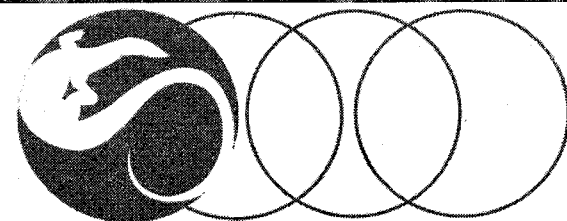


# Local Back

The Monitor takes an  
indepth look at prisons  
prisoners and the death  
penalty. pp. 4-5

# the monitor.



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

--Noam Chomsky

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# letters



## ***French policy on Middle East is best***

I must declare an interest. I am that supposedly rare thing according to British public opinion polls (Sussex University has a rare and complete Gallup/Mass Observation archive for those of you intrigued by such devices). I am a Francophile Brit, despite having little or no great natural aptitude for mastering the world's most beautiful language. Except I must be getting slightly better! This summer, in an extremely rare case, the French National Mitterand Archives in Paris honored me by renewing on site my previous year's membership, which I had acquired during my half-year as a Parisian resident researcher at the Sorbonne's Cambodia House. They said they do not normally do this, but examination of my latest output as an independent scholar in the Journal of Liberal History and Common Good quarterlies had persuaded them to grant the exception, "as you are a feminist politics biographer sans-doubt, monsieur!"

But then again, am I such a minority as I once thought? Recent events in the Middle East seem to be drastically converting, or "Francophilizing," masses of formerly Anglo-loyal sentiment away from our own

bigoted governments in both the US and UK. In the first weeks after Bush II and Blair the Renegade launched their pre-meditated but totally botched (and illegal under the United Nations) invasion of once-secular Iraq, the French embassy in London experienced an almost entirely unprecedented event. Unprecedented, in fact, since World War II, when General De Gaulle set up his London (and later Algiers) government in exile and the conservative, fascist, collaborationist, and Christian Marechal Petain's Vichy government setup elsewhere! What happened was this: over a thousand Brits wrote asking about the deal or even single French citizenship application. They asserted they were "ashamed" at Bush and Blair's illegal conduct towards Iraq!

This spectacular revolt of normally better-disposed Brits toward ordinary Americans (even if not normally better-disposed toward the cowardly-in-practice John Wayne types) did nothing to stop Blair's House of Commons managers, the Labor Whips, from using blatantly "anti-French prejudices." This is according to the published diary of my esteemed mentor, the late Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, titled Point of No Return. This tactic was taken to the point of contemptuously raffling French booze bottles in Blair's vain efforts to get a rebel majority of Labour backbenchers to

endorse that disastrous ongoing aggression in Iraq. Or, if you prefer to take another example from the isolationist, junk mediaTV of the USA, Congress ridiculously renaming US/Belgian-originated "French" fries as Bushite, exploitative "Freedom Fries." All this in revenge for Frances' Gaullist Prime Minister D. Villepins' brilliant expose at the UN Security Council of the total immorality and hollowness of the invasion of yet another Moslem state (lest we forget the bloody turmoil of Afghanistan's now-abandoned south).

Yet, since these hate campaigns by the two Born-Again-Christian US/UK leaders have all collapsed under the disasters shown even on self-censored, feel-good, commercial TV, I felt we had seen the last of them, for at least a brief while. Boy, was I ever wrong! Perhaps I'd been lulled in delight when even the thickest, densest Labor Members of Parliament who simply refused Blair's latest anti-French hate con, as I was leaving the UK. Indeed, no less than two prominent UK Labor MPs who backed Blair's Iraq invasion have publicly said "no" to this con, which is even doing the rounds of some TSU faculty normally regarded as "liberals!" But it is rubbish, as even the thickest Labor MPs in Britain have indicated; one even resigning his defense deputyship "on behalf of Lebanon!"

The con is as follows: France and the Europeans

The Women's Resource Center Presents:

## Rape Awareness Week

September 25th-28th

Mon.-Thurs., 9:00-3:00, Quad - The Clothesline Project

Tues., 7:30 p.m., BH 218 - Self-Defense Workshop (all are welcome)

Wed., 9:00 p.m., The Centennial Flame (outside Kirk Memorial - Take Back the Night

Thurs., 8:00 p.m., BH 252 - Clothesline T-Shirt Making

Fair Trade Coffee      Fair Trade Chocolate

Earth-friendly soy candles      Italian Specialty Foods

# Sugar

104 E. Washington

Indian Food      British Candy

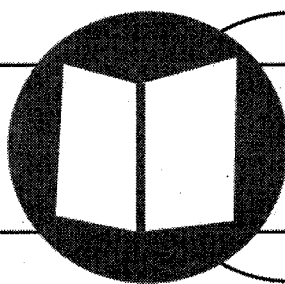
## Editors' Box

Welcome back everyone! This is the 12th year of the Monitor, and it's going strong. This issue had so much content that we had trouble getting it all in. So, please forgive us if things look a bit packed. Keep up the submissions everybody!

This issue includes the first-ever Monitor indepth spread. Partially in conjunction with the visit of Sr. Helen Prejean, the spread is about prisons and the death penalty. We hope everyone enjoys it. It also includes the triumphant return of point-counterpoint, but it's a little more serious this time around.

If this is your first time reading the Monitor, let us first thank you for picking up the issue and reading so thoroughly as to actually read the editors' box. If you haven't heard, the Monitor is a campus collective paper. No hierarchy. Anyone is welcome to submit and make the paper what they want it to be.

Love,  
Emily, Tim and Andres



## Phallic Foibles Lead to Pandemonium in Pissburg

news by >> Nick Wilsey

A woman pled guilty last Wednesday to charges of criminal mischief and disorderly conduct for "criminal intent to damage a microwave" after her involvement in a February incident in which her friend microwaved an artificial penis filled with urine at a convenience store.

According to police reports and witness testimony, 31-year-old Vincent Bostic entered the Get-Go convenience store in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, at about 5:30 p.m. After using the restroom, he asked the 17-year-old clerk to microwave a mysterious object wrapped in a paper towel. The clerk complied, but after a while she smelled a foul odor from the microwave, opened the door, and discovered what she thought to be a severed human male penis. Horrified, the clerk immediately called police as Bostic and Creighton fled the scene, taking the accessory with them.

Police Chief Joseph Pero said that Bostic supplied a clean sample of urine to his friend Leslye Creighton so that she could pass a drug screening test to get a new job. They stored the urine in the hollow interior of an artificial penis-like device called "the Whizzinator," which can be purchased online for about \$150 plus tax. Creighton planned to microwave the device to warm the urine to body temperature, which would fool the drug screener into thinking the urine was fresh.

However, Pero admitted his confusion as to "why or how Creighton chose to use a device that mimics the male sex organ to pass her drug test."

Because of the clerk's testimony, the police and news reporters who first responded to the scene assumed the lifelike phallus was actually a severed penis whose former owner might have been seriously injured or even murdered. Police notified homicide detectives and kept an eye on nearby emergency rooms for anything out

of the ordinary.

"Hopefully, they're looking for the person this belongs to," said Get-Go customer Sandy Furman.

Rev. Armisted Jeter said he was on his way to his mother-in-law's church when he stopped by the Get-Go to pick up something to eat but was blocked by police officers. He told reporters, "From what I just heard - well, I don't want hot dogs right now."

Defense attorney William Difenderfer said authorities dropped charges against Bostic because he agreed to help pay \$425 to replace the microwave. Creighton still faces a sentence of 90 days in jail and a fine of \$300.

"I certainly understand the ramifications and I'm certainly not saying it wasn't a stupid thing to do," Difenderfer said. "But there's a lot of bizarre stuff that we don't always have a remedy for in the crimes code."

continued from >> page 1

are to the blame for the crazed Israel-Lebanon war going on so long! Why? Because France first proposed, then "unpardonably delayed," the UN peace forces, composed heavily of French nationals, going in to stop the war!

Now let's finish by savaging this lie of Bush and Blair's. This lie is on a par with their "porkies" about weapons of mass destruction and their concealment of how they've let Iran chauvinistically take over Iraq, not to mention the plundering of the Iraqi people's previously publicly-owned resources by Cheney-affiliated Halliburton and Carlyle. Plundering with the help of US Ph.D.-holding cronies in the collaborationist government, in the Occupiers' only partly bomb-free central compounds in Baghdad.

One, France did not start or end the war on Lebanon! Israel did that at a stroke, using US-supplied weapons. Israel's government, once a fine Left Center, now is in moral ruins and swamped in Rightist unpopularity, resembling Blair's in fact, now that it must stop a war it ignited. Scots made a brave display of civil disobedience in stopping US arms exports to Israel at Prestwick. Blair was caught on an open microphone backing Bush attacking the early UN peacekeeping idea and its quick implementation!

