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Kimberly Allen, *et al.*

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A Modest Proposal



graphic art by Geoff Barry



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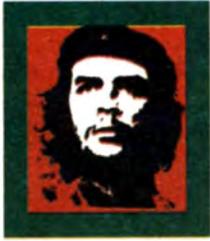
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New frontiers:

ask not what UTD can do for you
but what you can do for UTD

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Decision at Comet Camp talent show limits free speech in latest UTD battle of...

Expression vs. Discretion



by Ben Dower

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"At UTD you will be exposed to a new atmosphere and new ideas," Dean of Undergraduate Studies J. Michael Coleman warns the auditorium of freshmen. It is the first day of the two-day-long pep rally aptly entitled 'Comet Camp.'

His audience is a group of bright-eyed, bushy-tailed freshmen hoping to get ahead in the social scene and the silent majority whose parents made them sign up. His anecdotes range from his experiences in the sixties to homosexual sculpture.

"You will be offended," he said, referring to the college experience as a whole, adding that it is something everyone must learn to deal with.

Perhaps not surprisingly, his speech received thunderous applause.

Yet the administration was singing a different tune the following day. The highly advertised, second annual Comet Camp Talent Show was in full swing. The second-to-last act came on with the rousing cry, "Does anyone here like erotic poetry?"

You could almost hear the supervisors wince over the ensuing cheer. The ensuing lyrics from *Abstinence is Murder*, the parody poem whose titular line explained it all, weren't particularly explicit (al-

though the word 'thigh' did make a single appearance) but the content was definitely PG-13.

A third of the way through, the powers-that-be decided it was enough. Pulled from the stage, I walked back to my seat amidst a mixed response of cheers and boos. It took me a moment to figure out what they were telling me to do. Censor myself? Leave the stage? Hang my head in shame?

I was more shocked than anything else.

I guess it was ok when I read my poem at high school; college kids must be "more impressionable."

To make matters worse, the final act in the highly-touted second annual talent show was a dance that resembled nothing more than a Christina Aguilera music video complete with bouncing bosoms, skimpy outfits and pelvic thrusts. The stench of hypocrisy rolled off the stage in waves, but most of the audience seemed to have difficulty noticing — apparently their eyes had overpowered all their other senses.

Now I'm an eighteen-year-old guy, so I will be the last person to complain about a burlesque-like show, and I have to admit that the dancing was actually pretty good. But when an eye candy display that should require a Golden Ticket is allowed and the written word is shut down due to content issues, something is seriously wrong. At the very least, I recommend some minor alterations to any future speech Dean Coleman gives:

"Welcome to college, kids. Here, you'll experience a whole new level of freedom of expression. So watch what you say."

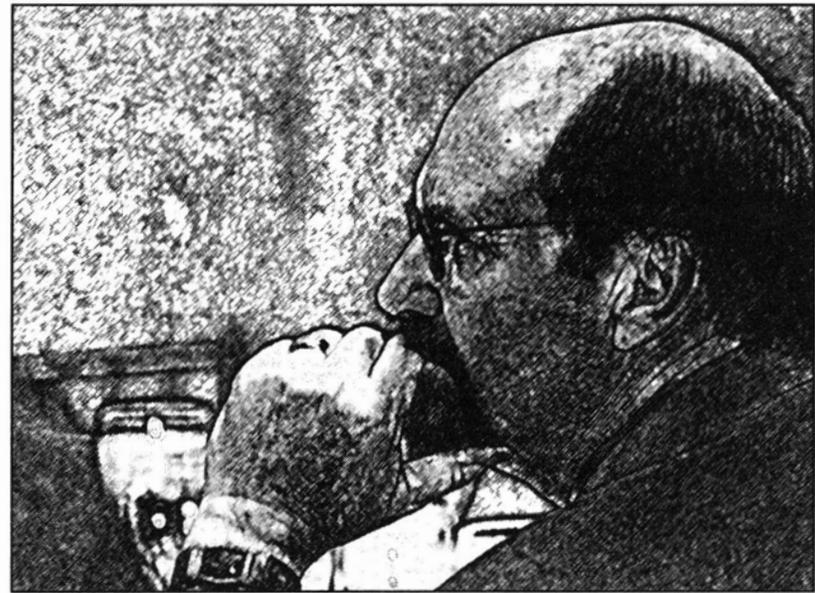


illustration by Walter Voit

Dean of Undergraduate Studies, J. Michael Coleman cautions UTD freshmen that their beliefs will be challenged in their new university setting; a day later, administrators silence student poem.

Abstinence is Murder

by Ben Dower

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Step right up! Step right up!

Don't be the last to sign on to the fastest growing new movement that's hitting the country right this very second.

Forget Osama Bin Ladin, forget Columbian druglords forget your fat neighbor, Larry!

This is the real problem plaguing America and it is the most under recognized in our nation's history. Now you all look like a bunch of well-informed folks so you're probably asking yourselves, "what is this wacko at the microphone talking about?"

Well I'll tell you, folks. I'm talking about abstinence.

Yes, good ol' fashioned "I'm not that kind of girl" abstinence because believe it or not

Abstinence is Murder!

You see there are babies, potential little human beings, just waiting to be born.

And every second you abstain they are prevented from existing. Your lack of fornication is killing our next generation and this is the ultimate reconciliation! Where the far right meets the

far left

Where the conservative who thinks condoms are the Devil's finger puppets can come together with Steven who just wants to get laid.

Where the man who thinks abortion is the fastest one way ticket to the 'Netherlands' will embrace the sex-crazed wanna-be rock star in the bonds of brotherhood.

Because Abstinence is murder!

Now let me tell you a little bit more about our mission.

We are trying to free all the tiny Sallys and Sues, Tims and Toms, Jens and Bens from the eternal prison of oblivion.

This is the obvious next step

in human morality.

Ladies, look into your man's eyes the twinkle you see there is the soul of an infant screaming to be let out!

Men, in the time it has taken me to finish this poem you could have gotten six women pregnant and freed those people-to-be from their uteral penitentiary.

So please, please sign our petition and then go!

Go to your homes and to your beds, think of the children and make love instead!

And always remember our slogan, our cheer say it with pride as you finish your beer

"Abstinence is Murder!"

A Modest Proposal

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Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor or writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration, The Board of Regents of the University of Texas System or the Board of the publication.

Trouble brewing

\$280k of your rent brought new Starbucks to Waterview



by Aidan Skoyles

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Forget the Bohemian anti-corporate coffee shop hippies out there, I admit it: I enjoy Starbucks, and I am very much looking forward to being within walking distance of the new one in the old Waterview leasing office in Phase I.

However, I was shocked to hear that I have actually been paying, in part, for its renovation though my dutifully paid rent over the past four years.

According to Iris Kuo's story "The Starbucks stops here" in the August 22 issue of *The UTD Mercury*, "renovations to the clubhouse cost approximately \$280,000, paid for by the nonprofit foundation set up by First Worthing that oversees Phases I-IV."

Blimey, that's a fat stack of cash. Wait, forget the dollar value... does that say that a "non-profit foundation" paid out more than a quarter million dollars to bring Starbucks – a company that brews over a billion dollars in quarterly revenue according to SEC filings – to campus only to leach further millions from us poor students one \$4 latte at a time?

A chance at a goldmine

Surely Starbucks would jump at even the hint of a chance to open a shop in a high-density collegiate environment of 20-some-things. The store will be a goldmine. And yet, somehow it took \$280,000 from a non-profit to bring them in? How can this be?

According to First Worthing market manager Luca Finocchiaro, part of the deal which brought Starbucks to campus included the detail that this "non-profit" would pay for the renovations to the old building to sweeten the pot.

I don't doubt that it did, but I cannot believe that it stemmed from anything but a room full of well-paid Starbucks real-estate

lawyers and a gang from First Worthing desperate to find something to placate its testy residents. Yuppie-caffeine sounds like the perfect fit.

Mr. Finocchiaro insists that the Starbucks was planned long before the infamous May exposé in the *Dallas Observer*, but even then Waterview managers at First Worthing must have hoped that relaxing residents with mocha frappaccinos in an earth-tone and jazz-infused Starbucks might make them conveniently forget the black mold in their bathrooms and rapists lurking in their unlit breezeways.

"Our charge is to create a quality community," Mr. Finocchiaro said, and that the decision to bring Starbucks to campus was "made purely based on giving back."

Yes, giving back a bit of the cash that we pay in monthly rent to a billion-dollar company. How philanthropic of them.

The "non-profit," Mr. Finocchiaro told me, was the Anson Foundation, so named for the city in which it is incorporated, and that its revenue comes directly from the rent we pay, plus any interest accrued upon it. Therefore, that \$280,000 came out of our pockets.

But how did this all come to be?

Waterview before Starbucks' brew

Since my first investigation into a \$55 million bond issue dealing the ownership transfer of certain Waterview phases in a 2002 story in *The Mercury*, I have been well aware of (and consistently boggled by) the degree of complexity it entails. First some background: The first views of the water sprang up in 1989 and the Waterview complex has expanded ever since. The university owns basically everything north of Drive A, and, as of that 2002 bond issue to a different "non-profit" foundation, the Utley Foundation owns everything south, phases I-IV. Bob Utley, by the way, is the president of First Worthing.

When I spoke to Mr. Finocchiaro, he explained to me that the "non-profit" referred to by Miss Kuo in the *Mercury* story was in fact not the Utley Foundation, but a new foundation about which I was unaware – the aforementioned Anson Foundation.



The town of Anson, Texas

So, the story shifts to Anson, Texas, a town of 2,000 residents (and no doubt even more cows) 200 miles west of Waterview in the wide open spaces of West Texas. When I phoned the Anson Chamber of Commerce, the affable, accented and knowledgeable Mayor Tom Isbell picked up. We had quite a chat. He is the most straight-talking character in this convoluted play, and gave me the impression that I may have been the only phone call all day to his office on Avenue K.

"No one in this town knows more about that than I do," said Mayor Isbell in a friendly drawl. Without digging through any papers, he knew all about the Anson Education Facilities Corporation – what he says is in fact not a non-profit at all, but the organization which approached him to access \$10 million of tax-free bonds which would be used in the \$55 million bond issue to transfer ownership of the older Waterview phases to ownership by the Utley Foundation. Fascinating how \$10 million can become \$55 million, isn't it? I wish I could do that.

Mayor Isbell explained that every municipality in Texas has a bonding capacity of \$10 million – bonds that are conveniently non-taxable and made available to "an institution like UT Dallas" through details in the Texas

Education Agency. But according to Miss Kuo's *Mercury* story, this foundation was set up by First Worthing, Waterview's management company, not UTD. Mayor Isbell said he doesn't know how it was possible for \$10 million to become \$55 million, but thinks that it was permissible by the TEA code.

"It's real complicated," he said. "You should have seen all the attorneys here the day they were closing. You'd see that it was immensely complex. I don't know how many lawyers were involved."

Real estate attorneys from the Houston firm Hoops and Levy represented Anson and its receipt of \$150,000 for facilitating the bond issue; which Mayor Isbell called a "very small fee."

All this bond-issuance is old news though. What's done is done. Today, the same organization (non-profit or otherwise) is using the rent you pay in mysterious ways, in cahoots with a public university. It is consistently raising rents and at the same time shelling out big bucks to Starbucks under the guise of "giving back." You deserve to know more.

This writer, an electrical engineer for the record, does not pretend to yet understand the complexities of the real estate hoops that enabled these dealings, but I hope to dig further into the caffeinated pot. Stay tuned.

A camel is an elephant designed by a committee

New president Daniel creates committees to tackle list of campus issues, wants your say



by Walter Voit

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President David Daniel is UTD's new top dawg. He controls the hiring, the firing and the vision for the next generation at UTD. So far, he is riding high.

To this point, Dr. Daniel's attitude indicates that UTD will quickly move to the next level of academic prowess. The enthusiasm he exudes towards the potential of the north Dallas area is contagious — we at AMP extend him a hearty Texas “howdy.”

His weighty responsibilities in steering this bright and rapidly expanding university will quickly extend beyond his office. They should, and will, challenge the entire student body, UTD's faculty and its staff.

To these ends, the current administration has highlighted 20 key areas that address various aspects of campus life in the social, academic and bureaucratic

domains. Around each of these key issues, his administration has called for committees to deal with topics from graduate recruiting to “branding” the university.

The administration appointed several students and professors to each faculty-lead team. A report from each committee was due on June 1, coinciding with Daniel's first day on the job. Dr. Daniel would do well to look closely at the strengths and weaknesses that these committees have identified.

Students at UTD are well aware that budgets often drive campus improvement, although all-holds-barred ideas cost very little. Consequently, the committees were told not to worry at all about financial costs and to reach for the stars in their suggestions and ideas.

With improvement and excellence as paramount goals, the committees tried to scrutinize but maintain an open mind toward UTD's attractions and flaws.

Similarly, I offer my humble opinion on the status of UTD: foremost, leadership at UTD comes from many diverse places.

Athletic organizations and academic teams lead to increased student enthusiasm and participation in campus life. Intramurals draw

large numbers of students into friendly competition.

The growing number of student organizations creates an atmosphere of activity and passion to a formerly largely commuter campus.

Many highly skilled faculty members succeed in acquiring substantial grants, increasing the number of eyes looking to UTD for scientific and political leadership. But in my experience, these grants often fail in that the collaborators simply do not think, or dream, big enough.

There are several other bumps on the road as well.

The theatre department needs a new act. Overworked and undernourished titles lead to ailing productions.

Hazardous sidewalks and chinking tiles make the grounds of UTD difficult to plod.

The health center has not gotten glowing reviews from my colleagues.

Cooperation between the new president and the student body can remedy some of these issues and drive UTD upwards.

So thank you, Dr. Daniel, for numerous ideas and bright vision. Welcome to UTD.

The Wishlist

- Mixed use development of the land around UTD** Where is the campus perimeter? Commercial, transportation?
- Grounds** Should we plant more trees, flowers? Campus beautification. Recreation opportunities, running tracks?
- Infrastructure** How modern/working are the classrooms, sidewalks, building maintenance?
- Ombudsman** Should one exist for students only? What about for faculty and staff too? How big is this job?
- Housing** Possibility of dorms? More apartments? How about family housing? Consider non-traditional students.
- The creation of living learning centers** Should students live in major-specific groups? Does this mean dorms?
- Service learning and experiential learning** Extension of existing programs, community partnerships, schools, etc
- Need based financial aid** Is it sufficient? Do we serve the right people? Is it balanced for undergrad and grad?
- Undergraduate recruitment of top 10 percent** e.g., Sci-Tech Development Center and other outreach programs
- Improved persistence rate, esp. minority students** Consider retention rates. Why do we lose students?
- Student placement** What is the role of Career Center? Is it working? Graduate schools, other opportunities?
- Role of sports** Change division? Increased funding for additional sports? Scholarships? Football?
- Greek life** Should they be extended to include residential houses? Funding? Liabilities?
- Graduate and undergraduate student satisfaction** Are students enjoying UTD? Can we make it a more fruitful?
- Graduate admissions** Do we retain significant numbers of undergrads for graduate programs?
- Graduate recruitment** Consider stipends, packages, publication, research opportunities etc.
- Graduate research engine to promote opportunities** Publication opportunities, look at publicity garnered through the Nanotech Institute. New collaborations?
- Web enhancement** Consider web presence. Is it effective/appealing/appropriate? Expansion of services
- Community outreach** North Texas. Science Place, Dallas Museum of Art, science/math in the local schools
- Continuing education** How about on the professional level, especially towards certification, or in-fill programs?

Behind the Scenes: Margaret Kilbourn

As UTD goes through a transition phase, it is easy to overlook some of the people behind the scenes.

But they make the university function. They are the framework that takes a \$300 million project and turns it into a reality.

We would like to say thank you.

This semester we'll highlight these spectacular people who have given so much to the university.

Mrs. Kilbourn is “definitely the ‘woman behind the man’ — the man being Executive Vice President and Provost Hobson Wildenthal,” according to Judy Snellings, Administrative Assistant (AA) to the president.

As Dr. Wildenthal's assistant, Mrs. Kilbourn, a 19-year AA vet, keeps his calendar, and schedules his

professional life.

“He depends on Margaret to oversee his extensive staff and she does so with much kindness and expertise,” Mrs. Snellings said.

Mrs. Kilbourn has become more than an administrative assistant. She helps to coordinate dinners and events for the Provost's and President's offices.

She “is very well respected and a great asset to this University,” according to Mrs. Snellings.

