

# **the monitor.**

**Vol 17 | Issue 2**

**Dec. 2013**



# from the editors

Falling asleep and staying asleep are eight different questions repeated infinitely.



GRACE  
STANS

Whatchu got on my wall is TONIGHT!

My love before noon, I would have been rejuvenated, and my ambition is simply because I've been very much appreciated.



It's a musical based on Bukowski kick your Eliot Smith-loving pansy ass.



if skrillex was a MERCY KILLING

ALEX W.



Just went to a surrealist tea party, HEYYYYYww



Getting naked isn't a big bowl of Micheal Jackson...

Bios courtesy of wwis.com



I've never made a Facebook status

If things with The Monitor look a little bit more hammered down, it's because they are. The first issue recieved so much attention, we wanted to make the second with even more pizzaz/pizzas. Thanks go to our new design editor, Amanda Atwell, for saving our bleeding margins and injured sense of construction.

With the ending of the semester, the editors would like to address the following things: the advent of the Seth Rogen / James Franco "Bound" remake, Windfall's usage of our distribution box in OP, and BuzzFeed's monopoly on the list-making world. These things are all tolerable and interesting.

Also, we would like to thank everyone who bought a Monitor T-shirt for our fundraiser! Keep Truman trendy!



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# Things I'm Tired of Doing as an Organism

By Chris  
Sotraidis

\*This is an  
almost-exhaustive  
list of shit that  
sucks about being  
alive\*

**POOPY** – I'm tired of pooping but also continually surprised at what I am capable of expelling from my body. Self-aware organisms should be exempt from pooping. I take 4, maybe 5 shits a day depending on what I eat. Sometimes I wait and endure the pain, which results in the "ultimate poop" or UP. I have met two people who have admitted to holding out for UP on several festive occasions.

**LIQUIDIZING** – I'm going to invent some sort of intravenous little bag on your side (or inside) that'd insure hydration all the time for people who hate the constant maintenance required to continue feeling healthy. I'm tired of hydrating. I'm always sipping on that shit, thirsty for more of that shit to put in my mouth. just typical liquids. I want a canteen organ. We're not that far off from artificial organs implanted in ducks, and I want that. My body cavity has plenty of room for a small reservoir. It would be my secret. I could be a hero of sorts: some fuck that stays very hydrated most of the time.

**BODILY SMELLS** – I asked for robot skin as a child. I clean my skin all the goddamned time. It is reasonable to be upset about the smells that they create. Perhaps I've grown bored of our skin. It takes forever to patch-that-shit-up and it smells very quickly all the time unpleasantly. I'm the only anti-skin person that I know of, at least in the states.

**TOENAILS** – I will get fucking started on toenails. They serve no functional purpose. Evolve away, nobody wants to give fucks about them. I spend all of my time in my house, fucking-about with my toenails. Nobody gives good arguments advocating toenails anymore. The bizzaro superman to our hands needs to be killed off by radiation.



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## **What Is More American?**

- P.B.S. or P.B.R.?
- sluts or slut shaming?
- GTA V or Oregon Trail?
- Tearing ass or Ripping ass?
- Michael Smith or Rowen Sears?
- Spy Kids or Sharkboy and Lavagirl?
- the love of football or the hatred of soccer?
- irl.ginger.grl@gmail or Luvs2scarePreps@hotmail?

# what is Larry Iles talking about now: HISTORY DOES NOT REPEAT ITSELF! IT DOES, SORT OF!

You've all heard the above cliché, probably most of all from either male-dominated CEO executives or over-paid non-teacher college administrators obsessed with an unanalyzed, eternal "present" status quo which they turf-own in defensiveness. Some of you, assuredly, this being bourgeois USA, have got so resigned you "self-shut up" in bad unreflective consequence, even when your mind tells you these guys really are jerks and wrong, as you do see comparisons with either your personal or social, global so-called "past" that you reflectively do rightly want to change, sort of at least.

Take exhibit argument #one: Dead supposedly newspaper history, such as dearly yearned for, in THE MONITOR'S case, by countless TSU and Kirksville establishment males in horror, now that you are revived. As you started this last October to revive, history lives. After all, both THE INDEX and KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS have had largely things going all too excessively, unquestioningly

their own way in we are great, "love us" narcissism. INDEX columnists, principally, alas, from TSU Political Science majors professedly, just this semester have reactionarily put themselves on record against "feminism" as apparently an "outdated" concept or "liberal bias academism" as too one-sided. And another one of their columnists has said the GOP Tea Party shut-down was really not "harmful" of the entire federal government.

Whilst, for its part, THE EXPRESS has suddenly gone protectively quiet about its favored GOP even local politicians, in obvious hope people will forget about the disastrous 14 million dollar hole in US and world economy which the GOP has caused and might repeat this February, all because its rich funders don't like freer health care coverage for you students and other poorer than rich they "plebs."

