

dear reader,

Larry Iles, himself, the only non-TSU panelist representing the UK Labour Heritage and BNF Mitterand research bodies, spoke on Scottish Nationalism. He argued that the UK General election (May 7) will determine more in the future than even the recent surprise referendum, whereby opposed by Labour, the SNP's demand for complete independence was "only narrowly" broken off. Because if a new coalition of the Left replaces an English-dominated Tory one, it will be "dependent" on SNP's likely growth of their MPs' numbers, phenomenally. If so, not only will Scotland grow even more than its present Parliament but will grow in its influence over its new Labour-supported Prime Minister Miliband. To such an extent because the SNP and Labour's new heavy group of female MPs will also insist on an end to the American nuclear deterrent submarines in Scotland because this represents the kind of militaristic solution that they think inimical to both future world peace and to British-Scottish welfare expenditure which they prefer instead.

Final speaker was TSU Dr. Maria Antonia Escayol on Catalonia. The speaker argued passionately that Catalonia, being Spain's wealthiest region, merited full independence despite the fact that the Madrid central government of Spain refuses to recognize a referendum that the Separatist controlled-Catalonian regional parliament had recently held itself in huge support for full independence. Historically and culturally, Dr. Maria Antonia Escayol contended that Catalonia was the only part of Spain to withstand the present recessionary and austerity policies of the Madrid conservative Popular Party, ancestor of Franco's previous fascist regime. With the aid of her Spanish TSU colleague Dr. Matthew Tornatore as a translator, she argued that a newly independent Catalonia would be a generous and redistributive trading partner to its former Spanish state. In conclusion, Larry Iles, members of the audience and TSU Political Science Professor John Quinn, whilst agreeing with her point about the legitimacy of home rule for her separatist movement wondered whether the international finance markets, especially German bankers and American counterparts, would permit, however, such economic independence. Indeed, sadly, Larry Iles pointed out that Scottish oil is plunging downwards in value because of American fracking cheaper energy, meaning that even a Miliband Westminster government or the present Nicola Sturgeon, SNP Scottish present government has less to bargain with in terms of real independence, vis-à-vis imperial and international finance capital. Alas!

Another day, another dollar. If that's how it is, then we're out a couple hundos since the last time we put out one of these bad boys. Due to a complex series of simple errors, our stream of funding hit a trickle, but now we're chillin' at the bottom of the waterfall, fanning ourselves with all the cold hard cash we suckled from the chocolatey bosom of the brown cow we call The Truman State University.

Anywhom, we're back and better than ever, and for good this time! (until FAC wants round 2 cuz tbh we're their bitch forever) So submit to our demand that you submit your artwork, and we'll see you again same time, same place, next month.

-Michael "Editor Man" Green

meet the staff, what inspires you?

michael: the **darkness**

chase: the demonic voice inside of my head *(BONGOZAR: WHAT VOICE?)*

marc: SDS!

staci: god. ... no don't put that

this issue's contributors

a senior truman student ... 5-8	nova heydinger ... 9
e. hanson ... 10	tom sebacher ... 11-12
marc becker 13-14	m ... 15-16
kimberly o'loghlin ... 17-19	joseph smithson ... 20
betty louise mclane-iles ... 21-22	joseph baner ... 2, 23

special thanks to everyone who submitted while we we're out, it's awesome artists like these folks that keep us going



submit

next deadlines:

APRIL 1

MAY 1

connect

send us original art!

poetry! paintings! essays!* drawings! short plays!* blueprints!
rants!* comics! social commentary!* photos! manifestos!*
lists! articles!* listicles! testicles!** recipes! reviews!

email: trumanmonitor@gmail.com

instagram, twitter: @trumanmonitor

facebook: the monitor

**under 2000 words please!
**actually don't*

does your club need new members? is your organization hosting a public event? are you trying to make some quick cash selling grilled cheese out of your trunk in the lot behind violette? what better way to get yourself some attention?!

advertise

quarter page 5

half page 10

full page 20

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IS A DISUNITED WORLD NECESSARILY A REGRESSIVE STEP?