Mrs. Kilbourn said that interacting with people is her favorite part of her job.

“I get to interact with people outside in the community that care about the university,” she said.



Looking for *Life*

Students on quest to join clubs,
discover activity on UTD campus



by Benedict Voit

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Another year is about to start; another graduating class has taken their prideful steps across the stage and is already off changing the world. Another batch of high schoolers graduated and are starting their freshman year here at UTD.

Yet, as the name and fame of UTD begins to slowly creep across the country, one question still lingers in the hearts of many outsiders, and especially many students. That is, "Is there any student life here at UTD?"

When I entered the university as a fledgling student, I heard, and even asked that exact question. The outside perception and the constant student jeers led me to the conclusion that in fact – as many CS majors would believe – life is a predefined constant (private at that) and unable to change.

So, the jokes abound concerning the student life here on campus and both of its participants. The question is continually pondered and discussed, "Where is the life at UTD?"

But I would like to enter each one of those conversations for one brief second to ask the real question: "What have you done to *find* life at UTD?" Because this premonition that a student life doesn't exist is quite possibly the worst lie that any freshman can hear.

Typically when students ask the question about stu-

dent life, they expect a response that reflects many of the other universities across the country. They enter into the maze of college as freshman. They are recruited by upper classmen into groups of hundreds and thousands of students; they work hard through their years to make themselves known, only to have graduated the month before. In other words, "life" was defined far before their time.

But the beauty of UTD lies in its youthful opportunities. If organizations have not already been created, then by all means create them. You will secure not only your own happiness and feeling of success, but also the backing of other dedicated students, faculty and administration.

And this is what has been happening and is currently happening all across campus.

This newspaper is a prime example. Students, upset that an active voice and hearty debate was not being presented, took it upon themselves to acquire the funds and resources to begin what has been a successful year of print.

Movies on campus sparked the interest of another batch of undergraduates. Why not show movies for only a dollar right here on campus? And so, taking their proposal to administration, they received money and support. Movies throughout the year were shown in the McDermott Library.

Radio UTD, Comet Band, more intramural sports and racquetball than could fill a day, religious study groups, ethnic groups for every kind of person – the list goes on and on.

The real problem is not that there isn't a student life on campus, but that the students who complain are too lazy to find it.

UTD may not be engulfed in the typical liberal experience of daily protests and marches and rallies, but that too is changing. In the beginning of May last semester, students lined the Waterview office to voice complaints about the administration, or lack thereof. In the spring with the SGA elections, the Student Union mall had its

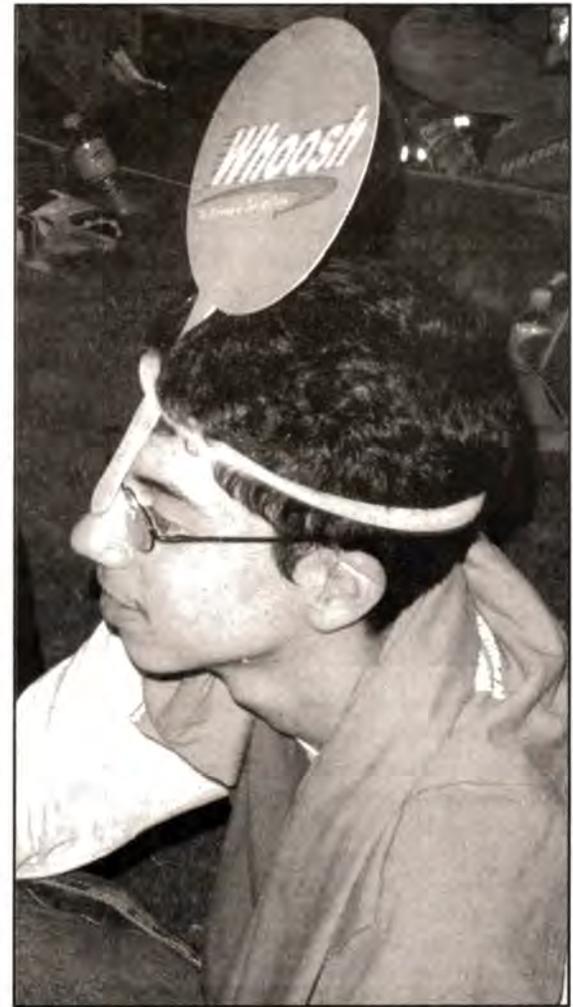


photo by Walter Voit

Incoming freshmen such as physics major Alejandro Ramirez Alvarez were among approximately 500 people in attendance at the fireworks show after freshman convocation Aug. 21 on the softball fields behind Phase III. Freshmen were given green spirit T-shirts and asked to start a tradition by wearing orange and green glow sticks on their right and left arms.

“ The real problem is not that there isn't a student life on campus, but that the students who complain are too lazy to find it. ”

share of student gatherings. And over time, this will only expand and improve.

Don't always believe what you hear. Life here at UTD exists and will only continue to grow. So get off your haunches, open your eyes, and become a part of the experience.

Together, we are UTD.

Bombs away!



by **Walter Voit**

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Los Alamos lab serves as site for internships, experiences and inspiration for students

A spectacle in the eyes of the press. A premier defense lab in the nation. A place where if the computer systems really mess up, it is the end of the world.

At Los Alamos National Labs (LANL), nestled snugly in the Jemez Mountains in north central New Mexico, two summers of internships, research and fun have really shaped my perspective on the stories that haunt this place.

Los Alamos has been in the news quite a bit this summer and for very different reasons. On May 9, Director Pete Nanos resigned as Director of the labs after a two-year stint filled with controversy over missing files, lost procurements and extended periods of shutdown where employees were to report to work but not actually allowed to work.

Molecular Biology major junior Alyssa McMenemy was a summer intern during these shutdowns. "We had to report to work," she said. "Sometimes there would be safety packets for us to read but mostly there was really nothing to do. I ended up filing some papers for my mentor. We weren't supposed to do any real work. It was pretty unproductive."

In response to many of the troubles of the labs, a series of blogs appeared that chronicled everything from lab activities to rumors that Nanos would resign. One example is lanl-the-real-story.blogspot.com on which I was visitor number 338,948 since Jan. 9, 2005. An anonymous entry posted by Doug Roberts after Nanos' resignation said "Nanos is gone, but his cronies still remain."

Just three days later, news that the UT System would compete for joint control of the labs with Lockheed Martin became official.

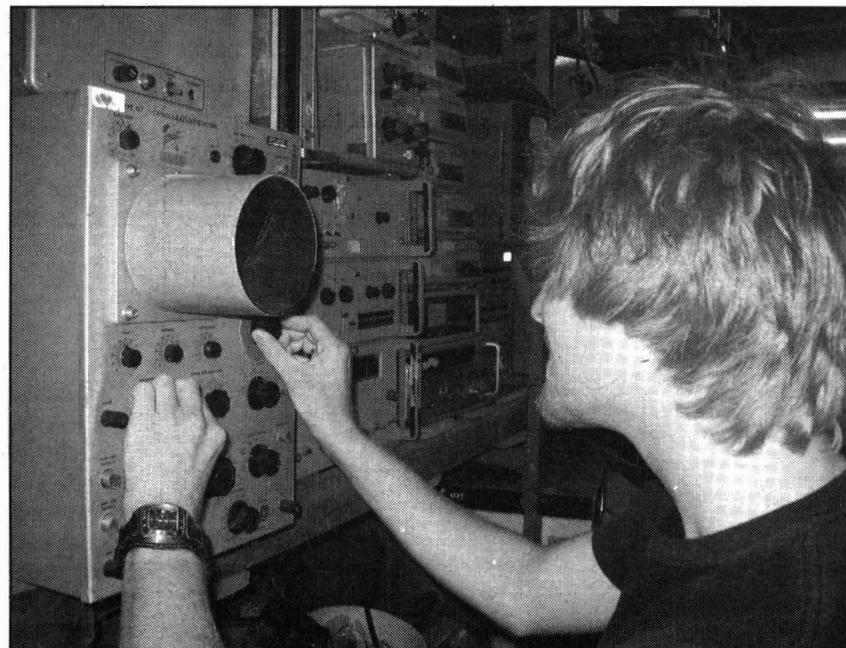


photo by Benedict Voit

Electrical engineering sophomore Liam Skoyles adjusts knobs on an optical spectrometer in "The Black Hole" during his summer internship at Los Alamos National Labs. Skoyles worked in the theoretical computational astrophysics group.

According to the UT System Board of Regents and a May 12 *Dallas Morning News* article "UT to seek Los Alamos Lab contract," the regents have ponied up an additional \$1.2 million on top of the \$500,000 already spent on pursuing a bid.

I applaud the UT System's efforts and urge UTD students and administration to take a more active role in this process. If the bid is devised in Austin, written in Austin, and ultimately succeeds, it will succeed for Austin and not for Dallas.

UTD is in a great position to take a lead role with UT Austin to make this partnership with Lockheed Martin and the labs a possibility with more than just

our systems' "flagship institution."

UTD President David Daniel and Dean of Engineering and Computer Science Bob Helms should pursue with opportunity with vigor.

What is it that makes Los Alamos so unique and worth all the attention?

Beyond the news clippings nothing surrounds the labs except the age-old picturesque mesas, the Rio Grande before it hits river status, and a smattering of very small roads leading to the bustling metro areas of White Rock and Española.

So why should UTD step up and help lead a system-wide effort to become a partner in the bidding of the labs?

LANL QuickFacts

1400
summer students

$\$2 \times 10^9$
annual budget

79/54
summer high/low temp

Perhaps the \$2.2 billion annual budget justifies the attention.

Maybe Los Alamos' distinction of having more Ph. D's per square mile than any other place on earth would be good company.

Or the chance to reaffirm Texas' commitment to higher education following an alarming trend of cuts in state funding might give us all renewed enthusiasm for learning, research and interstate collaboration.

From missing classified files and wild blogging rumors to the recent resignation of director Pete Nanos and talk of a potential bid by the UT system to become a partner in operating the labs, the press has been unduly unkind to the behemoth Department of Energy research facility. But UTD and the UT System would do well to look beyond this to the heart of the lab and the fundamental vision it embodies.

Los Alamos is the American dream. It is the realization of state-supported science for the good of mankind that is a welcome departure from the private capitalist sector. It is a great place to work, a great place to have colleagues and a great resource for any university or university system in the country.

The UT System should continue its quest for control of Los Alamos with passion and ardor.

Since I spent a summer solving global warming, or rather taking a tiny step in that direction through work on ocean models and weather patterns, I am reminded of an old quote from Ross McDonald when thinking of the mismanagement and lack of attention that the University of California System has shown.

"There is nothing wrong with California that a rise in ocean level wouldn't fix."

Weather wrecks Waterview wireless

IR dept. does little to notify students, and that's not good enough



by Aidan Skoyles

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I am sitting on the balcony of my Waterview apartment, drinking wine, watching the sunset, and reading SlashDot.

I am very well connected to the Waterview wireless system, and *when* it works, the system is a gem. But when it doesn't, it is mind-bogglingly infuriating.

The Waterview Wireless system has been so unreliable, and supported by an IR department that seems to oft-forget that its users are really out there - that in recent weeks that many students who previously gritted their teeth and stuck it out, are now switching to DSL or cable.

I refuse to make the switch - partly because I'm cheap, though partly because I feel some sort of sick kinship with this wacky wireless wizardry that lets me surf on the balcony.

It's let me down recently though. Twice in August, rough weather knocked out a main wireless widget (who cares what it's actually called?) on the huge red and white tower at the north end of campus. This widget is one that almost all the Waterview phases use to connect to the UTD network and beyond. Once it blew, we were all better off connecting with smoke signals, psychic telepathy or... shudder... dial up.

Aside from the irony of specifically designed outdoor-use equipment being put out of commission by what I thought was a not-too-bad storm, what really irritated me three days after the first outage was the utter lack of communication from the UTD IR warlords. I went on the website. Nothing. I phoned the help desk, only to be met with a little message declaring the painfully obvious - that "the Waterview wireless is currently out of service." I even

installed the little web-chat thingy that allows me to IM with a real live help-desk-dweller known to me only as "Agent 1," but Agent 1 seemed as clueless as I: No idea what went wrong. No idea what they were doing to fix it. No idea when it was going to work again. I asked why there wasn't a post on the IR website to which he responded that there wasn't a "News" section for a status update post and hence nothing could be done!

I throw up my hands in digital dismay. How is this possible? How can the tech-wizards of our supposedly high-tech campus not have the wherewithal to quickly disseminate network status updates on their own website?

Bargahaahearh! This IR department didn't seem to have any information on its own resources.

After a strongly worded email to Technology Customer Services director Doug Jackson, I was met with an outright admission that the communication links had "broken down." I'll say.

But in their defense, let me be the first to say how refreshing their recent website update has been. I'm sure it was in the works prior to my email... but anyway, it includes, conveniently, an innocuous-sounding "Calendar of Events" which may be utilized to post outages, suspensions, maintenance, lightning-strikes, terminations, explosions, floods, tornados, or other acts of God negatively impinging upon our network's status.

It is one of the first steps that the department has taken to more effectively communicate with the users. August's strikes were not the first time that weather has brought the system down. Nor is it the first time the IR department has had to deal with an irate student body.

It is my hope that the folks behind the digital scenes spend less time reading SlashDot on their balconies and more time maintaining and keeping us informed about their gem of a system.

Damn it. There goes my connection again: "Authenticating...." Humbug. I think it's time for another bottle of wine.

modest opinions

How were you affected by the Waterview wireless internet outages?

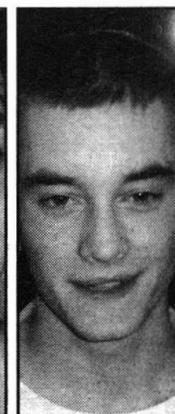
I hate computers and this just makes me hate them more. But there's nothing I can do about it.

*Adriane Bounds
Freshman
Literature and
History*



I wasn't able to check my email. I had something from my parents that I wasn't able to see. Plus, I couldn't do other projects online.

*Bobby Thomas
Freshman
A-Tech*



Yes... It's the most annoying thing. You want to go check your classes [and you can't]. We were about to petition.

*Zahra Nourani
Freshman
Psychology*



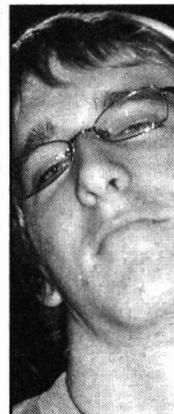
I couldn't check my bank account. Basically, I had no internet at home... ever. We couldn't do any normal stuff.

*Shruthi Naik
Senior
Molecular Biology
and Economics*



I don't even rely on them [Waterview]. It's not worth it. It's not worth working with them.

*Ben Cooke
Freshman
Computer Science*



"It sucks. It's terrible."

*Louis Lupin
Freshman
Computer Science*



Let's think again: How best to move society forward

just joking... hehe



by Daniel Erwin

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I know it is a bold statement which some in our society would like to challenge, but I think it is fair to say that the steadily increasing level of technology, organization, and production which has made our lives easier for the past three or four hundred years is good for everyone.

The constant expansion of our production power and ability to sustain life, whether fueled by God or by capitalism, is the central trait of Western culture. Furthermore, our intellectual growth and the adaptation of our tools in the face of dangers and enemies is the defining feature of the human race. If we are to survive and flourish as our grandparents and our ancestors have, we must follow in their footsteps by being strong, fearless, and devoted to increasing our power over the earth and over others.

I do not claim to have all the answers on this topic. In fact, I am probably one of the least educated, experienced, or sophisticated writers who would be so bold as to try to tackle the problem. However, I have identified some of the values and methods which have served our race so well in the past, and I modestly propose some ways in which they can continue to serve us well and carry us into the future.

First, we must make sure that our offspring will benefit from the labor-saving, production-increasing, profit-expanding capabilities of the corporation. It seems impossible to overlook the vast amount of wealth and productivity that both public and private corporations bring us, yet many people want to limit their rights and powers.

Modern companies are an incredible model of efficiency and, though they sometimes leave the working man powerless and poor, their creation of a wealthy class encourages the lower classes to work harder. We should give all profit-seeking entities plenty of freedom to do what they need in order to stay alive and well, to continue to drive our merit-based economic system. We should make laws guaranteeing their right to educate the Congress about their needs and interests (a privilege they exercise and appreciate much more than the average citizen) and also their right to educate the general public about their products and services.