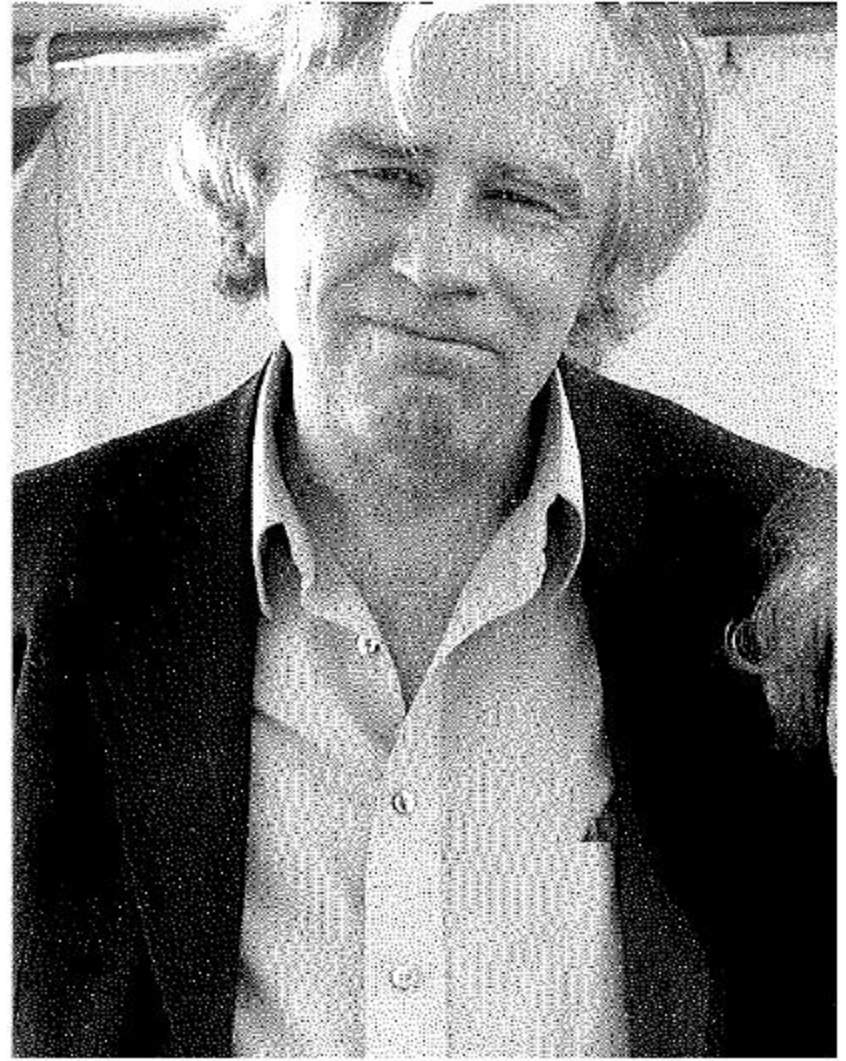
Don't mistake me, its not that your

***Index columnists  
[...]have put  
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or "liberal bias  
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one-sided.***



rivals don't do some things right, as they do have the financial resources to so do. And sometimes it does superficially seem on the mere, facile surface, that analogies with past faults really do not hold. And, thus, maybe we should all give THE INDEX or EXPRESS the benefit of our suspended intelligence or doubt. But should we? Especially as, in fact, there are really worrisome analogies with past misbehavior and gross waste of your student fees and our local taxpayers monies, thereby in history, the situation repeats itself ongoingly. On the surface, THE INDEX has done a calendar year social service by reporting two near-fatal hit and run attacks by autos on students outside respectively both Barnett and Centennial Halls when the EXPRESS has not done so. In spite of the fact that these are community whole roads, not private ones like some of our richer TSU administrator males live in. But where THE INDEX has totally fallen down is in its shameful neglect of even its own files from the past, unanalytically. If it had done consultatively so, it should have gone crusading in rage! The last time such a TSU/NMSU female majority student was so car killed was outside Grim Court. And in vain as the protest stick marker from her Illinois parents still commemoratively shows! BOTH TSU DPS and Town Council, local court, successfully denied ANY responsibility, eve though it was their sidewalk incomplete in non-funding that had caused the detected de facto manslaughter impact.

Photo by: George Harold Barlow



So, in conclusion, why until this column are we not seeing critiques of the fact that none of the in fact three responsible police authorities, TSU DPS, the KPDS' greater resourced outfit or the state high patrol rarely patrol in deterrence by walking pairs of officers these fatal TSU roads? And why is Budget director not allocating our monies to them, remedially, accordingly, instead of to all their flashy guns and cars used just to enforce parking fines or interfere in student disputes which faculties should really themselves solve. The answer is that because, until now, there has been no MONITOR or GADFLY ghost from the past to historically print this accountability demand for all our safety and political social radicalism globally in future alerts and CRITICAL pieces. The past does and indeed must relive, sort of, eh mes amis?