Two, it is true France did "take its time" before finally sending its biggest-ever peacekeeping force. But France has had troops in its former mandate-state of Lebanon since 1978! It wanted, before it sent more, guarantees that they would be allowed to defend them-

## Food Fest, Sugar Anniversary Spice up the Square

news by >> Christopher Stone

On September 9, food was the name of the day. Truman's agricultural science department and the University of Missouri Extension presented the fifth annual Northeast Missouri Food Fest in conjunction with the Farmer's Market on the town square. Sugar, the gourmet food shop located near the square, also celebrated its first year in operation.

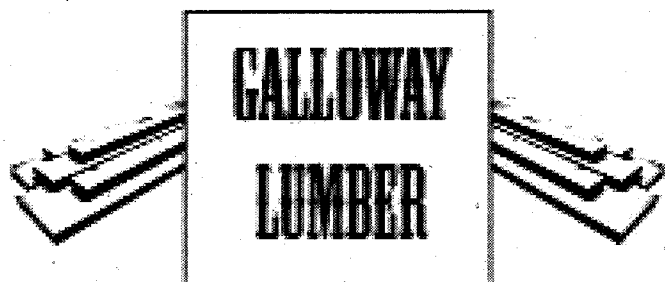
The Food Fest/Farmer's Market showcased many organic vegetables and fruits grown throughout northeast Missouri, including at Truman's own University Farm. Additionally, there was a panel of "celebrity cooks" that included a local judge and several Kirksville city council members. The celebrity cooks prepared dishes of omelets, kebabs, and other dishes from ingredients purchased at the Farmer's Market that morning for under \$7. The dishes were freely distributed to those who wanted samples.

Sugar, a food store that features many Fair Trade items, celebrated its first complete year of operation in Kirksville by providing free samples, snacks, and some live music. Though the Northeast Missouri Food Fest and Sugar birthday celebrations have passed, the Kirksville Farmer's Market will continue to be held on the square every Saturday from 7 a.m. to Noon until October 26.

selves, even if it means killing both Israeli or Hezbollah warriors! And rather than fuss about who is in command, as is the US' wont, Italy's genuinely center Left government has been permitted supreme command.

In short, France still represents the best of Europe in the Mideast nightmare, and Bush and Blair continue to represent the worst, motivated by a monomaniacal devotion to oil. And the cover-up lies for our own leaders' greed still continues. That any TSU academic should say otherwise is to me an astounding display of naiveté, or else perhaps the French and other faculty's bravery against these senseless and costly wars is now too hot to defend on lines of real evidence. And we now back to the old days of an ultra-conservative Truman faculty? What feebleness and lack of real intellectual rigor!

signed >> Larry lies



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# Joint: death penalty warranted

Opinion by >> **Andrés Delgado**

As I view the situation, Sister Prajean's arguments against the death penalty, though they often were implied in the course of the night rather than stated explicitly, are invariably without warrant. Furthermore, American society currently grants victims' family members the right to choose whether to pursue the death penalty, an acknowledgement of the primacy of their claims to the use or stay of state power over those of the murderer or God's spokespeople on earth.

Prajean equated the excruciating psychological pain that goes along with waiting to be put to death with torture. This violates an inalienable right according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To my mind, however, a murderer's punishment should exceed the trauma he or she inflicted on the victims. Furthermore in individual cases, the death penalty as it is set up in the US can be compared to a hot stove. Consider this to be a stove that "burns" (to assume the language of death penalty abolitionists) you and kills you, maintained by the state. It is extremely difficult to touch this stove. In fact, you have to murder someone to touch this stove. Yes, your family likes to see what happens when you touch the stove, but you are accountable to them, not the stove. In the rarest cases, you must have lived such a life that twelve objective witnesses think you killed someone beyond a shadow of a doubt.

That brings me to my next point. The sister's second book focuses on men she believes were innocent when they were sent to death row. A common argument is that some innocent men end up being executed for crimes they didn't commit, which is an insufferable price to pay. This is unfortunate, but I am one person willing to accept that possibility rather than abolish capital punishment altogether. Those innocents can be counted as more victims of the system, by dint of whose actions capital punishment exists.

The sister gave examples of people who had found what she called "healing." And invariably such healing was described as occurring through forgiveness and mercy. There is a leap to be made from believing this to believing that all families should be forced to follow the same route.

A murderer who was apprehended but then allowed to live out the rest of his or her life in prison would constitute a continuous lifelong affront to many people. In the case of the most sadistic murderers, such as... whose motivation included an element of psychological control over their victims, could continue to find satisfaction and glory behind bars.

That inmates put to death come from an unrepresentatively small portion of society should call for change. The problem isn't that these people are innocent or don't deserve what they get. If most murders are committed by those outside the ruling class, then it is because of the action of poverty in tandem with a murderous tendency. In fact, murderers fall across the economic spectrum evenly, then the system needs to change by being harsher than the ruling class.

Some people would make different, perhaps more persuasive arguments based on systemic and institutional agency in a capitalist culture instead of looking at individual cases. Such a person might argue that capitalism requires disenfranchised losers to produce the accumulation of wealth for others. In this case, murderers are symptomatic of the state's economic "everyone for themselves and devil take the hindmost" philosophy of competition over cooperation. Ironically, the state then propagates more violence by putting such people to death. Sister Prajean said that over 90 percent of inmates on death row had suffered childhood abuse, which inarguably has roots in the society and economic conditions in which it occurs. However, these detrimental influences only produce murder in combination with a horrible character flaw, and this is punishable.

## Monitor Exclusive: Helen Prejean

Monitor: What Purpose do you believe the death penalty is intended to play within our society?

Sister Prejean: [The Death penalty] is 99% about politics and 1% about criminal justice. It got politicized in the late 70s, under President Nixon to talk about law and order. And it [does] not address the issue of what is causing crime in our society at all. Basically there is an underlying assumption that if people are committing crimes it has got to be their fault. So we're just going to enact punishment, and in the Supreme Court put the death penalty back and in the 80s it was fully politicized. Ronald Reagan and governor of New York, he was the one who came with the lethal injection, because if veterinarians could put down a horse with a lethal injection then we could do that to criminals. We wanted a way to do it that was tasteful. We didn't want a blood thirsty kind of thing. So it has pretty much been that; a secret ritual where more and more we try to humanize or make it with antiseptic and acceptable and lethal injection is a logical extension of that. We're not really killing a person, we're putting them to sleep. If you look at the chemicals they use to kill a person, the second one is to paralyze the person so that the few witnesses there can't see the person twitch, or anguish when they go into cardiac arrest. So that is what has brought us the death penalty. As crime expanded in the 70s, you

have people beginning to see that it is politically expedient to say that they are tough on crime, and run on the death penalty platform. Notice in the last election - Bush and Gore - Bush never brought it up. Now Bush had presided over 152 executions as the governor of Texas, so why didn't he play that card; "Look, I believe in carrying out the law" and he never mentioned it unless it was brought up to him. Gore didn't mention it either, but when they were asked in the debate it was interesting. Both of them took a position as a way to try and legitimize it by saying that it deterred crime. They don't know that. In fact the track record of thirty years shows that the states that practice the death penalty the most have double the homicide rates of those that don't. It doesn't have anything to do with this very selective application of the death penalty.

M: So you've pretty much answered my second question as well: How well does it succeed in accomplishing its intended goal? So let me ask is there a better alternative?

SP: Let me tell you the other way, another goal that has been inserted by the politicians to legitimize it. They're claiming that justice for the victim's families demands it. They use arguments like, "Look at what this family has suffered," and that's why we have to have the ultimate penalty. They deprive this inno-

# Speaker against death penalty visits

story by >> **Andrés Delgado**

Sister Helen Prajean, bestselling author of the Pulitzer Prize-nominated novel *Dead Man Walking* and the recipient of dozens of humanitarian awards and honorary degrees, addressed a diverse crowd of about 600 in Baldwin Auditorium last Thursday. Senior Bethanie Seiglar introduced Prajean at 7 pm on behalf of the university chapter of Amnesty International, which worked with the Catholic Newman center to fly in Prajean on a chartered jet as part of a week-long effort to promote the visibility of the death penalty issue.

A governmental lack of responsibility in caring for the neediest was the overriding theme of the night, and the sister's charged anecdotes would stay grounded to this thematic stake. The material content of her testimony centered on the story that had inspired her first book and the making of an Academy Award-winning movie, though she ventured out to touch on the Oklahoma City bombing, the Columbine massacre, and the International Declaration of Human Rights, before closing the night with a question and answer session. Following her speech, about 200 copies of her book were sold outside of Baldwin, according to Seiglar.

Prajean spoke from behind a pair of spectacles with a drawling Baton Rouge inflection as she expressed her intention to take the crowd on "a journey of faith." Her life story had been one of awakening, she said, beginning in the lap of luxury as the daughter of a lawyer who employed African American servants, and attending a segregated church. The trajectory of her life's arc had lately brought her to make her permanent residence at a Louisiana poor house. She said her journey had ultimately shown her that "Jesus [is] on the side of the voiceless people, and that the heart of the heart of all religious traditions is brotherhood."

cent person of life, and if we don't punish by asking the person who killed them to forfeit their life, then it looks like we are dishonoring the victim. And plus it is a system set up where the victim's family has to wait ten, 15 sometimes 20 years before they're actually allowed to sit in the front row and watch as the person is executed. I see victims' families being manipulated by the politicians in this too. Now what was your next one?