Many companies find these rights under attack and are also under great duress to meet the Draconian transparency requirements of modern legislation. In order to be sure they

are safe, until the Constitution can be amended to grant them fuller citizenship, the government should continue its work to subsidize faltering corporate entities and make sure that they continue to send dividends to shareholders.

Finally, and most importantly, the safety and security of the corporate and monetary system should never be jeopardized by placing limitations on the scale or scope of the profit any individual may collect.

Next, in order to enforce the continued increase in the evolutionary pace of our knowledge, technology, and work ethic, we should take a lesson from some of our most successful, though perhaps less "politically correct" role models: the warriors, businessmen, and politicians who are willing to go to any length to be the best.

To encourage every citizen to be ruthless in their pursuit of knowledge and monetary gain, we should make their livelihoods more directly dependant on their abilities. Now our social system already does this, but still we support many lazy and stupid people who are a drag on our society.

The first and most vital step towards greater efficiency in this area would be to enforce sterilization based on IQ test scores so that only intelligent genes are allowed to survive. This is a harsh practice, but we will not repeat the mistakes of the past: we will supplement this eugenic approach with a test for learned or environmental traits. Those who fail the IQ test will be able to prove their worth in the real world: if they make a certain amount of money through capitalistic means then they will be allowed to live.

In the fierce competitive environment of the market, it is impossible to falsify success (Ken Lay merely showed that success also means "lying, cheating, and stealing to win") and only the quickest and strongest will survive. In many ways, these two tests mirror our present social structure, but they are different in one key way: they are explicitly aimed at increasing the tangible value of our populous. To ensure success, we should be more ruthless in enforcing these measures than Mother Nature and God combined so that we can meet – or even exceed – their requirements.

“Some people say weapons are destructive, some people say they are unnecessary, but however you cut it the incredible power of military technologies is a testament to human ingenuity.”

“The first and most vital step towards greater efficiency in this area would be to enforce sterilization based on IQ test scores so that only intelligent genes are allowed to survive”

Finally, we must recognize the great impact on our technology, economy, and mental well-being of the gravest and most powerful art any human society has ever produced: war.

I would like to tell you that there is an easy answer and that no one has to die, but instead I will point out that it would be impossible to sustain the progress and competition which drive growth without conflict.

It may be possible for us to ally and work together between individuals, groups, and nations, but all humans must never be allowed to work together as a unit. With no enemy, there can be no home team; without a loser, no one can win—the old slogan is trite but true: no pain, no gain.

However, war is much more central to our reason for being here on earth than mere gain: it connects us with our origins. Whether it is a mechanism of natural selection or a trick we learned from our Old Testament Father, killing those who would work against us is a fundamental human instinct and a time honored tradition.

Some people say weapons are destructive, some people say they are unnecessary, but however you cut it the incredible power of military technologies—from spears to gunpowder to the nuclear bomb—is a testament to human ingenuity.

But more importantly, the by-products of the expansion of war-making capabilities—from explosives to atomic energy—are more useful to us than the lives of the tens of millions of people who had to die to encourage their development.

The pursuit of physical power and material abundance is what makes our culture great. Our ruthlessness and desire for war keep us safe from enemies, but they also increase our internal productivity and development by encouraging profit at the expense of others, making productivity more important than humanity, and seeing war as a beneficial situation.

I am not so presumptuous as to claim that we, individually or as a culture, should always or generally strive for military dominance and a surplus of goods. Instead, I merely want to suggest that *if* we want more power and more stuff, *then* we can get it fairly easily by taking away some amount of equality, empathy, and regard for human life.

The Necessity of War



by Benedict Voit

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Having worked this summer at Los Alamos National Laboratory, I often found myself in Santa Fe. Never short on opinions, the folks there were always proud to display them. And it wasn't uncommon while driving through the state capital, I would notice bumper stickers promoting unity like "Make Peace, Not War." I tended to push these images aside, generally busy to begin the debate about what plan these people would create a truly peaceful world (for few people really have one). However, my mind shifted into full gear upon seeing the bumper sticker "War is not the Answer."

At first I tried again to tell myself that it wasn't worth the time getting flustered by a few words. However, it occurred to me that they had the right answer, but to the wrong question. For I too had the same feelings. In all situations from a neighborhood feud to a massive global conflict, the original attitude should be (and thankfully many times is) that people should try every path appropriate to come to a peaceful solution. I know that civilized leaders think hard, and pray even harder, that their actions will bring about a resolution without inflicting damage on anyone. In these cases, for a question about the best course of action, war most certainly is not the answer. I heartily applaud the efforts of these leaders, and the supporters, on their desire for a peaceful outcome.

But the mentality must not spread, especially in the United States, that war always causes the most hated atrocities. For in truth, many wars have been started to combat these atrocities.

Sure the US has been in its share of improper wars. In any way am I defending the massacre of Native Americans during our early history. As for the Mexican-American War, even Abraham Lincoln didn't see the justification behind it, as proven by his Spot Resolutions in the House of Representatives; Lincoln claimed that James Polk was leading the crusade for "military glory." And the short-fought Spanish-American War in the midst of western colonialism often produces a healthy debate on modern "legality."

However, despite this history, the US also has the claim that, unlike most, it has been in far more wars than it had the right to be. Nothing forced American troops to travel across the ocean in 1917 to help beat back German forces. Half the public actually didn't believe it was worth it. And so it comes as no surprise that the US, and much of Europe, retreated to isolationism after the war. When problems re-

rose in the 1930s, anything but war seemed to be the attitude. And so like the 1990s -- the decade after successfully beating back the Communists in another war that the US did not have to fight -- in the 1930s appeasement was the attitude. Let Germany take Czechoslovakia; let terrorists destroy our Embassies in East Africa. Just don't make us go to war.

But like Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, September 11th 2001 was a massive turning point in history. Having forgotten the past, the US was shocked into remembering that it was no longer safe to assume safety just because we had not declared war. And so in late 2001 with a coalition of forces, the US led an invasion of Afghanistan in order to fight back against the extremists whose sole purpose was "death to the infidels."

In WWII, Japan destroyed an important Pacific military base. But did that give us justification to attack Germany? Yes. Because the leaders then, like now, understood that peaceful negotiations were no longer a viable option; that freedom from totalitarian regimes was crucial in building a more stable world; and that not only did the United States have the ability, but more so, the responsibility to help those so desperately in need. A massive retaliation against all enemies was the only response that could demand and produce such results.

In effect, Iraq is no different. Half of the public seems to be against the idea. Many claim that a war is not even at hand. But they still fail to understand that only one side needs to declare war. And whether we like or not, whether we fight back or not, we are the targets of an enemy that long ago declared that war. It will take difficult decisions, and it will cost us in the short run. But in time, the rewards of these actions will be paid off handsomely.



Graphic Design by Benedict Voit

Patriotic citizens preemptively show their support for military action at their community's annual rally



Would anyone today, even a Good-Old Southern Boy, deny that the Civil War was worth the effort, even the 600,000 lives it cost? Sure it took a few decades to come to this, but that's exactly the point. In this technology-driven society, people expect, even demand, immediate results. But human nature has taught us that immense shifts in society do not come overnight. And so, for all the protesters who believe that George W. Bush is Satan's long-lost son and that Iraq is the worst thing since Vietnam, maybe for the sake of those putting their lives on the line, they should take a deep breath and look at some of the facts.

The PEW Research Center has released new, striking data. In a survey of seven countries and some 17,000 people, PEW found that amazingly enough, strongholds in the Muslim world are beginning to feel that the once "fanatic" views of the West may not be so foreign after all. Overwhelming majorities in countries from Indonesia (77%) to Jordan (80%) to Lebanon (83%) believed that democracy could work in their countries. The idea that suicide bombers are doing the right thing has fallen substantially in the last year as well; twice as many Moroccans and many more Pakistanis, Indonesians, and Lebanese since last year now believe that suicide bombings which kill innocent civilians are never appropriate. Even confidence in Osama bin Laden to "do the right thing" fell in six of the seven countries polled.

So before you go add a "Defoliate Bush" sticker to your car, you might want to think twice. Maybe because of what has happened, in 10 years, suicide bombers will no longer be killing innocent civilians for misguided beliefs of righteousness; maybe a cultural shift will forever change the perception of the "glory" of terrorism to young religious scholars, helping them realize the benefits of a free society; and maybe, just maybe, you and your family 50 years from now will be living in a much more peaceful world, because men and women were willing to risk public opinion, their careers, and most of all their lives, in a crucial and absolutely necessary war to defend the amazing principles of freedom and democracy.

Our Education Broke



by Bobby Janecka

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Don't Mess With Texas. We're the largest of the contiguous states and the highest single source of consistently Republican electoral votes; we're the state of truck-mounted gun-racks, toting the nation's second largest constitution, and now the 79th Legislature's House Bill 1476.

In case HB 1476 doesn't ring a bell, let me jog your memory, I'm sure you've heard of it. It's the bill that earned national attention by threatening to punish cheerleaders for "sexually suggestive performances at public school events."

Written by Al Edwards (D) and three Republicans, all from Harris County, the bill is only the latest in asinine actions taken by the state in regards to our public education system. I am sad to admit that my hometown's representative voted Yea on the frightening piece of legislative shrapnel. As frivolous as this bill seems, it is only a fraction as threatening to the welfare of Texas children as some of the recent policy adopted by the state.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) issued in March of last year the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy "to promote a healthier environment in schools." There's no question that the ridiculously strict policy will encourage better eating habits for students. Foods like soda water, water ices (popsicles), chewing gum, and almost all kinds of candy are now called "Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value" and are quite firmly verboten.

The real question is whether this is the

best thing for our students and schools mentally and financially. Excited first graders and their proud mothers can no longer bring a birthday cake to school to share with the class and celebrate their special day. At best, in the example of my old elementary school, parents can bring cupcakes- but with absolutely no frosting or sprinkles!

The policy defines and limits to the ounce the serving size of all types of food, it forbids any more frying of food and it even limits the amount of sugar permissible in flavored milk.

That's right- they can't even leave the chocolate milk alone.

My aunt, a staff-member at the same elementary school, told me a horror story of life under the new policy. At the annual "field day" set aside for outdoor games, competitions and snack sales, the school needed an alternative to the prospect of a snack sale devoid of popcorn, cotton candy, or soda water. The faculty decided that rather than sell treats to the students, they would give every student a refreshing

snack: a snow cone. The day was marked by an unfortunate and coincidental visit by the district's health police (the administrator who oversaw enforcement of the new TDA policy). Needless to say, the snow cone freebies were immediately halted under threat of budget freezes.

Ultimately, the problem with the TDA policy is bigger than threatening to ruin grade-school snack sales. Texas schools are urgently strapped for cash as it is; to place this large new set of demands on them is asking a lame horse to carry a bigger load.

With restrictions on the methods of preparation and types of food allowed to be served, school districts will have to replace fryers with ovens, reshuffle con-

“What our Legislature and the TDA need to realize is that there's a slightly larger crisis facing our schools than indecency and child obesity.”

side vendors- both soda water companies- may not be renewed contracts bring in millions of dollars- nothing more than a little side power from the schools, and it is whether the vendors will be remain when their market is forced from cafeterias happens even turned off school hours.

Our schools rely on students eating in the cafeteria to receive federal funding. If the only real effect of harsher regulations is more students coming to school bringing their lunch off campus rather than eat bland baked goods that's more money in the state's general fund that do go to Texas and our schools.

What our Legislature and the TDA need to realize is there's a slightly larger crisis facing our schools than indecency and child obesity. Our education system is still reeling from the disaster of the Rob system of school finance. Under alternatives offered by this legislation, little will change for our schools. Yet still our House seeks to police our cheerleaders while our Department of Agriculture seeks to police our schools. It's time for Texans to realize that to fix our schools it will take a concerted effort across the board—give up about the minutiae for the time being and find a way to fix it, before it's too late for all of us.

Please Mess With TEXAS

tracts with suppliers, and cut or rethink any food-based fundraisers. None of these options will particularly help the district's income and will more likely than not provide more cost and trouble than the TDA ever foresaw.

Even worse, school contracts with out-

Exporting democracy, Uganda-style



by Aidan Skoyles

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For the past 17 years two seemingly paradoxical things have occurred in the little East African nation of Uganda — peace and war.

Since the ousting of a string of despotic crackpot leaders — a party kicked off by sadly the most famous Ugandan, Idi Amin in the late 1970s (look for the upcoming film, *The Last King of Scotland*) — a certain Yoweri Museveni has been president.

He was first a military commander, then elected president, then again elected president, and for the past 18 months has been worried to death about what on earth he could possibly do with his time if he wasn't re-elected president again.

But the Ugandan constitution limits him to two, five-year posts under his country's single-party political system. But surely any powerful leader can squelch a bit with a constitutional renovation to keep things in order... can't they?

When I was in Uganda in 2003 I had this discussion with many of my friends. For the past 17 years, a fundamentalist religious zealot named Joseph Kony has lead a rumbling rebel insurrection in the north, leading a rag-tag army without a clear political agenda, abducting and often maiming thousands of children who must carry gear, join the ranks, or serve their sexual whimsy.

But it is disappointingly easy to ignore. Sad though it is, the vast majority of Ugandans have plenty to keep themselves occupied thanks to burgeoning economic growth in the rest of the country.

During the reign of King Musev... ahem, sorry... during the administration of President Museveni, Uganda has enjoyed a booming economy with a humming GDP growing at between four and eight percent annually.

So how then, could Ugandans be expected to rock the boat to bring an end to this horrific war? Afterall, political boat rocking can be a particularly unsettling experience when it's done in Africa. Lest we forget, Uganda is surrounded by powderkegs: Congo to the west, Sudan north, Rwanda south and Somalia nearby.

But an amazing thing happened on July 29. An overwhelming majority of voters (well, of the 40% of the electorate who voted) chose to rock the boat. To upend the quiet system of single-party politics espoused by ole' Pres Museveni and institute a system of multi-party politics.

How could this happen? How could Museveni have let it happen?

It's clear. He changed his mind.



photo courtesy of Google Images

Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni (left) who has been in power for 17 years chats with Paul Kagame, president of nearby powderkeg Rwanda, site of the 1994 genocide.

And he changed his mind because the donor nations to which half of his country's GDP depends said he should. They declared (in dribs and drabs) that they would no longer continue to funnel hundreds of millions of dollars in development or military aid into his one-man show.

The theory goes that installation of multi-party politics will lead to more democratic freedoms for the political opposition bringing fresh discussion of ideas to the table — a move that could lead not only to governmental transparency and better-facilitated aid injections, but also to the end of the brutal and on-going rebel war in the north.

I wonder though, is this what they call the successful exportation of capitalism by rich western powers? Or is this just another crazy African singing the right song to keep his benefactors happy and his own Swiss bank account fat?

I hope the former, though I fear the latter. And I see validity in both.

The election results were 90% in favor of the multi-party system, a number which is in itself suspect irrespective of the subject matter. Given those results, you'd think the one-party system was sending the country to hell in a hand basket with citizens rioting in the streets. They weren't. The system was working quite well, thank you very much. I suspect Museveni's change of heart was quickly passed out along the bush telegram to political cronies (cronies who must be very well entrenched after 17 years of crony-hood) who effectively and expediently implemented the boss's de-

sired result.

That said, the advent of multi-party politics does spell a potentially more positive future for Uganda. It shows that the people will now have a choice — indeed a voice. They will be able to speak out, make a stand against the injustices they face on a daily basis, and hopefully effect some positive change — to transplant some color from a vibrant nation on the comparative sodden grayness of the current political sphere. Effective debate on political issues, something that, coincidentally, is a tenet of all aspects of even the shakiest of Ugandan public schools, will now be embraced at the highest level. It will inspire a generation of youngsters to form their own political parties and work for the ideals they believe in.

The transition to multi-party politics will not be without its share of stumbling blocks, I have no doubt. There will be bureaucracy. There will be fights. There will be intimidation, vote rigging, fraud and all the rest. That's Africa.

It is my hope that the nations who have demanded Museveni's change of heart, and have got what they wanted, continue to monitor, to shepherd, and to coax Uganda all the way. Not just to get their 'yes' on a referendum for multi-party politics and then abandon the country like the west has done to Africa so many times in the past. But instead to keep up, to keep on, to make sure that the people of Uganda, and of the world, have the right to the ideals of democracy that we really want to export.

