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# Godzilla Attacks Buttrick

## Tokyo Breathes Sigh Of Relief

Donating Sperm Since 1886

### INSIDETHISSUE

Red Cross Distributes Prozac To Fight Tropical Depression



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Humane Society Massacred By Inhumane Society

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### Freshman's Posters Still Have Not Gotten Him Laid

Freshman Brandon Masters, despite his best efforts, is still a virgin. Brandon's Mims single is decorated with, what he himself calls, "the finest poster selections on campus." Masters explained his boast further, "I've struck the perfect balance of cool movies, hot girls, and intellectual artsy posters, all to accentuate my manliness and potential for breeding. I start showing them off to girls in my room, but they never seem interested and leave. Nothing seems to work." Brandon is currently considering entering the priesthood or switching his Pulp Fiction poster with a Kill Bill one.



### Sting Finally Comes

Rock musician Sting finally ejaculated this week after sporting an erection for the past sixteen years, his wife announced yesterday. Sting, a practitioner of tantric sex, nominally has

withheld his seed from his wife to promote a harmonious sex life with her. Skeptics argue it was merely a ploy to entice women at his concerts to fuck him without a condom. They say Sting abandoned his strategy when he realized nobody in the audience on his current concert tour was younger than his 52-year-old wife.

### Students Find *Hustler* Funnier, Less Informative Than *Slant*, New Poll Shows

A Gallup poll conducted on campus last week revealed that the undergraduate community finds the student newspaper, *The Hustler*, funnier, but less informative than the humor newspaper, *The Slant*. Students seemed unaware of *The Hustler's* news section, spending the majority of their time on the crossword puzzle. Many, however, found the paper's opinion section hilarious and far superior to the humor found in the subtle and witty stories of *The Slant*. "Have you read some of those columns? We just can't compete with the caliber of humor that *The Hustler* seems able to produce on a thrice weekly basis," said a frustrated Colin Dinsmore, Editor-in-Chief of *The Slant*. "Maybe we can recruit some fourth graders who are even 'funnier' to write columns for us."



### Mississippi State Disbands After Back-To-Back Losses to Maine, Vanderbilt

Its pride already badly battered by the previous weekend's loss to the University of

Maine, Mississippi State's last remaining scrap of self-esteem was destroyed by their 31-13 loss at Dudley Field on Saturday. University administrators have voted to officially disband the college, after deciding it would be impossible to restore school spirit. "The state of Mississippi has suffered a lot throughout history," said Mississippi State President J. Charles Lee, "Poverty, slavery, ignorance, Yankees and pellagra. We could deal with all those, but losing to Vandy? Man, that's hard to take."

### Freshman Disappointed by Lack of Weed at Pike Smoke-out

Pi Kappa Alpha's yearly philanthropic event concluded last week, with administrators commending its goal of eradicating smoking as "laudable." Freshman Chad Randolph, however, has expressed his displeasure at the \$10 per person extravaganza. "Man, I thought the Pikes and I were going to get high. Instead, they tried to get me to quit smoking altogether. Hypocrites." Similar confusion about the event's purpose has been expressed by foreigner Tim Boyd: "Stopping smoking by having a smoke-out? Isn't that a little counterintuitive?" Despite said problems, it is estimated that the event made in excess of fifteen dollars for charity.



# 115

Days since June 13, 2004. You've had this much time to legally sleep with the Olsen twins. And failed.



### Jim Lehrer Wins Presidential Debate

While much of the focus following last week's first presidential debate was on the polls comparing the two candidates for President, studies conducted after the event also showed a clear win for moderator Jim Lehrer. Lehrer was rated as having asked the "best questions" by 100% of viewers, and topped both candidates on ratings for "looking severe but fair," "most concise," and "not fucking up."

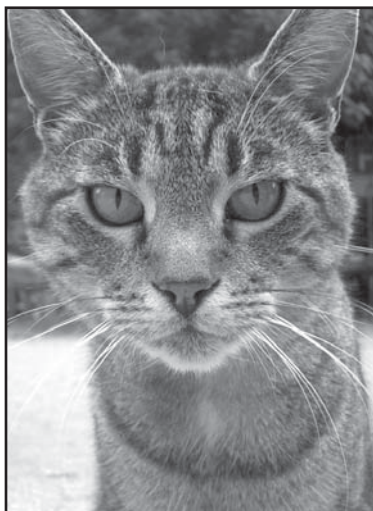
### Natural Disasters Instill Renewed State Pride

Despite Mount St. Helens being on the point of violent eruption, Washington State residents have found a silver lining for the imminent disaster. "Man, those Floridians have been hogging the headlines with their four hurricanes in three weeks," said Spokane resident Bob Foley, "And every time they're on TV they look so pathetic and act like the rest of the country should be crying with them. Well, we're going to show them what a real natural disaster looks like. Let's see their 'problems' rain boiling hot lava and ash on them for a few days - then we'll show them some sympathy. Take that, Sunshine State!"



### Virgin Sacrifice For Ro-Tiki Opening

This week saw the opening of the Ro-Tiki Grill in Branscomb. In order to add to the atmosphere, director of Vanderbilt Dining Frank Gladu arranged for a sacrificial virgin to be offered up to the Ro-Tiki gods. Gladu said he had hoped to open last year, but it had not been possible to locate a virgin in Branscomb. Fortunately, this year a sacrificial offering was easily located in Cole. 🍷



Whiskers, Terrorist

## FELINE DEPORTATION

### Dyslexic INS Agent Deports Stevens' Cat

The Stevens' family cat, Whiskers, was deported Monday after the feline's name appeared on a terrorist watch list. INS agents stormed the family's Bell Meade home and apprehended the alleged evildoer in the middle of the night, terrifying and bewildering the Tennessee family. "I didn't know what was happening," explained Maude Stevens, 43. "One second I was sleeping and the next all these agents broke into the house and starting screaming about terrorists and our cat and having a warrant. It didn't make any sense." Dyslexic INS agent Cody Porter ordered the raid after hearing about the suspect on the news. Whiskers is en route to Saudi Arabia and will not be allowed to return to the USA.