Marisa Gearen /// *Being Present*



the Tin Soldier! The fish had been bought, and taken into the kitchen, and the Tin Soldier was opened with a large knife. She seized the body with both her hands, and carried him to the room where all were anxious to see the remarkable thing that had travelled about in the inside of a fish; but the Tin Soldier was not at all proud. They placed him on the table, and there—no! What curious things may happen in the world! The Tin Soldier was in the very room in which he had been before! He saw the same children, and the same toys stood on the table; and there was the pretty castle with the graceful little dancer. She was still balancing herself on one leg, and held the other extended in the air. She was hardly too. That moved the Tin Soldier: he was very nearly weeping his tears, but that would not have been proper. He looked at her, but they said nothing to each other.

Then one of the little boys took the Tin Soldier and hung him into the stove. He gave no reason for doing this. It must have been the fault of the Goblin in the snuff-box.

The Tin Soldier stood there quite illuminated, and felt a heat that was terrible; but whether this heat proceeded from the real fire or from love he did not know. The colors had quite gone off from him; but whether that had happened on the journey, or had been caused by grief, no one could say. He looked at the little lady, she looked at him, and he felt that he was melting; but he still stood firm, shouldering his way to the door. Then suddenly the door flew open, and the dancer came flying like a sylph just into the room, and flew up in a flame, and the Tin Soldier melted down into a lump of gold. The next day, she came out in the shape of a little girl. But of the Tin Soldier, no one knew. The little girl turned as black and cold as the Tin Soldier.

# Quirks-Ville

GRACE STANS

- ✦ Always turn left at the stop light when leaving HyVee - it is always faster.
- ✦ At the intersection of Florence and Cottonwood, someone has invented the first perpetual motion device and reappropriated it as part of a Jungle-gym.
- ✦ The first Civil War soldier to die in The Battle of Kirksville died at the intersection of Elson and Pierce.
- ✦ There is a very real room of requirement deep inside VH. It can only be found with absolute finals despair - or a member of Delta Sigma Pi ( $\Delta\Sigma\Pi$ ).
- ✦ Oven-roasted chicken sandwich with Sriracha Mayo at Costa Rica Café Co.
- ✦ It is possible to get above the sky-light in the Karaoke room of The Dukem.
- ✦ Somewhere in the graveyard, there is a hollow head-stone, originally used for boot-legging alcohol during prohibition.
- ✦ A.T. Still has some ridiculous quotes engraved (very poorly) on a big slab of granite outside the hospital.



# Why You Should Move to Iowa

## (But Actually Don't, Because I Am and I Probably Hate You)

by Julie Davis

I know—Iowa doesn't get talked about much, but I'm pretty sure there's a good reason: Iowans don't want you to move to Iowa and suck the place up. Seriously.

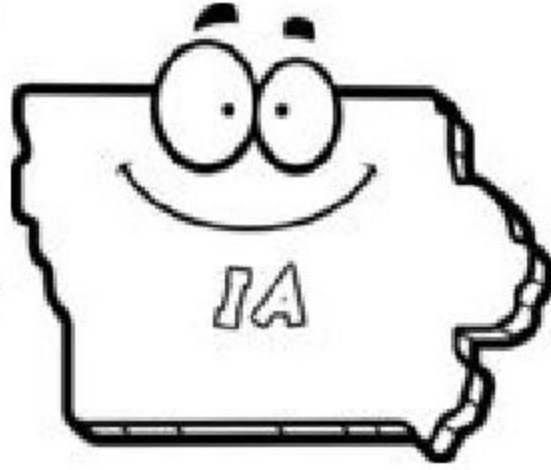
Fairfield, IA is the home of the Maharishi University of Management, which in one sentence could be described as: a really cool private school that believes in "consciousness-based education" (which is kinda like having all parts of yourself healthy—mind, body, and soul—in order to be as happy and successful as you can be). I don't care enough about you to explain it any more.

Fairfield also has one of the best concert venues and cafes I've ever been to. Venue: The Beauty Shop

// Café: The Gardens. Frequent Beauty Shop performers include: MR NASTI, Runaway, Little Ruckus, The River Monks, Christopher the Conquered, etc. (all of which are Iowa-based bands/acts). These awesome people have taught me very much: don't take life for granted, do what you want, and don't be an asshole. All sorts of bands roll through The Beauty Shop—crazy dance-machine boys, extremely talented folk bands, punky punk bands (including girl punx ooOOoo), and acoustic acts. The Gardens is a seasonal restaurant. So, they're all about serving you the best food possible. One of my friends, Nicholas (MR NASTI) owns The Gardens and Jason (Runaway) is the head chef. Those boys along with the others I've mentioned are some of the sweetest, happiest, most

genuine, most excited people I've ever met. For real, they are perpetually stoked about life. A couple of them have matching tattoos: "True Love Conquers All." They helped me believe in love. They push me to be a better person. And a better artist.