by Dr. Betty Louise McLane-Iles

I sent for extra credit, as we professors often all do at TSU, many of my students to Dr. Betsy Delmonico's hosted last Global Colloquium this month (April 9, 2015) on Separatist Movements around the world. Not only was attendance unusually high but most reported back that they got a lot out of it because the presenters were often in national origins passionate and from the areas originally they were discussing: TSU Professor Andrei Klyukovski, Head of TSU Communication Faculty, gave the opener on the Ukraine and the Crimean situation. Determinedly, he exposed that anti-Vladimir Putin propaganda, especially from the US, NATO and anti-Russian sources, consistently minimized long and recent historical realities with the pro-Russian Separatists. These were all over-demonized people. The Ukraine was an ancient state, mediievally, indeed, but more recent history had long confused the facts the West forgot. For example, even anti-separatist Ukrainians speak 'Russian' and the Crimean's allegiance to either Russia or Ukraine has always been controversial. Mainly in that the 'recent referendum,' despite the presence of Russian troops, was an authentic expression of the Crimean majority popular wish to be Russian, not western. Later on, under probing from a fellow panelist's questions, he warned the West not to underestimate or overdemonize Putin, the Russian leader, and the West's claims were being over-touted by NATO. The European Union price of Ukraine as a state for membership in its ranks is, in fact, a budget austerity cuts basis and by contrast the pro-Russian separatists genuinely agree on social benefits that are better under Putin's pro-Russian Federation than in the European Union. The European Union is, in fact, ruled by German bankers!

Dr. Ding-Hwa Hsieh, native Taiwanese but whose father is of Chinese origin, showed that the Taiwanese separatists, largely constituted around a younger Taiwan group around their Democratic Party (DP) allegiance want a more Western style democracy free of China. By contrast, the Kuomintang, the Nationalist Party that had fled China when they were beaten by Mao in the late 1940s, when they have been elected, represented 'people like my father.' Furthermore, the Nationalist Party did trade deals with China, despite it being communist. The irony was that the younger DP types with their "SunFlower" motto, once a Communist symbol, probably did reflect real Formosa Island feeling. Although her fellow panelist Larry Iles was skeptical whether 'alas' China would confer imperialistically the DP complete autonomy for fear of capitalist 'big brother' America, in its rival fleet and trade presence to also protect nearby Japan.

Comrades and friends of the revolution, on March 21st your voices are needed. At 6pm in Magruder 2001 on March 21st Michael Knowles, a known right wing extremist will be speaking on our campus. This is absolutely unacceptable! His fascist rhetoric poses a danger to all marginalized people groups on campus including women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community. We must protest this event and send a message that hate speech such as this is not welcome on Truman's campus. Every voice is needed in order to put a stop to this event. How could the administration allow this event to take place knowing the adverse affects it will have on the mental health of the student population. Michael Knowles is a Trump apologist. He has been known mock the plight of women by dressing in a handmaid costume. That is misogyny of the highest offence. In many speeches he has defended Christopher Columbus called him a hero even while ignoring the genocide and centuries of colonialism that he started. He constantly advocates for capitalism on his podcast, supporting the oppression of the common people while propping up the elite. He works for a website, The Daily Wire, with other right wing extremists to spread their message of hate and intolerance. He must not be allowed to speak!!!

Survival Mode:

It's been a while since I've....felt
Had emotions. Kinda empty.
Take lots of naps. Motivation....lacking

I self-psychoanalyzed the other day.
Am I depressed? Hmmm probably...like a
high functioning shell of a person.

Oh, I have my shit together. I hold it down,
I run this place. I'm the one they turn to.
I have this whole thing figured out.

They would never know.

But success does not equal happiness.
I would like to feel. I would like to sleep.
But right now I'm in survival mode.

....and I don't know when I'll get out.

10/26/17

Burrito Lady:

The burrito lady asked me if I ever eat
anywhere else or get anything else besides a
burrito. I told her I have a weird eating
schedule and this is the most convenient
place to stop by.

Which isn't necessarily a lie but it's not the
full truth.

It could be worse. I rationalize that at least
I'm getting protein.

I trade meals for snacks, sleep for A's,
studying for social ties, lab reports for my
youth.

I'm numb.
I'm successful.

10/27/17

Ghosted

by Kimberly O'Loughlin

Open your eyes and pull out, no put out,
the cigarette. Watch my eyes. Look at yourself, no
seriously. Feel the cold tiles under your toes.
Steam up the mirror and bubble up in the tub.
Stretch yourself out. Dirty your thoughts now

but not your skin.

You feel pink but you want to feel
green. The light hurts you but only because
it's been too long. You're alone right now
and it means everything to you. Touch your
fingers to your lips and speak

your word. This is real and this comfort is
not. But you are here and you don't need
to do anything. You are pink
you are pink you are pink you are pink
and you might be green one day.

But know that you don't
have
to be.

