



# THE MONITOR

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## 9th district democrats left out to dry; write-in candidate steps in

story by olivia sandbothe

One of Missouri's nine congressional seats is rumored to be on the chopping block following this year's census. If that's true, the district lines will be redrawn sometime before the 2012 general elections. That gives us one more sure round of campaigning here in the ninth-- but it looks like the state Democratic party has already decided we're obsolete. Local voters will see just two U.S. Congressional candidates on the ballot this November: a Republican and a Libertarian.

The fact that the party hasn't even bothered to name a candidate for the district that encompasses Kirksville and Columbia is surprising, particularly in light of the fact that the party is funding campaigns in the state's much more conservative southern districts. In recent electoral years Democrats have gained ground here. In 2008, candidate Judy Baker trailed Republican Blaine Luetkemeyer by just 8,000 votes for 47% of the total results, according to sos.mo.gov. A party spokesperson, quoted by the Columbia Missourian in August, indicated that the campaign would have been too expensive to run and that there was little interest from potential candidates. All right, so maybe the party doesn't have the resources to win the seat. But to simply get somebody on the ballot-- to allow voters in this district, in whatever number, to check a box for 'Democrat'-- would have cost \$200 in filing fees, unless I'm missing something big on the Secretary of State's website. And isn't there some value in making an appearance of any kind, in showing that we, as liberals, exist in this part of the world, even if we aren't the majority?

Moberly resident Jeff Reed thinks so. As an active member of the Randolph County Democratic Party, he was out-

raged to learn that he would not see a (D) option on his ballot this fall. So he, a building-supply salesman with no experience in politics, decided to take matters into his own hands and launch a write-in campaign for the ninth district seat. When I spoke to Mr. Reed on the phone this Friday, he told me that the symbolic act of casting a vote is central to his mission. "When people don't even have a choice, when there isn't one candidate who works for them, who believes in their issues, that's when they don't have any representation. We want to put up a good enough showing to let people know that there are people in this district who do not support [Luetkemeyer's] policies." He's talking specifically about the incumbent congressman's opposition to health care reform, an issue at the core of Reed's campaign. "I wasn't totally pleased with the health care bill, but it was a step in the right direction. College students should be excited about it-- most of you don't have full time jobs, and this allows you to keep your parents' insurance for a few more years. It's a bill that benefits a lot of people in this district, and it's something Blaine Luetkemeyer voted against."

Health care isn't the only issue that may divide the congressman from many Missouri voters. Luetkemeyer's national security and environmental policy platforms are straight out of the George W. Bush school of thought, a sore thumb in a world trying to forget that those eight years ever happened. His online congressional profile boasts of his "Missouri Values"-- values that prompted him to sponsor the amendment that excluded same-sex couples from marriage rights in this state and on which his draconian anti-immigrant stances are based. "He votes with his party 97% of the time," Reed says; the Washington Post con-

firms this statistic.

"Luetkemeyer's an investment banker, a personal millionaire," an anonymous source within the Democratic party tells the Monitor. "He can basically buy the election out of pocket if he wants it. We'd lose by twenty points if we ran a candidate. It'd be embarrassing." I respect the fact that the party has limited resources and a strategic reputation to protect. But what seems really embarrassing is that a district that includes two renowned institutions of higher learning, not to mention a few hundred thousand other residents of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, should simply roll over and let this man characterize its values as nothing more than adherence to a conservative party line.

Students who want to know more about Jeff Reed can join his Facebook group, "We Need Reed: Jeff Reed for United States Congress."

**Another voting note:** If you are from Iowa and plan to vote in the elections back home, be aware that one of the most important items on the ballot is buried way at the bottom. Radical social conservative groups have turned judicial retention into a hot-button issue in this cycle, seeking to oust the long-serving judges whose unanimous 2009 decision legalized same-sex marriage in the state. Their campaign has drawn nationwide attention and has been criticized by smart types like Sandra Day O'Connor as an attempt to punish the judicial branch for carrying out its constitutional duties. If you hail from the Hawkeye state and you have any attachment to the concept of a free judiciary, make sure to vote for these respectable public servants to keep their jobs.

## dick and jane... have a threesome

by our sex columnists, dick and jane

Gentle readers, we, the authors, wish to discuss a sexual issue of great social import. We write this not just for the thrill of discussing the obscene, but in the pursuit of knowledge. Almost a requirement for "never have I ever", the mention of threesomes is guaranteed to elicit nervous grins and more than a few sips of alcohol. And yet those who have experienced this ultimate sexual fantasy seem like mythical creatures, rare and somehow magical. Surely such a wild, exciting sexual act only exists in dreams, never to be weighed down by the discomfort and awkwardness of reality. Yet there they are, some of our closest friends, drinking sheepishly to admit that they have wandered into the depths of the sexual unknown.

Why do threesomes capture our attention? Because in this day and age in which oral sex and light bondage are discussed openly in mainstream magazines like Cosmo, threesomes have become the final frontier of sex. We as human beings are constantly pushing boundaries in order to keep things exciting, especially when it comes to sex. Threesomes certainly seem to be making it on the radar

lately, from Gossip Girl to real life. In a recent ABC poll, 14% of respondents admitted to having a threesome. The menage a trois is dangerously close to becoming mainstream.

In the interest of the education of our readers, we interviewed our friends who have crossed the threshold about their experiences in order to bring you these nuggets of advice should you ever attempt a three-way:

1. Have an agreed-upon plan for what to do after the fact. Are you all going to sleep together? Who goes home? Is this going to be a regular thing? How will you act together the next day?
2. Discuss basic rules beforehand. Who can do what to whom? What makes you uncomfortable?
3. Ensure that everyone is on board with the situation and, if you're dealing with a couple, take their relationship into consideration.
4. Decide beforehand how private you are going to be about the situation. Who can you tell? Who can't you tell? Can you trust the other people involved (to keep it quiet, but also just in general)?

