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Office of Student Affairs

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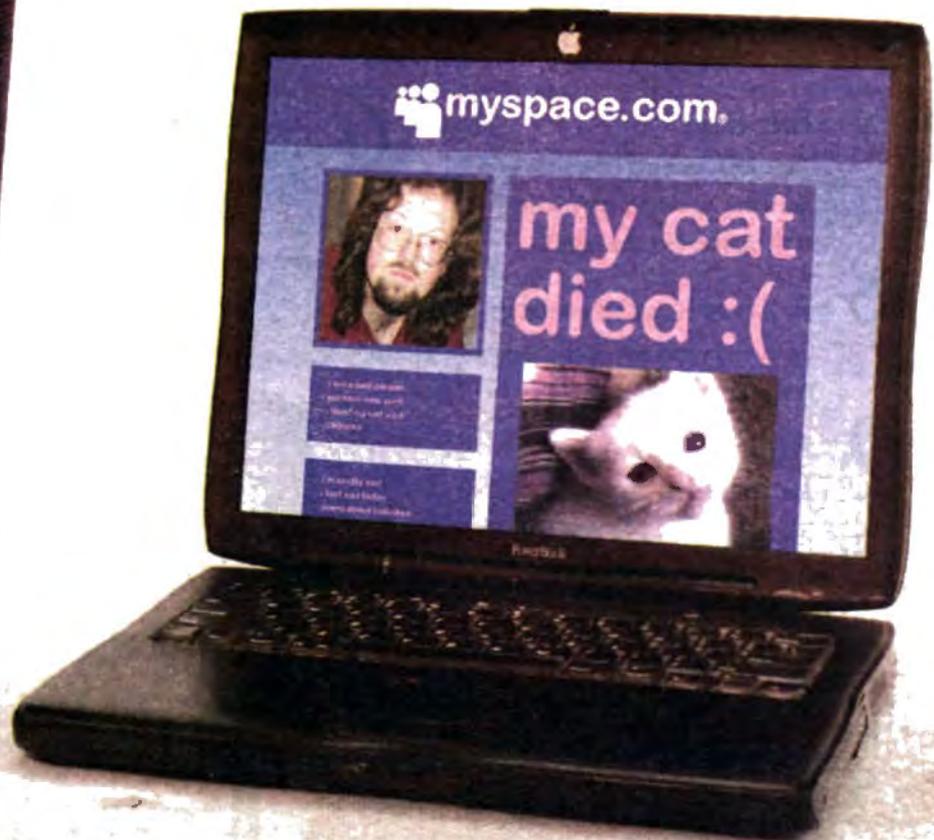
Kimberly Allen, *et al.*

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# A Modest Proposal

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\*for the obscure reference, see Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, Act V, scene 5

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# A Modest Proposal

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# WATERVIEW'S CASH COW

*Examining the rent increases that will live in infamy*



by kimberley allen  
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Waterview's 10% rent hike is a blatant example of UTD's administration abusing its power and taking advantage of a captive student population of Waterview residents. They have cashed in on the goodwill earned by housing improvements in exchange for profits — pilfering from the Waterview coffers filled with our rent money to make up for lapses in the university's operating budget.

I sat in a meeting on February 22nd with Student Government, the Campus Housing Advisory Committee (CHAC), UTD President David Daniel, and various other administrators to hear the official pitch: UTD is doing everything it can, they know that a 10% increase "doesn't feel good," but increases are necessary to ensure the highest quality in campus living.

Pardon me, but I don't buy it.

At the meeting, Dr. Daniel provided a spreadsheet containing information on how UTD uses Waterview's net income for university-owned Phases 5-9. This year, Waterview's balance is a negative \$355,531. While it's common knowledge that UTD funds scholarships through excesses in student rents, I was shocked to discover that \$500,000 was pulled from Waterview to mitigate UTD's \$5 million budget deficit — not just scholarships, but to fund the general university budgetary shortfall.

UTD sunk Waterview's ship to keep its own budget afloat. If it hadn't, Water-

view would be operating at a surplus of \$145,000 this year. (Dr. Daniel explained that, since the money all "goes in the same bucket," it's no different than a contribution to scholarships.)

Which begs the question — why raise rent so drastically when Waterview can clearly operate without it? And, why should Waterview residents, who make up only a fraction of the UTD population, foot the bill for budget deficits that affect all students? If a public university can't pay its bills, then it should raise money from lobbying the legislature

why tax-exempt university housing can't be as affordable as other apartments in the area. Unless, as I suspect, the University has something to gain from gouging students, which it certainly does. Add scholarship finances, UTD deficit subsidies, and capital project funding together, and you get a clear picture of the university's real incentives for raising rent.

Furthermore, the meeting did little to inspire my confidence in the university's intentions. Two weeks prior, I emailed the relevant parties: FirstWorthing's area manager Jonathan Denton, Director of

for the documents in question. He replied that it "roughly might be a week" before he could get them to me. He needed time to put "the information in a format that does not hinder [my] review."

It's apparent that the university is trying to control the flow of information, and it makes me suspicious.

Moreover, while the monthly CHAC meeting is always taped and the minutes taken, Dr. Daniel's portion of the meeting (and, in fact, the entire discussion of rent increases) was conspicuously *not* taped. (Dr. Daniel left halfway through the meeting but said he would be glad to come talk to us again and would give us "as much time as we need.") I can only speculate as to why he didn't want to be taped, but it reinforces my suspicions that they are hiding something.

After Dr. Daniel left, Dr. Rachavong said the discussion was finished. The meeting moved on, even though our questions hadn't been answered.

The issue hasn't been adequately addressed by administration. Despite their assurances, I feel that they are not acting in the best interest of students. The university wants to continue milking the Waterview cow and is dodging the issue with "maintenance" smoke and mirrors, while students scrape to pay for what should be affordable student accommodation.

In response, students must unite and act. Sign Student Government's petition, talk to your friends, e-mail amodestproposal@gmail.com and other CHAC members, question the university's policies. Or vote with your feet and move out of Waterview. We have alternatives, and we have a voice. Let's use it. ■

*Kim Allen says: "Can you hear me now? Good." Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

“...While the monthly CHAC meeting is always taped and the minutes taken, Dr. Daniel's portion of the meeting (and, in fact, the entire discussion of rent increases) was conspicuously *not* taped.”

(gasp), raising the tuition (shudder), or alumni/industry contributions — NOT from its on-campus housing.

I asked at the meeting whether Waterview is doing everything that it can to keep expenses down. I wanted Dr. Daniel's assurance that Waterview was being responsible with student rents and not frivolously wasting money on, say, 40" plasma TVs, iPods, and \$1,000 Visa gift cards for students who renew their leases. Dr. Daniel couldn't assure me of anything, since that's not his department. He said the university is more concerned with quality of housing than the cost of housing, as though that eliminates the need for monetary oversight.

Essentially, his point was that you get what you pay for. Still, I see no reason

Housing Operations Matthew Grief, and VP of Student Affairs Dr. Darlene Rachavong. I asked them to bring whatever documents are necessary, including financial statements, to thoroughly discuss the 10% rent increases. This would obviously include financials showing the increases in maintenance costs for Waterview Park, since that is what they claim justifies the rent increases. The students on the CHAC group had asked for these documents at the last month's meeting, as well. Despite adequate notice and an email from Grief confirming my request, no such documents were provided. During the meeting, a student government senator asked for them again, and Grief, again, said he could get them for us. (And again, after the meeting, I emailed Grief and specifically asked

Have an opinion on the rent increases? We want to hear it. Send a letter to the editor at [amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com).

# Our INVISIBLE University



by liam skoyles  
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Thousands of impressionable young minds fill the basketball arena at the University of Tennessee. Photo courtesy of Destination Imagination

Our university has a problem: Our halls are filled with 14,000 bright students, our labs produce internationally known results, and Nobel Laureates grace our lecture halls, but people living in Richardson 400 yards from our main campus don't know who we are.

It is hard to believe but that thin grassy border that separates our campus from the surrounding community seems to have erased us from their field of vision. It is not totally unusual to find someone who went to Plano Senior High who had no idea what UTD is. We are not a generic feeder school for people who just weren't good enough for UT, but not many people know that. The simple fact of the matter is that UTD has not

“ Sure, every so often we have a math-meet, ESL classes or maybe even a show in the theater, but these events will at best attract a handful of people to campus. ”

integrated with the local community to any great extent. Sure, every so often we have a math-meet, some ESL classes or maybe even a show in the theater, but these events will at best attract a handful of people to campus.

One painful testament to the community's ambivalence is the complete lack of university oriented businesses in the area, barring Off Campus Books. Comet Cleaners could be mistaken for having school spirit, but they are just a fortunately named chain. I know of only one restaurant that contains spirit items: The Burger House. Chili's walls are covered with memorabilia from high schools that are further away than UTD!

Functionally, UTD is surrounded by several excellent school districts that produce a huge number of well qualified graduates each year. The fact that their student populations don't regularly visit our campus is almost shameful.

I propose a more concerted effort to bring people from the local community onto our campus. It can be as simple as a community meeting on campus or a local election speech in the mall. The best way to get people to campus, however, is through large conferences, competitions and conventions.

If UTD became more approachable by the community and let its facilities be

readily available, the community effects would be immediate and profound. Our buildings often go nearly empty on the weekends, so why not use this wasted capacity to improve our reputation with the local community? I'm sure there are studies that map the correlation between visiting a college as a high-school student and actually attending that college.