Poem with a line beginning by Zachary Swope

by Kimberly O'Loughlin

*this insult
of asphalt pulls us along
the side street,
once more, in heat.
pushes us against ourselves
and it feels like i am being ran over
by the ambulance,
by the firetruck i had called for,
but
i do not sigh
at the presence of a burglar.
the light asks me to join
but
i do not beg
at the presence of a tree.
the shadow demands
that i stay.
and when i say
that i broke my neck
for you,
know that it is an exaggeration;
"yes, i fell down,
it could have been worse"
is what i said
but
i learned how to fall
before i could walk.
maybe i should try running
instead.*

TTS:

Have you ever been so stressed and time limited that you stay up without sleep for 3 days, minus the 30 minute nap you took on the floor?

Have you ever gotten an average of 4 hours of sleep for 6 months?

The only thing you ate for weeks was burritos, poptarts, and popcorn because you didn't have the motivation to leave your dorm because you had schoolwork, it was a frozen wasteland outside, and the school food was not worth it?

Did you ever contract oral thrush - a disease only babies, the elderly, and the immunocompromised get because your body was literally breaking down and so stressed as a result of all your efforts going towards school?

I have.

This is a PSA to take care of yourself. TTS is not worth your physical, mental, and emotional health.

I love this school and am so so so appreciative of all the opportunities it's given me. But we need to do better.

I don't have all the answers - I just want to say you never know what others are going through, don't be afraid to be vulnerable and honest, and together we can make a change so that the Truman experience can become a healthier one.

With love,

Typical Truman Student

11/16/18

Two Vitamin Gummies:

My roommate leaves for her boyfriend's place and the pasted smile slips from my face as the door clicks shut. I lie there.

I haven't eaten all day. She didn't know. I reach over and pop 2 vitamin gummies - look there, a meal.

Eventually I'll muster enough resolve to complete my 90 question organic chemistry assignment, read a hundred pages for my JINS, write my part of the 22 page ecology lab report, and study for my physics II exam.

And then I'll crawl back in bed as the sun rises, waiting for two hours to pass so I can repeat it another day.

11/8/17

"What is it

about understimulating a person

intangible and reductionist

that makes you so horny?"

Sky taught myself how to shave my lakes. Are spa days num bird? Never got to jump laugh with the other spies in sex ed. That monstrous pancake video. I had to make up my younger sister so she could sew me how to fuse a pad. Now hears a stretch mark. Is it gruesome? My other told me that tampons would rake away my galloping virginity. I masked when it will be my return to be pretty terrible.

A Different Letter to Truman State University

by Kimberly O'Loughlin

I've almost always been here and there. I have learned not to stare, not to swear, not to care and stick my lips with plain pink and red and wait for something new to happen until it does or doesn't. I can't handle when something is funny and I choke, croak, smoke until I'm broken and I can't laugh anymore. I'm rated for everyone but spell "whiskey" with an E. My words don't say themselves correctly, directly, matter-of-factly, exactly. Instead my head likes to mess with the order and sound, make me flat or make me round. And I know this, but you know that up and down. That I'm not quick; That I'm a trick you see on TV with movie magic. And you're not going to be here forever, but I'll be there, still scared

Dildos
the word
out of frustration cums
to me
to my mind and
out of my pen and my lips.
Lies
they are for me
that they will cure my frustration
cause they can never replace
what I yearn and I lack
an actual relation
with a partner that loves me
satisfies me
not only physically
through orgasmic
warm
wild
passionate
kiss-filled
cuddle-filled
bare and naked skin-filled
touch
rush
flood
of blood
and feelings
and love
that I can never find in a heartless
dull
dildo
that I can buy and dispose
unlike a person I love
a person that
loves
ME.

Frustration it is
the meaning the word
"dildo"
carries within me
cause it can never go in
completely
inside
of me.

But who do I kid?
Who do I mock?
When even what they try to mirror
the real skin
warm, inner constant flowing blood,
alive ones, don't
just don't go
I can never get one
to go all the way through
the pain there
something, there
like a wall
that I
that I can't
just break through.

I can't
break
through.
I suffer
I cry
I fear
what can I do
to fully fill others
if I can't
make it cum
all the way
in
inside me
inside this lonely woman
inside this
sex
love
affection
pleasure
dopamine
deprived woman
I can't ?
Why,
I can't...
Can't I?