M: Is there a better alternative?

SP: Well anything is better than intrusting a very frail, biased, and prejudiced government with power over life and death. You cannot give that kind of power over individual citizens lives to the government. You just can't do that. It taints everybody it touches, prosecutors over reach, they get into pressure of a high profile case; people are saying, "where's the criminal?" They arrest someone. We have 123 people, as of now that were wrongfully convicted come off of death row. And they were saved by college students in these innocents projects. It is by a fluke that their lives were saved. How many more innocent ones have gone to their deaths? I write about that in my book, *The Death of Innocents*, [I] accompanied two people, and by the time the reader gets to their execution, they are going to know things the jury that has sentenced them to death never knew because it was withheld

**Katrina**

Adopting a breathlessly subdued tone to which she returned frequently over the course of the hour and a half long engagement, she relayed the desperate plight of the poor who had been unaccounted for in New Orleans' formal evacuation plan and were forced into the "last refuge" of the Superdome. She contextualized the story of the calamity by describing it as only the latest example of societal values that have historically disregarded or actively oppressed those without economic resources in Louisiana, a former slave state that today incarcerates more people for longer than any other, per capita. The sister expressed disappointment that the disaster had not prompted a national dialogue about poverty, even as the number of American poor had increased by 17% over the past six years.

**Partick Sonnier and Robert Lee Willie**

Her involvement with the death penalty movement began in 1981 when she addressed a letter to Death Row, Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola, LA. She wrote to Patrick Sonnier, a man awaiting death there for his part in the execution style killing of two teenagers. He had raped one, and neither of the victims had previous contact with him before the night of their deaths. Sr. Prajean would become Sonnier's spiritual advisor, and hers would be the last face Sonnier saw before his electrocution in 1984.

Robert Lee Willie was the condemned man who formed the other half of the fictional character Matthew Poncelet in the movie *Dead Man Walking*. She described him as "tougher," even walking with a "bounce" in his step as he was escorted to the execution chamber and winking at her in his last act. He sported a swastika tattoo, and "it was like in his last

from them, or a jail house informer lied, saying they heard a confession from the guy and they really didn't hear it, but the jury doesn't have a way of knowing. So the first step is that we have to say that we will not let our government participate in the torture and deliberate killing of citizens, and when we look at this paradigm of the death penalty, its really not a peripheral moral issue of what we ought to do with a few terrible criminals, we see that is a paradigm of the way our country tends to think and act when we are afraid or we easily make someone the enemy and say what we have to do is get the greatest enemy out there. Find them, target them and in the process you dehumanize them because you say they are not as human as we are, and kill them. Take what we do with domestic crime and murders in the United States, of selecting some criminals [for the death penalty], and then you see what we are doing in Iraq and it is the same thing. The only way to deal with the attack of terrorism is to go and attack them. So militarily force is our first bent. We are a very young nation. We got power very early and we tend to use it and we think that it is the way we will prevail. Perhaps Iraq will be an experience of limits of military power. Israel with Hezbollah, and the recent [offensive] that has pushed 800,000 Lebanese out of their homes, kills over a thousand Lebanese people. The military general of Israel

hours death was giving him a high," said Sr. Prajean.

### The voices of the families

Sr. Prajean made a point of supporting the "legitimacy of the rage" felt by those who would demand that a murderer forfeits his or her own life by ending the life of another. She spoke the words of victim's relative, saying, "Our family is on death row. This family has never been the same." She contrasted this with the words of a father who she said was "the first one I met who taught me about forgiveness." The man informed her that he was praying for the mother of the condemned man who had killed his son, who was being treated as a pariah in her community. "They killed our boy but I'm not gonna let them kill me. If I let the hatred and bitterness in me, they'll kill me, too."

Sr. Prejean evoked the pain attendant for the families of murder victims who must appear at trial and "remain emotionless for fear of causing a mistrial by excessive show of emotion." The end of the trial is only the beginning of the waiting for the families, she said, as ten to fifteen years can pass before they are called to witness the execution. "They are offered this in our culture as a way of healing them and giving them justice. Can that heal a human heart?" Asked Sr. Prajean.

### Pro-life

Sr. Prajean often returned to the concept of healing as a desirable state that was not furthered by the violence of capital punishment. Sr. Prajean said the horror of living on death row and entering the execution chamber occurred behind closed doors. Most of the 80% of Americans who support the death penalty will never see an execution so she must try to relay the guts of the experience; after watching Patrick Sonnier die, she vomited, she said.

Additionally, she said "When people talk about pro-life, for me that calls for pro-

life across the board. For people at the end of the line, but also even those among us who have done terrible crimes. They have a dignity which they deserve not to have taken from them." She cited the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and noted that two inalienable rights secured thereby are protection from torture and cruel and degrading punishment, and the right to life.

Sr. Prejean's speech finished with a quick recitation of statistics. She said that less than two percent of those eligible for execution are sent to death row and over 90 percent of inmates awaiting death were abused in some form as children. She quoted a young boy's question that illuminated the question of moral authority implied by state killing, "Who is going to kill [the executioners] for killing [a condemned man?]" Attendees were invited to sign a petition calling for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Of note in the question and answer period were the sister's views on liberation theology. She cited the deadly effects of "supposed Christians supporting wealth and repression." "Liberation is perhaps the most delicious, precious word in the Bible," she asserted, and mentioned Martin Luther King, Jr., and Cesar Chavez approvingly.

Other efforts by AI over the week to bring attention to "show the facts and promote a dialogue" about the death penalty included a candle-light vigil, a panel discussion, the showing of the movie Redemption and displays on the Mall and Quad, said Seiglar. FAC provided about \$1700, including a \$1200 speaking fee, to bring Sr. Prajean to campus.

LINK! You can write to men on Louisiana's Death Row, too.

<http://www.ccadp.org/penpalsnew.htm>

acknowledged that they had failed their objective. Their objective was to get back the two Israeli soldiers that had been kidnapped by Hezbollah and the other was to disarm Hezbollah or weaken them and they didn't accomplish either. We have that yet to learn. We want to respond to violence with violence and the death penalty exemplifies that.

M: It seems like you are talking about a retribution system of justice that is currently in place, I was wondering whether you would like to talk about other forms about justice systems that could be in place?

SP: First of all, not just the death penalty but when you think that we have two million human beings incarcerated in this country, we have the highest per capita incarceration rate in the world, we have out-stripped Russia, and that is using coercion to control your citizens. To imprison people, especially [with laws] like mandatory minimums for drugs, over half the people in prison are there for non-violent crimes. It is supposed to be happening to make the public be safe. So first of all just to recognize. Then when you get private industry in there you literally have slave labor because [the corporations] can pay them anything they want. The step of course, or what we have to do is the rehabilitation of people. We're barely beginning to comprehend the practice of recy-

cling aluminum cans and bottles and stuff so to human beings its, first of all its enormously costly to tax payers to keep building all these prisons. It is the most elaborate and expensive welfare system in the world. To take citizens, give them room and board, you know, provide guards, all this kind of stuff, and take them out of society, and then when they come back into society, the recidivism rate is so huge. In California recidivism is 90%. They have one of the biggest prison systems in the whole country. Their budget is far greater, they've started cutting back on education budget and increasing the criminal justice budget into prison production. It is this mentality of either throw people away or human rights of course. Human rights are not given to governments. This is an Amnesty insight I got when I first started working with the death penalty. Human rights are inalienable, which means that they can't be alienated away from a person, which means that governments don't give people human rights for good behavior and they can't take them away for bad behavior. And two of those basic Human rights, the right not to be tortured, or be exposed to cruel or degrading punishment and torture, and the other one is not to be killed, that everyone has a right to life. There is no way you imposed the death penalty on a conscious, imaginative human being and keep them confined in a small room with a small

# Counterpoint: death penalty unwarranted

opinion by >> Ben Garrett

Political issues that surround our concepts of life and justice are hotly contested, divisive issues in this country. All too often these debates address the issues in a contextual vacuum, looking only at theoretical scenarios that have nothing to do with the world we live in. Whether we think it is morally objectionable to engage in retaliatory violence or not, the decision to do so cannot be made without looking at the social impact that decision will have.

Proponents of the death penalty believe that it acts as a crime deterrent. People will be less likely to engage in murder if the penalty for doing so is murder itself. After 30 years of having the death penalty reinstated, we see that states that practice the death penalty have twice the murder rates as those that do not. Clearly, if there is any relationship between the death penalty and crime prevention, it is not positive. Pro Death Penalty advocates argue that these statistics are misleading because even in states where capital punishment has been reinstated, it is used too infrequently to tell what effect the death penalty could have on society if it was used universally as punishment for the crime of murder. On the one hand, this is a silly proposition to make, because it reverts to the theoretical argument that just laws can be made and applied by human beings without interpretation or bias. On the other hand, it brings up the inconsistent use of the death penalty and begs the question, why is the death penalty used so selectively?