One such event now coming to campus is the Destination Imagination Regional Competition. Approximately 2,000 people will be wandering campus on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, here to compete in a creative problem solving competition. The competitors range from elementary school through high school, and these students will remain in contact with the best parts of our campus for a whole day. From the conference center to the student union and the activity center, students are going to interact with campus in a way they never would have three years ago.

However, a much bigger event is about to take hold of UTD in a few weeks when the State competition is held here. (Look to AMP to give you more later.) On April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, approximately 10,000 people will descend on every large room on campus, and UTD is putting on a show. Although it is obviously a huge opportunity for UTD and would pay out in spades, the event has been breaking

barriers and blazing a trail through precedents. It has been pushing against the grain.

One big hurdle stopping events being held on campus is the awkward room reservation system on campus. Students at UTD are often involved in local events that would be perfect for an on-campus setting, but they don't know how to reserve the right rooms; and frankly, even some administrators have trouble doing it.

After the rooms had been reserved for the Destination Imagination State tournament, a freshman orientation was scheduled for the same weekend! Certain disaster was narrowly averted when students associated with both organizations realized the flub, and it appears that some administrators completely ignore official room requests when organizing events.

Whether through community apathy, student disinterest or administrative failure, UTD has kept itself isolated from the local community for too long. With a shift of priorities, this failure can be remedied and we can finally tap the rich resource sitting just on the other side of Campbell. ■

*Sometimes Liam Skoyles paints himself blue and pretends to be Temoc in front of a mirror. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# SG (not) Representin'

*Distribution of Senators doesn't reflect university population*



by ben dower  
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This year, Student Government has been busier than ever. From free DART Passes to the Internet at Waterview to getting ISBN numbers available to students, SG has been there improving student life at UTD. But Student Government has a problem. The issue isn't the personalities or the bureaucracy or even faculty-student relations. The problem is the nature of the representation itself.

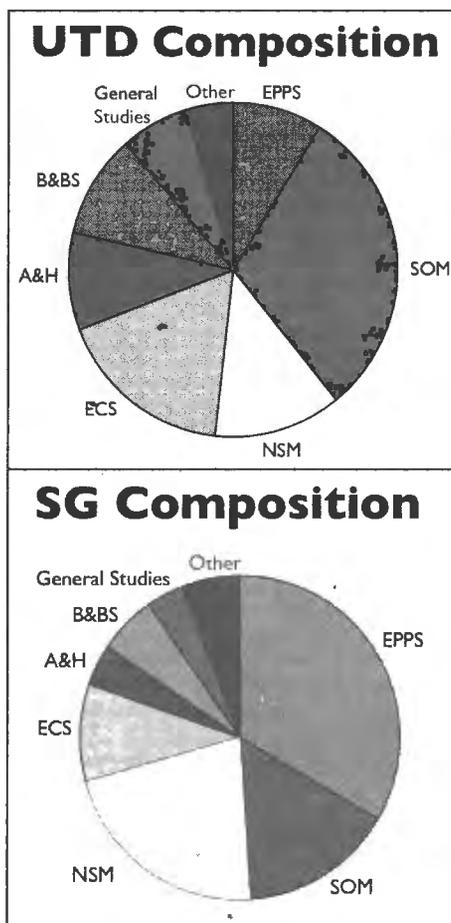
Student Government simply does not represent the students. I don't mean that figuratively; individual Senators work hard to reflect the interest of the study body. However, the population of the Senate itself is highly disproportionate when compared to the demographics of UTD.

As of January 2007, a full one-third of Senators belong to the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. However, this same school composes less than ten percent of the UTD population as a whole. This statistic is hardly surprising; it makes sense that students majoring in Government & Politics or Economics would be interested in joining a representative governance body.

On the flip side, the School of Engineering & Computer Science is vastly underrepresented with only nine percent of the Senate and nearly twenty percent of the student body. It seems that many CS majors would rather be busy typing at their computers than jotting down notes at a committee meeting.

When I first stumbled upon this imbalance, my first impulse was to dismiss it as inconsequential. After all, as an Economics-History double major, I too fall into the category of excess. And there is nothing inherently wrong with having a large segment of EPPS students. I am in no way discouraging people from that school to run for office. However, it is disappointing to me when there is a five-way race for the Junior EPPS seat and both the Junior and Senior A&H seats go uncontested (or worse, unfilled.)

Those familiar with the Student Government elections may wonder how such a disproportionate balance could occur. After all, Junior and Senior seats are divided between schools. For example, last year I ran in an uncontested election for the Junior A&H seat (and thank goodness for that History major, if I had ran under EPPS I would have had to contend with a whole slew of highly-qualified candidates.) This system was



Charts by Ben Dower; data courtesy of UTD

specifically designed to ensure all schools would have representation in the student governing body. So why are there so many EPPS senators and so few in A&H and ECS? The answer lies in the distribution of candidates.

The usual pattern, if not outright tradition, of Student Government elections is to have highly competitive and occasionally epic battles for the EPPS and NSM seats while Graduate and A&H seats remain unclaimed. Then, when the elections are over, the SG President appoints (with Senate approval) previously-elected Senators to the empty spaces in the roster. While this isn't a bad system, particularly for social and physical science students, it does defeat the entire purpose behind avoiding an at-large election in the first place.

This raises the rather obvious question: why create a system that creates room for specific schools, isn't that less democratic than an all-out battle royal? This is a valid critique but one that ultimately ignores the question of representation. Despite their many differences, EPPS students are concerned with issues which are specific to that school. Likewise, there are certain issues that could easily escape notice from particular groups. As an Economics major, I've never had a problem with academic advising. I can call my advisor and make an appointment for sometime that week even during the month of class registration. The same cannot be said for Computer Science majors, or so I hear.

There are numerous other school-specific issues that might very well be ignored as a result of a disproportionate Senate composition. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if there was a whole list of issues that we don't know about because our five ECS Senators or two A&H Senators haven't brought forward to the larger group. Do we like the Art Barn the way it is, or do we need to push to reallocate greater funding to get something grander than a shack? I certainly don't know! Without sizable representation, it is difficult for certain groups to make their voice heard.

The Student Government election is this month and filing doesn't end until March 16th. Chances are if you're reading this, it's not too late to throw your hat in the ring. While I encourage every UTD student to run for a Senate position, my plea is doubly strong for those of you who are in the school of ECS or A&H. Even if you don't relish the prospect of sitting through a two hour meeting filled with discussion and debate, if you can work well with others and think you have something to contribute, we have a place for you.

As cliché as it may sound, this is your chance to make a difference. I can promise you that in this next year, Student Government will continue to advocate for the rights and interests of UTD students. I encourage everyone who might be interested to take a part in that process. And if nothing else, please go out and vote.

During our Constitutional amendment referendum last month we had a 46 person turnout, and I can promise you that the majority of those people were Senators. At the same time, we had a record breaking number of people come out and vote last spring. Let's break that record this semester with more candidates, more competition, and a higher turnout this year. It will make for a superior Senate composition and better protection of Student Interests, I can guarantee it. ■

Ben Dower is (over) representin' in a Student Government near you.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)



by benedict voit  
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# Improving CAMPUS Improvement

*Enriching UTD doesn't have to take time*

In preparation for an interview, you are always told "sell yourself." This means from the moment you walk in, you need to be sharp in every sense of the word. If you are not dressed for success, rarely can your brain power and expertise make up for it. This is the same way we should look at our campus. Many improvements have already been made, both internally and externally, and new plans were released this semester to continue the enhancement.

These beginning plans have great potential, and we all hope that in 10 years when we return as alumni, we return to a beautiful campus that is the marvel of the UT system. However, such long term plans should not blind us to the possibilities that exist to improve campus right now.

Walking to the beloved Classroom Building or to Multi-purpose is never a straightforward task. The sidewalk from CBW ends, and then awkwardly crosses the street before merging with the service road. At this point that the student becomes detached from the University. On the right is a field of mud, now conveniently hidden beneath two large trailers, a mound of gravel, tire tracks and pick-up trucks. Three strings of yellow "CAUTION" tape warn the student of the dangers of treading into the mud and potentially interfering with the work zone therein. Large "Do Not Enter" signs surround the road, menacingly warning student vehicles to stay out. Instead of inviting the students towards campus, this one section of the university does a very good job of making the student feel most unwelcome.

What can be done? Well, a lot actually. A simple sign explaining the purpose of the work area would be a great first step. "These workers are helping improve Founders. We apologize for the temporary mess and thank you for your patience." Then, when we walk around the large containers and stare at the gravel pile, we can say, "Man, I'm sure glad they are working here. It will look great when they're done!" The caution tape is not necessary (especially the limited 10 feet of it). What is its purpose anyway? To keep us out of the mud? I think we are more than willing to do that on our own.

This is not an isolated example either. The field between the SU and ECS is not much better.



Above, caution tape accentuates the large muddy field outside Berkner atop which a gravel pile, two containers, and materials lie. Below, a black-and-white image of what could be an orange-and-green UTDALLAS sign painted on the weathered steel hanging from the Power Plant by Phase VIII. Photos by Benedict Voit



Improvements do not have to be grandiose and they do not have to be exceedingly expensive. The simple addition of grass outside the McDermott Library has done wonders for the mall. The simple curved path is appreciated everyday, both by those who use it, and those who remember what was there before.

When the workers are done outside Founders, I

would hope that grass is planted, maybe even with a nice path up the middle.

Grass adds so much to the area because of the color. In the midst of a campus where the stone buildings and the slick-brick tiles reinforce the cold winter and the whipping wind, the sight of color helps warm the atmosphere, even if in a figurative sense. Ask students the most visually appealing building on campus, and the responses will be those of color: ECS, SOM and maybe even the new building of Natural Sciences.