The feminist manifesto: a new Inquisition



by Kimberley Allen

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"We all recite the mantra that we are 99 percent identical and take political comfort in it. But the reality is that the genetic difference between males and females absolutely dwarfs all other differences in the human genome." -David Page

Harvard University president Lawrence Summers made a controversial statement during his speech at a conference in January hypothesizing that, though men and women are equally intelligent, innate biological differences are largely to blame for the under-representation of women in harder sciences. Harvard faculty members have since reacted by passing a no-confidence vote, essentially demanding he be fired for his statement.

One has to wonder if such a reaction isn't a bit extreme. After all, it's not as though Summers believes women are wholly incapable of scientific reasoning, and it's not as though his views contradict the evidence. One MIT study on the human genome concluded that men and women differ genetically by one to two percent -- and that's no small difference (see chart).

Backed by studies like MIT's, many believe science supports the premise that men and women have innate differences. Still, feminists insist that the sexes are identical except for a few superficial physical traits; the only other differences result from society's stereotypes of how women should be -- often termed the "stereotype threat."

Anyone contradicting this feminist creed, even when backed by scientific evidence, must pay. And pay he has. Summers has issued several formal apologies since January and formed two task forces to address issues facing women. Still, faculty members aren't appeased. In order to understand the controversy Summers has sparked, it may be necessary to look at the feminist movement itself and then to regard the current circumstances surrounding Summers' statements.

In my mind, feminism is the French Revolution of our time. While the revolution began as a justified reaction against severe oppression, and while it was initially applauded by the great minds of its time, the French Revolution deteriorated into an indiscriminate killing spree against any it could find to ravage. It became the tyranny it had sought to amend.

In the same way, the feminist movement has exhausted its usefulness and is turning on those who do not even question the equality and capabilities of women. It has become tyrannical like the chauvinism it overthrew, and like the pendulum on a clock, the bias has swung too far in the other direction.

It was not always this way, however. The feminist movement arguably had its beginnings in Mona Caird, who was the first to openly challenge Victorian society's views on

the institution of marriage. Caird was a controversial writer, but her goal was to make public the concerns and abuse of women.

Feminism soon began to take on other issues. Susan B. Anthony was one great hero for women in Victorian times, heralding the cause of women's suffrage. As early as the turn of the 20th century, Marie Curie was winning the Nobel Prize, thereby defeating the overpowering prejudice that faced all women of her time -- a mindset, it should be noted, that is no longer prominent in American academia.

In fact, no such struggles face womankind in today's culture.

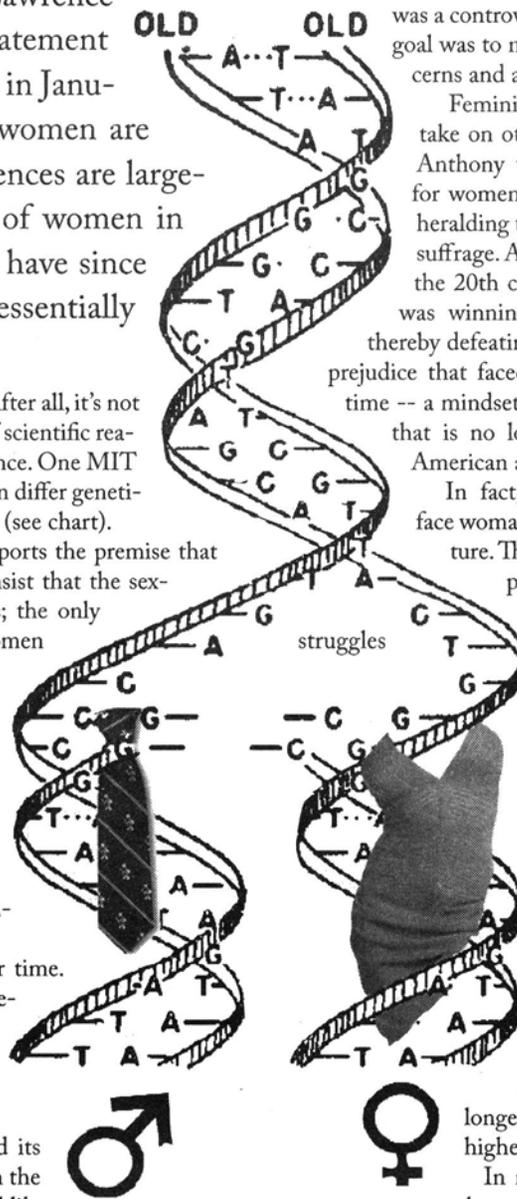
That's not to say that there are no struggles at all, simply that these pioneers of women's rights have already prevailed in their efforts to bring greater equality among the sexes, and the most difficult are behind us.

Even so, the feminist movement marches on. Though feminism had its roots in the justified causes of women's equality, it has begun to mutate. There are no more great prejudices to overthrow as in the past, and the movement is stagnating in boredom. With fewer and fewer real chauvinists to mob, feminists are lashing out more and more against those who will not conform to political correctness -- Summers is one of their unlucky victims.

Despite having support for his claims, Summers is paying for their bias -- a bias that willfully ignores evidence to the contrary and sacrifices science to political correctness. To be fair, there is evidence that shows that the "stereotype threat" may have something to do with the under representation of women in higher levels of science. It's an inadequate and flawed explanation, however, since strong stereotypes are no longer the norm. This can't be the only factor keeping women from higher science.

In modern society where the "stereotype threat" is dwindling and where women are given greater opportunities than ever before, what other explanation do we have for such a significant disproportion? All other explanations have failed, so should we penalize Summers for posing the question that no one else has dared to ask?

I believe there is a more balanced middle ground between radical feminism and ex-



Why women care what they look like in **genes**

Genetic differences a verifiable fact

Between races **.01%**

1-2% Between sexes

Between male **1-2%**
human and male chimpanzee

1-2% Between female
human and female chimpanzee

Results calculated by MIT biologist David Page; reported in *The New York Times*.

Giving the finger points
pokers toward misfortune
Sudden outbreak of digital
herpes imminent doctors fear

RICHARDSON, TX (AP) - Now that "the Facebook" has swept into the hearts, minds and fingers of college students, health officials fear that an onslaught of disease is imminent. The main point of debate: getting poked.

The idea of poking is a novel e-concept, but it is deeply rooted in tradition. Anthropologist Stan Taller claims that there is evidence of poking far before the rise of Homo erectus., but couldn't quite finger his source.

"Dig finds have shown a growth in the pointer finger from the Homo ergaster to the Homo erectus," he said.

When asked whether that really proved that poking was a large part of this ancient, more animalistic life, Taller chuckled.

"How do you think we got here?" he asked.

But along with being deeply ingrained in the behavior and mannerisms of society, it also deeply ingrains problems in society.

"The Internet is host of a plethora of diseases, and 'the Facebook' is like an infected mosquito," Meredith Cross, a health official, reported. "Kids are being 'bit'-ten metaphorically all across the nation without even realizing it. It bytes," Cross explained. "When I get poked, I immediately drink two glasses of water, urinate, and then wash my hands several times."

Student views bite both ways.

"At first I was afraid to get poked by a stranger," James Kay said. "But now it's kinda invigorating."

Amy Perkins disagrees. She has been warned her whole life about infectious diseases and the like and fears these new e-pokes could cause some serious harm. "You just don't know where the pokers has been before or who or what else it has poked," Amy pointed out. "I've started wearing latex gloves when I sign in to Facebook - just to be safe."

Cathy Priest takes an extreme view. "Latex just can't be trusted. The only way to stay safe is abstinence."

Some abhor the practice, but many find it hard to deny that it's sometimes rather amusing. Regardless, poking is spreading fast. And as one student noted, since the poker business is online, you don't even have to keep a good face.

Wireless outage outrages students

by Nidma Pichs

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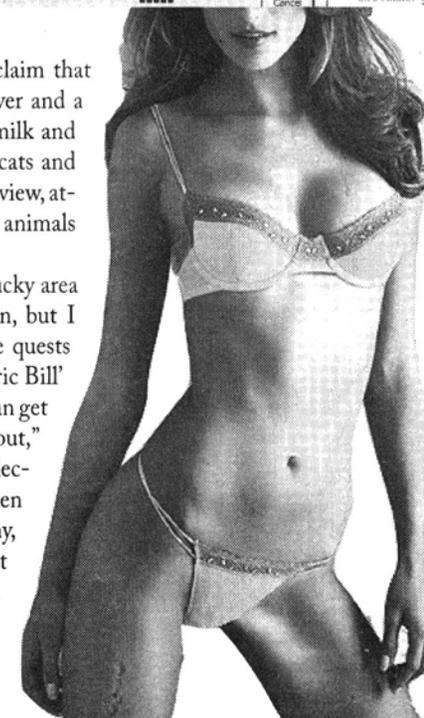
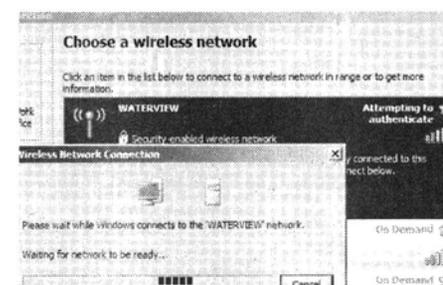
After the recent collapse of the Waterview wireless network, which normally supports the student body with free high-speed service, people have been asking the question on everyone's mind: "How exactly can we rely on a service that potentially keeps us from our essential daily pornography?"

"I depend on Waterview internet service for a lot of things. I use it for research for my classes, for keeping in contact with relatives in other states, and for keeping on top of current news stories around the globe. But really, above all, I need my free high-speed internet to download mind-bogglingly large amounts of pictures of naked women. How exactly can I do this if instead of having hot women appear on my screen, all I get is 'validating identity' over and over?" asked a male computer science major who asked to remain anonymous.

"A lot of people have sites that they check everyday. They might go to MSN, College Humor, email service, or a favorite message board. I couldn't check my favorite site—supermodelscaughtonfilm.edu—for almost an entire week. How am I supposed to know if they update with a slipped dress or an unknowing sunbather if my Waterview internet isn't functioning? How can I go about my day?" asked another male student, preferring to go by "Andy".

Another separate group of students has also been affected by the outage. Players of the game "World of Warcraft" found themselves unable to connect, forcing many of them to brave the harsh sun and leave their apartments to obtain other things to do. Local stores mentioned having students claim that they would send them "2 silver and a Pearl-Handled Dagger" for milk and bread. Others, encountering cats and dogs upon the paths in Waterview, attempted to kill the domestic animals for "low level experience".

"Waterview is kind of a sucky area to start your character out in, but I think I could complete some quests here soon, like 'Pay the Electric Bill' or 'Wash Hair'. Hopefully I can get a group together to help me out," said Daniel Martin, a junior electrical engineering major. When questioned about pornography, Martin appeared to believe it was an ability gained at level 20, along with the chance to use poisons. Being told of its actual definition, Martin fled.



The agas of Dioretsa and Temoc

I Trap: Temoc engaged to rats-crossed lover



by T. Mockery

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UTD mascot Temoc the Comet is set to dew Dioretsa the Asteroid on the Ides of March in a celebration of much eorafnaf, pmop, and ecnatmucric.

Temoc proposed to Dioretsa on

the first yad of yam, giving her a giant gnir studded with a huge kcor of ice. He knew that gnillb 'rocked' her elliptical world and she was a rekcus for big senots. And Temoc always gave big senots. Inside the shiny exterior of the gnir, nano-sebut of nobrac provided a solid framework "fitting for someone so out of this world," said Temoc. "It was a match made in nevaeh."

Temoc first met Dioretsa at a school spirit gnirehtag in a krap in the middle of the city, where she fell in love with his Nazi etulas. The etulas has since been

renamed the Whoosh and was slightly modified for lacitylop reasons.

Temoc, on the other dnah, fell for Dioretsa as she performed her school's trademark streak in front of the dworc. Although he couldn't stop staring at her elppus mub,

Temoc was awestruck by the word Gammon etched across her nude kcab, during her nudist nur.

"Nommagkcab, what a wonderful sport. It fits right in with ssehc," said Temoc, thinking it would be fun to play ssehc sometime with Dioretsa.

IKEA makes Sweden momentarily cool

In North Texas the opening of the new IKEA superstore, filled to the brim with cheap streamlined Swedish furniture, has caused the Scandinavian nation to appear somewhat cool for a period of time.

"Yeah, Sweden! Didn't they invent LEGOs or something like that? No, wait; that was Denmark. I know their flag has some sort of cross or stripe on it... I think it's blue as well. And the Vikings were also... no, not from Sweden. Maybe they were. What the hell has Sweden done?" said geography junior Sarah Jenkins, walking out of the IKEA with a new desk in tow.

Tourists have flocked to Sweden to observe the nation's complete and utter lack of exciting elements, which allows them to spend their time making cheap furniture. Experts are reminded of the sudden rise in Belgian tourism after the Belgian Waffle special went on sale at IHOP, which caused people to experience all 35 miles of Belgium in dull, boring waves.

'Star Buck' to become standard trade by 2010

Now serving in over 200 countries, Starbucks seems to be well on its way to reaching its goal. "We'll start slowly," CEO Howard Shultz told reporters, "replacing the standard giftcards with 20 Star Buck notes. Eventually, I hope to see the Star Buck at exchange markets throughout the world. Perhaps someday third-world nations will set their currency to the Star Buck. The possibilities are endless."

78% of members in "I go to UTD And I'm not a Computer Science Nerd" in fact Nerds

Members of the famous Facebook group contacted the Technology desk of A Modest Proposal and for security reasons, wished to remain anonymous. However, we can reveal this exclusive news to our diligent (and no doubt, *not* nerdy readers). Talking to group members, the terrible truth was revealed.

"I know these people. My buddy list is filled with them. I tried to pretend it wasn't true, but every time I sat down at a computer, I was overcome with guilt. I'm a student at UTD, who am I kidding? I had to come clean. I am a computer nerd... And so are they."

Nanotech receives massive grant; A&H gets yarn, Rubik's cube, candy

Students reported to be "about half-done" on cube solution

by Picoferm Tho

vevy.small@utdallas.edu

RICHARDSON – UTD administration has administered another large sum of funding toward the burgeoning nanotechnology department, which in recent weeks has become one of the beloved children of the university. Unfortunately, due to this expenditure, the arts and humanities department has received another cut in funding, gaining only a ball of yarn, a Rubik's cube, and a delicious Snickers candy bar, a reduction from last year's spool of twine, decoder ring and large bag of Skittles.

"Knowing the massive imagination of these so-called 'creative' types, who each day take fanciful flights of mystery in things known as 'fiction' and 'poetry', we felt it apt to give the department something that could keep on giving – namely, this ball of yarn. With it, the humanities majors can imagine that it is a snake, form the yarn into letters, or use it as a makeshift remedy for their flimsy desks. Above that, the Rubik's cube will force them to use their long-lost powers of logic and work together as a team to accomplish something

“The rubik's cube will force them to use their long-lost powers of logic ... to accomplish something really great. And after they're done, they can split the Snickers”

really great. And after they're done, they can split the Snickers as a reward," said an unnamed upper official at the university.

The nanotechnology department has already put the new grant to use, building gigantic robots to be used in super-dramatic robot battles above the university, an enormous plane affectionately known as the "Boeing 1337", glass elevators with rockets attached to them, and self-propelled leather recliners to transport them to their classes in plush and glorious comfort.

The A&H department, now placed in the classroom building

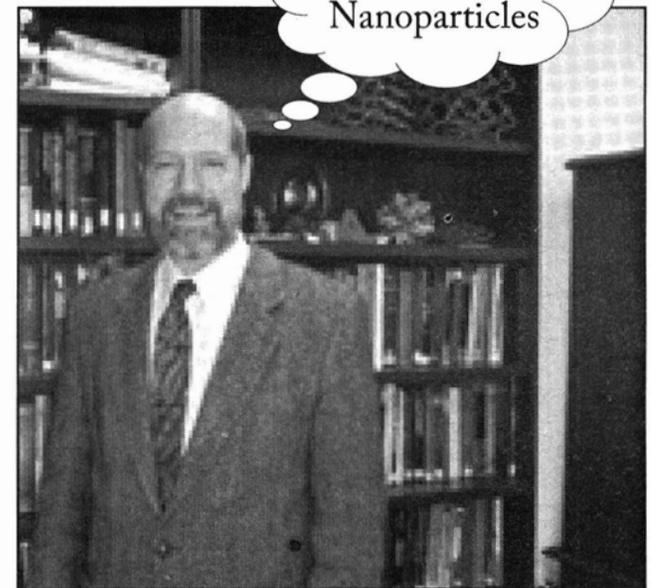


photo courtesy of (ok, stolen from) www.utdallas.edu

Dr. Ray Baughman, director of UTD's Nanotech Institute, is the recipient of a tremendous government grant and plans to buy some more books to fill the last two shelves in his office. Then he'll rub it in A&H's face.

so as to not interrupt the other departments with "scary ghost stories", could not be reached for discernable comment, as each call to faculty members began and ended with endless weeping and gnashing of teeth, with only phrases such as "no air conditioning" and "tiny rooms" making their way through the

wailing. The nanotechnology department has also mentioned the fact that the classroom building may be demolished for use as a launch pad for the giant robots and the A&H department may be placed within the Phase 8 clubhouse.