That is why
dildos
are a synonym of frustration to me
dildos
what are they
to you?
to humanity?

transcript

by Nova Heydinger

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name : Mariah L. Gonzalez
Birth Date: Sep 22, 1997

***Transcript type:ADV is NOT Official ***

Term: Fall 2018

Academic Standing: Low Standing

Subject	Cou rse	Le vel	Title	Grade	Cre dit Hou rs	Qua lity Poi nts
INDV	100	UG	Mental Wellness	C	3.00	6.00 0
MATH	156	UG	Sleep Calculator	D	3.00	3.00 0
PHRE	185	UG	Exploring Life's Options	B	3.00	9.00 0
PHRE	186	UG	Introduction to the Real World	C	3.00	6.00 0
PSYC	266	UG	Experimental Relationships	B	3.00	9.00 0
SOAN	250	UG	Degree Focus	C	3.00	6.00 0

Term Totals (Undergraduate)

	Atte mpt Hour s	Pas sed Hou rs	Ear ned Hou rs	GPA Hou rs	Qua lity Poi nts	GPA
Current Term:	15.0 00	15.0 00	15.0 00	15.0 00	39.0 0	2.20
Cumulative:	15.0 00	15.0 00	15.0 00	15.0 00	39.0 0	2.20

The Cat outside Dobson Hall

by E. Hanson

"You're a pretty kitty"
It blinks at me, huddling, bundling against the cold
You have been here all semester
from tiny kitten to not quite cat
Adolescence in the cold
Who cares for you?
Your box is constantly changed and replaced
A carrier now
Too small I note
thinking of my two cats at home, warm and safe from the
biting wind
Are you someone's responsibility or irresponsibility
Feral being tamed or pet they couldn't keep
indoors, warm and safe
So you join all the others out here
Abandoned when we leave college
I don't know what lesson you have to teach
or what debt you or I owe
but I wish you warmth and nine long lives

"What are they"

By M

Today,

Silicone
Glass
Acrylic.
Jelly
Soft-skin
Stone.

Before,

camel dung
gold
silver
ivory
jade.

Whatever;
Does it really matter
what they're made of?

Dildos, that is.
The English word's origin
uncertain and ambiguous
as the dildos themselves.

It's meaning
Does it come from the latin word
for 'open wide'
or for 'love'?
Or the Italian word for 'delight'?
Maybe from the word "dally"
which meant 'to flirt'

Their development and that
of great civilizations
seem to cum
hand in hand.

Egyptians, Romans
Greeks, Chinese
and Italians during the Renaissance
they used them all.

To keep their wives from cheating,
Their "gayness" satisfied without
being persecuted
or killed
for touching a loved one.

To offer their "virginity" to the god of
fertility
For worship
To show off
Prestige and status involved.
To treat orgasm-deprived women
of so-called "hysteria"
To "enhance couple relationships"
As a "sexual aide"

But
For discovery and pleasure
Only now?

Dildos are shown as an item
of female liberation
of gay men's freedom
the power of owning
our bodies and pleasure
no shame or secrets
no holding in anymore
no frustration.

However, again, dildos
infertile and dead
unable to spread STDs
and to leave us pregnant
that also leave us lonely
with their cold touch
their emotional emptiness
their lack of affection and intimacy
that leaves us thirsty
with a thirst unquenched
for human touch
a human connection
a human that penetrates us and fills
us
with love.

To Burn the Earth:

by Thomas Sebacher

It is gone.
Condemned to flames,
For they were wrong.

The world was wrong, and we were not,
For from their thoughts they sought
To rule the earth.

But as a fire upon the hearth,
It burns.

Real

by Thomas Sebacher

I wave my hand in front of me,
Where is it?

I do not see that hand.

What is that I see?
Where is it I stand?

The land is shifting—
Sand beneath my feet.
It is not solid.

It swallows me,
But I am not afraid.
It is not real.

But where is my hand?
Is that real?

It is gone
Adrift among a sea of me.
And I am nothing.

I am a bundle of thoughts,
I am feelings and emotions.
I am not distinct.

I am everything and nothing.
Life and Death are within me.
And all of what is real.

It burns away the lingering pain,
And at the end a cleansing rain
Shall tumble down upon us all.
This world will fall.

The earth will burn,
And death shall come.

Emotions churn
And to them we shall succumb.

But through this trial of fire we see
That humankind will then be free.

The media also routinely ignore and marginalize pro-government voices in favor of those who willingly advance a rightwing agenda. Many of the leading scholars on Venezuela—including, Miguel Tinker Salas, Steve Ellner, Greg Wilpert, and George Ciccariello-Maher—only appear on alternative sources such as Democracy Now.