Looking up at the Power Plant from the Art Barn, the 10 grey half-cylindrical metallic pieces hanging on the side are gloomy. The paint is wearing off. An Orange and Green UTDALLAS painted on the center pieces could be vibrant.

I understand that changing the older buildings exteriors would be overly expensive; but changing the area color does not necessitate changing the paint job. Look at University Drive. The large UTD banners are great. More "flags" or some kind could be hung from the crosswalks all around campus.

Other quicker improvements include the streets. There is talk of rerouting some of the roads in order to keep all of campus pedestrian friendly. This planning and execution will take months if not years. In the meantime, why not go ahead and rename the streets? Drive A and Drive H? Is that how we want to sell ourselves? Where is Whoosh Avenue? Why isn't it intersecting with Flash Drive or running parallel to Temoc Court? These names may be too "corny," granted, but we aren't starting from a great base either.

In short, UTD is investing \$10 million into beautification plans that would be done no earlier than 2009. These enhancements will add new dimensions and an artistic flavor never before seen on the mall. Until then, though, there is

plenty of work that can be done. The administration and students should act together in beginning this process. Together we can make campus a truly great place. The time to start is now. ■

*Benedict Voit will improve campus, but who will improve Benedict Voit?  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# File Save

*'Spring Cleaning' reminds me how much it hurts to throw stuff away*



by luke mckenzie  
ltm032000@utdallas.com

Ever feel like you're drowning in a sea of ... stuff?

Sometimes I come home after a hard day, look around, and suddenly realize: My apartment is full of crap.

Seriously, what the heck.

Various bric-a-brac is strewn about over all the horizontal surfaces. The closets are stacked high with all sorts of things I've accumulated: product boxes, packing materials, magazines, nondescript cables, obsolete computers.

My bedside table is a semifunctional household organ, for crying out loud.

But the moment of clarity subsides quickly. I recall that all this stuff still has a purpose. I kept it all for a reason. I *need* it.

On the rare occasion that I need to ship something, it's really nice to find just the right box in my closet. That organ will come in handy when I get around to recording my first studio album.

And you'd be a fool indeed to even *think* about throwing away your first Macintosh.

## What If?

The excuses are mostly like that. *It'll come in useful someday. I might need it. I might find that I want it. And, then, won't I be glad that I kept it?*

That Macintosh, for instance. Every time I think about getting rid of it, I see myself fifteen years from now: I've invited a few geeky-minded friends over to my place for the evening, and the subject of conversation turns to Apple.

"Hey! I've got something

to show you guys," I say enthusiastically, as I hop off the couch and have everybody follow me to the back room. There, on a little table, is my beloved Performa 578.

"This was my first Mac," I croon softly, as my friends stand silently agape in recognition of such an obviously valuable artifact. As they proceed to fawn over it, I bask in the affirming knowledge that I was wise to hang on to it.

That's the first version of this vision. Then there's the second one.

This time, as the subject turns to Apple, I feel a desire to relate the conversation to myself (as we are all wont to do).

"You know, I remember my first Mac."

My voice strikes a mournful chord, as

a spasm of nostalgia washes over me. I remember the joy of System 7, and my heart fills with regret.

"I threw it away when I was in college."

"Oh. Too bad." My friends might actually feel sorry for me. Or maybe they're just automatically consoling the person who was just singled out as the unfortunate bastard who, in hindsight, made an unbearably poor decision in throwing something away.

## Unpack Yourself

My cousin Scott grew up in Dallas like an ordinary kid, but then his parents got him into sailing. He became a mechanical

engineer for hire on private sailboats for the ridiculously wealthy. By now, he's grown his hair long, traveled all over the world, and turned into a real live bloke.

Last time he was in town, I helped him pick out a MacBook. As he unpacked it, I almost asked if I could have the box. It's handsome, and I could keep stuff in it.

But before I could ask, he threw it straight into the garbage can.

"More waste for the environment," he sighed.

Despite myself, I learned a powerful lesson that day. Scott walked away with his new laptop — and that's all he really needed. No boxes, no papers, no crap.

He's had to learn to pack light and live on little, and it means he's free to see the world and do what he loves, unencumbered by physical possessions.

And I realized I didn't need the MacBook box either.

## Think Vertically

I always liked those little apartments around the perimeter of the showroom at IKEA. They're so impossibly tiny, yet they're well-furnished and clean and — I daresay — livable.

It's the sort of place where you could take care of the necessities of life — and then grab your camera, lock the door, and go experience life happening elsewhere.

But then I come home to my own apartment again. Full of crap.

So for Spring Cleaning this year, I'm going to try to make my apartment more like the ones at IKEA.

They "think vertically" when it comes to storage. They don't have surplus cardboard boxes, which can be bought readily at the post office. They don't have any old computers. They don't even have any *functional* computers.

I even bought a scanner in an effort to go paperless. Why hang on to years' worth of accumulated school papers and files (a few square feet in volume) when I can save it all on a thumb drive nowadays — with multiple backups, no less?

And it's not like I have seven or eight Oldsmobiles in the front yard, rusting away on their cinder blocks. I don't even have a front yard. It can't be that hard.

But — heaven knows why — I think I'll hang on to the vintage Mac. I'm sure my parents have room for it in the attic. ■



Luke McKenzie hasn't been paid for this completely inadvertent product placement. But he'll take checks. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!

# A stray 'cat'astrophe

*Be careful when you open the door; you might just get a cat*



Not nearly as entertaining as the musical, the cats on campus attract a wholly different kind of attention. Photo courtesy bigforksummerplayhouse.com



by phill johnson  
pcj041000@utdallas.edu

To say nothing of the arguments on whether or not there's enough parking, the pricing of said parking spots, or even the bottlenecked traffic on Drive A during the evenings: It's just plain not safe to drive on campus anymore. Or to walk, ride your bike or even live on campus. This is a far, far-reaching problem I bring before you today.

The problem? Strays. It's a simple word, but under no connotation is it positive. A stray thread on a new coat or, more macabre, a stray bullet from a gunfight come to mind. However, I'm referring to stray cats, dogs, rabbits. Roaming free and wild on the campus, one almost cannot help running into an unattended pet.

Running into a stray dog or cat hasn't been much cause for alarm on campus, seeing as it's mostly cats. Of course, my

“ The problem? Strays. It's a simple word, but under no connotation is it positive. A stray thread on a new coat or, more macabre, a stray bullet from a gunfight come to mind. However, I'm referring to stray cats, dogs, rabbits and—in some cases— children. ”

freshman year it used to be the same with rabbits—now I see a lot more cats, and far fewer rabbits. Is there a connection there?

If you've ever driven on campus before, can you count on one hand how many times you've had to brake for an animal running in front of your car? Unfortunately, not everyone brakes, but that's another argument for another time.

Driving through any phase in Waterview Park has become treacherous, as the cat population continues to rise. Shooting between cars in the narrow streets, sometimes I feel like I'm in driving school again trying to dodge road cones. Fortunately, my suped-up racing car (which is a hyperbole at best) has good brakes.

The saddest part about all this? The population is growing, which means either the feral cats on campus are breeding, or more people are abandoning their pets on a whim by simply kicking them out of the apartment. Last winter, a family of black cats lived under the wooden boarding next to the Phase 1 pool, and the cats I watched grow up as kittens now have their own kittens.

Not all of my experiences with strays have been so benign, either. Another

cat (seeing a trend?) was meowing incessantly as though it were injured. It was prowling around the south end of Waterview Park nervously. My roommate came home about an hour later, and upon opening the door, this orange cat shot into our apartment. It took several minutes to shoo it out, and by the time it occurred to us to call animal control, the kitty had made its way to places we knew not.

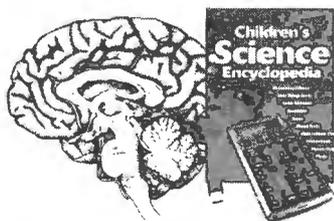
It's not just cats, either. There was at least one raccoon I've seen moping around drive A, darting between the bushes. Something needs to be done about these creatures, especially because their numbers are multiplying each season. I certainly hope that some of the rent hikes will go to getting the animal population under control.

I love animals as much as the next person, but in the immortal words of Bob Barker: “Nothing gives me quite so much joy as when people tell me they've had their pets spayed or neutered.” ■

*Phill is still listening for Zarathustra to speak.  
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# A Right Brain at a Left Brain School

## *Surviving as a social sciences major at UTD*



by molly wurzer  
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Occasionally I get the feeling that I don't quite fit in at UTD. I walk out of my room at three in the morning and find ten people lifelessly sprawled on the floor of the living room surrounded by lab manuals filled with complex molecular structures for an impending Organic Chemistry test. My governmental interests and I might be a bit out of place in the computer science-engineering-math-biology-nanotechnology mass of typical UTD students.

UTD is not renowned for its large social sciences department. It is the second smallest school, larger only than the School of General Studies. Someone apparently decided to make up for its lack of size by giving it a really big name: School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences (EPPS for short). I love the EPPS department: it's small, has great professors who really care (and speak recognizable English), and you always know a bunch of people in your classes. However, EPPS is not the focus of UTD.

When I embarked upon my semester-long experience in Washington, DC, as a Bill Archer Fellow, I didn't really think about how things would be different. Suddenly, I found myself living with twenty-three other government-minded people in two row houses behind the Supreme Court of the United States.