Facebook encourages less physical interaction

by Fraido Poking

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"I check facebook six times a day," said Ima Fay Zader freshmen social studies major. "I have like, 60 people on my friends list, so I guess I'm pretty

popular."

Unlike other popular online services such as instant messaging or email, Facebook doesn't focus on actual communication. Instead, it gives college students a chance to examine the most mundane details about

themselves, like the fact that they enjoy 80s music and watermelon Pop Rocks.

Most people seem to like music, especially listening to it. And amazing, most people seemed to have attended a public, or a private school. This gives

them a launching point for... well more facebooking. The site does offer the ambiguous 'poke' feature.

Mark Zuckerberg has yet to be reached for comment on the function of the 'poke' but heck, we just think it's a blast!

POLITICAL Madlibs



by **Benedict Voit**

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President George W. Bush is adamant that the events Iraq are bringing, and will bring, stability to the Middle East. In this Aug. 27 radio address, President Bush outlined his vision and opinion on the current events. Yet, not everyone agrees. So now it's your chance to insert what you really think is happening. Ask yourself, ask a friend, ask your pet dog, and fill in these blanks that represent what have dominated the past, are running the present, and will dictate the future.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. In recent days, we have witnessed (adjective) _____ events in the broader (noun) _____. _____ (noun, plural) _____ are making the (a) _____ choices necessary for a future of (n) _____ and (n) _____ that will make the region _____ and the world more (a) _____.

[T]he (n) _____ of (n) _____ are _____ making the tough (n) _____ and (n) _____ necessary for a (a) _____ and (a) _____ future. In (n) _____, eight-and-a-half _____ million (n, pl) _____ defied the (n, pl) _____ and went to the (n, pl) _____ to (verb) _____. (n) 's main (a) _____ and (a) _____ groups made the (a) _____ choice to _____ in the (a) _____ process. And together, _____ they have worked toward a (a) _____ (n) _____ that respects the (n, pl) _____ of their (n) _____ and guarantees the (n, pl) _____ of all _____ their (n, pl) _____.

...The (n, pl) _____ are trying

to stop the rise of (n) _____ in (n) _____ (n, pl) _____ (v) _____ up, (n, pl) _____ because they know a (a) _____ (n) _____ will (v) _____ down. And when (n, genitive) _____ will deal a decisive (n) _____ to their _____ (ve) _____ forces can (v) _____ their strategy to (v) _____ the (n) _____. (n) _____ by taking more and more of the _____ But the (a) _____ people are (a) _____ (n) _____ to the (n) _____, our (n, pl) _____ to build a (a) _____ (n) _____ for their _____ will come (n) _____ with the (n) _____ (n) _____, and they are uniting (prep.) _____ they have (v, past) _____ the (n, pl) _____.

...By choosing to (v) _____ with their _____ Our (n, pl) _____ in (n) _____ and the broader (n) _____ will require more (n) _____ (a) _____ (n, pl) _____, these (n, pl) _____, more (n) _____ and continued _____ rejected the (n, pl, genitive) _____ attempt _____ (n) _____. Yet (n, pl) _____ across _____ to (v) _____ their (n) _____ and incite _____ the (n) _____ are (gerund) _____ a _____ sectarian (n) _____ future of (n) _____ and (n) _____ and

(n, pl) _____ are working together to (v) _____ (n) _____. And as they take these _____ a (a) _____ (n, pl) _____, (n, pl) _____ will _____ continue to (v) _____ with them because (n, pl) _____ know that (a) _____ and (a) _____ (n, pl) _____ are (a) _____ (n, pl) _____. _____ . By advancing the cause of (n) _____ in the _____ (n) _____, (n, pl) _____ will bring (n) _____ to (a, quantity) _____ and (n) _____ to _____ our own (n, pl) _____. And (n, pl) _____ will lay the (n) _____ of (n) _____ for _____ our (n, pl) _____ and (n, pl) _____.

Our (n) _____ is straightforward: As

Thank you for (gerund) _____ .



Quote Board



“I whoosh for Literature.”

-Dr. Theresa Towner

How do you feel about the Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's response to the death of Sudanese Vice President, John Garang?

“WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?”

-Jenny Galindo, Freshman Biology

“IT'S AN AMAZINGLY GOOD THING. A SUCCESS FOR DICTATORS EVERYWHERE.”

-Tim Tennant, Freshman Mathematics

“I WAS SHOCKED AND APPALLED. THE INSENSITIVITY OF THE UGANDAN *!@#.”

-Quinn Cory, Freshman Psychology

S



What do you think of face-book's 'poking' attribute?

A

“POKING IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF AFFECTION. NOTHING SAYS, ‘YOU HAVE FULLY CAPTURED MY ATTENTION, NOW IMPRESS ME,’ QUITE LIKE A POKE.”

Y

-Melinda Arbuckle, Sophomore Arts and Technology

W

“I've never been poked on the internet, but in real life it's really annoying. I imagine it would be just as annoying in the virtual realm.”

-Alyssa McMenemy, Senior Neuroscience

What do you think of student life here on campus?

H

“IT'S AWESOME. WE CAN'T SIT AT HOME FOR FIVE MINUTES WITHOUT ANYTHING TO DO. I CAN'T BE LAZY EVEN IF I WANT TO.”

-Matt Darner, Freshman A-Tech

“The life's out there. People just need to get off their bums and find it.”

-Dan Peisner, Sophomore CS

A

“I think that poking is just what it sounds like - poking someone just as you would in person. It is also a fun way to annoy people online who are fun to poke in real life”

-Kim Pettigrew, Sophomore, History

T

“IT'S VERY IMMERSIVE AND IT GETS YOU INVOLVED IN MANY THINGS.”

-Paul Swafford, Freshman CS

?

“I don't know. No one's ever poked me. I think it would be fun if they did.”

-Lindsay Sheffield, Sophomore Undeclared

What's a poke? Here some fun synonyms:

arouse, awaken, bulge, butt, crowd, dig, elbow, goose, hit, jab, jostle, jut, nudge, overhang, prod, project, protrude, provoke, punch, ram, rouse, shoulder, shove, stab, stand out, stick, stick out, stimulate, stir, thrust

DEAD WEIGHT: GETTING (THE) LEFT WAY BEHIND



by **Benedict Voit**

benedict.voit@student.utdallas.edu

Do you remember that last good idea that came from the left side of the aisle? Yeah, neither do I. Maybe if you have a few grey hairs you can strain the brain for one. Let me know if you get something. I'd be interested.

Because at least within the last five years, the best idea – mainly because it's the only idea – the Democrats have come up with is that our illegitimate president is taking this country to Hell. I'm not sure how that's fixing social security, securing our borders, or raising the standards of our education. But those issues aren't really important when there's someone sitting in the White House who doesn't belong. First things first.

Therefore, as the Democratic Leadership, the best thing to do is not to come up with policies that will draw the attention and votes from those middle of the road citizens; it's not to solidify and unify the base. No, the best thing to do is to sulk and complain very loudly about how the President and his followers are illegally manipulating the Constitution for political gain. The best part is, you don't even have to be right. Because the goal is not to raise yourself to higher standards, but rather, bring everyone else down with you. And for the Democrats, so far, so good.

When George W. Bush took office in 2001, an over-arching goal was personal choice in government activities. In other words, if in the private sector there are options for individuals, different plans that fit different styles, why not in the government; especially when the current plans are mediocre at best.

One of the first goals was education reform. Bush pushed hard to force accountability in schools; otherwise, let the students go somewhere else.

For those schools that have been outperforming themselves every year, it may

be terrible. Nobody likes change, especially when unwanted. However, sometimes we all have to pay a little extra for the broader betterment of the system. And so Congress passed, and Bush signed, the No Child Left Behind Act. Taking effect in January 2002, it was overshadowed by the events in Afghanistan. Nevertheless, opponents found the time to lament over the good old days when schools could just pass students regardless of their achievements. It was obvious that NCLB was ruining public education. It was even more obvious when results came back showing increased proficiency in reading and math for nine-year olds, and a closing gap between whites and minorities. These are only preliminary results on a small range of students. But at least something is being tried, and some good progress has resulted.

Having failed that test, the Democrats moved on to the next line of attack. Social Security. After all, it was their president that began it during the Great Depression, and so, almost as a birthright, only they can, and know how to, fix it. Their plan? Defeat Bush's proposal. No, that's not the name of their bill. They actually don't have one. But as long as Bush doesn't get through his idea of a more private social security, they, and you for that matter, have won. In reality, it doesn't bother them that much, because government employees already get some choice when it comes to their social security. That's right. Bush's plan is so bad, they've already been using a similar

retirement plan in Washington for years. But never mind that.

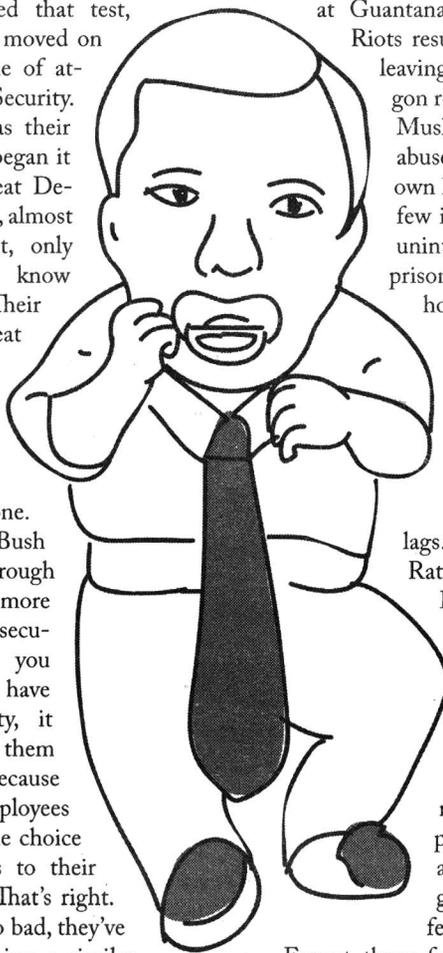
There was hope last year that at least for something as important as a presidential race, the Democrats would unify behind a plan. I guess there's always 2008.

Finally, their most entrusted cause: stopping Bush's fight against terror. Bush's policies have driven the United States into a unilateral, egotistical, and greed-driven war. The 30-some supportive nations, the high troop morale, and the successful stories of a blossoming democracy that is helping to fight back terrorism, are clearly fodder for such beliefs. What's worse than our war-for-oil, though, is that we can't even afford civility to our enemies. The three square meals a day at Guantanamo Bay must be halted. The real problem is the desecration of the Koran. Newsweek covered the story about the guards at Guantanamo defiling the Koran.

Riots resulted in the Middle East leaving 16 dead. But a pentagon report points evidence that Muslim inmates actually tore, abused and desecrated their own holy book far more than a few improper (and sometimes unintended) actions from the prison's guards. Regardless, the horrific actions of keeping these men alive, rather than killing them execution style on the battlefield like we did in WWII, has earned us the reputation of Nazis and Soviet keepers of gulags. No, not from the enemy.

Rather, from Senator Dick Durbin and other leading Democrats. That's right; Senator Durbin (D-IL) actually compared his country's behavior to dictatorial regimes that murdered millions of innocent people. The current death toll at Gitmo: zip. Well, he got carried away; it's just a few words, no big deal. Yep.

Except those few words were the cited justification of why one of the London



Graphic by Cheng Lee

“ The best part is, you don't even have to be right. Because the goal is not to raise yourself to higher standards, but rather, bring everyone else down with you. ”

bombers set out on July 7th to kill as many Westerners as possible. At least when the “Nazis” at Guantanamo Bay talk, no one dies for it.

As another close to another unsuccessful summer arrived, out of nowhere came a great idea from the left. Since they haven't been winning very much, why not redefine what it means to win. Zoom to Ohio, late July. A congressional seat is up for grabs. The left puts up a candidate in uniform who fought in the Iraq war. All throughout the campaign, watching his commercials you see a solid military man who supports his brothers-in-arms. Until the day before the election. Then the real ad comes out blasting Bush and the War in Iraq. Citizens are aghast and vote in the Republican 52% - 48%. The Democratic response? Well they won on a higher level, because they shouldn't have ever gotten that many votes in such a backwards Republican district anyway. They're right about one thing.

I think in most cases, people call this tactic desperation. But for the Democrats, that was over a year ago. I'd suggest help from a real doctor, and I don't mean Howard Dean.

I'm not trying to claim in any way that the conservative agenda is perfect. By all means it's not. But at least there is one; and right now, that's better than nothing.

So onward to the next fiscal year. Maybe a month-long recess will place great thoughts in their noggins. Meanwhile, expect Bush to keep doing terribly in the media's polls as he continues to successfully push and pass his legislative reform.

The Piping debate on ANWR



by Benedict Voit

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As a computer scientist, I try to favor logic; this often presents challenges within politics; issues such as the environment, abortion, education, all the major topics, are morphed from their important cores into tactics of partisan politics structured to harm the other party.

And so, when I began looking at articles about the ANWR drilling, I believed what I read. But when I decided to do research on my own, I found some startling facts. Here are some of the basics:

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR for short, is near the Prudhoe Bay oil fields, in the north-eastern section of Alaska. Prudhoe Bay was discovered in 1968 and after years of painful debate in Congress, in 1977, the Trans-Alaska pipeline was constructed. Up until 2004, this oil reserve had pumped 13 billion gallons of oil into the U.S., supplying an estimated 20% of 2004's capacity and offsetting some \$300 billion in trade deficits.

Crazed environmentalists did not warm to the idea of a pipeline in 1968. They claimed that such oil drilling would destroy the wildlife refuge and cause great harm to the wandering caribou herds. But in reality, the caribou have done everything but suffer. One researcher cites claims that caribou in the Prudhoe Bay area, not only survived, but increased their population in a peak year over 9-fold. NINE; that is, from some 3,000 caribou to over 27,000.

I did not think too much of the article at the time. However, while in Washington D.C., I got the chance to meet with retired Congressman Bill Archer. One of Archer's big focuses was new sources and types of energy.

He chipped in with his own anecdote. Archer, unlike most of the protesters and crazed extremists, actually visited the ANWR site. Expecting the pristine mountains, bubbling brooks, and forests



photo courtesy of Google Images

Huge steel pipes in the Trans-Alaskan pipeline such as this one help transport some of the 13 billion gallons of oil that have been pumped into the United States from Alaska since Congress okayed their construction in 28 years ago.

teeming with wildlife that the protesters and media love to portray, Archer found a very different world. The nearest mountain range, Archer claimed, was far in the distance, and not nearly the towering, photogenic masses they were portrayed to be. As for the forest, that was a joke too. The landscape is tundra; miles and miles of permafrost with 18 inches of permanent ice below the surface. But, perhaps being hopeful, or perhaps as a part of the tour, Archer was flown over the 19 million acres of the ANWR reservation.

Searching the expanse, Archer came across zero caribou. Not one herd, not even one; zilch. Granted, they may blend in with the tundra quite well; it was undoubtedly a long flight to see the whole landscape. However, as for gigantic herds peacefully prancing across the last natural stronghold, that image is not only a lie, but also rather blasphemous. The environmentalists are painting a picture to frighten Americans into backing away from a successful venture.

The Prudhoe Bay developments are large. But new technologies allow for a

massive reduction of the current facilities by well over 60 percent, and with much cleaner efficiency. Furthermore, Archer added that the new production in ANWR would settle into about 1,500 acres. Take a liberal estimate of 10 times that size, 15,000 acres, and still that leaves over 99.9% of the reservation untouched.

Archer continued his story by reporting on his time in Prudhoe Bay. The retired Congressman attributes the rise in the caribou population to the oil pipelines. The caribou would sleep under these lifted pipelines (which they can easily walk under) for the extra warmth. And as for bringing afraid of human constructions, like roads, Archer laughed, explaining that he had to honk numerous times in order to clear the road of the masses of caribou.