Why are 42% of the inmates on death row black when black folks only make up 12.8% of the population? Why, even though blacks and whites are victims of murder in almost equal numbers, is the death penalty used only on the murderers of white victims 80% of the time?

The American justice system is not above human influence or bias. We live in a racist society and the imbalance of our judicial system reflects that. Some have argued that stricter sentencing laws would help negate the racist bent of the judicial system by taking the human element out of the picture. Besides the fact that mandatory sentencing laws have been on the books now for twenty years, and there has been no significant change in the racial composition of prison populations, the idea that you heal a sick society by treating its symptoms is a false paradigm.

The purpose of the death penalty is not deterrence but retribution. The strongest arguments for it are not based on its social impact, but on its personal impact. Pro-death penalty rhetoricians invariably fall back to the argument, "if some one killed your [son, daughter, lover, etc.] what would you do?" Personally I find this a very compelling argument, and I cannot honestly say that I know what I would do in that situation. But if I felt strongly enough to kill another human being in retaliation, I must be expected to face the consequences for my actions that my community deems appropriate. I should not force my entire community to be responsible for carrying out my will, even if it conflicts with their own. The way the death penalty currently operates is exactly like that. Taxpayers have to pay the court costs for decades of imprisonment and legal proceedings before the death sentence is carried out. When these costs to our society are complied with a racist judicial system that discriminates heavily against the poor, the death penalty can be seen as the ultimate symbol of a racist system perpetuating itself on the backs of its citizens.

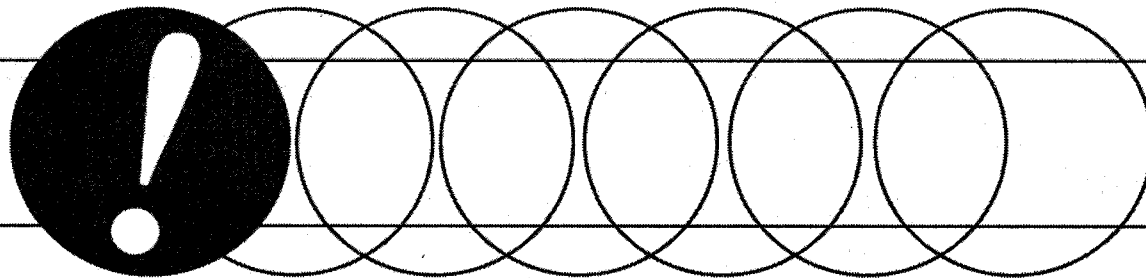
Until the root causes of racism are addressed within our society, there is no way to enact a retributive system of Justice that will not be equally racist. We as a society have to stop looking for a way to punish people fairly in an unbalanced society and start looking for ways to use our justice system to restore balance. The concept of restorative justice is not new, impractical or irresponsible to society. A dead man can do nothing to repay his debt to society. A woman sitting in a jail cell does nothing to restore the community that was devastated by her actions. But a community that acknowledges its weaknesses, admits its mistakes, and works to right them, can restore a justice much greater than that justice founded in blood.

bathroom for 15, 20, 25 years and not recognize that your practicing torture. Our supreme court will not acknowledge that we're practicing torture, but when you see it for what it is you can recognize it, and it is in fact the practice of torture. We in the United States have just signed on to the human convention against torture and the definition of torture, in that un-convention is an extreme assault, mental or physical on someone rendered defenseless. So like Dobie Williams that I talk about in The Death of Innocents, the first story in the book, was brought to the death house three times before he was killed, he got with in an hour of death twice, and said good bye to his family and then he got a last minute stay of execution. You can see, I mean he is preparing himself to die. Even the CIA, when all those discussions were going on about the torture memos with Rumsfeld and Gonzales and all of them saying how much you could do to make a terrorist suspect, Bush calls it alternative ways of getting information, but then the CIA, they said one of the things you can't do, and this is coming from the CIA which is hardly the bar, the high moral bar, is that you can't put a gun to someone's head and threaten them with immediate death and not carry out. And that's just what the practice of the death penalty is.

M: Would you care to speak at all about your personal experiences within prisons and with the

prison ministry?

SP: First of all, I want to say that I thought when I would go to prisons, especially with Death Row, I thought I would find human beings who were basically very different from me. In fact, I wasn't sure when I visited the first person on death row that we were going to be able to have a normal conversation and I have found that they are human beings. I have seen close up the tortures that are involved with the death penalty, and it has had a profound impact upon my life. I came out of the first execution of Patrick Sonnier on April 5, 1984, and he was electrocuted to death in the middle of the night, I came out and threw up, I had never seen anyone killed right there in front of my eyes, and you know when you see the act of your self, it doesn't matter that it is legal, or some body says "Hey, the supreme court said this is ok," or the polls say that people want this. When you're confronting the reality that this is a live human being put to death, and how futile it all is, and the suffering and all that, so it has profoundly affected my life. I've realized I've been the witness and people don't know what's been going on. They think they support the death penalty, but they've never reflected deeply on it so it's my job to tell the story.



## Those fucking Unicorns: a 'zine

Review by >> Ben Garrett

Jesus Christ in sunglasses, talk about blowing your load on the first page.

Those fucking Unicorns, shoot forth from both horns magical, faggical worms that squirm firm into coarse Hinnies.

So seriously, it takes divine intervention, a rubber ring of joy to take shafts that fat up the aft. Not since Van Morison's Brown eyed girl was there a creature more suited for prostrated pleasures.

Amputant, rawkass sexual Debauchery. With all four legs they make way through orgasmic earth quakes.

Locks to down socks they can suck and fuck each other in combinations that break mortal Jaws, Backs, and Bones.

Shudder from page to page, and yet my eyes are glued to the cum soaked white cat-astrophy before me.

Those Fucking Unicorns, are to sexual fantasy two precisely placed fingers are to a blow job. All it takes to find out is 50 cents.

Those fucking Unicorns is available from the Black Unicorn Press for fifty cents

P.O. box 872  
Kirkville MO, 63501

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## Keys- what're they good for?

feature by >> Ben Dansby

I have been attempting to go to the Student Recreation Center this semester in order to get cardiovascular exercise. On my first attempt, I realized after I arrived that I had not brought socks. The second time, I was told that zippered and belted clothing is not allowed in the weight room. After becoming severely incensed at this new and rather arbitrary rule, I was informed that, upstairs, zippers were still welcome. However, my incensement over this "separate but equal" policy was so great that I left in a huff. The third time I went was today, the day I am writing this. I had my socks, my shoes, and had no intention of entering the hallowed, elastic-only realm of the weight room. I was really going to get some cardiovascular exercise. I entered, and with Bad Religion's "Punk Rock Song" blasting my eardrums, I prepared to get that heart rate up above sixty.

Before I did, however, I checked my left pocket to make sure that my keys were there. I do this habitually, almost compulsively. My keys are very important to me. So when my hand felt nothing but smooth khaki (yeah, I work out in khaki) with no familiar metallic bulk, my heart sank. Well, maybe they fell out of my pocket when I sat down. They did not. So I went back to my car. Surely I wouldn't have locked my car with the keys in them. I did. Except my bag was placed conveniently over the place I suspected them to be on the passenger seat. Nevertheless, I knew that they had to be there.

Initiate present tense mode.

Resigned to my fate, I walk the block to my friend John's house to see if he knows how to pick locks. This is a long shot. He is not there. My resignation grows to a numb despair. I must walk the mile to my house in fifty-degree weather only to find out that my apartment door is locked and so sit there at the door waiting, hoping, that one of my roommates comes along. OK, so there are worst scenarios than the one I have just described. Well, you see how it feels. So I begin the trek to Stickler Apartments.

Upon approaching the downtown square, I notice a man standing very still on the sidewalk. Just around the corner, a police officer is standing equally as still. Tension seems to hang in the air like the swamp gas of old. I walk, slack-jawed and staring, at this utterly curious sight. I realize with a detached fascination that the police are attempting to catch a presumed criminal right across from Crumbles 'n' Cream. I then start noticing that there are cops everywhere. They are strategically placed around the square. Something big is going down here. Yet it

is so quiet and still. The cops and crooks could be playing tag for all the apparent drama. Somehow, I end up at the police station. I decide to ask them if I could use their phone to call a locksmith. I approach the entrance, and then back away with sudden trepidation. The cops are going to help me get a locksmith. In the middle of a sting operation? What am I thinking? But as I'm walking away, an officer of the law calls after me. The conversation goes thusly:

Cop: Can I help you, son?