Living in a house with ten other people, working full-time, attending long classes in the evenings, and navigating the fast-paced life of Washington, DC – without a car – took some adjusting. However, this was not my most aston-

ishing finding. When I got up in the morning, I wasn't informed of the latest o-chem news or neuroscience gossip. Conversation in the evening did not center on the math major's exact calculations of the percentage missed on a Linear Algebra test and the resulting effect on her overall semester grade.

Instead, I witnessed a strange phenomenon. Everyone in DC talks politics. The State of the Union is just cause for bar gatherings across DC. Offices throw parties, and people cheer and boo at appropriate intervals. Friends gather together to watch.

Personally, I had trouble containing my excitement when the cameras scanned over my boss at frequent intervals.

Highlights of the day include seeing Hillary Clinton and helping her take a picture with of someone in a wheelchair. It seems that half the girls in my house – the Democrats, of course – have crushes on Barack Obama.

The White House interns loiter in the hallway at the mention that George W. Bush might walk down it sometime soon. Most of the Archer Fellows are graduating seniors and talk wistfully of the successful political campaigns they hope to work on after they graduate.

Happy Hour is a social-networking phenomenon. As one of two under-21 Archers, I do not often partake in this

particular chain of events. However, I do witness it on a regular basis. It includes traveling en masse from the office in large groups dressed to perfection in business attire to the closest bar.

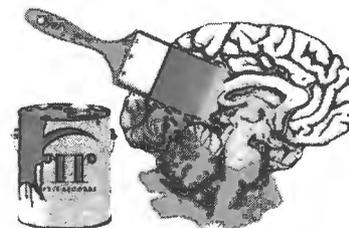
Here, the young business people and interns schmooze, hang out, and talk about the latest in DC. On our first day here, we were given a list of the best Happy Hour deals and told to always have our business cards with us for the ready.

“UTD is not renowned for its large social sciences department. It is the second smallest school, larger only than the School of General Studies. Someone apparently decided to make up for its lack of size by giving it a really big name: School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences.”

Reading the daily newspapers and summarizing important issues becomes the daily drudge of the average Washington DC intern. Nevertheless, it's only as much of a drudge as the intern wishes it to be.

My personal specialty is the Wall Street Journal. I read it everyday with a rotation of The New York Times, The Washington Post, and USA Today. I am becoming increasingly adept at determining the articles of most importance for my office, plus reading all the interesting articles within the space of a few short hours. As a result, I am now a very informed person. I am not the only one.

When I go home in the evening and say, “Hey, did you see that editorial in the Wall Street Journal discussing Bush's success at an increasingly conservative Supreme Court?,” the reply isn't “Huh?” as it invariably would be in Dallas.



Instead, I hear, “The Washington Post highlighted an interview with Ginsburg about how sad she is as the only female on the Court.”

Then, someone else chimes in, “Guess what! Alito walked down the street in front of our house today!” You may even see the people you are talking about just strolling by randomly.

That's not to say that I won't eventually look forward to coming back to Dallas. Listening to my nerdy science friends ramble on about upcoming nanotechnology minors and work in a neuroscience lab at the Collier Center can be endearing. It stretches my parameters and makes me a more informed person. Personally, I would never want to change that aspect of UTD. One of the reasons I came here was because of the small and individualized EPPS school. Although it is not my main interest, I am constantly surrounded by math and science.

When I am a high-level politician, I can call someone who can explain to me the procedures involved in nanotechnology, and I will know the face of the scientist who needs government grants for the latest medical breakthrough. Being at UTD teaches me the reasons government is important: the people who the laws protect and the projects that the government funds.

As I listened to oral arguments before the Supreme Court of the United States in *Microsoft v. AT&T*, the arguing attorneys rambled on about zeros and ones, master discs and photons, software coding and patents. As I realized that I listen to this language everyday at college, it reminded how important it is to understand the way science and government interact. And thankfully, UTD is a place where I can do just that. ■

*Molly is postulating the effects of quantum fluid dynamics on the viscosity of flan.  
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# Stand-up against Racism

*The double standard in stand-up comedy*



by jonathan lane  
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A few months ago, Michael Richards, best known for his role of Kramer on *Seinfeld*, launched himself out of obscurity and back into the nation's consciousness. Unfortunately, his path back into the limelight was not through a recreation of his sitcom glory, but instead through an action that tarnished the positive memories that many fans still had.

At the comedy club Laugh Factory in Los Angeles, Richards let loose a barrage of racial slurs on a black heckler, so alienating the audience that he was forced to leave the stage. Worst of all for him, an audience member recorded the incident on their cell phone and released the video on the Internet, creating national headlines.

Richards tried to downplay his actions, going as far as saying that although he was sorry for the people he offended, he was so deep in character that he was hardly aware of what he was doing.

Regardless of the validity of that statement, there was a strong reaction to his slurs on stage. Some, including former co-star Jerry Seinfeld, condemned Richard's actions and sympathized with those who were hurt. Others took

to Richard's side, claiming that at a comedy show such racist comments are acceptable.

It is true that racist jokes have been a part of modern stand up comedy for all of its existence. After all, ethnic jokes have existed for centuries, whether they focused on a group's religion, nationality, or race. However, due to a rise in political correctness and the increasing stigma placed on those who are labeled racist, a large number of unwritten rules have been established to determine what sort of comedians can discuss what topics.

Much has been made about the double standard that seems to exist governing black comedians' discussion of white people versus white comedians' discussion of black people. For the most part, it is generally true that it is fairly acceptable for black people to poke fun at whites while it is mostly unacceptable for white people to poke fun at blacks, unless it is talking about a positive trait. In general, it's as though anyone who isn't white is able to talk freely about other races while white comedians are regulated to racial topics that are deemed acceptable by the general public.

For example, comedians Dave Chappelle and Carlos Mencia have both had similar, successful, racially-driven television shows on Comedy Central. In each of their shows, they are unhesitant to cross every racial line that can be drawn, whether it is dressing up as members of different races or hiring actors of other

to Richard's side, claiming that at a comedy show such racist comments are acceptable.

Anyone who has ever seen either of their shows has probably wondered at least once during the show how they were able to get away with some of the things that they say. Another thought that may often cross one's mind, is that there is no way that a white comedian could get away with a similar show. The sort of backlash that would occur with a white comedian in black face paint playing out a traditional stereotype would be enormous.

There is a probable cause as to why these comedians are able to get away with such racial humor: it is expected of them. In fact, it seems to be nearly impossible for a non-white comedian to become popular without using racist jokes. Simply look at the black comedians that have gained notoriety throughout the years: Richard Pryor, Chris Rock, and Chappelle have thrived through the use of such jokes, drawing in nearly as many white fans as black.

Yes, it's true that these comedians tell plenty of jokes about whites. However, if these were the only racial jokes that the comedians told, it would be inevitable that they wouldn't draw a large white following. After all, most people do not enjoy sitting back and being made fun of constantly.

Instead, it is the jokes that Chappelle tells about blacks, the jokes that Mencia tells about Hispanics, and the jokes that Margaret Cho tells about Asians that draw a white audience who will endure cracks at their own expense if it means that they get to laugh at these other racial jokes.

For example, at a recent comedy show at the UTD Pub, after several bouts



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of silence following some of his bits, a Hispanic comedian began telling jokes that made fun of Hispanics. Immediately, the crowd began to laugh. The comedian took notice, making a mental note out loud to tell more Mexican jokes.

Now, to be fair, his early jokes weren't particularly good, as they wouldn't have drawn much crowd reaction were they told by even the most gifted comedian. However, the quality of his jokes about Hispanics wasn't much greater; it was simply the subject that elicited the audience's reaction.

There are a few possible explanations as to why white audiences need to hear those types of jokes from non-white comedians. The first possible explanation is simply that the idiosyncrasies of various races provide an endless bounty of comedic material and that these jokes are consistently, and as objectively as possible, funny. Although this might be a nice thought when trying to explain this issue, it comes off as being rather naïve. After all, there are only so many ways that you can make fun of how whites can't dance.

Another possible explanation is that white people enjoy hearing these types of jokes and feel that this is the one place where they can hear these jokes in public. It's no secret that a lot of people enjoy making fun of other races with people of their own race. It's also no secret that when a person of a particular race shows up, all jokes about that race cease. Because it is considered so wrong for white comedians to cross certain racial lines, for the most part the only comedians that who can tell these types

of jokes are the non-white comedians. It is entirely plausible that if a white person feels a need to publicly hear these jokes, they have no choice but to turn to a non-white comedian.

The last, and the most malicious, explanation is that people turn to these comedians to discover new material that they can use in their own racial jokes. It is not hard to believe that people go to these shows, listen to these CDs, and watch their specials and, by doing so, pick up new ways to think about other races. Although the audience may not realize it at the time, these comments that the comedians are making stick with them and will likely come out at another time, usually the next time that someone from a different race gets on their nerves.

It is pretty farfetched to believe that people actively seek new racial stereotypes so that they can become more racist. In today's world, racism is so looked down upon that cultivating feelings of racism is an activity that

hardly seems beneficial to anyone. However, people always enjoy feeling superior to others and racism is not much more than putting another group down through stereotypes. It doesn't take a great of a leap to think that if hearing these jokes gives the audience a greater sense of superiority, then the audience will subconsciously desire to hear more.

If that is the case, it follows that this sort of stand-up comedy helps perpetuate racism. Just look at Chappelle's Show. It soared to popularity during its run on Comedy Central, creating millions of fans of all races. It became so popular that it was not uncommon to hear various catchphrases from the show being quoted every day. However, some of the sketches that became popular showed black people in ways that were rather unflattering.

