

THE PERSPECTIVE

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

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The Spritely and Most Noble High Council of Yonder Perspective

- Eran Feintuch, Most Beardly Chancellor
- Ashley Richards, High Chancellor In Charge Of Brainstorming and Travel Arrangements
- Megan Hartmann, Most Egregious Envoy of Middle Eastern Dances
- Eric Scott!, Most Panda-like Chancellor

So. I guess this is it, huh?

I have exactly one hour left as a working Writing Consultant here at Truman. I'm going to come in tomorrow at 12:30, work for an hour, and then go home. Then it will be over— two years come to an end, just like that.

And when I put it like that, yeah, it's pretty sad. It's not often that a person gets to have a job like this— certainly it's not the kind of thing any of us are likely to find a chance to do professionally. At best we may find ourselves in a position like Mary Lou or whoever our new Writing Center Director is going to be, supervising groups of consultants... But even then, that's not quite the same, is it?

Being a writing consultant is a unique experience. Here we take our mutual loves— language, words, thoughts— and we help our fellow students by using those same things. It's love for language translated into love for humanity. It's a passionate altruism.

OK, so I may be getting a little sentimental here, but this is my last day, alright?

I mean, why do we care if we are "creating better writers?" What's the point of "a community of writers," anyway? Is it just a way to sound important or impressive— just a way of justifying ourselves against other ways the university could spend our part of the budget?

Of course not. We care about creating better writers



"We'll always have the Writing Center."

because we want to be better writers. We want a community of writers because we are a community of writers. We want people to come in with their History of the Book essays and their WACT prompts and their ESL grammar issues and their confusing Biology papers because we love writing. All writing. Even the writing that annoys us and frustrates us. We even love that fifteen page long paper, due tomorrow. *Especially* that paper.

When I applied to work here (about a week later than I should have...) I thought I was just trading up to a better scholarship job. (When your previous one required you to work from 10 PM to 3 AM on Friday nights, it's not hard to think of anything else as "trading up.") But instead, I

found something much more than that. I got the chance to become friends with a ton of fascinating people, clients and consultants both. (For the record, I think this is the only organization I'm a part of where I have genuinely liked everybody involved.) I got to work with a lot of writing. And— important for someone planning to go into English academia— I got to learn maybe the most important thing of all:

Writing is cool.

All writing.

Especially yours.

Bye guys. It's been a blast.

Eric Scott seems like an ordinary stuffed tiger, but when the adults are away he comes to life.

DEAR ERAN

Dear Eran,
Are you really a vampire?
-Andrea

Dear Andrea,
If I were, would I tell you?
Actually, I don't believe I was ever accused of being a vampire—you might have gotten confused by a recent rumor that I'm a reverse-vampire. I won't comment on this; see Pufall or Murdoch or whoever it was who started the rumor if you want evidence. I prefer to leave things in suspense. Was a (reverse) vampire/bear employed by the Writing Center for two full years? The world may never know.

Dear Eran,
Is it true that John and Franklin are going to England?
-Curious in Kirksville

Dear Curious,
Yes, John and Franklin are indeed going across the ocean to mingle with those lobsterbacks. Undoubtedly they will engage in wanton debauchery and other despicable acts. Just think—THEY will be America's ambassadors to the United Kingdom.
May G-d have mercy on our souls.
-Eran

Eran Feintuch first came to prominence with his single "Space Oddity" in the early 70s. Since then he's dabbled in glam, blue eyed soul, dance music, electronica and German influenced "krautrock," but he's always remained one of the most important and innovative musicians in rock and roll.

OUR HOUSE, IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR STREET

This issue of The Perspective features a delicate bouquet of surveys from our graduating seniors.