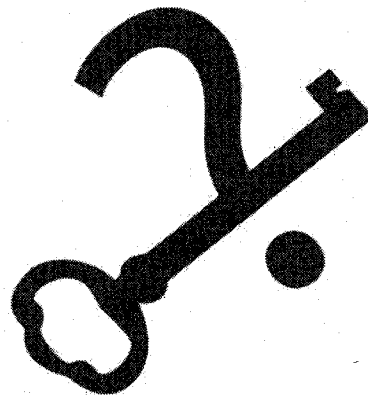


illustration by >> Ben Dansby

Me: Well, maybe. I need a locksmith.

Cop: Well, call one.

Me: I don't have access to a phone.

Cop: Well, why don't you use a pay phone?

(At this point I must add that the cop's tone can only be described as "smart.")

Me: (I hadn't really considered the possibility of pay phones existing in downtown Kirkville, but I offer this response instead) Well, I don't have any money.

Cop: Where you locked out of?

Me: My car.

Cop: (his tone practically drips with "smartness") Hmm, so you have money to buy a car but you don't have money to make a phone call?

Me: (befuddled) I, mean, I have money. I don't have change to make a call.

Cop: Any of these businesses would be happy to change your money for coins.

Me: Alright then.

Cop: Now, would you like some numbers?

Me: That would be great.

I follow him into the station where he instructs the receptionist to get me some locksmith numbers and then promptly disappears. I get the numbers, and set off to find a pay phone. I can't really say why the cop did not offer to let

me use the station phone. It's not that it's just the nice thing to do. It's the logical thing to do. But who can say what logic systems Kirkville's finest employ? Then again, the station must be on high alert due to the recent criminal activity in the area (the area being a 100 foot radius around the station, recent being right that very second).

As I'm walking past the station, the cop, accompanied by two of his brethren and escorting a handcuffed man with a fu manchu moustache, asks me if I got the numbers. I respond in the affirmative, my mind practically meaning with the absurdity of the situation. As I walk toward the courthouse, I notice that everyone seems frozen. No one is really moving, as if they are in a state of waking hibernation. Is the entire town involved in this sting?

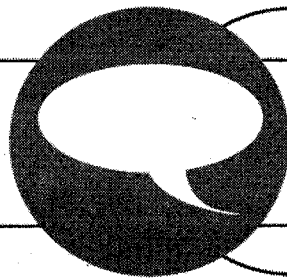
I reach the courthouse and spot a pay phone. I then realize I have a phone card on me. Things are really looking up at this point. I make the call, and as I do, a man walks by in what appear to be old hospital scrubs. He is walking very stiffly and staring at the ground. I contact the locksmith, he agrees to pick me up, and it looks like I'm on my way to success. A few minutes later I'm in the locksmith's Jeep Cherokee. Now, I don't know if you've ever ridden with a locksmith before. But conversation does not come easy. I didn't even have the buffer of the radio to help smooth out the deafening silence interrupted with the occasional wheezing, halting attempts at communication. The topics breached during the drive include my status as a student, the difficulty in smithing locks, and the temperature of the air that day.

Five hours later, we arrive at the SRC and the smith sets to work. Let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, he smithed that lock like it was his job. In a strange way, I suppose it was. I lifted up the bag in my car and snatched my keys, my relief at them actually being there lasting only a microsecond before being overcome by the joy at having my keys back. The locksmith of course did not take plastic for payment, so we drove (separately, thank the gods) to the Bank of Kirkville, where I picked up the cashola and gave it to the smith. With a curt farewell that belied our deep emotional connection, the locksmithing episode was done and regular life resumed.

Or did it? As I was backing out into Franklin Street, who should zoom by me, swerving as though they'd nearly ran into me, but Tim Linn and Emily Randall. Tim looked back with a sardonic smile that seemed to say: yes, our sudden, last minute cameo appearance in this story clinches the fact that this was a dream and when you wake up, you will say, and you were there, and you!

I'm still hoping to get some exercise one of these days.





## Police prevent freshman fun

**opinion by >> Freeman Faite**

It's a sad fact that in our poor, rural, addict-ridden town which has recently suffered from a drive-by shooting and numerous sexual assaults, the peace-threatening calamity that has drawn the most attention-and it seems, money-from the local police force is the eons-old tradition of Truman Week parties. Freshmen intrepid enough to venture out on foot during the harrowing week must have noticed the tight net of polo-clad policemen standing vigil on the streets and thought the situation to be normal. We upperclassmen, however, who return early to open our houses to the throng of new schoolmates have certainly noticed that this year's Truman Week, that is, the part of the week concerning unsanctioned activities, reflected a trend that's been building.

Each year, it seems, the Kirksville Police expend more time and effort on putting the vice-grip on the party houses and parties that make Truman Week more than a simple summer camp. Last year they were ticket-happy with the actual houses that allow, in most cases, the largely unsupervised consumption of alcohol by freshmen. This year, however, the trend swerved in a new and disturbing direction-freshmen themselves began to become the targets of the majority of police scrutiny. Students walking with alcohol were tackled by cops jumping from unmarked cars; people leaving parties with soda cans were stopped and questioned; policemen stood vigil in front of dorms and at intersections where drunken freshmen were likely to cross on their way home and handed out tickets.

The force was bolstered by out-of-town fuzz from as far as Columbia, and it seems the new polos were ordered so officers from different jurisdictions could look the same as our homebred defenders of the peace. Few parties were broken up, and fewer tickets given to houses. By the end of the week it was obvious that based on turnout,

they wouldn't really need to.

I will concede the fact that the increased presence of licensed ticket-writers did its job in at least limiting the volume of wanton freshmen party-seekers on our streets. But was the benefit worth the cost? It seems ridiculous that underage drinking should have been such a priority on the KPD's to-do list, not only because of the price tag that force buffering must have run up, but also because of the simple fact that methamphetamine and sexual predation on average harm the common good more than a few hundred drunk college kids.

This misallocation comes tagged with a moral dilemma as well. Is it right to scare freshmen, to ticket them for their own good, to in effect prey on them in order to teach them a lesson about "responsible drinking?" Some partying was stopped, sure, but because the spirit of the week couldn't be killed entirely, I'm forced to wonder what may have happened in other circumstances. When the walk home becomes a stumble through a minefield of ticket-happy cops, the walk may be replaced by drunk driving, shacking under duress, or other efforts to bypass the no-longer-entirely-safe walk home. The fact is, if you're going to party, you're going to party-but trap a drunk in a corner and he'll find a dumb way to get out.

This leaves us, for the sake of space, back at the main question: how much is too much? Is it worth intimidating, at great cost, a group of new adult citizens of Kirksville in an effort to keep them from doing the only thing that you have to be a stage-2 adult to do? In a land of freedom and in a town that loves to soak in that freedom to a masturbatory yellow-ribbon degree, the level to which the already-absurd drinking law is being enforced -police state- seems ridiculous to the point of insult. I'm sure the unfortunate martyrs of the week who've had to work out lawyer fees with their fuming parents before attending a single class would agree.

## Index gets priorities wrong

**opinion by >> Walter Stokely**

In February of 2003 the Kansas City Star ran one of their many one-sided articles concerning the murder of Richie Restivo. The murder took place in the parking lot of Restivo's alma mater, Rockhurst High school. The newspaper's story matched up perfectly with two other stories - that of the police and that of those who were on the Rockhurst side of the fence.

The reason?

Money and color were on Rockhurst's side. Opposed was a group of kids, most from nearby Center High School. Center is a public school. Rockhurst is a private school. Center is somewhat urban. Rockhurst has, as the Star described it, "a decidedly suburban flair." The side that had the money and clout controlled not only the story that the KCPD made

official, but also how Kansas City mainstream journalists pitched the story - as a group of kids from Center imposing violence and murder on a group of kids from good ol' Rockhurst. News reports were even covered from Center High school, miles from the scene of the crime. Why? Because for those controlling news media and for their consumers, it is easier and more acceptable for murder to be associated with public urban schools than private middle-upper-class schools.

The Star's fault was in only getting one side of the story: the side with clout and money.

On February 23 of this year, Truman's Index ran an article, "Officers find drugs" as their big story on the front page. The article describes two DPS dorm drug busts.

## Allende's writing sheds light on School of Americas

**opinion by >> Theresa Kerhawy**

Tomorrow evening, Eric LeCompte, the national outreach coordinator for SOA (School of the Americas) Watch, will lead the first Global Issues Colloquium presentation sponsored by Truman State's Center for Teaching and Learning this semester.

SOAWatch is a diverse organization started by Father Roy Bourgeois, in response to the massacre of six Jesuit priests, their co-worker, and her daughter, in El Salvador. After investigating, Fr. Bourgeois found a link between this massacre, similar human rights abuses, and the military school where many Latin American soldiers were trained. Human rights abuses include the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador, the El Mozote massacre in El Salvador, and tactics by a military coup that ousted Salvador Allende from his presidency in Chile. Such incidents prompted Fr. Bourgeois to create SOA Watch and attempt to close the School of the Americas.

Renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, the SOA is still located in Ft. Benning, Georgia, where it provides a training facility operated in the Spanish language for Latin American military personnel. The SOA is allegedly responsible for teaching torture, blackmail, and assassination.

An article from National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 122 cites "coercive techniques" used in various SOA manuals during the 1960s and 1980s such as the employment of "Threats and Fear," "Pain," and "Debility." Recently, SOA teaching practices have been reviewed and changed. A new prologue on CIA training manuals states: "exposure to inhumane treatment of any kind as an aid to interrogation is prohibited by law... it is

neither authorized nor condoned." Yet, according to Guardian Unlimited, "though they account for almost the entire training programme, combat and commando techniques, counter-insurgency and interrogation aren't mentioned. Nor is the fact that [SOA's] 'peace' and 'human rights' options were also offered by SOA in the hope of appeasing Congress and preserving its budget: but hardly any of the students chose to take them." This critique is especially strong, given that techniques in various CIA training manuals have been compared to those used illegally in prisons of Abu Graib.

Fittingly, LeCompte will focus his discussion on "the role of torture, or threat of torture, in American foreign policy particularly as it relates to our presence in Latin America."

Author Isabel Allende (pronounced ay-YEN-day) offers a more interdisciplinary discussion of the SOA and various human rights abuses in Latin America. Allende is the niece of Salvador Allende, the world's first democratically elected Marxist leader and the President of Chile during the early 1970s. As president, Allende nationalized education and healthcare and implemented a system similar to the Works Progress Administration. He faced opposition, however, from the Chilean Congress and was eventually forced out of office during a violent military coup. Officially, Allende committed suicide during the coup. His cause of death, however, is often disputed based on recently declassified documentation such as Project FUBELT, an initiative to undermine Allende's Marxist government and support a military coup. One such declassified document states "It is firm and continuing policy that Allende be overthrown by a coup. It would be much preferable to have this transpire prior to 24 October but efforts in this regard will continue vigorously beyond this

**continued on >> page 11**

In the same issue of the Index, featured much less prominently on the front page is an article on sexual assault.

There are two things wrong here. The first is that two freshmen having a few grams of weed is considered FRONT PAGE NEWS by the Index. The second is that the article is given prominence, and therefore precedence, over an article concerning sexual assault. Then senior Eran Feintuch wrote to the Index:

It would appear that on this campus, rape is not such a big deal, while two students who smoke pot are evil social deviates. I do not like this conclusion. But last Thursday's Index fails to convince me otherwise.

Why did the Index make these choices? Hell if I know. But my guess is that it's an outgrowth of an unjust, propaganda-driven drug war.

My point in bringing up the Star and the Index in their journalistic hypocrisy is to illustrate that main-

stream media even beyond Fox News fail to achieve objectivity. News stories are one-sided, and mainstream news outlets are tools.

The Index is regarded as an exemplary college newspaper both state-wide and nation-wide. That means that a newspaper that considers small amounts of marijuana more important than sexual assault is the example for other newspapers around the country.

American journalism has taken a scary turn for the worst. Mainstream newspapers are puppets for the government, for the police, and for those with enough money to influence them.

If you've got something to say, if you know something they don't, if they just don't want your side of the story, speak up.

Good journalism should keep the system in check. Not give it a mandate.



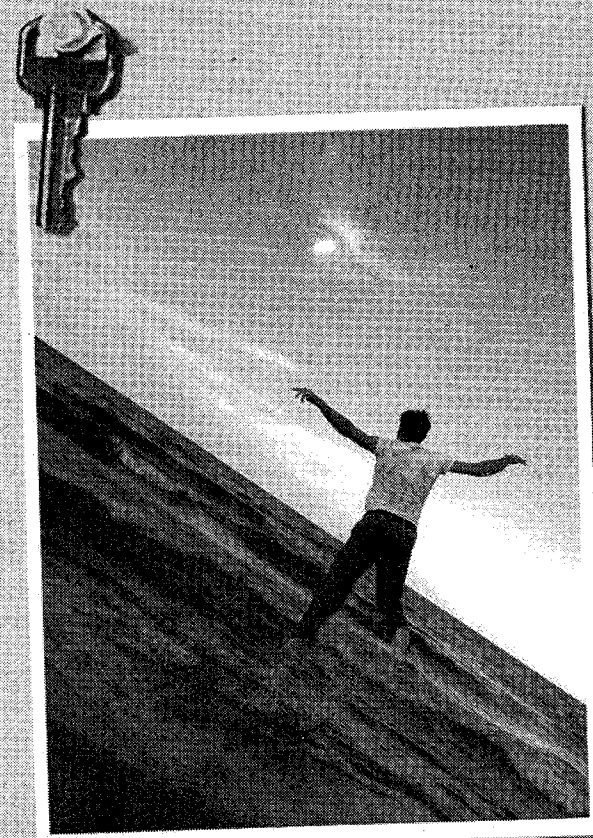
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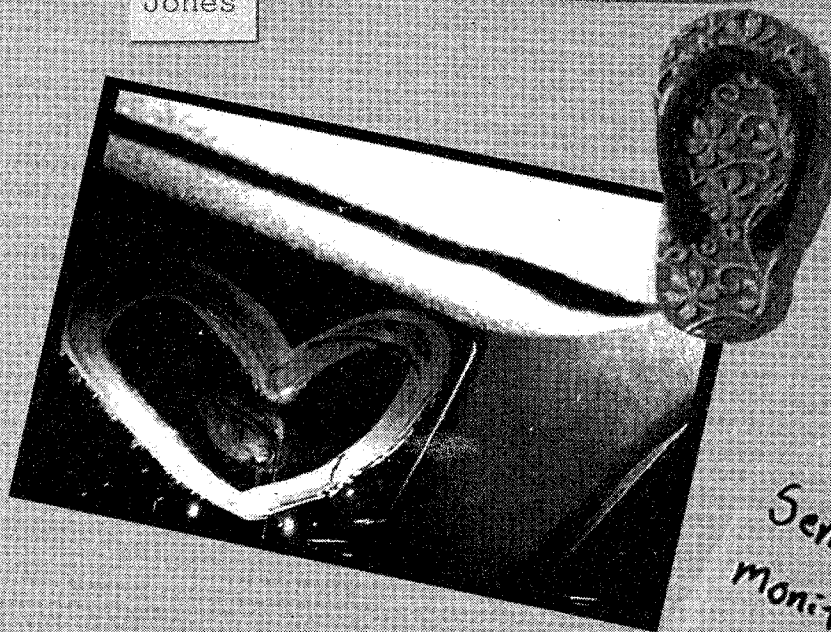
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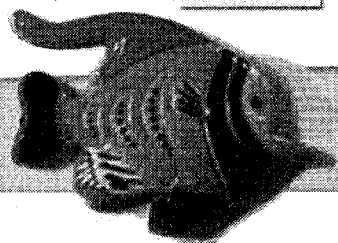
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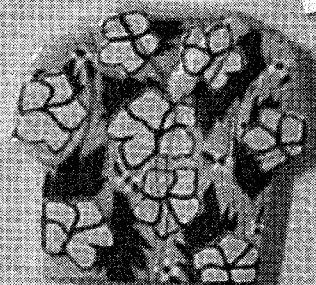
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#### How to be a Rockin' Photographer Beyatch

Welcome to the new Monitor photo page! Each issue we are going to have a new fancy theme. Sound exciting? It is. And you, humble reader can be a part of it all. Just send your photos of animals, houses, emo self-portraits, whatever to [monitorphotos@gmail.com](mailto:monitorphotos@gmail.com). While we may not run the emo pictures of you bringing the pain to the surface, there is a good chance we'll run about anything else.



# A Cardinal Case for Baseball's Top Awards

story by >> Adam Dorhauer

Last year was a rare treat for Cardinal fans. For only the second year since the inception of the Cy Young Award in 1956, the Cardinals held claim to both the NL MVP and

Cy Young Award winner (trivia: what was the other year?). But it couldn't happen again, surely. After all, no two teammates have ever won both awards in successive seasons. We are now well into September, however, and Pujols and Carpenter find themselves

entrenched once again in what are by now two- or three-horse races. Here's how they stack up against their competitors statistically, along with an argument in each Cardinal's favor.

Pujols	129 G	480 AB	45 HR	123 RBI	.327 BA	84 BB	43 SO	.429 OBP	.675 SLG	111 R	Cardinals
Howard	145 G	535 AB	56 HR	139 RBI	.314 BA	89 BB	164 SO	.431 OBP	.673 SLG	97 R	Phillies

The most gaudy statistics that are pushing many in the media toward Ryan Howard are the homeruns and RBIs. However, Pujols is 2nd in the NL in both of these categories, and leads Howard in nearly every other significant category, including slugging average despite the homerun difference. Pujols has also acquired his statistics in significantly fewer games and at-bats due to injury, thus

exaggerating the differences in homeruns and RBI's. Howard has struck out nearly four times as much as Pujols this season and is a defensive liability, while Pujols might win a Gold Glove. Pujols also leads Howard in nearly every category of sabermetric statistics, a set of more mathematically complex statistics designed by statisticians to better measure a player's true worth. Both players

are carrying their teams almost single handedly (with some help from Chase Utley and Scott Rolen), but historically, MVP voters favor players whose teams make the playoffs: right now the Cards would be in and the Phillies would not. Lastly, it would be difficult not to vote for Pujols when he is having a better year this year than he did last year, and he won the MVP award last year.