Don't get me wrong. I love nature. I've been an avid outdoorsman for my life, and I hate with a fiery passion the unnecessary and often horrendously gleeful destruction of the environment. But often times the consensus is that you can either be an extreme environmentalist or someone who wishes all natural life to be destroyed.

“ Don't get me wrong. I love nature. I've been an avid outdoorsman for my life, and I hate with a fiery passion the unnecessary and often horrendously gleeful destruction of the environment. ”

I am not claiming that opening ANWR will solve all of our oil and energy troubles. But it is time that Americans begin thinking in advance. If ANWR had been opened some 20 years ago, who knows what oil prices might be today.

So go out and plant a tree, grow a garden, and generally enjoy the immense beauty that nature possesses. But also understand the power of advancing science and a really good business venture. And maybe, with politics aside, these two can one day come together.

It's as Easy as A, A, A

Society's relentless avoidance of criticism leads to erosion of America's work ethic and points to the end of the world as we know it



by Clarisse Profilet

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Put aside the average UTD student and ask them about their academic experience in high school and it will likely boil down to a four-year history of minimal effort and high scholastic achievement.

College is supposed to be the dramatic wakeup call with the introduction of harsher scholastic scrutiny and criticism. But our generation's experience with higher learning has proven that this concept belongs with the likes of corporal punishment and public humiliation. Criticism, constructive or not, simply doesn't *feel* good.

Thus, the academic mark of our generation is an "A" for effort.

A popular blog-style vent for frustrated professors, *phantomprof.com*, allows academics to anonymously voice their feelings towards this mentality.

"Kids are raised to believe that their every effort, no matter how minimal, is worthy of praise," said one frequenter of the blog from SMU. "When they get to college... they're shocked and shaken to hear criticism—harsh, honest, real criticism."

As a child of the 80s and one of the horde that ambushes professors after grades are released, such an observation makes me feel a bit sheepish. But, damnit, I really feel like I deserve an "A"—and with a little introspection I discover my rationale: effort. I *tried*, I really did. And if

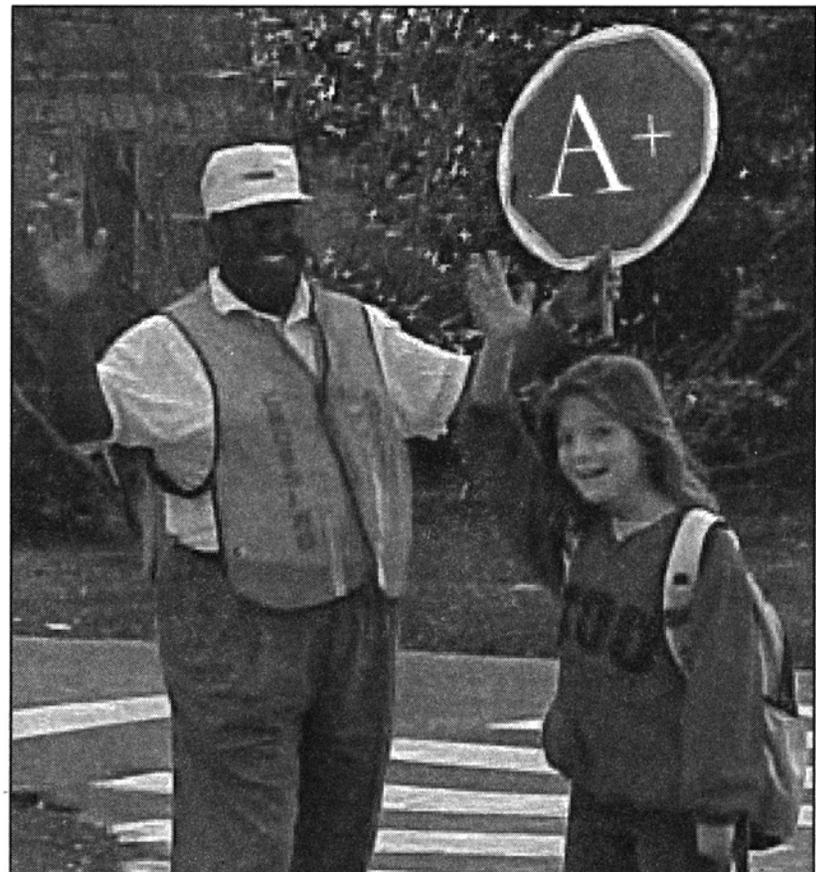
“ Kids are raised to believe that their every effort, no matter how minimal, is worthy of praise. When they get to college... they're shocked and shaken to hear criticism—harsh, honest, real criticism. ”

my best isn't good enough, what is?

"I've had to learn how to criticize creatively so that I don't have to face the nervous breakdowns. And I blame parents for this," the fuming SMU professor continues. "Trying so hard to be their children's pal, they forgot how to toughen them up for real-world criticism. Too many pats on the back for stupid stuff: 'Way to stand at the plate, Travis!' 'Good job finishing that sandwich, Ashley!' The kids don't know what it feels like to actually accomplish something worthy of praise."

And there lies the meat of the problem. Should we grade on effort or skill? Does our culture suffer from being fed easy strokes and good feelings? Is it possible that our immense pride has become our downfall? Recent research points to a strong "yes."

Globalization guru Thomas Friedman considered the deadly sin's effect on this country against its international counter-



graphic by Benedict Voit

Starting from a young age, Americans are so criticism-averse that what should be a "good" B has become unacceptable in search for the 'A'. In international comparisons, other cultures may fare better.

parts in his May 13, 2005 *New York Times* article.

Musing on the declining results of U.S. tech schools against those in Asia and Eastern Europe in concrete tests of skill such as the "Programming Olympics", he remarks that the easy ride most American students experience in high school and—more recently—college contributes to our academic and innovative apathy.

Friedman notes a special report on the Indiana University High School Survey of Student Engagement, which covered 90,000 high school students in 26 states. The study noted that while only 55% said they studied no more than three hours a week, 65% of those students reported getting mostly A's and B's.

"Students are getting A's and B's, but without studying much," Martha McCarthy, the Indiana University professor who headed the study, told Friedman. "Our fear," she added, "is that when you talk to employers out there, they say they are not getting the skills they need," in part because "the colleges are not getting students with the skills they need."

All of these shortcomings developed over time, McCarthy said, but "we as a nation became complacent about them."

A "B" is by definition "good", but the problem we as a society face is that *all* individuals feel they deserve to be "excellent". Our unabashed pride leads to this devastating complacency; we feel that we only need to step onto the court to win.

Men are from Mars, chick flicks are from Hell



by Jonathan Lane

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Much has been made in the news about issues such as abortion and homosexuality that are "ruining" our society. However, a villain is still out there, flying under the radar. A menace still threatens to tear society apart as we know it: chick flicks.

They seem harmless on the surface—a nice diversion for a couple of hours and a cheap date that the girl won't complain about afterwards. Plus, they're an excuse to watch beautiful people on a giant screen.

However, when you dive past the shiny surface, you discover the evils that lie below.

Imagine the typical chick flick. Most of the following things will happen in it:

- Female is a neurotic businesswoman who can't seem to buy a date even though most guys would give a kidney to see her in person.

- Man is a saint, the sort of guy that when he isn't volunteering at an orphanage, he's handing out blankets to the homeless.

- Man is about to get married to another ridiculously attractive woman.

- Man and woman run into each other, often literally, and usually in a park.

- After more coincidental meetings, they share a "moment" and realize that they are in love, probably on the third time that they see each other.

- Man angers woman, most likely for lying but don't discount the chance that she'll get pissed that he chooses to get married anyway.

- Man does everything he can to set things right with woman, in the cheesiest way possible. During this time the other

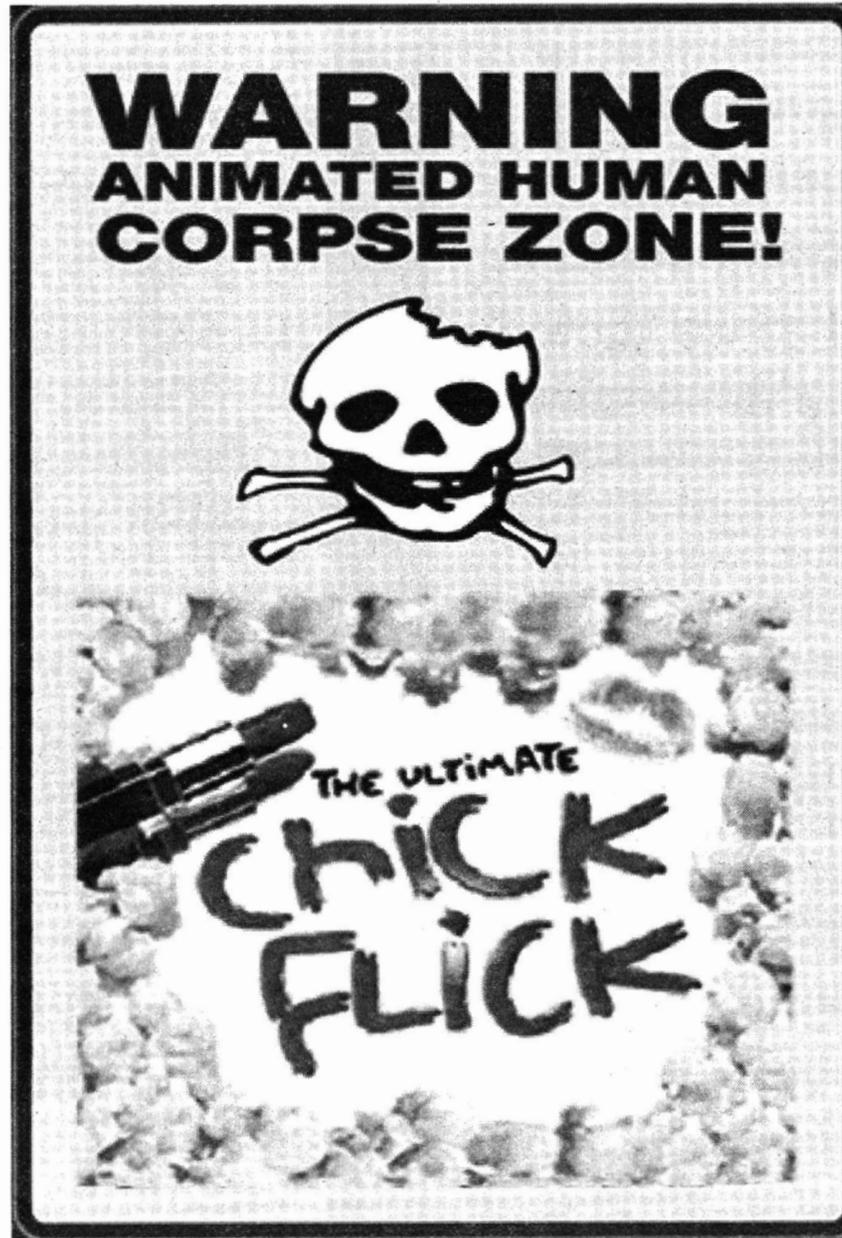


illustration by Benedict Voit

love interest fades into oblivion.

- Everything works out in the end.

Sometimes the roles are reversed, but the general idea is the same.

The lessons from this movie are clear. For women, no matter who you are and

whatever personality defects you may have, that perfect guy is out there for you.

Don't worry if he is already attached, once he sees you a few times he'll leave that other woman. She probably has bad breath anyway so he's just dying for an ex-

cuse to bolt.

For guys, we learn that no matter how bad you mess up, if you chase after her airplane on the runway, show up at her house with a boom box blaring Peter Gabriel, or call off your wedding mid-service, you'll win her heart.

The worst thing, though, is that these "lessons" *make sense* to some people. Some women wait their whole lives for an idealized version of John Cusack to sweep them off their feet. Some guys really think that after cheating on their girlfriend, burning her parents' house down and ridiculing her on national television, that somehow they can set things right.

Granted, at that point most guys will realize that flowers and a card probably won't do the trick, but they will still have the notion that one of those drastic actions they see in the movies will cut it.

The whole notion that someone will leave a great relationship for a complete stranger just seems off-base. There doesn't seem to be any good reason for it, especially in these movies where the person being left behind is gorgeous.

There was a promo on ABC Family for a made-for-TV movie where a girl was going to have to choose between the perfect boyfriend and a complete stranger. Logically, that should be the shortest movie ever. In TV world, that's a good two hours and a guarantee that the girl will end up with the beautiful stranger.

But we accept that, we understand that. In fact we would question why the girl ended up with her perfect boyfriend. We'd probably think we were watching PAX until we noticed that *Diagnosis: Murder* wasn't on.

When our usual way of thinking becomes like this, something is wrong. When we believe that all actions are redeemable and everyone can win the heart of anyone, we really need to avoid the next Hugh Grant movie.

That's why I stick with Bond movies. They're true to life, right?

A MODEST PROPOSAL is looking for designers, writers, investigators, and instigators.

Modesty not necessary. email: amodestproposal@gmail.com

Time for the

by Bobby Janecka

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"Death to Israel!", "Death to America!"

Ten thousand voices resonated out of the stadium of faithful in Tehran last June. Actor-turned-journalist Sean Penn witnessed the event with two Western companions in chilling detail. Worse yet of the account were the parallels that can easily be drawn between Iran and- of all places- America.

But aside from the imprisonment of journalists for withholding sources, an inordinate fascination with oil and nuclear energy, and occasional tendencies toward xenophobia, America and Iran can't be that similar. Certainly in the land of the free we are safe from hearing any similarly crude death threats or statements of hatred (at least from our religious leaders). Then again perhaps not...

Fast forward two months to another cleric across the world. Following months of icy relations fueled by \$240 million arms purchases and recent threats to halt oil exports to America, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was not a well loved man in America.

Regardless of how polarizing the Venezuelan is, perhaps prominent evangelist Pat Robertson went a tad too far when he said, "you know, I don't know about this doctrine of assassination, but if he thinks we're trying to assassinate him, I think that we really ought to go ahead and do it. It's a whole lot cheaper than starting a war..."

While Robertson might be a phenomenal force in the diet milkshake market (seriously), perhaps we can all for a moment, appreciate having Rumsfeld as Secretary of Defense. But incredulity aside, this radical statement of one of our own country's religious figures belies a problem long encroaching on the American political landscape.

America is too extreme for the extremists.

Back in the mundane arena of American politics (if you can call it that) you find increasingly hassled "moderates" feeling the

sting of their party loyal.

Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) of politically mild-tempered Rhode Island is facing amazing opposition from those in his (and Robertson's) very own Republican Party. Blatantly ignoring Party policy to always support incumbents, the Rhode Island national party committeeman, Robert Manning, is fed up with Chafee and threatening to withhold a donation of \$500 thousand until after the primary (and the sitting candidate ideally replaced by another).

Never mind that the candidate Manning favors was stumping for him when he took party office the year before, Republicans across the nation are calling for passing Chafee over for the nom in what many are now referring to as a possible "political assassination."

This curious inner-party cannibalism is by no means unique to the Republicans, either. Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) addressed her party's Democratic Leadership Council with the words of a realist rather than an ideologue.

"We Democrats have not yet succeeded in isolating and defeating the far right, in part because we have allowed ourselves to be split between left, right and center," she said.

She must have struck a sensitive cord with those heated words because bloggers at the Daily Kos, a professedly liberal haven, responded:

"If she wanted to give a speech to a centrist organization truly interested in bringing the factions of the party together, she could've worked with [the New Democratic Network].

Instead, she plans to work with the DLC to come up with some common party message yadda yadda yadda. Well, that effort is dead on arrival. The DLC is not a credible vehicle for such an effort. Period." While Clinton may have let her intolerable moderate tendencies slip through the cracks of her Democratic facade this time, she typically sells herself well as a liberal. In fact, according to the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), who score elected officials against twenty of "the most important" votes they've taken regarding the ADA agenda, Clinton would seem to be as good as it gets. Since she took office, the former First Lady has scored a consistent 95 out of 100 points on their own scale. Hardly the voting record of a "centrist" politician.

In truth we face a grateful reality: given the current political climate- that is to say one driven apart by such obvious extremes- we have no where to go but back to the middle. Both parties, it seems, are exhausted by the polarizing election of 2004 and have set their eyes on much more palatable figures for the future.

Both Clinton and Senator John McCain (R-AZ) are receiving spin by pundits and politicians as the match-up to watch in 2008's general election. Whether these two candidates will ultimately face up in the next Big Race is anybody's guess but one thing is certain.