Chappelle realized the impact that his show was having on society. Although he had become a well-loved national icon, he

felt as though he was creating thoughts and feelings that were detrimental to black people. In an interview on Oprah after he stopped working on the show, he said that one of the main reasons that he walked away from the show, and millions of dollars, is that he "was doing sketches that were funny but socially irresponsible."

Many people credited Chappelle's exit from the program as being the result of insanity, but perhaps he's smarter than the rest of us. Perhaps he realized something that has been out of the nation's eye for years: racist humor is not good for society. When these jokes become more popular and prevalent, it does nothing more than instill racist thoughts in people.

The clear problem is trying to figure out what can be done to stop this from continuing. The truth is it will probably take a huge shift in society for anything to happen. So long as people only appreciate non-white comedians who choose to tell racist jokes, and so long as these comedians are not only allowed but also expected to tell said jokes, this problem will continue for the foreseeable future. ■

*Jonathan wishes he could be a stand-up comedian, but all he knows are blonde jokes.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)*



# The Changing Shape of Narrative

*In a shifting society, what we read (and what we tell) seems to be in flux*



by jordan youngblood  
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A few weekends ago I went over to a friend's home, where I got into a conversation about recent books we'd all read. Overwhelmingly, the topics all flooded back to the current heavy hitters: *Guns, Germs and Steel*, *The World is Flat*, *Freakonomics*. Names like Pinker and Dawkins were tossed about with ease; all of us, for a time, sounded like experts on anything from language to the military history of Asia. We'd all gotten through with our current reading lists when I realized one rather stark fact: out of a group of six well-rounded and intelligent adults, I was the only one who had listed a novel—which, as a literature major, doesn't even really count.

Look at your own bookshelf. Think about the last book you went out and bought. What's going on with writing these days? Who's reading what, and why? Have our tastes as a culture changed? Have we run out of interesting narratives to tell? And the question that seems to power the books at the core of current discussion: who needs fiction when the trends and forces at work in our culture read like a fantasy?

## All the World's a Poet

Name the current poet laureate of the United States. Actually, raise your hand if you actually knew that the U.S. has a poet laureate, not to mention our fine state of Texas. Now, name the last awful poem you read on Xanga or Myspace that someone posted with the idea that someone would be interested in what they have to say. Not too hard.

Oh, the joys of blogging and displaying your journal to the world. Certainly the

continuing digitization of literature has given people access to vast new resources of literature—resources that most people don't use so they can write on their blog. Everyone's a poet these days, except those people who actually happen to have their work published into books. They're off having to be any number of professions to pay for their art since no one else is buying.

No medium has both benefited and suffered so greatly from the Internet age as poetry. Perhaps no previous generation has written so much of it, and as a result, none has written as many wince-inducing couplets. The ability to have your verse take up equal virtual space as that of Keats or Yeats has sent our culture into a creative fit, spitting out garbled free verse and water metaphors with untiring abandon. To say you're "a poet" is to get ten other raised hands in the room with hyperlinks to their John Mayer forum where they've finally summed up their feelings about their dead cat. Fluffy will indeed be missed, and your river of tears touches my heart.

“To say you're “a poet” is to get ten other raised hands in the room with hyperlinks to their John Mayer forum where they've finally summed up their feelings about their dead cat.”

Am I guilty of the same crimes? Of course. It's hard to find anyone who hasn't aspired to poetic brilliance on the Web, not to mention short stories, novels, limericks, and any other form of written expression. Mention the word “fan-fic” in the presence of a group of people and watch the faces either light up or turn into twisted, painful masks. We're all willing to throw our work out to the world at a moment's notice, anxiously awaiting affirmation.

“Look at this stuck-up prick,” you're probably saying. “Is he suggesting people stop trying to express themselves? Does he

think he's some great writer?” God forbid, no; I'm well aware of my writing shortcomings.

What does strike me as bad is the excessively democratic bent that seems so prevalent among our generation, where anyone can write a good poem or a good book if they try really hard *and mean it*. And in the same vein: “You can't judge me, because I bet you can't write anything better.”

We're so obsessed with equality, with everyone demanding an equal opportunity to “say what they feel,” that any genuine talent gets diluted amongst the vast flood of lackluster material. You may have the right to write whatever you want, but you don't have the right to claim to me it's just as valid as Eliot or Joyce. The nice thing about publication is that it indicates

someone affirmed the quality of an item; it earned the right to be placed into print.

While this is no guarantee of the actual quality of said item (which I'll look at in a minute), it does mean that it met some criteria of spelling and structure that passed as writing. When there's no standard, when anything's passable, mediocrity passes for brilliance and barely discernable prose becomes genius. In many cases, the Internet has become a haven from criticism and growth under the guise of “freedom,” which can only lead to stagnation.



## Hollywood: The Great Temptress

And now we reach the stuff actually being printed.

When *Hannibal Rising* hit the theaters just a few weeks ago, some might have noticed that the novel by Thomas Harris reached bookshelves at about the same time. To a casual observer, this

wouldn't raise any eyebrows. Movie-based novelizations happen all the time, as any Star Wars fan can inform you. Any fan of Hannibal Lecter, however, can tell you that he was originally Mr. Harris's creation in a pulpy, sharply-written novel called *Red Dragon* way back in 1981; he's been a hot commodity long before Anthony Hopkins immortalized his Chianti-sipping psychosis in *The Silence of the Lambs*. *Hannibal Rising*, however, was written by Harris at the exact same time as the movie script he sold to MGM. In essence, the novel was an excuse for a film adaptation that undoubtedly garnered Harris even more money.

Hollywood's been affiliated with literature since its very beginning. The leap from a written to visual medium has

film rights is no longer just a part of the business. For many writers, it is the business, one that is far more lucrative and holds better job security than that of full-time author. Most major writers have the rights to their books purchased far in advance of publishing, as studios look for potential box-office successes.

Consider the case of Nicholas Sparks, he of *The Notebook* fame. After selling *The Notebook* for \$1 million in 1995, he's subsequently sold every single book to a studio, whether they have immediate plans for production or not. The studios aren't so much concerned with the quality of the product as the potential profit involved; when an author's books appeal to a demographic willing to spend a lot of money on a consistent product, spending money up-front for a potential windfall is a no-brainer decision.

Result? Writers aren't just creating

Nice work, Dan.



Writers follow formulas in a quest to make money rather than in the pursuit of literary merit. Illustration by Ben Dower

been irresistible; certain books scream to have their contents displayed on the big screen, as *Gone With the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz* proved quite convincingly to production studios in 1939. And you certainly can't say Hollywood has only worked with hacks—just about every American luminary of the past 75 years has either sold rights or written scripts for major film houses.

As Mr. Harris reveals, however, selling

stories to appease publishers; they're looking to sell to the studios, and with name recognition being what it is, most big-name authors can churn out similar product with no fear of having to evolve. Just the threat of Stephen King starting a project sends money his way that may never come to form anything. The increasing commoditization of literature continues to reinforce formulaic writing, as one specific example proves.

### The Da Vinci Formula

Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is essentially inescapable in any discussion of modern book successes. Take the Catholic Church, a conspiracy, a badass name like "Knights Templar," and a style stolen from the Clive Cussler School of Awesome Adventures, and you've got a blockbuster on your hands. As Janet Maslin's recent article in the *New York Times* pointed out, this idea has proven foolproof: no less than 10 best-selling books here lately have played with paintings, the Scion, some sort of religious cover-up, or scampering around the globe.

The *Code* was maybe kinda sorta plausible, which of course was enough to send everyone into a panic that 2,000 years of Christian tradition were about to be destroyed by a guy with the blandest name in history. It was enough to make people think they were experts about some sort of vast secret. They were in the know. Fiction appealed to a mass audience because it made them think they'd discovered a whole bunch of facts about real organizations and places.

New Journalism already opened the door to this territory back in the 1960s, when guys like Norman Mailer and Truman Capote started blurring the lines between factual reporting and fictional recreation. While *The Da Vinci Code* doesn't fall within this genre, a few other recent huge sellers certainly do: *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson, which played upon murders during the World's Fair in Chicago, has remained a staple among the *New York Times* lists, and even the king of 1990's fiction, John Grisham, has found a new burst of attention by leaping into the "fictionalized non-fiction" genre.

Why is this important? Right now, we're seeing a split in the public taste into barely altered reality or extreme fantasy. We're either reading a depiction

of existing trends (the *Freakonomics* group), a narrative of already-occurred events (either as New Journalism or as a re-imagined historical novel), or a bunch of people flying around on dragons or brooms (hello, Mr. Potter).

The everyday narratives of authors as varied as Raymond Carver to Jane Smiley seem to be dying out in popularity; people aren't interested anymore in people recounting their lives. They want

to know the pulses underneath the surface, whether as imagined conspiracy or overarching economic theory. Michael Crichton's made a whole career out of this, talking about the possible implications of the future while sticking some basic archetypes in the way of everything from nanomachines to dinosaurs.

People are no longer buying fiction to delve into the problems of our society; we're not picking up *Main Street* or reading *Death of a Salesman* to recognize the undercurrents of our world. We want real-world accounts and explanations or no real world at all. Thus, we vault from Malcolm Gladwell discussing the ideas of Innovators in society to J.K. Rowling throwing our heroes into Voldemort's clutches once again. We pick up Crichton's *Next* and have badly-informed discussions about a genetic apocalypse while Cormac McCarthy's far simpler, bleaker *The Road* captures the end of the world with stunning accuracy—and slides off the charts.