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## MASTHEAD



Consuming the souls of the damned... since 1886

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## ANIMAL ABUSE SPACE



Rex gave his all in Iraq.

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## Corrections:

In the last issue, we predicted "normie" candidate Michelle Smoller would retain 95% of the non-irradiated vote and come out of the primary a winner. Either this was incorrect or the contamination has spread beyond control, mutating a majority of Vanderbilt freshmen.

Also in our last issue, we reported that Liz Vennum's residents thought she was "so cool." It turns out that none of her residents think so and *The Slant* regrets the error.

## FROM THE EDITOR



COLIN DINSMORE

Well, it's official. The Chicago Cubs season is over. No playoffs, no World Series, nothing. Now, I've come to expect this sort of thing from the Cubs, it's something they've gotten very good at doing, and I'll be able to deal with it. Just wait until next year when we won't be injured. All I can say is watch out NL Central title.

No, the thing that really has me upset is not the fact that the Cubs will not be making a post-season appearance, but the fact that the Houston Astros will. I am not an Astros fan at all. In fact, it causes me physical discomfort when I think about the possibility of them winning the World Series.

This dislike of the Astros has little to do with the fact that they are from Houston. Though being one of the fattest and most polluted cities in the country certainly doesn't help. It's just something preternatural, an instinctive aversion to evil. I don't like how they brainwashed Clemens into coming out of retirement as soon as he retired to play for them (nor do I like Clemens for allowing himself to be brainwashed). Also, by and large, their uniforms are very, very ugly.

In any event, besides the Astros, the playoffs now consist of the Cardinals (just for the record, I don't like the Cards either, but they deserve to be there), the Dodgers, and the Braves in the National League and the Angels, Twins, Yankees, and Red Sox from the Not-Real-Baseball, excuse me, American League. I say Red Sox over the Cardinals in game seven. That's more because I want to say I saw the curse broken to my kids and tell them they'll never see anything that special than because I am a die-hard Bosox fan.

Alright, I've talked enough about baseball and the unfortunate fate of this year's Chicago Cubs. Let me quickly tell you about all the changes happening here at *The Slant*. First of all, we have finally moved to Adobe InDesign instead of Quark; I'm sure you all noticed the difference. Guess that's about it.

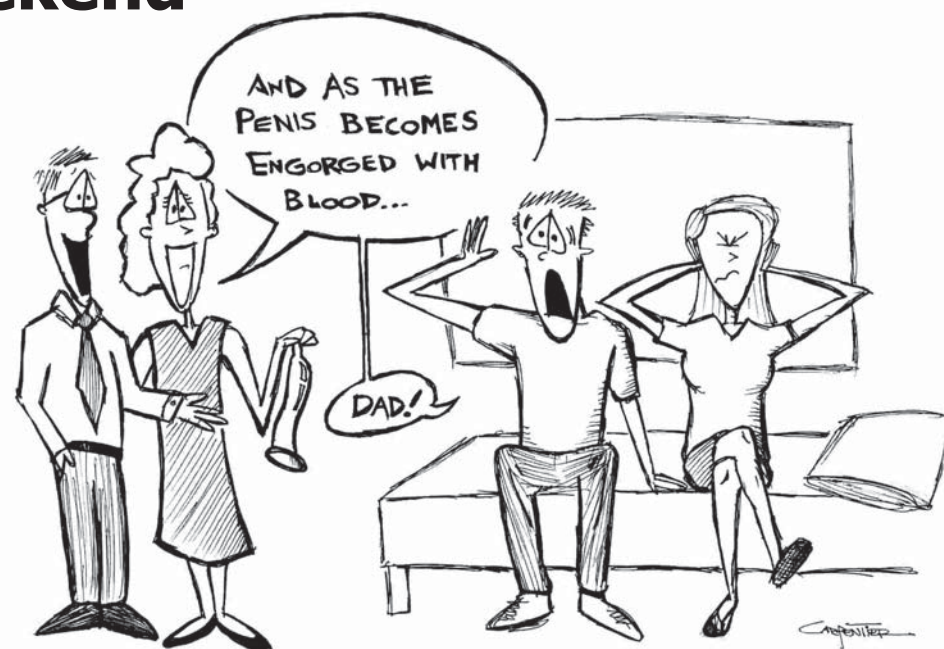
I ended my last column with a shout-out to the classics department. I thought the ending shout-out was going to be a one-time thing, but I was approached with someone who requested a shout-out. I was initially opposed to that, but then I remembered that the Lord helps those who help themselves. And while I'm not the Lord, I'm as close as any of you are going to get. So I'd like to give a shout-out to Ali Rakowski and the rest of 2003 Squirrel Camp cluster thirteen, because let's face it, we're just better than the rest of you. ●



## Fucked Image

Ernest watches over the residents of McGill Hall.

## Freshman Family Planning Weekend



Carpentooning by Jason Carpentier

# Patriot Act Affects Curve In Introduction To Islam Class

## *Higher GPAs Through The Miracle Of Deportation*

by **CEAF LEWIS**

Several Vanderbilt students were arrested on September 27 in a Department of Homeland Security operation targeting potential terrorist activity in the Religious Studies Department. Over fifteen students were taken into federal custody.