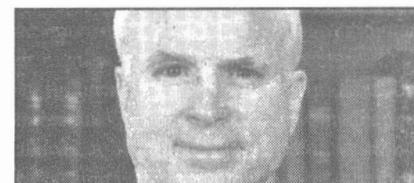
America is ready for candidates who aren't hated by some and loved by others. Both parties seem cognizant of the fact that a fervent base is fine but the middle of the road gathers more flies, so to speak. As the primaries approach expect the usual candidate sprint to poles and back, but don't be surprised if both parties this cycle find that they have a lot less distance to cover.



Sen. Hillary Clinton



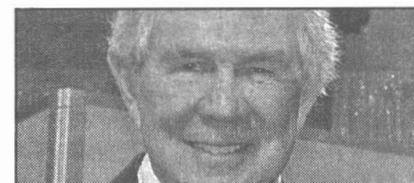
President Hugo Chavez



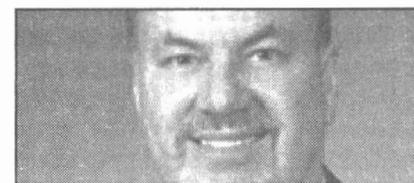
Sen. John McCain



Sen. Lincoln Chafee



Sen. Pat Robertson



Robert Manning

erp:IMModerate

facebook

home search global social net invite faq logout

Quick Search

My Profile edit

My Friends

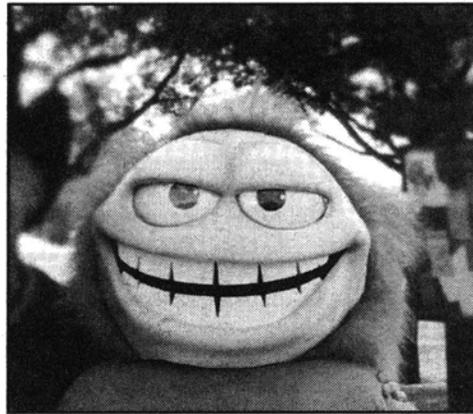
My Groups

My Parties

My Messages

My Account

My Privacy



Visualize My Friends

Edit My Profile

Edit My Privacy

Connection

You are UTD

Friends at UT Dallas

Temoc has 14,000 UTD Friends



Jordan
Youngblood



Brittny Baty



Liam Skoyles



Tony Danza



Hema Jasti



Jon
Fickenscher

[see all of them]

Other Schools

Temoc has friends at...

Texas (4322)	Michigan (9875)
Texas A&M (5433)	MIT (1389)
OSU (5449)	Harvard (1983)
Texas Tech (433)	Berkley (1337)

The Facebook Phenomenon



by Liam Skoyles

lts033000@utdallas.edu

There was a time, a dark time, in the history of UTD, when giant technology barons roamed the North Texas plains and students met each other through lowly means of communication like... (gasp) talking and physical social interaction. In the modern age college students have taken advantage of instant coffee, instant messaging and now, instant friends.

At the end of last semester UTD finally burst like a proverbial fetus into the glorious glow that is Facebook! Now everyone is cruising along the inter-friend superhighway discovering random coincidences and cultivating an exponential list of faux-friends.

The path to Facebook glory was not an easy one. For months individual students and organizations discussed getting UTD onto the coveted list of schools recognized by the website but a coordinated effort was never mounted.

The Student Government Association (SGA) sent official correspondence including a detailed description of the school to Facebook's Palo Alto, CA headquarters in the hopes UTD would be included in an upcoming update.

It is no small task to add a school to the Facebook database and a large packet of information was provided by the SGA to give Facebook an idea of what profile

fields are applicable to UTD. The information packet included lists of degrees offered, an explanation Waterview's quirky housing numbering system, descriptions of student organizations and other official information.

By joining Facebook UTD has been admitted to a select group of schools that includes virtually all academic institutions worth mentioning in North America.

The Facebook was created by Mark Zuckerberg, Chris Hughes, and Dustin Moskovitz at Harvard University in February 2004. The software spread like wildfire across campus with more than half of the undergraduate population logging on to the system. Soon the network encompassed the entire Ivy League and Stanford University and has only picked up momentum since then.

Revenue from the modestly priced ads on Facebook (\$12 a day for targeted audience) is sure to allow the small group of programmers to expand and increase the scope of Facebook, creating new generations of faux-friends and undoubtedly an exponential increase in the poking phenomenon.

“ The software spread like wildfire across campus with more than half of the [Harvard] undergraduate population logging on to the system. ”

Are you...
Creative
Intelligent
Splendiferous?
With words??

Tony Danza!?

Write for

A MODEST PROPOSAL

AModestProposal@gmail.com



facebook

home search global social net invite faq logout

Did I Just Get Poked?



by Hannah Frank

hannah.frank@student.utdallas.edu

A poke can come from many places. A finger, a stick, or even a spork can prove useful as implements of poking. I am skeptical of one method that has appeared as of late – poking with one's computer.

The Facebook craze has quickly consumed the social lives of many members of UTD's student body. Its sudden appearance just before final exams may even be to blame for the abysmal grades of some of its fans. One of the site's more annoying features has got to be "the poke."

But what is "the poke?" Even Facebook's founders had a hard time penning a definition of this mysterious feature. Their

FAQs page has the following to say on the subject:

"We have about as much of an idea as you do. We thought it would be fun to make a feature that has no specific purpose and to see what happens from there. So mess around with it, because you're not getting an explanation from us."

Facebook poking seems to be more in the manner of "poking fun at," which Dictionary.com defines as "to ridicule in a mischievous manner; tease."

I have as yet experience any physical reactions to virtual pokes from my friends. Instead of jumping in surprise or cringing in pain, I simply continue the obnoxious trade-off and poke the offender back.

No blood, no tears, and (best of all) it doesn't tickle.

Curiosity led us to wonder how other students feel about being poked from the internet. We therefore scoured the UTD campus, searching for answers to the following question – "How do you feel about being poked?" Here is what some of your fellow Comets had to say.

modest opinions

Specifically, what do you think of poking?

Poking is fun. It's to make you giggle.

Jorje Alvarado
Freshman
Telecom



I've yet to poke, but it sounds intriguing.

Alex Biholar
Sophomore
Chemistry



I poke constantly.

Jesse Bullock
Senior
Biochemistry



It's a good way to get someone's attention. I've poked less than five times. Facebook is an ingenious invention.

Chris Konneker
Sophomore
Psychology



GROUPS: GOOD, BAD AND AWESOME

Student Organizations:

- A Modest Proposal
- Buddhists at UTD
- Destination Imagination
- Indian Pakistani Student Association
- Jewish Pride
- Meteor theater
- Radio UTD!!!
- Student Government
- The UTD Mcurery
- University Democrats at UTD

Fun:

- Daria Still Rocks Socks
- Halo 2 Addicts Anonymous
- I am On a First Name Basis With all of the Campus Police
- I Get My News From the Daily Show
- I Go To Utd, I'm a Computer Science Nerd... and I'm a Girl!
- I Killed 80,000 Animals on Oregon Trail
- Butts lol

- I Live in Waterview Park - The UTD Housing Projects
- I Wish Ender Wiggin Would Save My Planet
- I Would Rather Jump Feet-first Into a Wood Chipper Than Watch anime
- I'm alive because of Ramen
- My Clothes Are Ruined Because I'm An Artist
- Support Group For People Who are Surrounded By Wow addicts

- Too Smart For a 2.0 and Too Much Fun For a 4.0, UTD Chapter
- Brick, Are You Saying That There's a Party In Your Pants and That I'm Invited?
- Gay Marriage Killed the Dinosaurs (utd Chapter)
- MIT is the UTD of the North
- I Have a Facebook, Xanga, and a Myspace.
- Hooray Internet Junkies!

- World of Warcraft Kidnapped My Roommate!
- I'm Not Friends With You In Real Life, But You Want To Be Friends On Facebook? Ok! -utd Chapter
- I Use Facebook For Prank Call Numbers
- Apostrophe Protection Society
- End Narcissism- Grow a Mustache

Fraternities:

- 1898 Zeta Beta Tau
- Alpha Gamma Delta
- Alpha Lambda Chi
- Alpha Phi Omega
- Chi Phi
- Kappa Alpha Theta
- Kappa Rho Lambda
- Kappa Sigma
- Kappa Upsilon Chi
- Omega Delta Phi
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon

5 Concerts You'd Normally Not See (But Should)



by **Jordan Youngblood**

jry031000@utdallas.edu

As everyone knows, paying \$35 or more for weaksauce tickets to see your favorite band in an impersonal gig like Nokia isn't exactly the definition of a great deal. However, if you happen to dig around a little in the local happenings there is to be found a wealth of excellent music in an intimate environment for tickets generally less than 15 or 20 bucks. Here are some bands coming through the area that you should take the time to support and some reasons why. All tickets are purchasable at the door, from Front Gate Tickets at www.frontgatetickets.com or at affiliated local record stores listed on the website.



September 22nd - The Decemberists (Ridglea Theater, Ft. Worth; \$15) www.decemberists.com

Colin Meloy and his band of Portland, Oregon compatriots churn out literate, intelligent pop music about everything from gut-shot crooked French Canadians to the glories of his girlfriend's freckled right ankle. With this year's *Picaresque*, the band opened up to include new-wave keyboards and a jauntier, looser feel that gave songs like "Sixteen Military Wives" a shuffle and bounce occasionally missing from their past catalogue. They put on a wonderful live show; spending what you'd usually pay for dinner at Chili's to see one of the best bands going right now seems like a fairly simple decision.

SONGS TO TRY: "Here I Dreamt I Was an Architect", "Red Right Ankle", "Engine Driver"

September 24th - Doves (Gypsy Tea Room, Dallas; \$22.50) www.doves.net

So you'll pay a little bit more to see this Manchester threesome perform. The second they whoosh into one of their ready-made anthems like "The Cedar Room" or "Snowden" (which is taken from this year's excellent *Some Cities*) you'll not mind paying a few dollars extra. While the band's ambitions occasionally swallow some of their songs in overproduction on record, the stripped-down manner of their live show – not to mention the rawer, sharper textures of their newer work – brings the rock without the excess. Give them a shot if you'd like to see what U2 should still be writing.

SONGS TO TRY: "Catch the Sun", "There Goes The Fear", "Black and White Town"



October 12th - Clap Your Hands Say Yeah (Gypsy Tea Room, Dallas; \$12) www.clapyourhandssayyeah.com

Yes, they do have a "cool name", but these guys from New York actually have the tunes to back it up. Lead singer Alec Ounsworth may yelp like a demented version of Talking Heads vocalist David Byrne (word to the uninitiated: his voice takes a while to warm to), but once it clicks, their nerdy and energetic rock will wind into your mind. Be prepared to hum "The Skin Of My Yellow Country Teeth" until you can't stand it anymore. Their CD is next to impossible to find, so you'll have to resort to downloading to hear them. Shed your file-sharing guilt by buying a ticket. And maybe a t-shirt.

SONGS TO TRY: "The Skin Of My Yellow Country Teeth", "Details of the War"

October 27th - LCD Soundsystem (Gypsy Tea Room, Dallas; price TBA) www.lcdsoundsystem.com

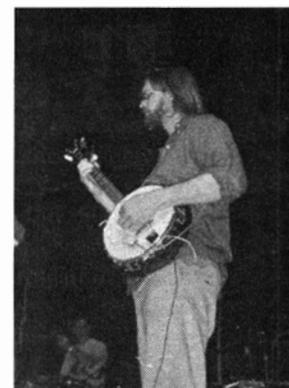
James Murphy's influences range all over the place, from drugged-out late era Beatles to the punk rush of bands like The Fall, not to mention a healthy dose of Prince. All of them appear in LCD Soundsystem, his solo project that released its first full-length album this year to critical acclaim and awkward ass-shaking by music geeks across the nation. Be prepared to see a lot of white men twitch their bodies in vague attempts at dancing at this concert. Join in and add your gyrations to the crowd. If you are a woman that can dance, also be prepared to have 50 guys ask for your musical tastes and then your number.

SONGS TO TRY: "Daft Punk Is Playing at My House", "Tribulations", "Yeah"

October 29th - Iron & Wine/Calexico (Ridglea Theater, Ft. Worth; \$20) www.ironandwine.com, www.cascadecalexico.com

Iron & Wine finally cracked into the semi-mainstream with his cover of "Such Great Heights" on the Garden State soundtrack seemingly owned by everyone. Before that ever happened he'd already released two full-length albums and one EP of stunning folk-influenced music that sounded like some long-lost record from the '60s. He's touring with Calexico, whose Southern heat-warped version of rock and country provides counterpart to Beam's gentle melodies. Both will perform solo sets and then a set with each other as a glimpse to their collaborative EP to be released this year.

SONGS TO TRY: "An Angry Blade", "Passing Afternoon", "Freedom Hangs Like Heaven"



SGA welcomes UTD students



by Iris Kwong

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Fellow students,

Basheer Benhalim and I are thrilled and excited to serve as your Student Government Association (SGA) president and vice-president in this upcoming year of change and progress. We appreciate all of your support this past semester and look forward to working with you to achieve great things this school year.

Critical decisions face us all this next year: how to handle tuition and fee increases, how to welcome and work with our new president David Daniel, and how to continue UTD on the trajectory of excellence. We must maintain our vision in the face of anticipated restructuring in top positions of the university.

As students, we are at a unique juncture and have enormous potential to be positive influences in many different university policies. More than 14,000 strong, we students are among the top scholars across the nation.

I look to you to make a commitment to be more active in the coming year. Whether it is by wearing UTD colors or coming out to more sporting events, get active on campus. Make a difference. Become a leader. Fire off a Comet "Whoosh" every once in a while!

The SGA is a forum for the students and we take your ideas and suggestions seriously. Recent issues at Waterview Park Apartments led us to organize a sit-in at the main office and the response has already been improved. President Franklyn Jenifer created a new committee with incoming President Daniel to address many current issues with Waterview. I am confident we will get to the bottom of our student housing problems.

This year the SGA will lead rather than just be another student organization.

We are here to facilitate your clubs, your organizations, and your enthusiasm to make this university a better, more well-rounded and more fun place to go to school.

We will invest the necessary hours needed to be an effective governing body for all students to facilitate the expansion of student organizations.

ACROSS

Somewhat techie

by Walter Voit

wvoit@student.utdallas.com

- 1. Flaming Roman
- 5. ___ neuron
- 10. Expunge saliva
- 14. Nerve cell
- 15. Dwelling
- 16. Phoenician island city of yore
- 17. Elected post
- 18. Current event converter
- 19. ___ Brockovich
- 20. A reader and writer
- 22. Least ancient
- 24. Rescue letters
- 25. Kind of club
- 26. Small-headed, long-billed fowl
- 30. Atomic measures
- 35. Turkish tender
- 36. Comes around, as toward an idea
- 39. Swear
- 40. Auto lender
- 41. Modern punk music style
- 42. Zeus's mistress and mother of Artemis and Apollo
- 43. Sounds like it precedes a bel
- 44. Not edgy
- 45. Lode loader
- 46. Like Jenga blocks
- 48. Paid to play
- 49. Programming environment letters
- 50. It blows
- 52. Jailed Iraqi
- 56. Groups of UNIX techies
- 61. Pi-R-Squared
- 62. Moron
- 65. Doll in Ibsen's "A Doll's House"
- 66. Deflower
- 67. Thickened epidermal clusters
- 68. Little leak
- 69. Yard follower
- 70. Attempt, as in the written word
- 71. Fitting last clue

DOWN

- 1. Where it is rocket science
- 2. Top-dog
- 3. Guttural thunder
- 4. Surjective function
- 5. Feminine palindrome

1.	2.	3.	4.		5.	6.	7.	8.	9.		10.	11.	12.	13.
14.					15.						16.			
17.					18.						19.			
20.				21.					22.	23.				
				24.				25.						
26.	27.	28.	29.					30.			31.	32.	33.	34.
35.					36.	37.	38.				39.			
40.					41.						42.			
43.					44.						45.			
46.				47.						48.				
				49.				50.	51.					
52.	53.	54.	55.					56.			57.	58.	59.	60.
61.					62.	63.	64.				65.			
66.					67.						68.			
69.					70.						71.			