### so what's this monitor thing?

Maybe this is the first time you've picked up a copy of the Monitor. You may be a little confused. Why is this photocopied sheet of paper calling itself a newspaper? I only see one news item here! I thought the Index was Truman's only publication! Heres the thing: this isn't what we normally do. The Monitor has a 15-year history of on-and-off activity, and right now we're trying to get ourseves back on our feet for another round. This mini-issue is just a taste of the open discussion we'll be trying to promote once our finances fall into place. We have a totally open editorial policy-- if you send it to us, we'll print it, whether or not our editors agree with what you're saying. If you have opinions, breaking news, prose, artwork, poetry, or really anything else that can be reproduced in printed form, send it to [monitor.truman@gmail.com](mailto:monitor.truman@gmail.com) and we'll make it public. You're also invited to our editorial meetings: every Tuesday at 8pm in the SUB down under.

--laughed and  
bit my fingernails until  
my teeth ached - because

were you aware  
sir  
were you aware  
ma'am

that this right  
here lasts forever

that's right longer than  
high school and  
that cast on your arm  
when it was broken in football and  
how your dad yells but didn't mean to  
and  
the middle of the night age 7,8,9,  
crying in the kitchen to wake mom  
up  
whoever up, pretending it was  
because of the dark

die sonne scheint

left a long time ago and didn't  
know it. five hours in the car and

nostalgia comes ( as it  
always does ) in waves

as  
the endless crawling horizontal  
stretch of i can't particularly  
recall, driving so long

nine years old for 10  
seconds

with its oceanic under water sky and  
under water buildings all sky  
greenblue stretching hands keep  
agoraphobia at bay but the sky--  
i hope i fall in

--poems by Joshua Wangler

Thoughts on my mother going to jail—  
again?

Should I write? No.  
What should I write?  
She's going to call, and she's going to lie.

She's going to die.  
—she always cut the crusts off my—  
Maybe they'll make her take her medicine.  
Maybe they won't.  
What did I ever—

“Honor your father and--”  
—peanut butter without jelly sandwiches—  
Do I care?  
I don't have the time to care.  
Time doesn't care to have me.  
Time doesn't wear a watch.

“fuck.”  
—and gave the crusts to Fancy—  
Should I confront her?  
What should I say?  
“Unless you quit—  
again—?”

“your mother...”  
--Noelle Chandler

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External monologue of a Boy Playing  
With G.I. Joes For the First Time After  
Seeing Die Hard on Cable

Sound effect guy: enthusiastically makes war  
noises (gunshots, tanks, helicopters, etc).

Reader: Reads poem.

bang bang pow  
the soldier picks up the machine gun and shoots  
the giant badguy in the eye  
then a helicopter blows up  
and everything  
and there's a lotta fire  
bang pow pow ka pow pow bang whoosh  
whoa,  
and then there's another badguy  
and gi joe gets out a knife and stabs him  
and there's blood everywhere  
gushing  
and pow pow pow bang ka ka blammer  
boom theres an atom bomb  
and then like a hydrogen bomb  
and lot of badguys die  
boom boom pow pow bang the gun is firing and  
then it shoots both hitler  
and stalin  
right in the eyeballs  
and they die and blow up and are dead ha ha ha  
no mom i won't stop  
pow pow pow boom ha ha ha  
it's dinnertime already  
whoooooosh ha ha baaaah  
then the badguy gets blown up again  
and there's blood all over the sidewalk ha ha  
okay keep the food hot for me

-- Bill Fishback

Visit us online at [trumanmonitor.wordpress.com](http://trumanmonitor.wordpress.com)  
to see more Kirksville creativity.

## COMPOSING WOMEN:

Truman's Sixteenth Annual Women's and Gender Studies Conference

Sponsored by the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, And the Department of English and Linguistics

**October 28, 29, 30, 2010**

**Full schedule at [engling.truman.edu](http://engling.truman.edu)**

*Thursday, October 28 (Violette Hall 1000)*

**10:30-11:45** Mothers, whores, and revolutionar-  
ies:

Representations by and of Russian women

**12:00-1:15** Sexual difference?

**1:30-2:45** Powerful women

**3:00-4:15** Politics of the visual

**4:30-5:45** International women 1

**[7:30 pm** New Music Festival Concert I,  
Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall]

*Friday, October 29 (Violette Hall 1000)*

*WGST Program - 2*

**9:30-10:20** Female selves

**10:30-11:20** Personal testimony 1

**11:30-12:20** Dickinson and others

**12:30-1:20** Myths and stereotypes

**1:30-2:20** International women 2

**[1:30 pm** New Music Festival Concert II,  
OP Performance Hall]

*Friday, October 29 (Violette Hall 1000)*

*WGST Program - 2 (Con't)*

**2:30-3:20** Ecofeminist readings

**3:30-4:20** Pop music divas

**4:30-5:50** Keynote lecture

**[8:00 pm,** Ophelia

Performance Hall: Music by Women]

*Saturday, October 30*

*(Baldwin 231, formerly 218, until 2:30)*

*WGST - 3*

**10:30-11:20** Personal testimony 2

**11:30-12:20** The literary letter

**12:30-1:20** At the movies

**1:30-2:20** Fabricating femininity

*Saturday, October 30 (Violette 1000, 3:00-6:00)*

**3:00-4:15** Women composers and performers

**4:30-5:45** Politics and composition

**Party at 8!**