Jesus. Iowa is full of amazing artists. You play video games while they record/produce more albums than you could ever listen to. You can't make edible ramen while the people I've met in Iowa are making glow-in-the-dark pottery. Everything they touch becomes art.



Many of the artists are sponsored by the Bonnell Project. They help artists do what they love and by helping these artists, the community is helped. People need art and music. Apparently, people need Aikido, because the Bonnell Project helped open an Ai-

kido dojo. The Bonnell Project also owns an old school building that houses artists (and their studios) and a space called the Freedom Healing Center which holds potlucks, open mics, yoga and massage sessions, reiki (palm healing), astrology, counseling, etc. The Bonnell Project also helps The Beauty Shop/The Gardens.

The Fairfield community supports artists and in return becomes a more cultured, more connected, happier community. A lot of other places have an art scene that is competitive and not very communal. Fairfield is the opposite. Fairfield is what I need. And when I said Iowans don't want you to move there and make the place shitty, I was lying. Iowans would probably love you. It's me who doesn't want you in Iowa. I honestly don't think you deserve it.



# Reader-submitted ★ Poetry ★

my friends and i are having a shrek marathon  
to celebrate the fact that life has no meaning  
alex wannerberg

nihilism is the only way  
to deal with anxiety, i  
resolve.

i type:  
nihilism is surprisingly  
popular, you know  
some of my best friends  
are basically nihilists and  
they get along ok.  
is 'yolo' nihilistic or life-  
affirming? maybe both?  
idk

just learn to not  
give a fuck, i translate  
into my head:  
be a nihilist.  
nihilism is great.  
just kidding nothing is great

There is little more  
satisfying than standing  
and scratching your balls.  
-A haiku by Sylvia Plath

**Kirksville Universe**  
Maude Gonne

In winter the sky is a milky cataract  
The ground is a beige callas  
And you can see all the sadness  
In this city framed in the black  
Parallelogram of my windshield.

The Callas won't yield to our feet—  
We will never reach the world's  
Nucleus.

The Cataract is perfectly opaque—  
We will never see the universe's  
Outer shell.

But we have a center in this dark frame,  
and the center is the edge.

**Two Orders of Millipedes (creative but possessing small legs)**  
Chris Sotraidis

I'm cool with roly-polies  
but FUCK the spiders  
I've got poison for those motherfuckers.  
little baby Beatles don't deserve specific  
cans of poison designed to paralyze all function- yet  
I find myself speechless when people purposefully step to crush your exo-bones  
Can they not see your glamour like I can?  
right behind the ladybugs as the sparkle-devas of the insectorium  
you would expect a poppy tune from them to hit the underground  
on a monthly basis.  
music that one might listen to while driving to a job involving spiders

## HISTORY DOES NOT REPEAT ITSELF! IT DOES, SORT OF!

Lauren Kellet (ft. Larry Iles)

Submit your awesome poetry  
to [monitor.truman@gmail.com](mailto:monitor.truman@gmail.com)  
😊😊

*(i think, maybe)*

Natalie Welch

It's electric between two heartbeats;  
a conversation of energy surging back and forth  
It's bare-wired shocking, plug in socket  
(yes that's a sexual innuendo)  
it lights up empty homes.  
Sparks the world alive  
It does not have an extension cord.

### READ ALOUD

josh saboorizadeh

this is a gun.  
This is a gun.  
This is a gun.

Sharp against my skin  
Silently screaming its potential destruction  
of everything you believe correct  
of everything unjust

This is a gun.

To conceal its wealth of opportunity  
would rob humanity  
Humanity.  
There's unlimited ammunition  
no need to use it wisely  
Murder those who rob you

This is a gun.

but only with this gun

Male-dominated CEO executives  
Their eternal "present" status quo  
They turf-own in defensiveness.

This being bourgeois USA  
You "self-shut up"  
In bad unreflective consequence  
Global so-called "past"  
You do rightly want to change  
Sort of, at least.

Exhibit argument argument #one:  
Dead history, dearly yearned for  
Establishment, males in horror  
Now that you are revived.

We are great  
"love us"  
Poorer than rich,  
They "plebs."

Mere, facile surface  
Suspended intelligence or doubt,  
But should we??

Two near-fatal  
Hit and run attacks  
By autos  
On students

Crusading in rage!  
So car killed!  
Vain as the protest  
Detected de facto  
Manslaughter impact.  
These fatal TSU roads

The past does  
And indeed must  
Relive, sort of,  
Eh mes amis?