- 6. Death notices
- 7. And
- 8. Wholly un-even
- 9. Bundled again
- 10. Mull sullenly
- 11. Funeral burning
- 12. Sub-contact contractor
- 13. Portable shelter
- 21. Busy being
- 23. It's electric
- 25. One of 56 across
- 26. Happy trash sacks?
- 27. Metal fastener
- 28. ___ Badu
- 29. Fundamental
- 31. Claw
- 32. Not behind closed doors
- 33. Problem with drivers who can't get it up
- 34. Medieval slasher
- 36. Rodents on caffeine?
- 37. Part of 18 across
- 38. Airport for NC State, Duke, and UNC
- 47. ___ Sophia
- 48. Too
- 50. Shrek's sweetheart
- 51. Crafty
- 52. Cuts in two
- 53. Operatic outburst
- 54. Austin's Michael
- 55. Rendezvous with destiny
- 57. Finishes
- 58. PS2 or USB
- 59. Threesome
- 60. Warren, recently of Raiders fame
- 63. Kind of prompt
- 64. Tax agency

In the coming year it is imperative that we address issues surrounding Greek life and work with the wealth of Greek organizations on our campus to see how we can help change the image of Greek Life on this campus.

It is my sincere hope that SGA will help carry on many of our projects from the past administration and look to continue the support for a 24-hour library.

In addition, we look to expand student government's involvement with student organizations with which we have not had a strong working relationship.

For example, we hope to work more closely with the expansion of our university theater,

whose excellent productions last year were funded entirely by private contributions. It is my hope that SGA can take an active role in continuing to work with Meteor Theater and begin to help coordinate similar campus activities, reevaluating what we as students see as valuable and worth while.

Academically the SGA would like to look at expanding the current course offerings in foreign languages and adding additional majors and minors in many of our schools. With the wealth of faculty we have and the many new faculty hires the university is considering, I am hopeful that many of the "overlooked" majors will become part of the great tradition of academic excellence on which this univer-

sity prides itself.

To be successful the SGA needs you. I need you. Become active in this university. This campus is only as great as we make it. Together we will make this campus the best it can be. I look forward to serving you and our school this year.

Sincerely,
Iris Kwong
SGA Vice-President

The last day to file for a senator position is September 7th. For more information come visit the Student Government offices in the Student Union or call 972-883-2284.

EVOLUTION OF THE STRUGGLE

CHE GUEVARA

by **Andres Correa**
and **Amir Boroujerdi**

Ernesto 'Che' Guevara was born on 14 June 1928 in Rosario, Argentina, into a relatively upper-middle class family. His family relocated to the town of Alta Gracia when Ernesto was only eight years old as a result of his severe chronic asthmatic condition. After completing high school, Ernesto departed for Buenos Aires to attend medical school. During the third year of medical school, Ernesto and his best friend Alberto Granado, embarked on an epic journey through the continent of Latin America on a motorcycle they affectionately named "La Poderosa" (the powerful one).

Ernesto and Alberto traveled for months across the continent and were confronted with the harsh realities of severe poverty, regional strife, and neo-colonial oppression. The epic journey altered Ernesto's frame of mind and opened his mind and heart to the incessant suffering of the people of the Americas.

Upon returning to Argentina from his trip and completing medical school, Ernesto left Argentina and moved to Guatemala. In 1954, the socialist democratically elected president of Guatemala, Jacob Arbenz, was overthrown from power by reactionary Guatemalan forces and the vast and extensive support of the United States. In Guatemala, Ernesto realized that only through armed struggle could political and economic independence from imperialism be achieved.

Being forced to flee from Guatemala in 1955, Ernesto arrived in Mexico City, a hotbed of revolutionary ideology, where he stumbled upon Fidel Castro. At the time, Fidel had been exiled from Cuba for attempting a coup d-etat and was reorganizing a rebel military force to reattempt another guerilla insurrection.

Legend says that after one evening of conversation, Che and Fidel, merged together ideologically and became forever committed to the struggle for Latin American independence. After that evening, they led the first successful socialist revolution in the history of Latin America against the totalitarian Batista regime and continued to struggle for independence elsewhere. Tragically, the fire of revolution never subsided in Ernesto's heart, and he was captured by Bolivian Military forces and executed in



photo courtesy of www.shaav.com

Argentinian-born freedom crusader Che Guevara is immortalized in this statue in Santa Clara, Cuba. Che stands for the liberation of millions of people due to his efforts to counter oppression under Communist regimes. Guevara's iconic image still serves as a source of inspiration for many.

1967 for attempting to overthrow the oppressive Bolivian government.

Guevara entered a world stage at a crux of global powers. Some of these nations exercised vast economic and military power to exploit millions of people for economic gain. Others succumbed to the will of mightier empires, forced to live in the no man's land of the Cold War. At its most basic level, Guevara saw Latin American nations whose resources were owned by foreign powers, whose people hopelessly labored under the capitalist whip and

gun, and whose dictatorships were all backed by the United States.

Today, Ernesto "Che" Guevara's image crosses the globe as a representation of innumerable ideas, organizations, and movements. Amidst a sea of media and marketing, the true essence of Guevara's life and work has been drowned. To the authors of this series, his meaning and relevance rise not out of a mere association with rebellion or even communism, but out of his utter and total dedication to the collective progress and well-being of all oppressed peoples of the globe.

In his actions, Guevara sought liberation from economic and military oppression for the so-called third-world and sought Latin American unity under political, social, and economic solidarity.

He also envisioned a new, socialist man, a man who labored for the prosperity of his community as a whole. Such a man valued work as the expression of his own needs and desire for personal fulfillment, and valued the fruit of his work as a selfless contribution to the collective body of citizens.

Guevara stands as a hero of the evolution of the struggle for his selfless dedication to those around him. He fought against oppression in all its forms, be it military, political, or economic, and ceaselessly worked to create a more just society in Cuba.

We the authors, after years of study of Guevara, believe he would disapprove of the current political condition of Cuba. However, Cuba's greatest export today is not sugar or coffee, but doctors. Cuban children have complete freedom in choosing their education, and can rely on health care at no cost.

These achievements are part of the legacy of Che Guevara. The other part of his legacy is even more important. His last words, when facing the barrel of the gun that was to bring him his death, were reported to have been "Shoot, coward. You are only killing a man."

There is a truth to this statement that lives on today, as his legacy is also the hope he continues to instill in masses across the globe for the achievement of just, equal, and free societies, where men and women are guaranteed an education and health care and are unified across national boundaries, where our life is not constrained or limited by our wealth or lack thereof, but where we are all truly born equal under our laws.

Sick of the news so close to the sun?

Try something different:

to share your a refreshing take on the news, email amodestproposal@gmail.com

A
Modest
Proposal

Simpligan's GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

Part V: Simpligan Stranded

Dominick Simpligan has been lost for months from civilization and UTD. Following a stay on the strange island of Majorita, and a near-death experience on a raft at sea, he is rescued by the strange crew of the hot air balloon known as the Noolab. Almost inevitably, the errant craft crashes on a mountaintop and Simpligan is again thrown at the mercy of luck and fate.



by **Bobby Janecka**

janecka@utdallas.edu

I sincerely wish I could share some of the details of my ordeal following the Noolab's crash, but several days must have passed before I even awoke. When I did awake it was in a small dirt-floored hut of wood and thatch, my right leg felt like it would fall off, and there was no sign of the balloon or its crew.

The owner of the hut soon appeared and through a struggled exchange we discovered that we could understand each other, albeit with some difficulty.

Dan Mink, as he introduced himself, was the shepherd of the mountainside. His village lay a short hike down the slope and the small community existed fairly peacefully, it seemed, virtually untouched by modern civilization. As we talked about the village and its inhabitants I glanced out the open window of the hut and saw a man approaching across the sloping fields below.

Dan went out to meet the man and I watched them shake hands and stand together for a time, presumably speaking about something. Finally, Dan walked with the man over to his flock, fenced in near the hut, and tied a cord around the neck of one of the larger sheep. The man departed with the sheep and Dan returned to his hut, smiling.

"So you sell your sheep to the villagers for meat?" I asked curiously.

"Sell them? Well I give them sheep if they ever need them... Typically I raise the herd for their wool, but meat can be hard to come by on the mountain at times," he replied flatly. "But now let me tell you about Tom."

Dan proceeded to excitedly tell me about the man who had needed the sheep, Tom Gutshie. Dan spoke of his wife and daughters, how he performed odd jobs around the village, about his fondness for hiking along the mountain's streambeds. Obviously, in this little mountain village, everyone seemed to know each other very well.

"That's all well and good Dan, but as small as your flock already is, how can you afford to give away sheep and still produce enough wool to survive?"

At this the shepherd couldn't quite understand me. He didn't quite realize the connection between his survival and how much wool he produced. It made little sense until I asked him for how much he usually sold his wool.

"What do you mean by this 'sell'?" he asked in consternation. "When I harvest my sheep's wool, I take what I can use and give the rest to the villagers. I don't survive on my wool; I survive on the farmers' extra food they give to me."

At last I had hit on the root of the issue. This village, in all its backward ways, had no concept of modern commerce! As a successful and happy product of capitalism, I felt that it would be remiss of me to not bring the simple exchange of supply and demand to this little village of yokels.

I set to the task at once and instructed Dan in how he could begin asking for good or services in exchange for his wool and sheep. The experiment, I must confess, worked swimmingly. The villagers had in a few weeks embraced the new idea of bartered exchange, and even developed a simple system of currency to facilitate trade between individuals when one didn't need the good or service the other had to offer.

So I found myself a month later still bed-ridden in Dan's hut, but very much enjoying the fruits of his labor. We were discussing, as we had many times before, how wonderful it was that he held the only source of wool on the mountain, when a man... excuse me, when a customer approached the hut across the sloping fields.

Dan excused himself and stepped out to meet him. Almost immediately, the man handed him a bucket he had been carrying, which looked to be filled with milk, and they walked behind his hut. Dan entered back into his hut and I looked out the window to watch the man trudging down the mountain with a large bundle of wool on his shoulder.

"So who was that man?" I asked, "I don't recognize him."

"That?" Dan replied, "that was just Tom Cuser..."

"Oh, he has the same name as your old friend Gutshie," I pointed out reminiscently.

"Who? Oh, I suppose so..." he responded emotionlessly. "Anyway, he has a couple cows. He's not very rich."

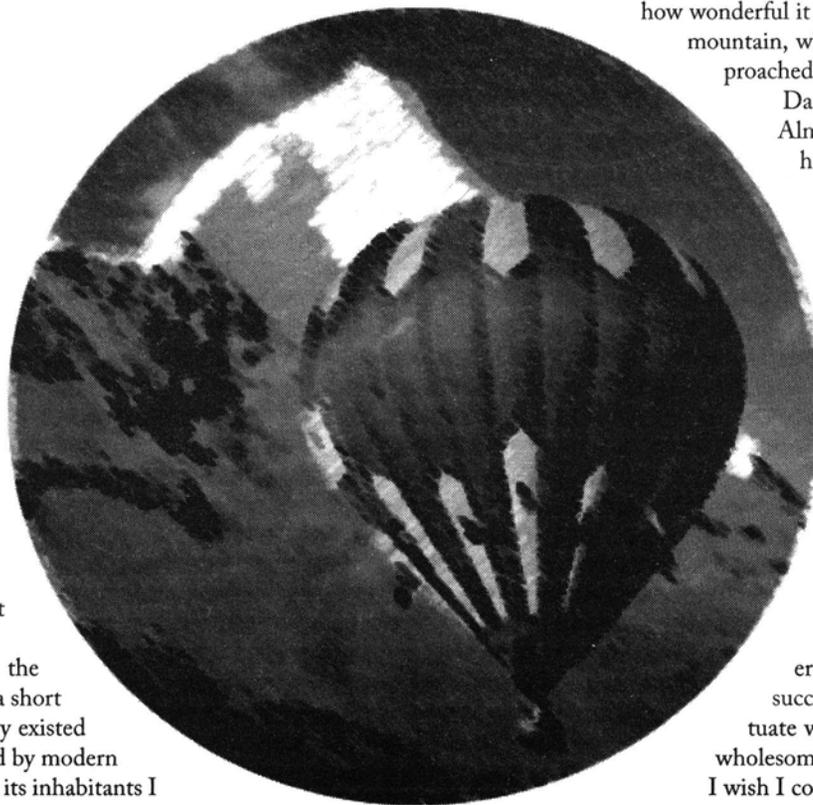
As you can see my attempt to bring modern commerce to Dan and his village was a terrific success. The prices of their goods and services fluctuate with the precise consistency found only in good wholesome capitalism.

I wish I could tell you now how I soon recovered from my injuries and set off to make my way back home to UTD. Unfortunately, things have taken a turn for the worse this past month. Dan grew tired of me living in his home and contributing nothing to the household or his purse, so he asked me to leave.

Using a pair of very rough crutches, I made my way down to the village to search for lodging and food. I found the village surrounded by a formidable wooden fence, and had to beg the gatekeeper to allow me entrance. The young lad had apparently begun charging a tax once he realized there was no other way in or out of the village.

So here I remain, injured and starving. I am unable to perform simple physical labor for fault of my still-broken right leg, and the village no longer sees virtue in giving food away. I write this as a desperate plea that any who find and read it may seek out this village and find a way to pay the gatekeeper so I may leave and return to my home.

Looking for past chapters of Simpligan's journey? Visit simpligan.blogspot.com online.



10 things I wish I'd known as a freshman



by Bree Szostek
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As the school year commences and a new flock of freshman inherits all the joys that come with the first year of college life, I cannot help but reflect on my quite recent first year experience. While I entered UTD relatively well prepared for the adventures and trials of college life, there were some definite lessons I had to learn the hard way. I suppose it's true that these dents and bruises make the college experience unique for everyone; however, some words of advice from someone who was there approximately a year ago can never hurt. (12, because 10 just wasn't enough.)

- 12 The apartment you live in now (presumably Phase 8 or 8 and a half) is probably the nicest one you'll live in on campus; enjoy it while you can.
- 11 Get to know your professors. They appreciate students who want to learn and show interest in their class. It's far easier to say those three little words "I need help" when you already have a rapport developing.
- 10 Look for friends outside of your normal scope. One of the great things about college is the diversity that surrounds you. UTD has plenty of diversity, so find people of other religions, races, majors and views and get to know them! Broaden your horizons!
- 9 Show your Comet Card everywhere you go so you can get the sweet, sweet hook-ups. Ok, so you'll only get 10% off at certain places... but hey! 10 percent off to a broke college kid adds up! Check out the SGA Discount Board in the Student Union on the stairwell to see what places honor the Comet Card discount.
- 8 Find the math and writing labs on the entrance floor in the McDermott Li-

brary. Use them; let them proof read, edit, and tutor you until you can be tutored no more! These services are free (well, rather, already paid for through your tuition) make the most of them and reap the benefits.

- 7 Find your classes in advance. Granted, this issue of AMP didn't come out until after the first day of class, but its good advice to remember for Spring Semester also. The numbering system in this school is designed to confuse you. Never assume the floor you enter on is level 1 (some of the time level 1 is the basement). Also, don't expect rooms to be in logical sequential order. Your schedule is a scavenger hunt; give yourself enough time to find everything on your list.
- 6 Do not pretend to have domestic skills you don't actually possess. If you can't cook, eat Ramen and Pop-Tarts until you learn. If you don't know the difference between dish soap and laundry detergent avoid both machines and seek help immediately. (You think I jest, wait until you walk into the kitchen and the floor is covered in bubbles because your friend's roommate loaded laundry detergent in the dishwasher....)
- 5 If you can't be ahead in your classes, at least keep up with the pace. Once you fall behind, catching up is very difficult, though not impossible. Don't put yourself through it. Just stay on schedule.
- 4 Abandon all computer games until you learn time management skills. Your professor doesn't care what level your World of Warcraft character is at the end of the semester if you fail your final. Always ask yourself: "what will earn me more money, a C.S. degree in Computer Science or a C.S. degree in Counter Strike?"
- 3 You're stuck (for the most part) with your roommates. Don't be passive-aggressive or just downright rude; make the environment livable at least. (You can always complain behind their backs.)
- 2 Chances are good one or more people in your class know more than you do. Find the people in your Calculus, Chemistry and Computer Science class who know what they're doing. Befriend them, study with them, use them for all their powerful brains are worth! Not only may you pass your class or (dare I say) make an A, but you might make a friend too.
- 1 You aren't in high school anymore! No one really cares if you were first chair Symphonic band, captain of the debate team, or the star quarterback (unless you're in a frat or sorority). You can't find your same friends from high school so stop lamenting and start adapting.