A lot of these books are extremely well-written and informative. Writers like Gladwell and Pinker have offered up new and exciting ways to interpret our lives and the people around us; authors like Mailer and Larson have given the usually drab, inflectionless style of reporting an injection of fictional techniques that stand as genuinely compelling reading.

The problem lies in the fact that so many authors appear ready to leap onto whatever successful bandwagon drives past—and publishers, being the profit-driven entities they are, have no incentive to print anything that tests the margins. If the Templars are selling, why print a look at the mundane nature of life, about that dreaded literary term known as "the human condition"?

Do we have a writer of our generation? When we look back, will someone like Rowling stand as the Kerouac or the Fitzgerald of this group of people? With the increasing spread of individualized writing, cash-based writing decisions, and the lack of desire for modern fictitious narratives, there may not be an audience for a *Gatsby* of the 2000s.

To steal a page from *Time*'s controversial issue, the Author of the Future may, in fact, be you: at home, writing about your day, to an audience of a few friends talking about the same things. See you on LiveJournal. ■

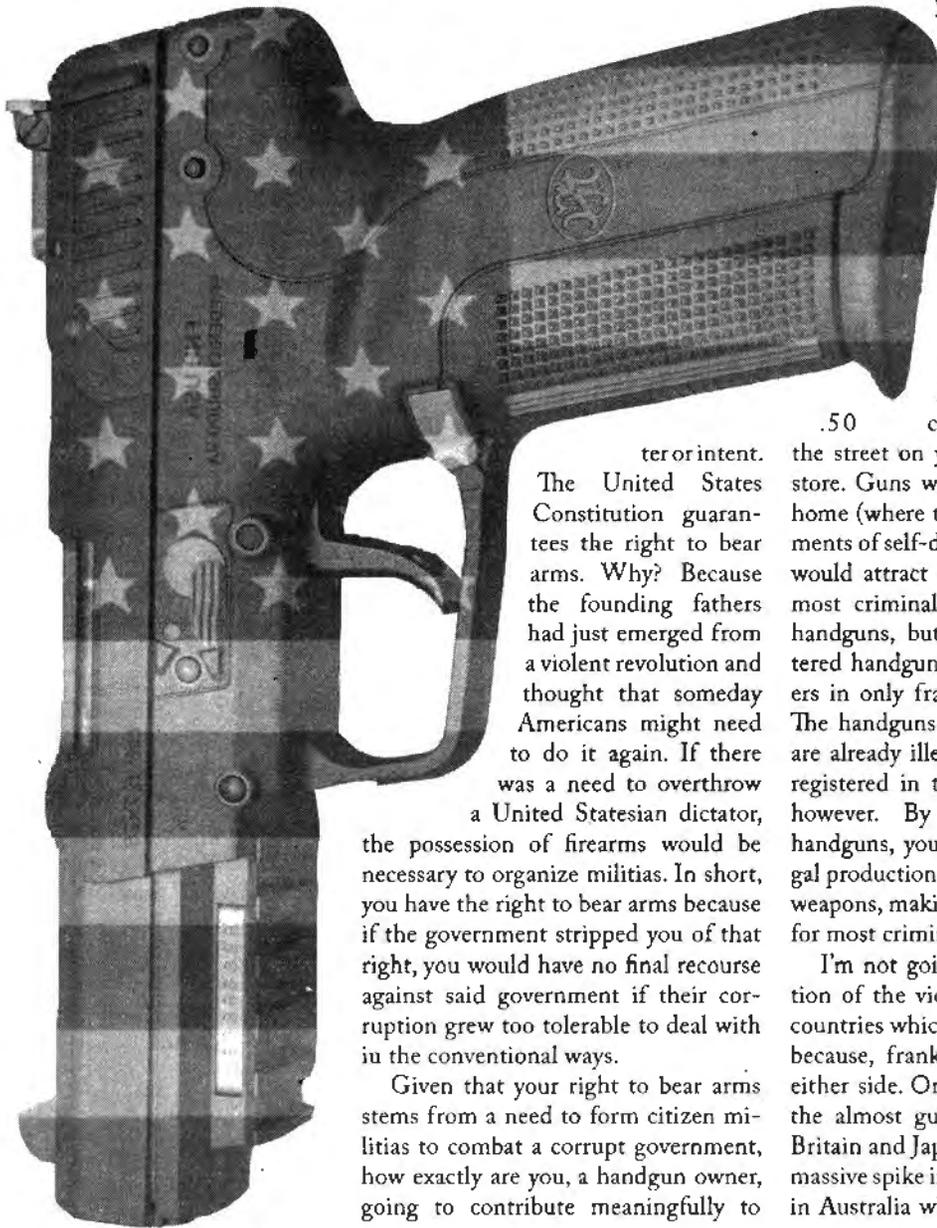
By now, Jordan's poor little eBook has gone poof under the sheer literary weight imposed upon it. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)



by richard badgett  
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# A Loaded Issue

Handguns should be illegal. And, before you can say it, this ban in no way contradicts the 2nd amendment in let-



terrorintent. The United States Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms. Why? Because the founding fathers had just emerged from a violent revolution and thought that someday Americans might need to do it again. If there was a need to overthrow a United Statesian dictator, the possession of firearms would be necessary to organize militias. In short, you have the right to bear arms because if the government stripped you of that right, you would have no final recourse against said government if their corruption grew too tolerable to deal with in the conventional ways.

Given that your right to bear arms stems from a need to form citizen militias to combat a corrupt government, how exactly are you, a handgun owner, going to contribute meaningfully to

this militia? You're not. Handguns are not meant for war. Handguns are meant for killing people at close range. They have no other functions. Furthermore, they are meant for killing people either conveniently (due to their small size and mobility) or stealthily (that same small size allows for easy concealment.) You cannot combat a professional army with your handgun.

You can, however, rob a bank, shoot your wife, or compensate for your small penis. That's about it, though. I have a proposition: if you're serious about gun ownership, own a serious gun. If you're honestly afraid that you may have to someday join a citizen militia, purchase a weapon that can be used in a small military engagement. Most hunting rifles would qualify for this, as might the odd shotgun. No handgun is ever going to meaningfully impact a battlefield in the way say a kalashnikov might.

I can already hear the outcry. "Are you really suggesting that we should allow, or even encourage private ownership of automatic rifles?" Well... yea. I think you'll find that criminals already have access to such weapons, and that, even with that access, the overwhelming majority of gun crimes are committed with handguns. It's difficult to conceal a .50 cal as you swagger down the street on your way to rob a liquor store. Guns would be relegated to the home (where they can be useful implements of self-defense, still) because they would attract instant attention. Surely, most criminals would continue using handguns, but the fact is that registered handguns are used by their owners in only fraction of gun homicides. The handguns that criminals are using are already illegal. Many of them were registered in the system at one point, however. By categorically banning handguns, you would eliminate all legal production and distribution of these weapons, making it much, much harder for most criminals to obtain them.

I'm not going to resort to a dissection of the violent crime statistics for countries which have banned handguns because, frankly, they fail to support either side. On the one hand you have the almost gun-crime-free nations of Britain and Japan, and on the other, the massive spike in gun-crime that resulted in Australia when handguns were pro-

hibited there. Internally you have DC, a place which not only prohibits handguns, but suffers for more gun crime per capita than any major city in the country. It's ambiguous data at best.

It's far more worthwhile to examine

“ You cannot combat a professional army with your handgun. You can, however, rob a bank, shoot your wife, or compensate for your small penis. That's about it, though. ”

the constitutionality of both the current laws, and the proposed ban. The 2nd amendment does not guarantee the right to bear all arms. Certainly nobody debates the prudence of selling howitzers or cruise missiles to the general public. And if you're coming from the original intent perspective, it's pretty difficult to claim that Madison, Jefferson, and Hamilton had anything but muskets and rifles in mind when they added that clause to the Bill of Rights. There are logical limitations to the scope of the 2nd amendment. My claim is that included in these, are handguns, which were never originally meant to be included the scope of the gun ownership rights and are disproportionately harmful to society in practice.

Don't get me wrong, gun ownership is great. Those who want to own hunting rifles, or other long-arms of that nature should be encouraged to, just on the off-chance a dictator rises to an influential office and ignores the mandates of the people, seizes power without popular support, and say, suspends habeas corpus and orders arbitrary and unconstitutional wiretapping. Such despotic action would almost certainly necessitate revolution, and citizen militias would be needed. But all sarcasm aside, stay true to the intent of the 2nd amendment. If you're serious about gun ownership, own a serious gun. ■

*Richard Badgett wants to know if you need tickets to the gun show to see Law and Order. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)*

# Morality and the Patriot Act

*Questioning the ethics of being American*



by paul ingram  
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There is something rotten in the United States, and it is the Patriot Act. Maybe it is just me but there is something intrinsically wrong with the active sacrifice of morality. What is this morality then and why is it so important? Where do we as Americans obtain the guidelines for who we are?

Some would argue that it is spontaneous or comes from God, or following the existentialist view, an understanding of our responsibility to fellow man. For Americans, I would accent the arguments by claiming our perception of morality is supplemented by the Constitution. This document outlines man's most basic rights, what we as citizens have come to see as intrinsic liberties that should not be denied to any person within the United States.

I assume you can see what this argument is leading up to. At the forefront of my discussion are the first and fourth amendments; they make themselves our cornerstones, safeguarding the rights to freedom of speech and security in person and personal effects.