# Bulldog Today

*"A weekly letter for students, faculty, and staff to ignore" by Simone de Bulldog*

## Features:

- Truman Student does something noteworthy! Way to Go Bulldogs! Keep up the research/sports/hobby/academics or whatever.
- Medieval Studies students travel to Jefferson City for Missouri Medieval Studies Day. The medievalists talked to their legislators about the importance of funding and promoting primary medieval education during a traditional lunchtime joust.
- Thanks to the generous donation by Truman Alumni, Pickler Memorial Library was able to purchase a new copier. Use of the new copier is limited to library staff, but the gift is still expected to positively impact the Truman community.
- Bulldouga Sales Triple! Due to recent rise in Bulldogua sales, Truman's affiliated bottling company considers expanding to other bulldog mascot markets.

## Announcements:

- The Colloquium Series continues with an interesting speaker discussing something that is probably really fascinating, but you probably won't attend because you are drowning in homework.
- Truman's Health 420 class sponsors Stress Reduction Week in an attempt to encourage healthy stress management techniques among students. Faculty and Staff respond with an extra helping of assignments for students to test out their newly learned stress management techniques.
- Truman's Department of Public Safety announces it's Winter Break Hours! Write these down guys!

## Scholarships:

- US Bank offers 40 scholarships for \$1000 each. Apply online for your name to be entered into a drawing of thousands of students nationally for a chance to win!

## Quick Notes from April: This is not your grandma's art show.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let it be known that one does not need to make the long and arduous journey to the far corners of Missouri to find an art scene. (Sometimes in Kirksville we forget this, which is a shame.) The Ophelia Parrish Gallery may be one of Truman's best kept secrets, and if you've never paid a visit, put it on your to-do list asap. Better yet, swing by this week (Dec 2) for the much anticipated Studio Capstone show. Kicking it off will be painting major Daniel Riekena and fibers major Emily Van Gelder, amongst others. Here's why you should care: this one-week show now only celebrates other talented creatives on campus, it gives us a first glimpse of new collections by artists we may be reading about elsewhere someday. These students have been anticipating this show for years; Daniel writes in that "The experience has been fantastic! Because there is a concept applied to a whole series of works I was really able to put all my concentration on painting and in doing that I learned more about painting I never thought I would. You should expect some awesome portrait paintings and amazing fibers pieces [from Emily]!"





## Social Justice Week Was A Thing.

April Johnston

Following the recent week of events advocating for renewed awareness of multiple social justice issues, I asked Senior Sarah Westfall, an executive board member of Students for Social Change, to give us a quick round up.

*A: I was pretty pumped to see a series of events like this on campus. I've always appreciated events done by other campus groups, such as the WRC's Sexual Assault Awareness Week or ECO's Earth Week, but don't recall ever seeing a dedicated Social Justice Week; was this the first?*

S: So, this was not the first Social Justice Week we've done, but the last one was years ago. I guess it used to always be an annual event that Students for Social Change put on, but it sort of got lost in the last few years. When we decided to bring it back again, one of our priorities became finding events that were of interest to other organizations. A lot of our members belong to other groups on campus like Eco, WRC, and Amnesty International, so we started there.

*A: I imagine that tackling "Social Justice" in a week is a seriously daunting undertaking. How did you all choose what social justice issues to highlight, and how to do so?*

S: We have had some ideas of things we've wanted to do for a long time, such as the tap water table. For me, it was the Why I Need Feminism Campaign and the United Way service project, so I organized those two. That's sort of how it evolved into the final product of Social Justice Week: every member just contributed things about which they were passionate and talked to other groups about it to get them on board. We always say 'Think global, act local', so getting to actually do some local service work was really cool, and we'll probably be going back to work with these groups again. Overall, we were really moved by the great response from campus and we will certainly try to make this an annual thing.

# On the Indigenous Question

## by: Anonymous

The injustices that have occurred to the indigenous and stateless people throughout modern history have been horrendous. All over the world, due to economic and political globalization and the cultural globalization that follows, indigenous groups have experienced physical and cultural genocide. In fact, our military has committed genocide on the Native American Indians by order of the United States government. In that respect, the administrators of our state are no better than other despots around the world - especially in the fact that ours did so with impunity.

We have reduced the Native American Indian population to a shell of its former self in terms of cultural heritage, traditional ways of life, and physical and geographical presence. Moreover, throughout the years our government has insulted these peoples by awarding dirty money as reparations for stolen sacred lands, destroyed ways of life, and genocide at the end of a gun.

The Native Americans live within our free market, "pluralist" democracy as structurally excluded, socially marginalized, and politically disenfranchised, all the while creating a self reproducing, poverty ridden, drug addicted, criminal underclass with little hope of pulling themselves up (by their bootstraps) the ladder of the American dream. In fact, they have no desire to pursue and their ancestors scoff at the

shallow, childish American dream of insatiable materialism and conspicuous consumption.

But, how did this problem come to be? The root, historical cause of these problems is connected to rational self interest and the profit motive. The value of self interest, a part of human nature, has been accentuated at the expense of other values within a capitalist economic system. This value is directly tied to survival within that Darwinian system. It is the profit motive and the value of self interest that gave birth to the idea of Manifest Destiny. This, in turn, led to the systematic extermination of various indigenous populations throughout the western hemisphere.