*"You say goodbye,
and I say hello."
-Paul McCartney*

1) Full Name:
Andrea Elizabeth Cluck
2) Year in School: Senior
3) Major(s) and minor(s):
Major: English B.A.
First minor: Psychology
Second minor: Philosophy and Religion
4A) What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?
I take former consultant Jenna's advice to heart: "when a client is getting too close for comfort, it's best just to sneeze a little."
4B) For new consultants: What's the paper/subject you're dreading working with the most?
I'll take a stab even though I'm a veteran: creative writing - I've never got the hang of those pieces, and the subject matter tends to be really awkward.
5) If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what fa-

mous writer would you want next to you and why?
I just read *To the Lighthouse* and loved it, so I'll sit beside Virginia Woolf. I'd like to figure out exactly what was going through her head when she wrote that; it's very real and expresses those things you feel internally but can rarely put to words. That's how I'd write if I had the talent, although I think mine might be a bit more cheerful. She might be a bit depressing, though, so I'm hoping they'll fix this Ferris wheel fairly quickly.
6) If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?
I'll take *To the Lighthouse* for the above reasons.
7) If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?
Check it for, like you know,

like grammar and organization and stuff. Or set it on fire.

1) Full Name:
Emily Jo Murdock
2) Year in School: Senior
3) Major(s) and minor(s):
English major (duh), Spanish/WGST minors
4) What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?
1. Discuss the literary value of erections 2. Explain to a client why women sleeping with as many men as possible will not necessarily solve all of the world's problems.
5) If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?
Isabel Allende because we could speak in Spanish, I love her writing, I could steal all of her ideas, and because I think she's generally amazing

OUR HOUSE, CON'T

6) If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?

(Hopefully) My future master's thesis/dissertation

7) If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?

Quit.

1) Full Name:

Christopher John Moore

2) Year in School: 4th year

3) Major(s) and minor(s): English major

4) What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?

Made out with a chick once.

5) If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?

Writers are complicated crybabies who don't like to work. Maybe Sylvia Plath: she's a

fox.

6) If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?

Probably Anna Karenina because Tolstoy knows people better than God does.

7) If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?

Actually, I'm pretty much doing that this semester.

1) Full Name:

Loren Michelle Depenthal

2) Year in School: Senior

3) Major(s) and minor(s): Linguistics (BS) and minors in English & East Asian Studies

4) What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?

I started drawing once, that was fun...

5) If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what fa-

mous writer would you want next to you and why?

Ayn Rand; if she can talk like she writes then I would get my money's worth, though after that I might take over the Ferris Wheel business in order to show that it could be done better and find a way to make an unbreakable ferris wheel (which will then be taken over by "moochers" :-))

6) If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?

That's a hard one. Maybe "Lighthousekeeping" by Jeanette Winterson, I read it lately and it's very lyrical. Or maybe Bel Canto, but I don't really understand opera.

7) If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?

Make confetti and throw a party for the person who wrote it.

1) Full Name:

Eran Feintuch

2) Year in School: Senior

3) Major(s) and minor(s): English major; Music and Philosophy/Religion minors

4) What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?

I shot a client after he made some snide remark, then I told him that the Writing Center was like the Wild West—you'll get what's coming to you. Wait, is this supposed to be factual?

5) If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?

William Faulkner: he could write a sentence so long it'd reach all the way to the ground and we could slide down safely.

6) If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?

One Hundred Years of Solitude: it's seriously badass. Just like me!

7) If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?

Come in the next day and tell the client that I was sorry, but my backpack was stolen by jackals the night before (this actually happened to a friend of mine!)

1) Full Name:

Katherine Elise Monaghan

2) Year in School: Senior

3) Major(s) and minor(s):

English, Psychology

4) What's the paper/subject

you're dreading working with the most?

Nothing. I can take it all. Bring it.

5) If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?

Dr. Seuss. He could rhyme our way down and have a moral to go with it.

6) If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?

To Kill a Mockingbird because Harper Lee did it right the first and only time.

7) If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?

Give it to Emily Murdock. She likes that kind of thing.

"I told him that there was always freedom, even the ultimate freedom. The freedom to leave. You don't have to stay anywhere forever."

-The Sandman

OUR HOUSE, CON'T

1) Full Name:

Eric Otis Scott

2) Year in School: Senior

3) Major(s) and minor(s):

Major: English B.A., Minors in Philosophy & Religion and Medieval Studies.