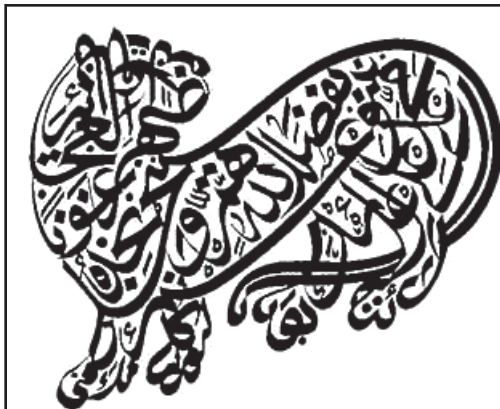
"At first I thought that there had to be some mistake," said Professor Richard McGregor, who taught the heavily-raided section. "My course merely examines the early history of Islam, the development of sectarianism and the role of the Qur'an in molding the socio-political lives of the early Muslims. Then I thought about it, and why were so many Muslim students in the course? Shouldn't they be taking Advanced Islam or something? The whole thing sounds suspicious."

Nonetheless, the seizure of so many students in such a short period has proved beneficial to the grade point averages of the remaining students. "When we took our first tests, every single one of the Muslim students got a perfect score of 137. They even got every single one of the bonus questions!" complained atheist Richard Montana. "Now, with them gone, my score of 32 on that test has been bumped to a respectable 85. That's what I like to call progress."

Despite the happy reaction of the newly brilliant non-Muslim students, the Muslim Student Association has called for an investigation into the matter. "This was clearly a transparent attempt by one of the non-Muslim students to boost his GPA by neutralizing

the competition," read a recent release from leaders of the organization, who could not be reached for questioning.

The effects of the arrests upon the community at large have yet to be fully realized, but Homeland Security has moved the terror alert down from "High," more commonly known as "orange," to "Elevated," a more aesthetically pleasing yellow.



Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge is reported to be pleased with vigilant Vanderbilt students. In a September 28 speech, Ridge congratulated the university, adding, "Much like homeland security in general, America's preparedness requires everyone's help. As I've said many times, the federal government alone cannot protect the homeland, just as a town alone cannot rebuild itself after a hurricane or flood. Instead, homeland security must be a priority in every city, every community and every neighborhood across America. Go 'Dores!"

Meanwhile, Vanderbilt has experi-

enced a surge of patriotism as never before. "Normally McGill is filled with creepy communist weirdos with Che Guevara posters and hookahs and all that," explained sophomore Kate Hackett. "But now it's covered with flags and bunting and American flag pins. I didn't really think it was possible, but somehow it made McGill even creepier. Now I get physically sick even walking by that picnic table, especially since that guy with blue hair is always dressed like Uncle Sam."

"In climates of fear such as this one, touched off by recent arrests, it is quite common for those fearing persecution for crimes both real and imagined to 'drape themselves in the flag' as it were. And let's just say McGill has plenty of crimes under its belt," explained C. Neal Tate, Chair and Professor of Political Science. "Bunch of hippies, really."

Not all Americans subscribe to the same climate of fear, however. Secretary Ridge has recently announced the addition of "fifteen qualified Arabic speakers" to the department, thereby more than tripling the number currently in government service. When asked for their names, Ridge dropped a smoke grenade and fled into the night, laughing maniacally.

"Certainly we are poorer for the loss of such brilliant students," stated Chancellor E. Gordon Gee in a recent press conference. "But I have full faith in the ability of Vanderbilt students to persevere, be they in Nashville, Washington, or even distant Guantanamo Bay." ■

### OTHER GROUPS AFFECTED BY PATRIOT ACT

- Vanderbilt Satanists for Satan
- Al Gore Fan Club
- Vanderbilt University Role Players Club
- Lotus Eaters
- Masala-SACE
- VandyTerrorists
- National Society of Black Engineers
- Swingin' Dores
- Lambada Club
- McTyeire House
- Vandy Taal
- *The Slant*

# Friend With Benefits Becomes Girlfriend Without

by **BOBBY GAMBREL**

Junior John Thorn was forced to confront a harsh reality this past Friday night, a reality that left him both bitterly disappointed and terrified for the future.

"I'd been dating this freshman for a few weeks, and at the end of the night we ended up back in my room," recalls Thorn. "As usual, I went in to make my move, but instead of getting ass, I got 'Not tonight, honey, I'm not in the mood.'"

What Thorn did not then realize was that his former freshman "bitch," Hillary Ludwick, had become his current freshman "girlfriend," successfully destroying all his rights to guaranteed action.

"It all happened so suddenly," Thorn said, while carrying a load of her unmentionables to the dryer. "I guess I should have seen it coming. I mean, when she started nagging me about my friends and insisting that I wear this shitty cologne, I should have caught on."

Thorn's friends agree.

"We all knew Johnny was getting pretty whipped when he started bringing back boxes of tampons with the 40s and took down his Christina Aguilera poster," says roommate Mike Arntz. "She must have really had his balls in a vice to get him to watch Legally Blonde and not put out until the last half of it. God, when he told me about that, I just about threw up."

Thorn offers a different perspective. "OK, so maybe the guys are kind of right, but there was SO MUCH sex at first that I never thought this could happen. I mean, we'd do it like, almost every day... and twice on Saturdays! And then I could go out with the guys afterwards and get drunk off my ass

and the next thing I knew, I'd wake up in her bed naked. I can only assume we'd gotten it on the night before. But then, last Friday, she introduced me to her friends as her 'boyfriend,' and I didn't really think much of it, but it was downhill from there."