The modus operandi of the agents within the capitalist economic system is indiscriminate exploitation for profit until complete and utter exhaustion of the resource. This is physically unsustainable, unsympathetic, and morally repulsive. The Native American genocide is directly contributable to the context within which it occurred - historical capitalism.

However, these are not the only injustices that have occurred. In their dealings with the Native American Indians, the administrators of our state routinely disregarded legally binding treaties between the two nations. More often than not, our state officials offered treaties and compromises to the Native American population, which the Native Americans respected, but



then through trickery and deceitfulness our officials broke these treaties for reasons motivated by self interest and profit. Not much has changed in terms of our government lying, cheating, and stealing.

But, how can this come from the liberal-capitalist nation-state that espouses and extolls the value of the rule of law? Do we not live in a society ruled, not by men of arbitrary power, but by laws? Mustn't states abide by the rule of law just as we lowly citizens must? We know that rights are not given by states but, rather, that states exist to protect these rights. What of the perfect system of checks and balances? Did not the justices of the Supreme Court find it morally reprehensible and illegal to break treaties which the state was, and is, legally bound to fulfill?

Let us step out of the constricting liberal-capitalist, conservative framework and let us question whether the state is being honest when it says we exist under the rule of law. Many of these indigenous groups lived self sustainable, traditional lifestyles before the invasion and occupation of the white man. Many of these groups had egalitarian class structures,

a simple division of labor, and positive characteristics of mechanical solidarity. They had strong cultural traditions of social responsibility and altruism.

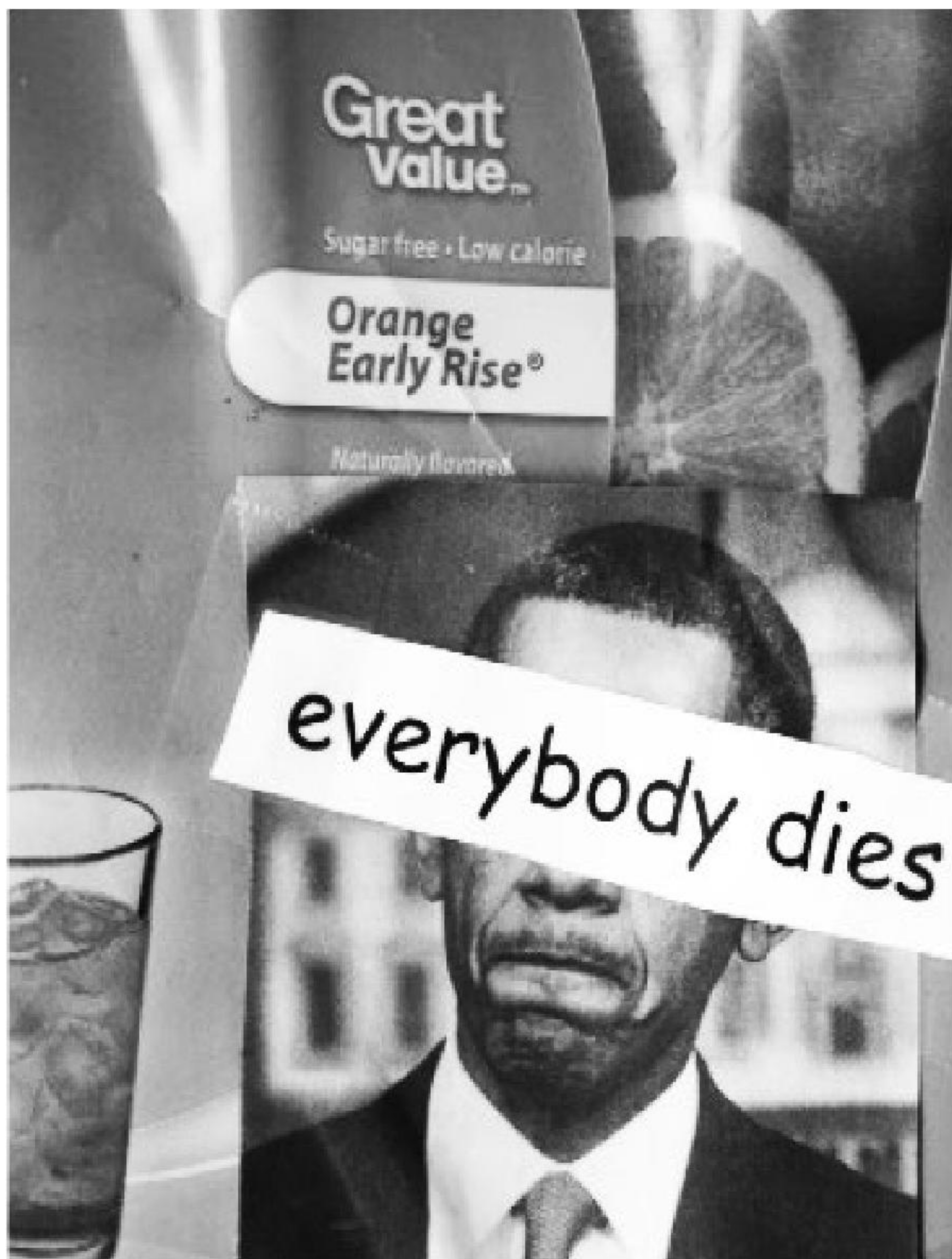
In this same vein, they had only a simple, rudimentary notion of private property. Private property was only that which was produced by means of one's physical transformation of natural resources. In this respect the land, air, water, and other forms of the commons were communal and were not to