The very wording of the Patriot Act violates both of these amendments, allowing, in times of war, for what would be otherwise termed as unreasonable search and seizure and unconstitutional regulation of speech.

Some will argue the Constitution surely cannot hold firm in a time of war. We are being attacked and preservation of human life is necessary at all costs. After all, the Constitution is only a piece of paper and is meaningless when faced with the defense of our citizens. I beg to differ. It is our obligation as Americans to oppose this oxymoronic "Patriot" Act.

Morality is sacred above all else. I give you this example: What is the difference between a man on death row and any other human walking down the street? I think everyone comes to the same conclusion; it is that the man on death row has committed such an egregious offence against country or fellow man that he is deemed unfit to remain among society, and that the price of that crime is death.

What then makes his action a crime? What makes treason a crime, or murder? Mostly, what is it that makes the crime worth the death of a fellow citizen, the very persons we seek to protect? It is the violation of morality. The correct answer to the question I posed at the beginning of this example can be summed up in one word: morality.

What gives human life value is not merely the fact that we breathe, feel or think. It is the morality that we have. Any breach of this morality destroys what we are. I then ask you to reconsider the essence of the patriot act. The implementation of this act violates the very thing we seek to defend: America.

We as Americans choose to live here and by virtue of tacit consent, we agree to support this country's concept of liberties. We vote to put people in power who hopefully will uphold and safeguard these beliefs, beliefs that have found their way into the cross continental morality of those in the United States.

Human life deserves a bulwark, but not at the expense of morality. This argument would appear to call for some level of desperate quietism along the Christ-spoken vein of 'turn the other cheek.' Realize though, I do not call for non-action, but rather that action respect the Constitution and the dictates of our morality. ■

Paul claims its his patriotic duty to write for AMP. Shouldn't it be yours?  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!



Although its name gives the impression of legislation protecting the rights and lives of the American people, the Patriot Act actually compromises the rights it seeks to defend. Above, even the Statue of Liberty is not safe from the intrusiveness the Patriot Act allows. Photoillustration by Liam Skoyles.

A  
Modest  
Proposal

Feeling amoral? Is the government to blame?

Send an article to A Modest Proposal:  
[amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com)

Complete sentences preferred.

# THE O'REALLY FACTOR



by kimberley allen

kim.allen@student.utdallas.edu

Given the obvious bias that permeates today's news media, it's hard to know which news sources can be relied on as bias free. Isn't it nice to know where to turn for the facts month after month? Enter the "no spin zone" and trust the O'Really Factor to really bring you the unadulterated truth in these top news stories:

## The \$12 Billion Question

The House Oversight Committee recently began investigating an astounding incidence of "government inefficiency"—namely the missing \$12 billion in cash that was intended to help Iraq's economy. Paul Bremer, who is apparently responsible for the staggering error, says he has no idea what happened to the money—all 363 tons of it. There is some evidence that the money went to "ghost employees" in Iraq; in one instance, a payroll contained only 602 real employees out of a reported 8,000.

The disappearance of such vast quantities of cash is almost unbelievable, particularly when considering how it was transferred. The cash was put in \$100 bills, stacked into \$400,000 bricks, and flown to Iraq. It's not as though someone simply put a decimal in the wrong place.

Even more ridiculous is Republicans' lack of concern over the lost money. Representative Tom Davis of Virginia called the investigation "self-righteous finger wagging." (Can't a guy make an honest mistake?!) And Rep. Darrell Issa from California said he would like to "put into perspective what \$12 billion really is. It certainly seems like a lot of money when you put it in 100 dollar bills and put it on forklifts."

Yeah, it "seems" like a lot—enough to give every Iraqi citizen \$500. In fact, I think the U.S. could have dumped the

money out of an airplane over the Middle East and done more good. Now that it's done, we'll just have to add this to the list of huge but really quite insignificant mistakes in the War on Iraq.

## Evangelicals Have Best Sex Life

...Or so says Rev. Ted Haggard, the scandalized former leader of the National Association of Evangelicals. In a documentary by Alexandra Pelosi, Haggard is shown saying that "all the surveys say that evangelicals have the best sex life of any other group."

"No way!" says Pelosi. "Yeah!" Haggard replies. So to illustrate his point, he asks the guy next to him how often he and his wife have sex. His answer: "Every day. Maybe twice a day." Haggard goes on to say that evangelicals have a lot of love. (But I guess that goes without saying.)

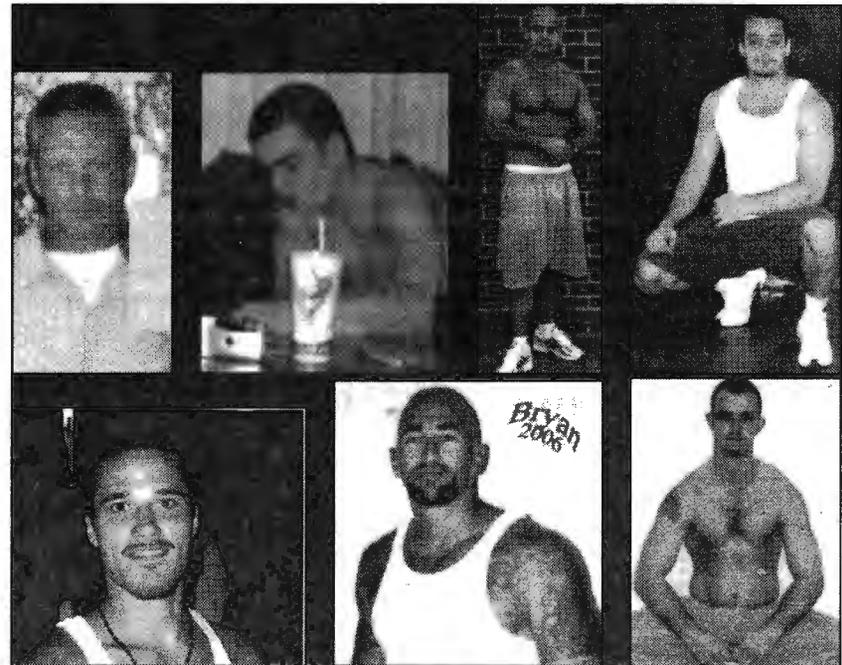
You may think comments such as these are strange coming from the former leader of one of the most "conservative" groups in America. And you certainly wouldn't expect it from a reverend who had recently been involved a scandal because of drugs and a male prostitute.

Pelosi, who is the daughter of the new speaker of the House, said her meeting with Haggard changed the way she thought of religion. She said she has decided to expose her children to religion in order to provide them good role models (and believe me, the irony of that statement is certainly not lost on me).

## Date an Inmate

Are you looking for love in all the wrong places?

You could be, if you're not looking at [www.hotprisonpals.com](http://www.hotprisonpals.com)! The site's tagline: "We bring you pen pals looking for love—that just happen to be incarcerated." These loveable inmates have plenty of affection to give and are looking for women who can see past their tattoos and crew cuts (and prison sentences) into the sensitive,



Just a sampling of the fine fellas you could date on [hotprisonpals.com](http://hotprisonpals.com). (This is an actual screenshot.) Screenshot taken by Kim Allen

caring men they really are.

"We have scoured the prison floors and checked each bunk bed, both top and bottom, looking for the men that you have dreamed about," the site says. They're really not serious; the inmates have to apply and pay \$19 to have their pictures posted to the website. But whatever.

No compatibility tests are required to match up with these hunks. And unlike most online dating services, there's almost no chance you'll get to meet these guys in the next 3-5 years.

In fact, some of these prisoners are serving life sentences for murder and rape—but the website won't tell you which ones. (They wouldn't want a little thing like that to get in the way of true love.) Did I mention they're really sweet guys?

And totally h-o-t, too. Some pictures show inmates modeling shirtless to show off their muscular bods. Jason Rupp, who built the website, says they pride themselves on having the "hottest prisoners on the Internet." Scintillating.

"It's a thrill for women. These are good looking guys and they can seem really exotic from the outside," said Rupp. "It's a fantasy."

## Hijacker Gets Burned

Lastly, this month's rock-awesome award goes to an Air Mauritania pilot. Captain Lemine foiled a hijacking by alerting passengers in French that he would cause a rough landing in an attempt to throw off the hijacker. Then he told the passengers to be prepared to pounce on the attacker—who, it should be noted, only spoke Arabic.

As the captain landed the plane, he abruptly slammed on the breaks and then accelerated, knocking the hijacker to the floor. Then passengers and crewmembers, who believed they were being held hostage by a jihadist, inundated the hijacker with boiling water from a coffee maker and began to beat him.

As it turns out, the guy just wanted to get to France to seek political asylum. Or so he says. Either way, hats off to all the brave souls who made this one fantastic story. ■

*Kim's not willing to date an inmate. Even so, she still has a lot of love... but that goes without saying.*

*Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# Fatty J's Picks



by james fickenscher  
jxf036000@utdallas.edu

## Cafe Brazil

Food tastiness – Superb – 9.5  
Appearance and presentation – Excellent – 8.5  
Service – Not too great – 3  
Bang for your buck – Average – 5

Overall – 6.75

Best deal: Chorizo Nachos  
Worst deal: Any of the French Toast selections  
J' choice: Smoked Turkey Crepes

710 W Renner Rd Ste 216  
Richardson, TX 75080

Phone: 214-575-6868

Hours: Friday-Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Sunday-Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

As far as a hungry college student with a tight wallet is concerned, Tasty Egg Roll is the place to eat. One entrée from Tasty Egg, as my friends and I endearingly call it, can last two decent meals for a big dude, and even more for those with smaller appetites.