Evidently, Thorn is not the first man to confront this issue. "Examples of this sort of thing are abundant throughout history," comments psychology professor Sheldon Powers. "Cleopatra ruined Marc Anthony, Henry VIII had to behead like six wives when they got too needy, and the best example of all is Jesus. Things got too serious with Mary Magdalene, and what happened? The son of a bitch got crucified."

As the new school year progresses, many male students find themselves torn between the irresistible urge to "play the field" and the harsh reality of being in a committed relationship. Sophomore Jeff Farfalla knows the situation all too well.

"Yeah, I miss being single, but man, you should see my girlfriend. She's so hot. And so scary. God, there's no way I'm going to risk standing up to her.

You should have seen how she flipped when I got her tulips instead of roses for our third anniversary of the first time she flirted with me in calc class. I don't really want to deal with that again... I kind of value the intact-ness of my balls.

"But hey," he added, glancing over his shoulder to make sure no eavesdroppers had heard his previous comments, "it takes a real man to admit that sort of thing."

Thorn remains optimistic, however.

"It's my birthday next week. Maybe if I take her out to a nice dinner I'll get a sympathy handjob or something." 🍌



Thorn's girlfriend, frigid bitch.

# Branscomb Idol Develops Tourette's Syndrome

by **BETH STEEDLEY**

Many Vanderbilt students were dismayed to learn this week, that beloved Ro-Tiki idol, Ro-Tiki, had been diagnosed with a very severe form of Tourette's Syndrome. A new and popular figure on campus, Ro-Tiki had only inhabited Branscomb's Munchie Mart for a month when staff and students began to notice a change in his demeanor.

"It was so cute in the beginning," said freshman Ellen Sandrys, "He would always repeat what I had pushed on the screen, and I couldn't help but smile." However, Sandyr's smile soon faded, as she rapidly began to recount the turn of events that occurred during her second week at Vanderbilt. "One day, I went in and it was 'Sandwich' or 'Salad,' and the next day it was 'Vomit' or 'Poop.' I couldn't understand such a dark and sudden turn in his behavior."

The situation escalated as Ro-Tiki soon began substituting immature bathroom words with racial epithets and blatant cursing. Senior Holden Jennings was one of the first to report the situation to Vanderbilt Dining. "I just couldn't take the puerility," he said, "The potty language was repellent enough, but then he started with the profanity. I'm not going to stand in line for half an hour to be abused."

Foreign exchange student, Gabriela Gonzalez, also became a victim of Ro-Tiki's disease. "I've been in this country since July, and this is the most blatant ethnic attack I've experienced. Hell, I've probably been speaking English longer than he has; and if not, at least I can put together a sentence."

Before Ro-Tiki had officially been diagnosed, many Branscomb patrons had speculated that Ro-Tiki's peers - other child idols from his playground days - had negatively influenced his speech. Tim Lowe, a Towers resident, was quoted as saying, "I bet that damn Greg Brady had something to do with it. They carried that idol around for the whole Hawaii episode."

Others speculate that childhood idols like Gary Coleman and David Cassidy played a role in the corruption of Ro-Tiki. Cassidy was unavailable for comment, but Coleman vehemently answered media questions by asking one of his own. As Willis did not appear to be in the room to answer said question, reporters generally assumed the appellation to be an elementary school nickname for Ro-Tiki himself.

Upon further questioning, Mark Paul Gosselar and Tiffany Amber Thiesen also denied having had any role in Ro-Tiki's verbal downfall. "We were always so busy stealing mascots and throwing lame-ass theme parties that we never even had time to curse," Gosselar was quoted as saying.

Unfortunately, doctors' hopes for Ro-Tiki's recovery and reinstatement are dismal. Primary caregiver and website author, Dr. Richard Packard, described the situation in the following manner:

"People with Tourette's Syndrome may involuntarily shout obscenities (coprolalia) or constantly repeat the words of other people (echolalia). They may touch other people excessively or repeat actions obsessively and unnecessarily. A few patients with severe Tourette's Syndrome demonstrate self-harming behaviors such as lip and cheek biting and head banging against hard objects. However, these behaviors are extremely rare."

Luckily, Ro-Tiki has not yet begun physically confronting students.

According to the most recent reports, Vanderbilt physicians have been meeting with Ro-Tiki frequently in order to minimize the severity of the condition and to return him to his post as soon as possible. When interviewed regarding the situation, oddly-initialed Vanderbilt Dining Director, Frank X. Gladu, defended his hiring of Ro-Tiki and emphasized his commitment to reinstate the idol. "Ro-Tiki is just a troubled soul. I mean, what would you do if people were prodding you all fucking day?" 🍌

# 'Gay' Student Hides Girlfriend From Dads

by **CLAIBE DEMING**

Bruce Turner, a freshman from San Francisco, had a harrowing Parent's Weekend, being forced to rely on a long series of wacky misadventures in order to shield his relationship with fellow freshman Kathy Brice from his fathers as they came up to check on him.

"I'm just glad it's all finally over. This past weekend was almost as bad as the fathers-son events we go do back home," Said a visibly exhausted Turner, referring to the gay family events his parents take him to in order to bond and – they hope – introduce him to other attractive, upstanding queer youths in the community.

In order to convince his dads that he is gay, Bruce not only hid his relationship with his girlfriend from his dads over the weekend, but he also managed to talk friend Jake Armstead into pretending to be the "special someone" he'd told his parents about. "At first I was kinda freaked out by the whole thing, but Bruce was so pleading and desperate that I eventually caved after he threw in a hundred bucks and promised we wouldn't have to do any gay shit."

