIBERALS AGAINST AGGRESSION LEAGUE understudied movements against UK concentration camps back then, why can't Americans today feel similar hope today ?WHY NOT!

## This was me in grade 13, baby

**opinion by >> Joey Puricelli**

Missouri Hall is getting renovated. Hooray!

For the past week or two, there's been a nice bulletin board outlining some of the physical changes to the building, and all is well there. Fixing the wiring & plumbing, expanding the bathrooms & services, and the sweetness & light of individual climate control are just a few examples of the many good things happening, but as always there is a price. Part of that price is increased housing cost, but it will still be cheaper than the new suites. The downside is a concept being considered by the Residence Life office that the improved incarnation of MO Hall may be open exclusively to freshmen.

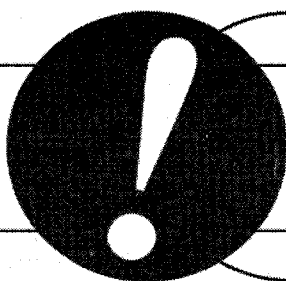
First, the more selfish gripe. I really don't think it's particularly fair if we upperclassmen will be unable to share in the community that we have both enjoyed and contributed to over the last couple years, and as fancy as the new suites are, for some of us they're too far away from the places we constantly need to be to be practical.

Now on a more altruistic note, this isn't good for the student body as a society either. Sure some may say that this would facilitate specialized ResLife programs for freshmen or upperclassmen, but since when do the students get particularly excited over stuff like that? Besides, obviously not all

of the freshmen would fit into MO anyway. On top of that, I remember being a freshman, all of oh let's say a year ago. I survived entirely because I had upperclassmen around to ask about how this place works. Student Advisors are great, but every once in a while people get stuck with an incompetent incumbent, and being students, even the best of SAs can't be around all the time to answer every question. I'm not the only one, either: my fellow '08ers have shared similar stories with me, the older students also recount their frosh experiences asking their elders for advice, and this year's new students, the minor '09ers if you will, are doing the same. Other proposals for the revised MO layout include themed houses for different classes, but that still results in the same isolationist wall blocking the flow of information (and in the case of the first floor lounges, it's going to be a real wall).

Of course, there is nothing set in stone about Missouri Hall's future residency permissions. Everything suggested so far is exactly that, a mere suggestion, and according to last Thursday's open forum about the renovation project, we students will actually be asked, in some capacity, for our input on the matter. Just remember, isolation rarely ends up as a successful policy in human relations, and we don't want the freshmen two years from now to hit the first day of school and already be failing, whether the guys be huge or the girls "wailing."





## Beauty Queens and Empire at the World Social Forum in Caracas, Venezuela

feature by >> **Marc Becker**

Under the slogan "Another World is Possible," the World Social Forum (WSF) provides a space for political activists to reflect and strategize on struggles for social justice and against neoliberalism and imperialism. Venezuela was a logical choice for this year's meeting since under the leadership of left-populist Hugo Chavez it has become the world's most serious challenge to the Washington Consensus.

Nevertheless, even while trying to build another world based on principles of participatory democracy and social justice, internal contradictions remain in the WSF. One of the most notable are weaknesses in maintaining gender inclusiveness. The majority of participants in the WSF are women, but most of the presenters on panels are men, continuing the stereotype that men are the producers of knowledge. This raises the question of what the WSF will do to assure more participatory democracy in terms of gender balance.

At first brush, Venezuela would seem to embody the same gender problems that plague the WSF. Like most of Latin America, Venezuela has a long tradition of machismo that emphasizes ideals of male authority and female domesticity. Until 1982, women were classified as a legal minors subject to male authority and control.

Venezuela also has an industry that creates beauty queens, manufacturing them as other countries would cars. Since the

1950s, Venezuela has won a record number of international beauty contests, including four Miss Universes and five Miss Worlds and twice has won both in the same year. Schools train and craft women from an young age for these contests. The cult of beauty is supported by a massive cosmetics, plastic surgery, and fashion industry. In 1999, Venezuelans spent a fifth of their personal income on beauty products. Plastic surgery in Caracas is the most profitable industry in South America.

For middle-class women, beauty contests provide a clear path for social mobility. Yet, none of the beauty queens come from Indigenous or Afro-Venezuelan communities. The Miss Venezuela contest helps reify white European constructs of beauty. A wide gap also remains between ideals of machismo and the reality of

female-headed households, sexual violence, and high rates of illegitimacy. A 1970s petroleum boom led to urbanization and an expansion of education, health care, and employment that helped raise women's status in society. This translated into legislative changes, including a 1997 suffrage law that required 30 percent of a party's candidates to be women.

The election of Hugo Chavez in 1999 represented a significant advance for participatory democracy, including increasing the role of women in the public sphere and strengthening a struggle for gender equality. Chavez drafted a new constitution that guarantees total social, political and economic



photo by **Marc Becker**

Participants at the 2006 World Social Forum in Caracas, Venezuela wear masks that read "Your mouth, fundamental against fundamentalism" both in English and Spanish.

## Sonic youth reissue worthwhile, but not earthshattering

review by >> **Tim Linn**

Music is one of the most prominent signifiers of a place in history to me. Although the rash of no wave revivalists would like to think they were rockin' East Village loft shows in 1981, they weren't.