4) What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?

I may have once accused Katie Werkmeister of being Satan during a conference. Well, maybe more than once.

5) If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?

Maybe Aleister Crowley. He was a very strange man, and he has a very interesting and conflicted reputation; I'd like to talk to him and see what he was really like, and maybe find out a little more about his thoughts on life and magic.

6) If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?

Beowulf. You know why? Because it's the first masterpiece of English, it's still one of the most powerful things ever written, and it would be awesome to have literary archeologists asking me for interviews about the process of writing it.

7) If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?

The only smart thing: read the first twenty pages, skim over the end, and waste the half hour I have to talk to this person talking about grammar.

The Writing Consultant Survey was designed and administered by Ashley Richards.

Ashley Richards was once a member of 2 Live Crew, but when Luke Skyywalker wanted her to start dressing like Princess Leia she left for a solo career. Get up, get get, get down!

"I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion. I watched c-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhäuser Gate. All those ... moments will be lost in time, like tears...in rain."

-Blade Runner

WE LOVE YOU, MARY LOU!

Dear EVERYBODY,

What are you going to miss the most about Mary Lou?

-The Board

"The always-open door to the office, light on—she's always been so helpful!"

-Loren

"Her cheery emails!"

-Eran

"'Greetings, folks!' and her undying love for Shakespeare."

-Deana

"Agreed."

-Cindy

"Free pizza every semester!"

-Ashley

"Elaborately decorated emails!"

-Andrea

"Everything."

-Molly and Andrew

"Her fashionably late entrances into each and every meaning."

-Kaitlin

"Her sunshine smile."

-Katie M.

"Knowing she's always back there, guarded by Animaniacs."

-Ruth

"Her baking."

-Katie Beth

"Seconded."

-Katie W.

"Her smile."

-Chris

"Yeah."

-Eric

"Her blazer/t-shirt ensembles."

-Emily M.

"The lipstick left over on the coffee mugs."

-Jennyj

"Her dislike of bright lights."

-Renee

DEAR ERAN, AGAIN

“Who is the biggest heart-throb in the Writing Center?”

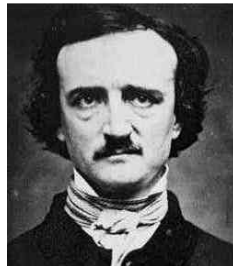
Eran 64% (70% of female respondents, 53% of male respondents)

Cindy 24% (30% of female respondents, 15% of male respondents)

Chris 10% (0% of female respondents, 30% of male respondents)

John 1% (Franklin)

Franklin 1% (John)



**Editor's note: These results are entirely fabricated. Except for Cindy's—she really is very popular among the ladies.*

Poll:

“Who would you rather see become the new Writing Center Director—Magic Johnson or Edgar Allen Poe?”

Magic Johnson—he's amazing! 99.9%

Edgar Allen Poe—Johnson is lame. 0.01%

A LIGHTER NOTE: LIVIN' LA VIDA PANDA

As the year comes to a close, a harsh revelation is coming to me: in Kansas City, where I will be going to graduate school in just a few months, nobody is going to know anything about me being a giant panda.

This is surprisingly hard to deal with. The legend of Eric Scott Being A Giant Panda steamrolled to epic proportions, to the point that I have been approached multiple times by strangers and asked “Hey, aren't you the panda guy?” Kathy and Mary Lou have expressed disappointment when I didn't show up as a panda last Halloween. There's STILL a Facebook group with more than a hundred members that support the question of whether I'm secretly a panda. Frankly, it's been beyond my control for so long that I have accepted it as part of my identity. I am Eric. I am the Panda Guy.

It's been my theory for a long time that many people—especially men—tend to adopt new identities when they come to college. Many of my friends don't go by the names they went by in high school; my roommates are Roades and Log, not Andy and Matt; the new president of Notes from the Underground has never been James Ginns to me, because he's Metal James. The sheer quantity of “adjective Bens” (Evil Ben, No Name Ben, Lawful Ben, Fuzzy Ben) I have known is enormous.