Despite the weeks of planning, the weekend did not go completely smoothly. Although Turner had done his best to remove all evidence of Brice's existence from his room, he was unable to fully hide all traces of her. "Christ, when dad1 and dad2 found one of Kathy's bras under my bed I thought they were gonna freak. They got real silent for a second, but as I started to explain Steve suddenly broke out into the biggest smile and said 'Our little guy's playing dress-up! I've never been so relieved in my life.'"

Turner feels torn between wanting to please his fathers by living up their expectations for him and wanting to live his own life, comfortable with being openly straight. "One of my earliest memories is back when I was about four, and Carl caught me playing 'army men' with my Barbie

dolls. I'll never forget that look of disappointment on his face," said Turner. "God, don't even get me started on the time when I was thirteen and they found that Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition when they were dusting my room." Turner now regrets ever "coming out" five years ago to please his lesbian grandmother. "I wanted to make Pawpaw happy before she passed away, and my dads couldn't have been prouder of me for making such a 'brave' decision. I can't bear to see the looks on their faces when I tell them I'm straight. I feel like I'll be such a failure in their eyes. Why can't they just accept me for the straight man I am?"

Although Bruce survived yet another weekend as a half-closeted heterosexual, he sees much larger battles on the horizon. "When [fathers Steve and Carl] took Jake and me out to eat at Bread & Co. on Saturday, I thought we were pretty safe talking politics, until somehow the issue of gay marriage came up, then Steve started nudging me and winking. Now, I can pretend to have a boyfriend, but a fucking husband? Not that I'm homophobic or anything, but if Bush actually gets this gay marriage ban passed it's going to be a huge load off my back."

Turner's dads headed back to California completely clueless about their son's mainstream lifestyle. "We were a little worried about sending our little princess off to Vanderbilt, because we weren't sure about the dangerous heterosexual influences there and the pressures that would be on him. But he's handled it really well. I'm so glad those confusing middle school years are behind him" said Carl Turner.

Steve Turner, however, left with some doubts. "I'm a little worried about Jake, I don't know if he's right for [Bruce]. He doesn't seem completely comfortable with his sexuality. Hopefully we can get a better feel for him this summer when he comes to our annual Fire Island retreat."

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# New Iraq Hostage Crisis: Tony Blair Abducted In Washington

by **TIM BOYD**

Alongside the series of hostage takings by insurgents in Iraq, a new crisis has emerged following the disappearance and suspected capture of British Prime Minister Tony Blair in Washington, DC. Mr. Blair has not been sighted in public since making an unescorted visit to the White House last week to discuss coalition policy.

It is thought that on his way from the Embassy to meet with President Bush, he was tracked and kidnapped by one of the packs of neo-conservatives that have, in recent years, become prevalent throughout the city. While his whereabouts have not yet been confirmed, many believe that Blair is being held in the confines of the Heritage Foundation.

The International Red Cross (IRC), which has long had experience in dealing with such kidnappings, outlined the dangers that foreign nationals face in Washington. "Neo-cons are highly intelligent and extremely resourceful," said IRC official Javier Mendoza. "You should not let the fact that they have an apparently limitless obsession with dogma and ideology confuse you into thinking that they don't appreciate the realities of modern politics. As far as they're concerned, their very existence is under attack from dissent against their policies, and they are willing to fight back using any and all means they deem necessary."

Mendoza added that Mr. Blair was particularly vulnerable to this kind of attack, as he had previously relied on the neo-cons to allow him safe passage through Washington on account of his unflinching support for their agenda in the War on Terror. As a result, the Prime Minister may have considered himself to be safe. However, Mr. Blair seems to have angered neo-cons with his recent suggestion that allowing the whole Middle East to go up in flames might also have its downside.

No images of Mr. Blair in captivity have yet been seen, but in an unsigned statement issued on behalf of a known neo-con group, they have let their demands be known. "In

return for the safe return of your Prime Minister, we call upon the United Kingdom to dramatically increase the presence of their soldiers in Iraq and to cease all talk of trying to get out of this glorious liberation operation," the statement read. "Furthermore, we demand that France and Germany stop being such assholes and put their finest young people into the line of fire. Also, invading Syria would be appreciated. Finally, and even though it's unrelated to the war, for the love of God, stop boiling all of your food to a soggy pulp!"

Although not operating with the formal authority of the Administration, the neo-cons seem to have the tacit approval of President Bush, who up until recently had used his influence to keep the Prime Minister safe. However, Mr. Blair's fate may have been sealed when he jeopardized his good standing with the President by talking about the "joint sacrifice made by our Grand Coalition of America, Britain and Australia." This remark reportedly caused the President to yell at an aide, "He forgot Poland!! Goddammit, why does nobody ever seem to remember fucking Poland?! How hard can it be? It's one of the biggest countries in all of Asia, for Christ's sake!"

Back in Britain, friends and allies of the Prime Minister have called on his captors to release him. "I am hopeful that the neo-cons will listen to their conscience and realize that what they are doing is wrong," said a tearful Jack Straw, Britain's Foreign Minister. "Tony has already lost so much as a result of the war in Iraq. His domestic reform program, his international credibility and the \$5,000 from the stupid bet about how it would all be over by Christmas."