be held as private property defended by the power of the state. Many of these groups could not understand that the white man intended to own, and to exclude others from, that which is only owned by God. Is it so wrong to question this belligerent notion of private property?

The indigenuous question is a difficult one that is full of intricacies and complexities. Many times it seems like there is no correct answer. I do not have the answer. However, I know that to solve a problem we must look to the cause. The cause of these problems lies squarely on the shoulders of the world capitalist economic system and the profit motive. This economic system and its accompanying value system are in need of radical, structural change.





by: Alex Wennerberg



Breath, Smoke, Cough, Die *(photo with edited text)*  
by: Julie Davis + Lizard Wizard

# State Farm Releases New Controversial Insurance

## Program **By David Winn**

In a recent series of commercials State Farm Insurance has unveiled a controversial new commercial program aimed at rural Missourians. In their new "Like a Good Neighbor, State Farm Don't Care," advertisements, State Farm shows footage of charred trunks and carpeting with chemical burns as the commercial's narrator, acclaimed country singer Waylon Jennings, says "We don't care to know how it happened. It happened, and we'll help you through your trouble, no questions asked." When asked about his stance on the program Mr. Jennings replied "I ain't really got a notion of what they wanted. I just know it was the easiest two-hundred bucks and bottle of Wild Turkey I ever got."

The program has been "wildly successful" according Milton P. Rosencrantz, State Farm's regional manager. "We simply saw demand and seized upon it. Analysis of the data in our rejected claims suggested a strong demand for a different policy specific to a particularly vulnerable area in our customers' motor vehicles. We've received a lot of positive feedback, and the program in those areas that we've implemented it has seen an encouraging rate of adoption."

Of course, not everyone is so keen on the program. "Just asking for a bunch of fuckin' bomb bait," says Mrs. Crystal Cleveland, a resident of Steele, Missouri. "Shit, already can't sleep with all the goddamn stink in this town. If I wanted to hear car bombs I'da took a trip to Africa."

One graduate student living in Paris, Missouri who wished to remain unnamed claims "This is one of the ultimate expressions of tyranny within the capitalist system: they've identified a weakness within impoverished rural markets and are now exploiting the dependencies of the indigent. It's a conspicuous semaphore for the nature of the reflexive greed plaguing this country."

Others have welcomed the program as a relief to their automotive issues. "Hell, I've already collected some insurance money," Dick Hickler of Rome, Missouri says, indicating his white Chevy Impala. "The trunk's latch is broken, and you can see the burns around the edges. Hell, I wasn't doing nothing too wild with it; damn thing just busted as I was driving down on a gravel road." Mr. Hickler declined to speculate further on what might have caused the trunk's malfunction beyond, "Hell, at least it's American. God knows whad've happened in a Toyota."

**“Like a good neighbor,  
State Farm don’t care,”**



# Crap I Read this Year that Some People Might Like.

By David Winn

## 1. The Trial by Franz Kafka

The premise of *The Trial*, while famous, is somewhat misunderstood. Looking through summaries on the backs of various editions I've found that the overwhelming majority of them paint the story as the torture of an innocent man through an uncaring bureaucracy. Indeed the first sentence "Someone must have slandered Joseph K., for without having done anything wrong, he was arrested one fine morning." But as the chapters roll on we see Joseph K. lie to, sexually harass, assault, or slander most of the characters he meets. It seems clear then that he has done something "wrong," and that since he refuses to closely examine his life to understand what he has done, external forces intervene and do it for him. Of course, the text ambiguous—you can see Joseph K. as largely innocent, guilty, or some shade between.

## 2. The Corrections/Freedom by Jonathan Franzen

These are essential for Midwestern college reading. Franzen dissects and analyses family dynamics in a way that seems almost cruel. They're both big, tragicomic family novels and concern how parents and children fuck each other up. (Sample of character dialogue: "the one thing no one can take away from you is the freedom to fuck up your life whatever way you want to" and "You see a person with kids," she said, "and you see how happy they are to be a parent, and you're attracted to their happiness. Impossibility is attractive. You know, the safety of dead-ended things")

## 3. Tenth of December by George Saunders

A great collection of short stories that captures a certain funny tone that most literature can't pull off. Most of the stories have an intensely readable stream of consciousness style that puts up wild contradictions and incongruities that fucking kill.

