

Say What!?! Organic cult?

Jason Drumm
Staff Reporter

Hello everyone! This week we all have one thing in common; we came, we saw, and we conquered spring break 2005.

Like most spring breaks, there is some sort of road trip involved. It doesn't have to be long, heck, it could be a drive to the video store to rent a movie or as far as a drive to Mexico.

On my road trip, some friends and yours truly headed out to the great land of "east Tennessee."

It's a 4 or 5 hour drive, and in those hours there were a few pit stops. Out of the many stops from going to and fro, no stop has deep fried itself into my memory as the stop to the all organic store of east Tennessee.

I know, why an organic grocery store, what ever happened to the good 'ol faithful gas station?

In case no one is aware, fast food gets old FAST, especially gas station food; and my friend is a vegan. I was excited and a little bit curious because I had never been into an all organic, "meat-free" store before.

We enter and everyone looks so happy to be alive!

The air is crisp and clear, everyone who was shopping there had pep in their step, even the people that worked there!

It sounds too good to be true; happy people enjoying life, folks being kind to one another, paper towels with a minty-fresh spearmint aroma (okay, the paper towels in the bathroom were cool and smelled good, we'll just leave it at that.), it seemed like heaven.

I got my food and water, met up with my friends, and that's when it happened.

As we were waiting in line, we were all looking around, observing those around us. BAM! Out of the blue, there they were!

As I looked at this guy who worked there, I noticed his hair cut was kind of weird. It was like a perfectly, "just trimmed" bowl cut, but cut really high on his head. I didn't think it weird until I looked at the counter and the cashier had the same exact hair cut.

I quickly turned to my friend and asked her if she noticed, she laughed, agreed it was weird, and shrugged it off. I couldn't shrug something like this.

I started looking around and I noticed that every employee had the same hair cut. They all had pretty

much the same look on their face and, for the most part, they all acted alike, too. What was once peaceful and heavenly started to turn kind or creepy, but still funny.

I didn't know what to think. Was it a coincidence? Were they robots? Was it an X-files waiting to happen? Or, was it a cult? The fact is my friends, I don't know.

I just simply saw something very strange. The food was great and we all had a great time laughing about it, but the idea still haunts me. I don't think I will ever know.

The point or moral to this insistence babbling is, do weird things happen?

Yes, that's life, life happens all the time.

Life isn't good or bad, it's not out to get you. Life is just a string of strange happenings that occur.

It's how you deal with those strange happenings that make your life seem good or bad.

When stuff happens, don't dwell on the past and don't just "deal with it," just simply live. Find the good in every situation and live in that!

There is always good to be found. Concentrate on the good and you will always have good things happen to you. Have fun!

Pell Grants may replace Perkins loans

Joni Tyler
Staff Reporter

George W. Bush's 2006-budget proposal to congress, if approved, will have implications for Vol State Community College students that are good and bad.

"Bush's proposed budget would eliminate federal funding for the Perkins loan program, which helps about 673,000 students across the nation," according to the Oregon State Daily Barometer.

Under the Perkins loan program, colleges and universities receive federal funding, and the institution is then required to match it at 25 percent.

Without federal funding, most colleges could not afford to continue granting loans to students under the Perkins program.

Because the amount of students who receive Perkins loans is lower than the amount of students receiving other loans or grants, Bush believes the Perkins program is not as vital to students.

At the February 7 national budget briefing, new Education Secretary

Margaret Spellings said Bush is concerned with setting priorities and "allotting resources along with those priorities," as quoted by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Bush, to try and close the \$4.3 billion gap in the Pell Grant program, plans to funnel the proposed \$6 billion savings that will be generated from terminating the Perkins loan program into Pell Grants.

The savings will occur over ten years. The additional funds would increase the maximum Pell award \$100 per year, per student grant.

Starting with the current per-year maximum of \$4,050 and increasing to \$4,550 over a five year period.

Last year Congress rejected the same proposal by Bush and "appropriated more than \$1.3 billion to the Perkins program for fiscal year 2005," according to the American Counseling Association (ACA).

The 2006 budget proposes a "0.9 percent decrease over the current fiscal year. This is the first time in over a decade that total education funding has been cut," said the ACA.

The proposed cuts in educational funding may hit community colleges even harder.

"The President's budget would also eliminate the \$500 million that goes to community colleges for career programs through the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education program," according to the ACA web site.

However, the web site also said the new proposal allows for a "\$125 million grant program to help community colleges improve their services to students."

The money would help to create dual-enrollment programs, "which help high-school students to earn college credit, and to states to make it easier for students to transfer credits earned at community colleges to four-year institutions."

Bush's budget plan, which includes reenergizing the "no child left behind" program, focuses much of its budget on high school students and lower education programs.

With the overall cuts in education funding, colleges and universities may be in for a little belt-tightening.

Students receiving federal assistance through a Perkins loan will need to talk with the Financial Aid office to find out which options will be available next year if Congress votes yes on Bush's 2006 Budget Proposal.

USELESSNESS! The Movie Challenge

How would you like to be in The Settler? Here's your chance!!! The first person to e-mail me at claytor@student.volstate.edu with the origin of all or most (if need be) of these useless movie quotes will get their picture posted in the uselessness column, and get to tell the whole campus about a useless fact or story. Make sure that the subject of your e-mail is "The Movie Challenge."

- Quote 1: *Joe, that's not true. It's in Atlantic City, I swear. . . Of course, it could be in other cities by now.*
- Quote 2: *If I were to send you flowers, where would I...Wait, Let me rephrase...If I were to let you SUCK my tongue, would you be grateful?*
- Quote 3: *Hello, my name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die.*
- Quote 4: *This is ice. This is what happens to water when it gets too cold. This, this is Kent. This is what happens to people when the get too sexually frustrated.*
- Quote 5: *It's such a shame. You're so money and you don't even know it.*
- Quote 6: *Marriage is a punishment for shoplifting in some countries.*
- Quote 7: *What you've just said...is one of the most insanely idiotic things I've ever heard. At no point in your rambling, incoherent response was there anything that could even be considered a rational thought. Everyone in this room is now dumber for having listened to it. I award you no points, and may God have mercy on your soul.*
- Quote 8: *How much for the little girl? Your women - how much for the women?*
- Quote 9: *It's not that I'm lazy. I just don't care. It's a problem of motivation*
- Quote 10: *Darkness warshed over the Dude -- darker'n a black steer's tuchus on a moonless prairie night. There was no bottom.*