But despite entreaties by Straw and pleas from France and Germany that the Prime Minister be allowed to return home, the Bush Administration has ruled out brokering a compromise. "We don't negotiate with Europeans," said Press Secretary Scott McClellan, "It would only encourage them to develop a sense that we have any sort of respect for them as independent, sovereign nations." ■

# I Plan On Leaving *The Slant* In Five Years

*Leno's not the only one with big announcements*

by **RICHARD GREEN**  
Columnist



Loyal *Slant* readers, I have an announcement to make. I recently learned that Jay Leno, host

of "The Tonight Show," plans to leave the show in five years. That got me thinking. In a similar vein, I will be leaving the *Slant* in five years.

I appreciate your loyal support over the years, such as reading my occasional articles. However, all good things must come to an end and I see no future for myself on the staff come October 2009. That may seem a long way off, but that fateful day will come sooner than you think.

I make this announcement this far in advance in part out of fairness to my loyal fans, but also to give the current staff time to locate a new black writer. If I were to leave suddenly, they would be left scrambling to find another black writer, and the resulting messy transition could rival the Leno-Letterman conflict. I

similarly competed with another writer for my position, and it was rather messy. I was forced to permanently ruin what could have been a beautiful friendship between two men of comedy and I would not wish that feeling on anyone.

I would also like to make clear that I have faith that *The Slant* will continue to improve after I leave. In fact, similar to the Leno-O'Brien transition, the person who replaces me will be much more funny and clever. I wish my replacement nothing but luck and I have nothing but brotherly love and respect for him.

I also cannot emphasize enough that I am not leaving because I am nowhere near as funny now as I used to be, but rather am only making plans to leave in five years so that the *Slant* will have to keep me around until then no matter how unfunny I become. The purpose of my departure is to make a smooth transition from me to the inevitably red-haired goofy looking Irish guy with an odd name.

In closing, I thank you for reading and laughing with me for about a year... and a month or two and maybe a week. Let's make the next five years the best five years of our relationship! ■

**WWW.THESLANT.NET**



# You Know What, I Could Tell Them Anything...

by **TIM BOYD**  
Columnist



My students are so trusting. It's quite touching, really. Just this past week, they had to take their midterm exams and they asked me detailed questions about my

grading policy and how many points they would get for writing so much on a given type of answer. Naturally, I answered with my best "of course I care about this as much as you do" expression and told them that I would not rest until I was satisfied that I had been fair to all of them in scoring their exams.

Ha! Boy, they sure fell for that one. Like I could give a stuff about their grades – I just lined the blue books up in a random order and then went through them "A, B, C, A, B, C, A, B,

C" until they were all done. A perfect curve and a minimum of effort!

But this got me thinking. After all, lying to my students to cover up my own laziness is all well and good, but how about lying to them just for fun? According to my fellow Englishman and former Prime Minister Austen Chamberlain, many people are attracted to the idea of "power without responsibility, the prerogative of the harlot throughout the ages." Who could have more power and less responsibility than a TA? Of course, harlots would be nice as well, but you can't have everything.

As what I say in the course has no bearing on my future, why shouldn't I have a little fun? I mean, how are they going to know if the stuff I tell them in class is crap or not? Sure, there are plenty of them who are smart, but I reckon they're too busy worrying how the hell they're going to get a career that doesn't involve asking "do you want fries with that?" to bother fact-checking anything I say.

And let's face it, it would be unfair

just to pick on my students as having this habit. It's not like the rest of you are any better. All it takes is for someone in a position of authority to say something with just the hint of complexity in it, and you accept it as if it were written on stone tablets.

Allow me to demonstrate.

You see that quote about power and responsibility? I bet you don't even have the faintest idea who Austen Chamberlain was, let alone if he ever said anything like that. But because I speak with a (frankly irresistible) British accent, which just seems to ooze class and sincerity, and because I have the magic initials 'T.A.' after my name, you just bought the whole thing, hook, line and sinker.

As it happens, I made it up. Chamberlain was never Prime Minister, and the person who talked about 'power without responsibility' was Stanley Baldwin, who was a circus clown from North Wales. Or was he? Can you trust me even to correct myself? God, this is too easy.

Now, you may claim that this is

unfair and vindictive towards people who are paying thousands of dollars a year for high quality education. You may say that I have a duty, a responsibility even, to the University that is paying me to be a TA that I be honest with my students. You might even think that I should find it morally reprehensible to take advantage of good, honest and trusting young people just for shits and giggles and that this is an unconscionable abuse of power. Well you should have thought of that before you rebelled against the glorious monarchy of Great Britain, you ungrateful colonial upstarts – now it's payback time!

Anyway, you must excuse me. I would love to continue to address you in a condescending and self-satisfied manner, but I have to go and decide how I'm going to convince my students that they won't be able to prepare for their next paper on Andrew Jackson without reading all twenty five volumes of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. ■

**LAMBDA  
DRAG  
SHOW**

**FRIDAY, OCT 8  
7:30PM, WILSON LAWN**

**BRING YOUR DOLLAR BILLS!**

# A Response To Michael Wilt

by JOHN KERRY  
Syndicated Columnist

I was doing my crossword last Monday when the paper fell open to the opinion page, and what I read there incensed me to no end. Mr. Wilt, in light of your Hustler column, "Kerry's Campaign Growing Increasingly Desperate," I feel it is my solemn duty to address my remarks to you yourself.

Need I remind you that I served in Vietnam? As I recall, while I was slogging through the jungle serving my country and winning THREE Purple Hearts, you dodged the draft by not being born for another couple of decades! Is there no level to which you will not stoop to evade your service?

You were right about one thing, Mr. Wilt. This IS about right versus wrong. I am right and you are wrong. Just ask the French. The French love me; they've got my back, as you kids say. You should know that endangering my campaign is a poor way of conducting

policy. Don't expect to be invited to Paris anytime soon, Mr. Wilt.