And I have been Eric Scott, the giant panda. It's so much a part of my identity that when I gave my girlfriend a stuffed animal to represent me while she is in Kazakhstan, I had to give her a panda.

So now I must wonder: when I leave here, will I do it all over again? Will I still be a

panda in a year? Will I be something else? Or (perhaps the most harrowing fate of all) will I find myself Just Plain Eric Scott, bereft of goofy nicknames?

I don't know. But now I think I might have to spend the last few days I have as a Truman student reveling in my ursine nature. It may be the last chance I get.

Maybe I'll even go to graduation as a panda!



Well, maybe not.

Eric Scott is composed entirely of magnetic poetry.

“I think you finally figured out what to do with that shirt as well as any of us: you wore it with suit pants.”

-Andrea, addressing Eric's WC shirt

THE WRITING CENTER

The Perspective, As staffed by:
Eran Feintuch, Megan Hartmann, Ashley
Richards, and Eric Scott!. Eric writes all the
silly author bios.

Published as often as possible.

Please send all submissions, which is NOT
synonymous with "emissions," to
eos127@truman.edu. You sick, sick people.

Quite a bit of the Perspective is pure satire.

We have a website, though unless
you're reading a copy in the WC
itself, you already knew that.
writingcenter.truman.edu



The Perspective

*Brought to you by the freaky pyramid
thing stuck in by Microsoft Publisher.*

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A B.A. IN ENGLISH?

When I first heard the song "What Do you Do with a BA in English?" from the musical Avenue Q, I smiled a little and bopped along, thinking it was a clever little song that I could play for my English major friends.

But as these weeks before graduation wear on, I realized this song is God's way of looking and laughing at me as I continue my pitiful search to find a job that doesn't involve asking "do you want fries with that?" He's finally reaping revenge for that one time I lied and said I'd go to church if I rolled a purple in Cranium, and subsequently failed to deliver. In retrospect, cheating God might've pissed Him off a bit. I can't recommend trying it.

Yeah, you think now that when it comes your turn to find a job that it'll be a piece of cake. I know I did. I started applying early March, with plenty of time to search for that perfect job that pays a lot and is exactly what I want to do. Fast-forward to April: yesterday I actually found myself applying to be a groundskeeper at Mizzou. That's right, after "four years of college" and "plenty of knowledge," I'm hoping to get a job planting shrubs. Wouldn't my mom be proud?

So in my not-so-infinite wisdom, I leave you with some advice before I graduate and begin my exciting career as a lawn care associate.

Never, ever promise something to God in hopes of winning a board game. Definitely not worth it, even if you do whip someone's butt in Cranium (in your face, Betsy!)

Ahem. Start thinking about what your resume is going to look like NOW. If you're interested in journalism, work at the Index or hey, even at the Perspective. Don't wait till senior year to realize you have no experience or marketable skills (Not that it happened to me or anything...)

Work the resume. Turn "I got 5 bucks from everyone one time and bought a keg for my frat" into "collected and managed club funds for team-building activities." Be creative.

Set your pride aside and apply everywhere. If you think "hey, I think I could stand doing that without wanting to gouge out my eyes," apply for it! You might not land your dream job out of college, but I hear this money stuff is important after you graduate.

Resist the urge to slap your mom when she says oh-so-helpful things like, "maybe you should apply a LOT of places..."

Don't expect big things from Career Builder and Monster. I wrote that I wanted a job in publishing and they sent me an email saying my dream job was through the Navy.

Look for places like hospitals, colleges, etc. that have websites where you can apply for multiple jobs at once. It saves you a lot of time, and if you can get an in sometimes it can lead you to a better job.

Megan Hartmann has found a job, though it has nothing to do with her B.A. in English. Instead it involves a "B.A. Baracus." Personally, we pity the fool.

*"And I'm gone, like I'm dancing on angels,
And I'm gone, through a crack in the past."*

-Eran Feintuch, better known as David Bowie