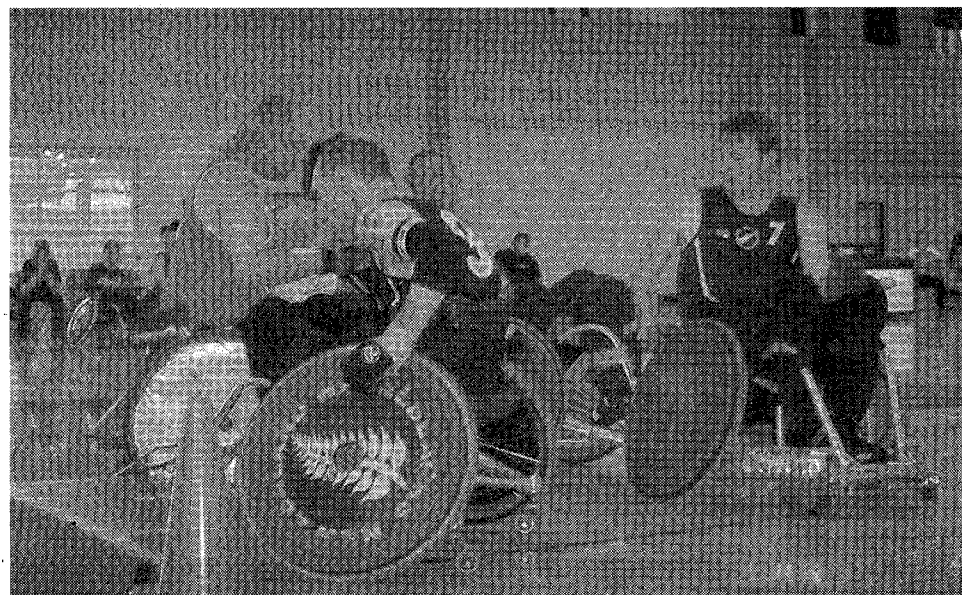
Carpenter	15 W	6 L	2.79 ERA	4 CG	3 SHO	41 BB	173 SO
Webb	16 W	6 L	2.92 ERA	5 CG	3 SHO	47 BB	163 SO
Penny	16 W	8 L	4.04 ERA	0 CG	0 SHO	48 BB	132 SO

Penny is barely a peripheral candidate at this point, but his win total could get him a few first- or second-place votes \*cough\* LA voters \*cough\*. The race is mostly between Carpenter and Webb. Webb has a slight edge in wins, but that could change by the end of the year. Carpenter is the hottest pitcher in baseball right now, and if he continues his

success through the end of the season, he could run away with the award. He has pitched 7 games this year in which he has thrown 6 or more innings, given up 1 or 0 earned runs, and not earned a win. Factor that into his record, and he should be over 20 wins already. He easily leads the league in ERA, is tied with Webb for the league lead in shutouts,

and bests Webb in strikeouts while allowing fewer walks. With no 20 game winners in the NL this year, Carpenter seems the best candidate for this award.

\*All stats through Sept. 16 games.



## US Destroys New Zealand

story by >> Christopher Stone

It's easy to get bogged down by world news; environmental catastrophes (both long-term and short-term), geopolitical scandals, wars, genocide, terrorism all seem to be the norm, and somehow a lot of the blame seems to land on the United States. Rejoice, for there is something the United States is good at that doesn't involve a condemnation of some sort: the Wheelchair Rugby Championships. On September 16th, the United States beat out New Zealand 34-30 to win the fourth annual Wheelchair Rugby Championships. Even the defeated Kiwis' coach, Grant Sharman, admitted that the Americans "played extremely well."

## Zidane Headbutt Angers a True Soccer Fan

opinion by >> Joey Paricelli

Zinedine Zidane. What an unfortunate name; what kind of parents would do that to a kid? It's like John Johnson or something equally dorky. Personally, I think this what? all just stems back to years of frustration over the other kids making fun of his name on the playground.

I watched the World Cup final this summer. That's my dedication to the beautiful game; I always watch the World Cup final when Italy is in it. This makes twice in my life that I've watched a soccer game in which none of the players were actors or my relatives. For those of you who missed it, 110 minutes, two overtimes, 1-1, and then Italy clobbered France in the shootout, 5 to less than 5 (France didn't get a fifth kick, as they'd already missed one and could no longer tie). Viva Italia, baby.

Unfortunately, the game was overshadowed by one particular foul. Zidane—which is also the name of a Final Fantasy character—had announced prior to the match that no matter the outcome, he was retiring. Then, late into the second overtime, on the opposite side of the field from the action, Zidane proceeded to ram his bald testa dura into the chest of Italy's Marco Materazzi (who may or may not do 185). Almost six minutes of game time were wasted as the whole mess was sorted out, and less than a minute of that was recovered at the end of the overtime. That is not even the important part: Monsieur Capitain Zidane, FIFA legend, ended his pro career and his involvement in the French World Cup team by getting red-carded in the second overtime of his last game ever. Stinks to be him.

According to all the post-game buzz (read: Zidane's teammates), Signore Materazzi, a renowned trash-talker, provoked the attack by hurling racial slurs and family criticisms at the big Z. France fans claim that because of this, the head butt was justified. In response to that, I defer M.A.S.H.'s own Spearchucker Jones, who was speaking about a different kind of football, but the situation was similar, and the advice still applies: "that's an old pro trick to get you thrown out of the ballgame." Some childish ignorant insults are no reason for an allegedly "classy" player like Zidane to potentially crush another man's rib cage with his shiny skull.

But then, like I said, footy isn't my game. Maybe I'm too neutral to be making judgment on cases like this. Maybe if this was a different sport, I'd be biased enough not to let rationality guide my view of the situation. Or maybe this entire paragraph is just me being needlessly sarcastic. Go Cards.



# A convenient solution for an Inconvenient Truth?

opinion by >> Les Stitt

Many viewers of the SAB's recent screenings of *An Inconvenient Truth* undoubtedly left feeling guilty about their own environmentally harmful lifestyles and the role their cars play in greenhouse gas emission. TerraPass, a web-based company in Menlo Park, California, however, offers drivers a convenient way to clear their consciences.

The idea is simple. Concerned about their cars' emissions, drivers log on to the TerraPass website and enter in some basic information about their car: the make, the model, the year, and how many miles per year they drive. TerraPass, in turn, calculates the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that car emits and then, if one proceeds, charges a fee (\$49.95 for a standard car) sufficient to offset that CO<sub>2</sub>.

When I first came across the site this summer, I was skeptical. Was it really that easy-cough up some green, about thirty dollars in my case-to offset my car's emissions by promoting some more environmentally sound energy practices? It seemed eerily similar to some other recent internet scams (I'm still waiting for my I-pod Nano), but I decided to test the service for myself.

I logged on to the site and purchased a \$29.95 Hybrid TerraPass for my 1995 Ford Escort station wagon. The site sent me a confirmation email, and within a few weeks I received a packet in the mail. The packet contained several items: an official TerraPass window decal outlining my purchase and contribution to renewable energy, a TerraPass bumper sticker, another TerraPass window decal, and a product content label containing the fine print about my Hybrid TerraPass.

The information in the packet was very informative and let me know exactly how TerraPass would be using my money. Apparently, only a very small part of the money I spent went towards the materials in the packet I received. TerraPass claimed my purchase was being used to offset the carbon dioxide my car released by investing that money projects that reduce greenhouse gasses. The information in the packet stated that the projects included: clean energy projects such as wind energy, biomass projects, like extracting methane from the manure of dairy cows, and industrial efficiency projects, like the retiring of carbon credits traded on the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX).

The first two projects seem straightforward. The concept behind them is that if more energy

from clean energy and biomass projects is consumed, rather than from unclean energy (like coal burning power plants), less CO<sub>2</sub> will be emitted into the atmosphere. The principles driving the third project, however, are somewhat more complex. This project is based on participation in the CCX, what TerraPass calls "a voluntary cap-and-trade system for carbon dioxide pollution."

CCX is a voluntary, legally binding emissions-credit trading system with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Participants in the CCX agree to limit their greenhouse gas emissions to a standard set by the CCX. Those in the exchange that release fewer greenhouse gases may sell their "credits" to those that fail to reduce their emissions to the exchange standard. This system thus provides incentives for participants that surpass emissions standards set by the exchange while punishing participants who fail to meet the emissions standards. Many countries other than the United States, particularly those who agree to stipulations of the Kyoto Protocol, employ similar systems.