Mr. Wilt, you need to stop your attacks on me, a three-time Purple Heart winner. How many Purple Hearts have you won? Zero? Well, I have three, which I won in the treacherous jungles of Vietnam. I can also prove that I'm not the hated warmonger George Bush, as there are pictures of us together. Can we say the same about you, Mr. Wilt?

So, there are my qualifications, Mr. Wilt: THREE Purple Hearts in Vietnam and I can play the not-Bush card. What are your qualifications? Monday Opinion Editor of a college paper? How dare you, sir! Mr. Wilt, I will not have my fitness for office questioned, especially through an open letter by the likes of you!

Your dedication will not be shown by attempting to harm the campaign of a war hero, Mr. Wilt. Rise to the challenge, Mr. Wilt. Mr. Wilt, stop undermining the campaign of a man with THREE Purple Hearts. ■



## Historical Bastard Confession



"I was thinking  
of getting a divorce  
anyway."

- Mary Todd Lincoln

# A Smart Person's Guide To Surviving Peabody

*How To Act Dumb But Stay Smart*

by LIZ VENNUM  
Peabody Columnist

Do you like thinking for yourself? Hate working in groups? Believe that the world needs sarcastic people, too? Well, put down your crayons, back your way out of the group hug, and read this article carefully. It's for people who are smart and would like to prevent Peabody from making them dumb.

### Survival Tip #1

I like to write short stories during class. This makes me look like I am taking notes diligently. Sometimes I write sad short stories, and then I start crying. I usually do this when the professor is discussing children in inner city schools and why white people suck.

This works wonderfully because then not only am I crying for the plight of those inner city ELL students, but I am crying out of self-hatred and shame for being white. Try it, it works! Last week, I wrote a story about a kitty cat who died. I was bawling my eyes out so much that I got to go first in line when it was time for cookies and juice. And that brings us to our second point.

### Survival Tip #2

SNACKS! No Peabody class is too short (and those three-hour ones are killer) for snack time! Pass around a sign-up sheet and make sure you follow through when it's your day to bring food (people get angry when they were expecting food and you don't put out). Hint: Those little cheese cubes are always a hit, as are carrots and dip. But if it's your birthday, don't hesitate to go all out with cake and ice cream. The professor will sing to you and you can take up a lot of class time opening presents and reflecting on your learning experiences throughout the past year.

### Survival Tip #3

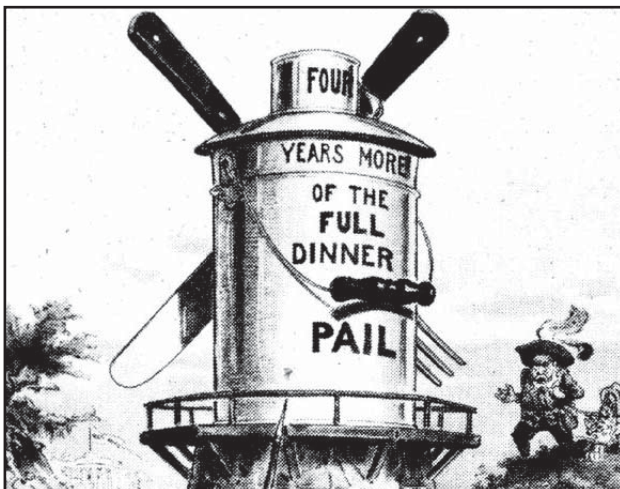
Those reflection papers. Oh, how we smart people hate them. But sometimes professors get low self-esteem (What if I am a bad teacher? What if my students aren't learning anything?) and need the reassurance of your writing papers to tell them what they've taught you.

B.S. the hell out of them. Don't mention anything in the text book. Stick to these few topics: why white people are bad and oppressive, and how much compassion you have for the differently-abled, and your indignation at society's treatment of them. What is "differently-abled?" If you're not in Peabody, you might use the term "disabled." But we don't. "Different" or "exceptional" are the only terms permitted in this paper. Use of words like "handicapped," "crip," or "tard" will result in immediate expulsion from the school and perhaps in your teacher's bursting into tears.

### Survival Tip #4

Group Projects. You will have to do these. Always start with a hug and an icebreaker. Perhaps sit in a circle and say your name and an animal that starts with the same letter as your first name. But then again, that could be ethnocentric, because Xaviashia doesn't have an easy of a time as Ellie Elephant or Bob Brown Bear.

After getting to know the members of the group, pass out lollipops and ask them to think about what makes them happy. Then complete the group project yourself, applaud them for their great feelings, and go get drunk. ■



**AROUND THE LOOP**

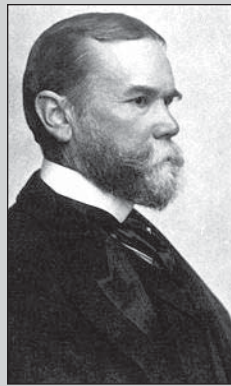
**From *The Slant* Archives: Who Do You Think Won The Debates Of 1900?**

**Elmer Marshall, Plowman**



“William Jennings Bryan, because you cannot crucify mankind on a cross of gold.”

**John Hay, Secretary of State**



“It doesn’t matter. We have nothing but centuries of peace ahead of us.”

**David LeBarz, Vaudeville Performer**



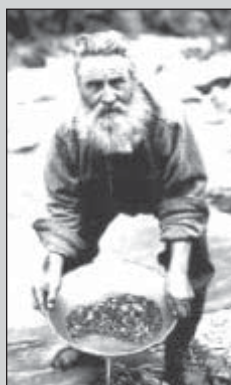
“I’m voting Eugene V. Debs. Anyone but McKinley, that’s what I say!”