Which is probably for the best. Sonic Youth, however, were sorta part of that original scene, and perhaps in part fueled by a new hipster market share, they decided to reissue their first recording, a self-titled mini-LP from 1982.

The reissue of this album has been almost as anticipated among newer Sonic Youth fans as a new release from the band. The record has been out of print for about 15 years, with used copies appearing on eBay now and then for a hundred bucks or so. It's only 24 minutes long, people.

But is it worth it? Well, the band decided to tack on a slew of bonus tracks, mostly live tracks from the earliest, most creepy version of the band. There's even a live version of the track 'Destroyer,' which has been a mystery to most fans due to its inclusion on the even more mysterious 'Sonic Death' tape many years ago. And this time its only ten bucks.

So yeah, it's worth it. The first track, 'Burning Spear,' is famous for its electric-

drill-thru-wah-pedal craziness, although that particular episode may not be as brutal as you think. There's actually a pretty good Bush Tetras beat in the background, courtesy of future 'Do the Right Thing' punching bag Richard Edson. There's also lots of ping pong-guitars and a bassline that weirdly asks for approval every measure.

The next song is 'I Dreamed I Dream,' and foreshadows the band's subsequent fascination with smooth noise textures and the soothing version of Kim Gordon's voice.

The music is worthy of inclusion in The Yoof's intimidating 80s catalogue, if for no other reason than a stray dark root showing beneath the convincingly blonde 'Evol' and 'Sister.' It's a good reminder of where the band came from.

That said, it's not really as good as the above albums; the textures are usually sorta forced, and a few of the songs bite at Public Image, Limited's early 80s work. Most of the live tracks, however, change this by presenting the ferocious, unhinged side of a band that puts most of these newer bands to shame. Even at its weakest, the album shows the power of moving forward and certainly shines as brightly as any of the other no wave bands of the time.

rights to all citizens, both women and men. Article 88 states that "the State guarantees the equality and equitable treatment of men and women in the exercise of the right to work."

Sometimes called the non-sexist Magna-Carta, the constitution incorporates non-sexist language which references positions with both their masculine and feminine Spanish forms (such as "presidente" and "presidenta"). This makes an explicit statement that women participate equally with men in politics.

Earlier women's movements had splintered along class lines, and the same was true for Chavez's government. Poor people are more likely to support the Bolivarian Revolution than white women who become beauty queens, and Afro-Venezuelan and Indigenous women form a particularly strong base of support.

At the same time, as in the WSF, there is a certain gap between the ideals of gender

equality and its implementation. Chavez has set a goal of 50 percent of women in public posts, but the government continues to fall short of that. More significantly, to the chagrin of both supporters and opponents, Chavez withdrew the law that required women to comprise 30 percent of the candidates for political office.

While both the WSF and the Venezuelan Bolivarian Revolution hold out the promise and ideals of gender equality, they have fallen short of these goals. Nevertheless, both represent a profound social transformation which challenges discrimination, prejudices, and injustices against women and marginalized peoples. It is difficult to undo centuries of oppression in a few short years, but advances are being made. Both the WSF and the Bolivarian Revolution can support and challenge each other in the struggle for the construction of a new humane society based on principles of social justice and gender equality.

# My Back Pages....

The television fell into molten rock.  
Goodbye Regis & Kathy Lee, you will not be missed.  
On another note, being this drunk is not fun at all.  
But the hangover will be much worse  
than the pain from my open bayonet wound  
so I said to Washington, we must get out of this valley.  
He asked why and I said, [for the first time in my life, I do not feel sexy.]

-Drew Walters, Jordan Kimbrell, James Perry, Ryan Cravens

Same

Call me whatever you will,  
Call me a fag,  
Call me a queer,  
But remember that,  
I am a being,  
I am human,  
I have a soul,  
A sensitive soul,  
I don't blame,  
I do feel shame,  
For who I am,  
I do regret,  
I feel neglect,  
Call me whatever you will,  
Why can't you accept,  
Accept me for me,  
I have a lot to offer,  
Just give me a chance,  
A chance to explain,  
A chance to remain,  
For we are all the same.

-Denis the Menace

Dear Monitor Readers,

The Back Pages only recieved only  
one submission for this issue.  
Please don't forget about The  
Monitor. There's only one issue left.

aHugeManatee@gmail.com

On adjusting to a new environment and being very pissed off about it.  
jitters  
coffee stained teeth  
3am  
humming air conditioners, far away  
windows that show a world I can't experience (at least not now);  
it leads to papers  
so long winded and wrapped in  
faux-literate academic gauze (perhaps sometimes seems to maybe  
possibly therefore thus however)  
you can't even read them yourself.  
my first revelation came amongst the drone of conversations while  
walking to class:  
This is not glory.  
so,  
why write about it and make movies about and write songs about and  
gossip about it and talk about it with your parents when you go home  
and chat about it  
in those adoring, fulfilled, happy, amazed tones  
with big smiling faces and stupidly grinning, wide-open eyes  
as if it's  
some great memory we're so happy to be able to say we share?  
oh, wait,  
last I checked this is miserable(!)  
it's like entrapment,  
extortion,  
enslavement.  
it's most certainly not  
what I dreamt of  
in kindergarten  
when mrs. broughton told me about the  
far-off golden gates of college.

-Luke Gardner