## 4. The Savage Detectives by Roberto Bolaño

A bunch of sex-obsessed poets in Mexico City fuck, hurt, and run around with each other. Bolaño's control of voice magnificently brings each of them to life. Some passages read as formally as a 19th century novel and some read casually like a young adult book, but there's no jarring sense of transition between them. Sample passage: "I sat there thinking how to answer and he waited for me to speak and for a few seconds neither of us said anything. I wish I could be with you, I told him before I said goodbye. Me too, said that voice like a bird from another dimension. A few days later his mother called and told me that he had died."

## 5. We Tell Ourselves Stories in Order to Live by Joan Didion

This is a bit of a cop out—a big collection of Joan Didion's essays from 1961 to 2006. If you have to read one, it's the first collection *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*, a horrifying/fascinating picture of the world of the late sixties (e.g. 22-year-old hippie parents who send their 6-year old to "high kindergarten" which translates to making a pre-adolescent child take lsd in the morning). It sets the tone for the whole collection as it traces the last half century with adroit observation on art, politics, and culture.

# Horoscopes by Queen Astra

*This month, let the Angel Oracles be your guide.*

**LIBRA** - September 22 - October 23 /// Libra, your Solar-Plexus Chakra is letting you know that 'it's safe to be powerful and take charge of your life in positive ways.' Which means you finally have the power to break your Netflix addiction/conquer your crippling fear of social interaction.

**SCORPIO** - October 24 - November 21 /// The Angel Oracles are telling you simply, "Books." Specifically, 'Your life purpose involves writing, reading, editing, or selling spiritually based books.' So get on it.

**SAGITTARIUS** - November 22 - December 21 /// Your Twin Flame is letting you know that 'the answer to your question involves a spiritually based romantic relationship.' You know, because romantic relationships always solve more problems than they create.

**CAPRICORN** - December 22 - January 19 /// Listen to your Ear Chakra this month: 'Notice messages that appear as sounds, music, and words, from both external sources and within your mind. These messages are real answers to your prayers.' Couldn't have said it better myself.

**AQUARIUS** - January 20 - February 18 /// Release, say your Angel Oracles. They suggest you work with Archangel Michael to let go of what no longer serves you or your purpose. Head to the thrift store, perhaps?





**PISCES** - February 19 - March 20 /// Forget your Angel Oracles, the fairies are knocking at your door this month! 'You have a strong bond with the fairies, and your life purpose involves helping Mother Nature.' Plant something for the fairies. Preferably near "The Dance of Life" statue for full effect. (God knows it needs the help.)



**ARIES** - March 21 - April 19 /// Sorry, kid, the card I drew for you literally says "Have You Asked Your Angels for Help With This?" which is basically the Angel Oracle version of a Microsoft error message. Good luck figuring your shit out this month.

**TAURUS** - April 20 - May 20 /// You, dear, are an Earth Angel. 'You are a lightworker who has come to Earth to teach about love.' So we have that in common.

**GEMINI** - May 21 - June 20 /// Watch out! The Oracles are warning you to 'PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HARSH OR FEAR-BASED ENERGIES BY ENVISIONING A COCOON OF HEALING LIGHT SURROUNDING YOU.'

**CANCER** - June 21 - July 22 /// Heal Away Addictions this month...Hit up Archangel Raphael for some how tos.

**LEO** - July 23 - August 22 /// The "Singing and Dancing" oracles are urging you to 'express yourself and awaken your psychic senses through the magical power of music and movement' this month. #sillydances

**VIRGO** - August 23 - September 21 /// Your Sacral Chakra is alerting you that 'You are highly sensitive to chemicals, additives, processed foods, and energies right now. Respect your

sensitivities by avoiding harsh items, situations, and relationships.' Veganism + chastity = a good month for you.



# DECEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm - BOB and The Aquadome present:  
Finals Fever Reliever! featuring Black Bear, The Busted String Band,  
Ambrose Way, Little Bow Beats, Up-Chuckles @ The Aquadome

Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm - Jazz Combo  
@ OP Performance Hall

**TRUMAN**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm  
- Student Art Exhibition @ University Art Gallery

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8pm  
- Student Directed One Acts @ Black Box Theater

Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 8pm - Steel Band Holiday Concert  
@ OP Performance Hall

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm  
- Observatory Open House @ University Farm

CITY OF  
**KIRKSVILLE**  
MISSOURI

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7pm - Kirksville String Orchestra Concert

Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 - HOUSE SHOW featuring  
the Wonder Drugs, Dollhouse, Indran Fernando, Deergod, Grbac,  
John Harker and Wizard Lizard  
@ Starship Elson (Corner of Elson and Pierce)

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2pm - Skate with Santa! @ Leisure World

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm - Kirksville Kiwanis Christmas Parade