TerraPass guarantees that sixty-seven percent of revenue generated from its passes, about twenty dollars in my case, is used to purchase and subsequently retire (by refusing to sell) carbon-credits traded on the CCX. The result of removing these carbon credits from the exchange is the inflation of the remaining carbon-credits, thus providing more incentive to those participants operating below the CCX standard for emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and greater punishment for those companies needing to purchase credits.

The website and my product content label contained a significant amount of information about what TerraPass does, but I wanted more information and also to speak with someone inside the company. I requested an interview through the website and eventually was granted a phone interview with Tom Arnold (not the actor/comedian), the Chief Environmental Officer for TerraPass.

Arnold told me that the minimums required for investors to participate in the CCX are high and that it was partly because of this stipulation that TerraPass was formed in 2002. The company was created by University of Pennsylvania Professor Dr. Karl Ulrich and forty-one of his students. According to the website, "within its first year, TerraPass registered over 2,400 members (and reduced 36 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>."

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date."

Being tied personally and politically to Chile's recent history, Isabel Allende's books often depict a young woman's adventures and amid the political climate of instability and violence. Other books less subtly explore the topic of regime change, as affected by an anonymous, outside military force, presumably the United States.

This summer, I read *Paula* and *Of Love and Shadows*. Paula, tells the story of Allende's daughter, Paula, and her unexpected battle with a rare, fatal disease. Amid an outpouring of grief as Paula slowly declines, Allende writes an autobiographical letter retelling the epic story of her personal development and political awakening during a shadowed period of Chile's history. Despite the context, neither politics nor the SOA is central to the book's theme; Allende's treatment of political imposition is, however, not so subtle that it can easily be passed over with an unaffected conscience.

An understated theme in *Paula* is that of her distant familial connection to Salvador Allende. As Allende recounts her timeline the emphasis placed on Salvador Allende increases. Eventually Chile is taken over by a military coup, he is killed, and his family flees Chile. Isabel Allende depicts Chile's dark ages, not failing to mention various instances of murder, torture, and blackmail under new rule of law. In this writing, Allende reveals the issue of injustice throughout Latin America at the hands of violent regimes.

*Of Love and Shadows* is Allende's second book. Unlike *Paula* the main theme is the political corruption of a violent military force and a character's struggle, similar to that of Allende's relatives, to escape it. Neither time nor place is mentioned but it could be Chile, Guatemala, or a number of Latin American nations touched by the affects of the SOA. In *Of Love and Shadows*, Allende's heroine explores the military dictatorship under which she lived,

recounting stories of torture, desaparecidos, and young men forced to arrest, torture, and kill their own friends. She explores an unknown avenue of social justice, the Catholic Church and the underground networks of nameless cohorts who smuggled citizens away from the growth of an international military industrial complex. The name of the cardinal who used his power to condemn human rights abuses is simply "the Cardinal"; his actions, however, easily elicit images of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the Salvadoran bishop who denounced human rights abuses in Latin America before a group of soldiers, two of whom presumably graduated from the SOA, assassinated him.

*Of Love and Shadows* is fiction, but the heart-break, suspense, and terror that she describes is a non-fiction that could not be imagined. Allende's embellishments, many inspired by past newspaper articles and conversations, depict corruption and tragedy: a mass grave hidden in a cave by the military dictatorship, a man who joins the military and ends up forced to execute his own friend, the crowd of women who daily, silently mourn the loss of loved ones by holding large photographs of victims who have mysteriously been tortured, raped, killed, and kidnapped. Her experiences are shared by multitudes throughout Latin America.

For the women still awaiting the return of their loved ones or at least their remains, Allende's descriptions are more than pictures, they are a daily reality. Her fiction offers a personal voice and illuminates a distant time, place, and struggle for those of us without the daily reminder of bloodshed. Her fiction offers unique perspective on history but falls short of real-life analysis of the SOA's military tactics. Luckily, where Allende's efforts end, the *Global Issues Colloquium* begins. Tomorrow, Eric Lecompte aims to provide such commentary, discussing the implications of torture in American policy as it relates to Latin America. The *Global Issues Colloquium* begins at 7 pm in McGruder Hall, Room 1000.

comic by >> Jonathan Thatch



## Tips for DIY hairstyling

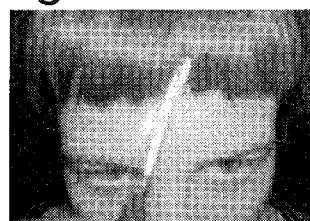
story by >> Emily Randall

Hairstyling is not as hard as it looks.

Many people spend five dollars to twenty dollars a month to have their hair styled, even if they just get a trim. Doing your own hair is not only cost-effective, but it is fun, satisfying and a good way to ensure the hairstyle looks the way the person wants it.

Some handy tools for the trade include sharp scissors, a hand-held mirror for checking those hard-to-reach places, a wastebasket and a friend to assist and reassure.

Here are some tips for getting a professional look in your own bathroom:



Angle scissors parallel to bangs (not cutting across) to avoid an uneven line.



Instead of cutting straight across the bottom of layers, resulting in a shelf-like look, pull hair away from head and measure cutting length with your fingers. Make sure to get all the hair in a section to avoid patches.



Razors with long settings are great for getting an even cut across a short haircut.



Don't be afraid to take risks. If it does not look just right, you can turn a mistake into something cool and unique. Remember, it will grow back.

# My Back Pages....

Please send any and all poetry to  
aHugeManatee@gmail.com

Thanks to Mark Spitzer's ENG 204 class  
for this issue's submissions.

I ate yummy cereal this morning,  
I hit a dog in my golf cart  
while I was driving home from work last night  
I flipped off this asshole and we got in a  
fight,  
but his crazy-ass sister came and kicked my  
ass.  
I couldn't find a better way out of Mexico  
so I jumped aboard that crowded wooden door,  
but the damn knob was too slippery.  
No matter what, the trap door wouldn't budge.  
Within 24 hours I was dead from blood loss,  
but before everything faded I spoke my last  
words:  
Burn me at sunset, bury the ash,  
and be sure to plant a tree on my grave.

Roast beef & cheddar does not cure a hangover,  
But pissing on that building was fun  
And you can't tell me it wasn't.  
Put a little salt on it and everything is fine.

Red Beads, Black Beads, all over  
It was going to be the best party ever  
But then somebody started puking  
There were corn and brown chunks everywhere  
Sewage on her ankles made her cry  
It wasn't her fault she lived in the dump  
Or wait, yes, yes it was her fault. All her fault.  
I hate it when it is my fault but  
Then I cry, spit, & chew. Life is better.  
All it takes is a good smoke.  
Blazed like the sun on a hot summer day,  
Butter melts with the dry heat  
It was perfect for the potatoes  
And that is what I did last night.

A lizard slides down a slope,  
he falls into a mud puddle and squeals  
like a piglet  
bacon  
slathered slow across the sky  
like butter on bread  
smooth  
criminal  
Actions against the state  
they're good for some and bad for you.  
Just say no  
unless it's to candy  
Mountains dripping sugar,  
it falls on my eyelashes and makes them sticky  
I can't see! I can't see!

my mom told me she got [crunked] last night.

Be careful of  
the ones with spiky tails,  
unfolding entrails like bails of hay.  
I lost my earrings as I tripped on your indifference.  
Good thing you were tripping too hard to notice  
the oncoming planes.  
Your long hair and ironic suits winked,  
Nothing like dressing space monkeys in finery

She travels the world to find herself,  
The question begged an answer: where'd she sleep last night?  
Furthermore, what had the night been rated, safe or STI?  
Afraid to check, worrying about last night's possible scars,  
He's leaving it all behind.

This chaotic music is pounding in my brain.  
This is confusing me, too  
The Din of the Battle and Battle-Cries  
Filled the air as I looked at her smile  
"Get down!" I screamed  
"And play that funky music for me!"  
I like to dance with my hips.  
I like to thrust with my hips.  
Then again I like Jimmy Dean sausage, too.  
It's the only meat I'll eat  
It tastes delicious sliding slippery down my throat.  
Bananas are truly delicious. Truly.  
I can fit a whole one in my mouth.

I didn't inhale, but I coughed it up.  
The others laughed, and I scowled,  
Monstrous trolls abound.  
Tonight, live from your stomach.  
Here comes the finale:  
A sweeping fantastical acid trip  
accompanied by Disney,  
the broom dance in my pants.

I saw a two-faced pig on TV today,  
He wore a big hat and one shoe.  
Size 7, rather small for a man with a big hat.  
Yeah, no brains no pain.  
Like clams-do they have a nervous system?  
They goo everywhere,  
Rancid, really, you should see it.

Once upon a time in Mexico, there was a man  
He played guitar  
His name was Esteban  
The women would cream  
And scream at his sound  
Wet panties and broken eardrums his legacy.  
Oh street corner saxophone player,  
Your melody is the blood-curdling scream in my ear.