**Wilfred Dewey, Tonic Salesman**



“I was sort of worried about this new Prohibition party candidate, because he was pretty polished. But then I figured that such tomfoolery will never succeed.”

**Rufus Gimley, Prospector**



“Wharton Barker’s platform sure does sound appealing. Too bad third parties can’t get elected in this country.”

**Mildred Smith, Woman**



“I can’t vote.”

**SLANTHOROSCOPES**

**Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23)**

Your grandmother was right; knitting needles work much better than crochet hooks. In many, many ways.

**Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21)**

Though you will discover that the word is pronounced “jewelry” instead of “jewelery,” you will be content to know that it still involves Jews.

**Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21)**

The current position of the stars indicate that your lucky days will be...who am I kidding? They just look like a bunch of flashy dots to me anyway. Use your own common sense, douche.

**Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19)**

As a result of your low carb diet, you look great and feel better, but things really aren’t the same since you no longer can munch on box.

**Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18)**

The tremors you are experiencing may have to do with the large amounts of caffeine you ingest. Of course, it could be from those huge fucking underground worms.

**Pisces: (Feb. 19—March 20)**

Yes, I’m afraid they are laughing at you and in this case no, it doesn’t make you a better person than they are.

**Aries: (March 21—April 19)**

You’re not fooling anyone. They all know you can’t read.

**Taurus: (April. 20—May 20)**

Your life in the next few weeks will be a lot like the tale of the frog prince. Except for the being a prince part. And turning into a frog. Who am I kidding, you’re going to die.

**Gemini: (May 21—June 21)**

You never thought you’d fail that test. Then again, everyone else who faced the black box tried...and died.

**Cancer: (June 22—July 22)**

Though you and your roommate pronounce the word “tomato” differently, you will find yourselves inexplicably bound together this week. At the hip.

**Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22)**

Sure, puppies are cute, but do they really have as much protein as babies? It’s something to think about.

**Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22)**

Your wife is going to leave you. What, you don’t have a wife? Just wait. Sucker.

## Top Ten Dorm Approved Dorm Improvements

- 10** Hunky firemen now burst into your dorm room, toss you over their shoulders and take you to your classes.
- 9** A chicken in every pot and a plasma TV in every room.
- 8** RAs replaced by new "Foxy RAs," dorm rounds still in effect.
- 7** Gee personally comes to each and every room and reads you bedtime stories.
- 6** Compliance with at least 1983 Fire Safety Regulations.
- 5** Handicapped-accessible dorms. Wait, nevermind--that kid graduated.
- 4** Immediate removal of security cameras recently installed in dorm toilets.
- 3** New air conditioners change erratically from hot to cold, just like that girl you're trying to date.
- 2** Racial segregation, like in the good old days.
- 1** Water pressure.

## Ask A Greek Tragedy



**Dear Greek Tragedy,**  
I'm thinking of asking my girlfriend to go steady. What should I do?

**Lovelorn in Lewis**

**Dear Lovelorn,**  
O Lovelorn, I come bearing terrible news! Woe upon the seven-gated city of Nashville! I bring news

from the Oracle of Delphi regarding this issue, and thine girlfriend is thy mother! Thou hast but one recourse: gouge out thine eyes and leave holy Nashville forever!

GT

**Dear Greek Tragedy,**

I always look on the bright side of life. What's wrong with that?

**Happy in Hemingway**

**Dear Happy,**

Like Icarus, soaring forth on his wings of wax towards the heavens, thine optimism will lead to thine death as you soar too close to the sun on your wings of squirrel meals and Vandy ass-shorts. Gaze, O Happy, on the woe his death cast upon his father, the engineer Daedalus!

GT

**Dear Greek Tragedy,**

I really don't think this advice column is going to end well. I have a really bad feeling about it.

**Cassandra in Cole**

**Dear Cassandra,**

Just shut up. Despite your impeccable record, I still don't believe you. All it is with you is bitch, bitch, bitch.

GT

**Dear Greek Tragedy,**

So, what did you think about the Vanderbilt production of Iphigenia?

**VUT in Neely**

**Dear VUT,**

The only tragedy here was the acting.

GT

**Dear Greek Tragedy,**

I'm a Mycenaean king and I've just returned from a long overseas journey. It's great to be home. My wife, however, has been giving me funny looks. What should I do?

**Agamemnon in Alpha Tau Omega**

**Dear Agamemnon,**

Worry not; I'm sure it's nothing. Relax and take a bath.

GT

**Dear Greek Tragedy,**

Sometimes I find myself conflicted: When I find that I can not do my duty to my King and still fulfill the required ancestral customs, which should I choose?

**Annie in Cole**

**Dear Annie,**

Seal thineself within a cave, as is the law of fair Thebes.

GT

**Dear Greek Tragedy,**

How can I grade midterms in the least time possible?

**Tim in T.A. Cave**

**Dear Tim,**

Take thee the entrails of a goat and sacrifice three white pigeons to Zeus, that he may tell thee the extent to which your students know about the Stamp Act.

GT

**Greetings, Young Patriot! If, like me, you are disgusted with living on a campus surrounded largely by ignorant, ill-bred oiks and culturally deficient strumpets, I recommend you write for our spiffing humour publication, *The Slant*, so that you can poke fun at your fellow Vanderbiltians and have japes at their expense. I assure you, it's jolly good fun, and wholly reinforcing of any natural assumptions of cultural superiority you might have. So, if you'd like to give us a try, bring your finest tea and crumpets, and join us at 6.30 on Tuesday in Sarratt 315.**

**Tim Boyd  
Editor, Redcoat**