The media commonly state that Venezuela was once one of Latin America's richest and most democratic countries. That is hardly true. About 20 percent of the richest people in the country—largely those of European descent—enjoyed all the benefits of the country's petroleum wealth and ruled the country on their behalf. Half the country—including those who still support Maduro—were left marginalized and impoverished by their policies, and they hardly want to go back to that system of oppression and discrimination. But that is exactly what the rightwing opposition wants to impose on the country.

The media commonly echoes a rightwing narrative that Venezuela is an example of a socialist failure. What they willingly ignore is that Venezuela's recent economic decline is due to Trump's draconian sanctions designed to destroy the country. If the US were truly concerned about Venezuelans' welfare they would immediately remove those sanctions.

As Hitler said, a lie repeated a thousand times becomes the truth, and that is what we are seeing at play in Venezuela. As social critic Noam Chomsky once said, the media are playing the role of stenographers to power. They are nothing other than propaganda mouthpieces for a government pressing a concerted rightwing agenda.

When asked why Trump supported Saudi Arabia that has a much more repressive government than anything imaginable in Venezuela, his national security John Bolton replied that the US has a "special responsibility" to dictate policies in "our" hemisphere. This overt embrace of imperialism is what had led the US government, including both Democrats and Republicans, to support a long history of bloody coups and brutal rightwing military dictatorships in Latin America.

As if things could not get worse, secretary of state Mike Pompeo named Elliott Abrams as the person in charge of overseeing operations "to restore democracy in Venezuela." Abrams famously was the one who in the 1980s was in charge of Ronald Reagan's support for death squads in Guatemala and El Salvador and terrorist attacks against the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Make no mistake, the US does not support democracy in Venezuela. Its goal is to install a complaint rightwing government by any means possible. This policy could have a very, very bloody outcome.

Hate and Fear:

by Thomas Sebacher

In the wind it whispers now,
But only I can hear.
The torments of a fate endowed
With our hatred and our fear.
It has disturbed me many nights
As I awake from constant frights
To a world more frightening in all ways
Than that I find in sleep's embrace.
I notice now they stare at me,
And then I wonder what they see.

The wind—it rustles through the leaves.
Yet, among the idle breeze,
I sense a sinister affront,
And now, it seems, I must be blunt.

There is oppression here and there,
But we must fight it everywhere.
And those who think it is not here
Are all but blind to hate and fear.
And in this they shall lose their voice;
Thus, today we have a choice:
To stand by, and thus do naught,
Or to stand with those who've fought.

US-backed regime change in Venezuela

by Marc Becker
marc@truman.edu
January 26, 2019

History is full of examples of US-backed military coups against democratically elected governments in Latin America. The most notorious ones were against Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala in 1954, João Goulart in Brazil in 1964, and Salvador Allende in Chile in 1973. The outcome in each of these was not pretty.

Recent moves against Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro is a stunning reminder that the US imperial role is not something that is merely relegated to the annals of history.

On January 22, US vice president Mike Pence called for the overthrow of Maduro. The following day, Juan Guaidó, the rightwing leader of the national assembly, declared that he was interim president.

The US and its rightwing allies in Venezuela and elsewhere claim that Maduro was not democratically elected, that he is an authoritarian dictator.

But simply making such a statement does not make it true.

Maduro was reelected last May and sworn into office on January 10. The electoral process that governed Maduro's reelection was the same one that was in place when Guaidó was elected three years earlier. If Maduro's election was fraudulent, so was Guaidó's.

It is not an exaggerated parallel to say that what is happening in Venezuela is not unlike if in the midst of the recent government shutdown US speaker of the house Nancy Pelosi declared that Donald Trump was a corrupt, illegitimate president and that therefore she was now assuming the office. After all, he did lose the popular vote in the 2016 election and his policies led to the lay off of almost a million federal employees.

Simply losing an election does not make that election illegitimate. Nevertheless, the only election results that the US recognizes in Latin America are the ones it wins. Otherwise it works to discredit and undermine democratically elected administrations that implement policies it does not like.

Mainstream media outlets willingly picked up a narrative that Maduro is corrupt, illegitimate, and authoritarian. This is true not only for rightwing outlets like Fox News, but also more moderate ones like the New York Times, NPR, or the BBC. Almost exclusively the only voices they interview are those of the conservative rightwing opposition and their international allies.

The impression that media reports give is that no one in Venezuela supports Maduro. Would it therefore be a surprise that about 20-30 percent of the Venezuelan population still supports the president? That's right, Maduro has about the same level of support as Trump. Why can't the media find supporters to interview? Could it be because they are poor, Black and Brown?