It may not be the most authentic Chinese food, but it certainly is delicious. Speedy, friendly service, free delivery, and a student discount ensure this place as a favorite for many faithful patrons – both collegiate and professional.

The owners, a couple of Chinese ex-patriots, are also very friendly and often can be heard singing the Beach Boys and other classic tunes. While the decor is very simple, the quality and sheer mass of food you get as a

2071 N. Central Expressway Phone: 972-783-9011  
Richardson, Texas 75080-2706

Hours: Sunday - Thursday 6:00 a.m. - Midnight  
Friday - Saturday Open 24 hours

The destination for many a tipsy and hungry college student at 3 a.m. on Friday night, Café Brazil offers a variety of delicious dishes and delectable drinks. From a bottomless cup of coffee able to be filled with a multitude of coffee flavors to customizable omelettes to burgers to cheesecake, Café Brazil is a great location to study, have a meal, or just chill with some friends and have some chips and salsa.

On a pleasant day you also have the option to sit outside on the patio and enjoy your time at Café Brazil outside. Everything I have ever eaten at Café Brazil in my very numerous visits has been very delicious, although some dishes are not worth the price. Anyone who gets

Starbucks on a regular basis would not see much a difference in price for many of the specialty drinks, but for the majority of college students on a tight budget the menu can be a little pricey. The only truly bad point about Café Brazil is the service. Don't go to Café Brazil unless you have at least an hour and a half to eat. My last visit, it took over half an hour from the time the server gave me the tab to the time they returned to pick up my debit card. Waits like this are no rare occurrence either.

Overall, Café Brazil offers a myriad of great food choices, and I highly recommend it for a gathering of friends or as a part of a night out with someone special, granted you have a little patience.

## Tasty Egg Roll

Food tastiness – Superb – 9  
Appearance and presentation – Good – 6  
Service – Great – 7  
Bang for your buck – Superb – 9

Overall – 8.42

Best deal – House Fried Rice  
Worst deal – Appetizers  
James' choice – Hunan Lo Mein Noodles

## Burger House

Food tastiness – Great – 7  
Appearance and presentation – Great – 7  
Service – Good – 6  
Bang for your buck – Excellent – 7.5

Overall – 7.25

Best deal – Chicken Fried Steak  
Worst deal – none  
James' choice – Cheeseburger combo

7529 Campbell Road  
Dallas, Texas 75248

Phone: 972-248-8789

Hours: Open Every Day  
11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

A great break from the burgers of McDonald's and Burger King, Burger House offers a great selection of classic American food at very fair prices. Thick, hearty burger combos come in a basket served with fries covered in their signature seasoned salt.

Burger House offers a comfortable, homey atmosphere reminiscent of a small town restaurant, complete with photos on the wall and a few old arcade games. The service is also quite fast given that they make your burgers and sandwiches when you order, guaranteeing you a very fresh, tasty meal.

When you order they don't give out a number, rather you are asked for your name, so it's always fun to give a name like "Darth Vader" just to hear it yelled out.

On top of good food and reasonable prices, SG has

an agreement with Burger House and they offer a discount for students. Burger House is also one of the few restaurants to actually have UTD paraphernalia.

The televisions are almost always on either news or sports, so you can keep up with possibly both while you're eating your fat, juicy burger or your tasty fried catfish. While I don't really have that much to say about Burger House, but what I do is quite positive. I highly recommend Burger House for all occasions. Its classic American menu and great, cheap prices offer a great dining experience for students. ■

*James Fickenscher really likes eating. Send him some suggestions so he can keep it up... please.  
Send your review suggestions to [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# Radio UTD's 4th Annual Spring Showcase

*Four bands with massive potential hit UTD's stage*



by ben vaughn  
boytexasgod@gmail.com

Remember all the times you were complaining about there not being anything to do on campus? For most students it seems that it shouldn't be too distant of a memory. Well here is your chance.

Radio UTD will be hosting their fourth annual Spring Showcase on March 12th at 7pm in the SU Mall.

Even though these bands have garnered critical acclaim they might not be the household names people are used to seeing. This might make you question whether or not it is worth it to even attend this concert. I mean, if they are any good, wouldn't you have heard about them already? But just think about this, these bands have receive honors from sources ranging from the New York

Times, to Spin, and even within the realm of pop web critics like AllMusic and Pitchfork Media.

Three of the four bands have had extensive international touring and will be part of the group of bands that thousands will pay hundreds of dollars to go see at South by Southwest and you get to see them for free a mere three days before the festival!

Everyone wants to be ahead of the curve when it comes to the next big thing and while these artists may never

get their songs covered on Kidz Bop 17 they represent some of the most relevant styles of music being made today. No offense Beyonce, but bands like Shearwater, Pattern is Movement, We Versus the Shark, and Johnny Blackmouth are able to be musically important without doing Pantene Pro-V commercials. I figure that now would be a good time to give you, the well informed readers of AMP, a heads up on these artists that will be rolling through the "musical mecca" that is UTD. ■

## Shearwater

Austin, TX - [www.shearwater.com](http://www.shearwater.com)

The band was formed by Jonathan Meiburg and Will Sheff in 2001 as a side project of their successful band Okkervil River. It was a chance for the two to break free of the constraints put on them from the style that they were playing in their central band.

After recording three albums with the both of them, Meiburg took over the project and was joined by his now ex-wife Kim Burke on bass, Thor Harris on percussion, and multi-instrumental-

ist Howard Draper to make the band what it is today. Their style is reminiscent of John Cale and Neil Young with the ability to croon like Johnny Mathis on demand.

For fans of beautiful folk music with a slight early 70's rock influence they are in a league of their own with even the New York Times saying that their latest album Palo Santo was "one of the year's best indie-rock albums..." and it would be hard to disagree.

## We Versus the Shark

Athens, GA - [www.wevstheshark.com](http://www.wevstheshark.com)

When you talk about Athens, Georgia and music, two things come to mind: the Elephant6 collective (Neutral Milk Hotel, Of Montreal, etc.) and R.E.M. We Versus the Shark is here to change all of that. I believe the AllMusic Guide says it best when it describes the band as a "volatile, yet uniquely accessible

blend of raw dance beats, guitar-driven funk and lo-fi/art rock splendor." They sound like a cross of Fugazi and Gang of Four with plenty of the Dismemberment Plan thrown in for good measure. For those of you who like to move your feet to rock music that isn't in 4/4 time, this band is for you.

## Johnny Blackmouth

Dallas, TX - [www.myspace.com/johnnyblackmouth](http://www.myspace.com/johnnyblackmouth)

UTD alumnus David Shackelford is arguably one of the greatest musical minds currently living in the Dallas area. Jumping from band to band he has left an impression on those who have seen him as an amazing vocalist, musician, and performer.

His ability to be just as much Modest Mouse and Violent Femmes as he is Leonard Cohen and Iron & Wine in the same set is staggering. His natural talents ensure him as an artist on the rise, just make sure you see him now so you can say that you saw him back when.

## Pattern is Movement

Philadelphia, PA - [www.patternismovement.com](http://www.patternismovement.com)

In my years of seeing live music, the idea of a band doing a live set made up mostly of the remix album based on their previous release seemed unheard of. That was until I saw Pattern is Movement do it in New York during the CMJ Festival. While now they play a blend of these remixes and the

originals the idea is just an indicator of the kind of inventive minds behind this math-rock trio. While math rock might invoke images of bands playing repetitive arpeggios for their own satisfaction, PIM's vibrant audio craftsmanship and infectious polyrhythmic beats take the genre to its boundaries.

*Ben Vaughn may look way to excited to be writing for AMP, but... yeah, can you blame him? Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*



Help an organization that's helping us.  
Listen to Radio UTD today!

[radio.utdallas.edu](http://radio.utdallas.edu)  
[amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)  
[amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com)

Are we  
on your  
resume?

FO 1.602 amodestproposal@gmail.com

# Jonathan Swift

Whether for King or for country, babies are always delicious.

**A Modest Proposal.**

**Objective**

**Experience**

2004 - 2007  
**Executive Editor**

- Remained continual thom in Waterview's side
- Ranted, raved, proselytized, magnified, intense-sounding verbs, etc.
- Produced tasteful, attractive t-shirts for contributors

D&D, Inc. Craig's Basement

1985-2001  
**Cleric**

- Continually cast buffing spells, gave healing elixirs to co-workers
- Found fastest route to local comics store without encountering girls
- Honed artistic skills through drawings of barbarian warrior women

South Ridge, SC

1993-1997  
**Customer Service Representative**

- Rented citizens awful movies with a smile
- Rotated Sour Patch Kids boxes with weekly regularity
- Watched "Rambo: First Blood" on Laserdisc. For real.

1988 - 2007  
**Author**

- Wrote some literature that sold a few copies in the area
- Awarded self the "Satirist's Prize" for humor in writing; printed certificate
- Working on sequel to recent Martin Lawrence film "Black Knight"

**Education**

2003-2007 The University of Texas at Dallas Richardson, TX

- B.A., Literary Studies and Molecular Biology
- Will graduate *summa cum laude*.

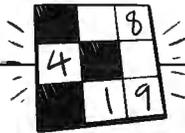
**Interests**

Watercolors, running, gardening, carpentry, and wax sculpting.

**Tips**

Up, down, left, right, A, start. I think you know the deal.

amp.utdallas.edu  
amodestproposal@gmail.com



by **benedict voit**  
benedict.voit@student.utdallas.edu



and **jessie harpham**  
jessica.harpham@student.utdallas.edu

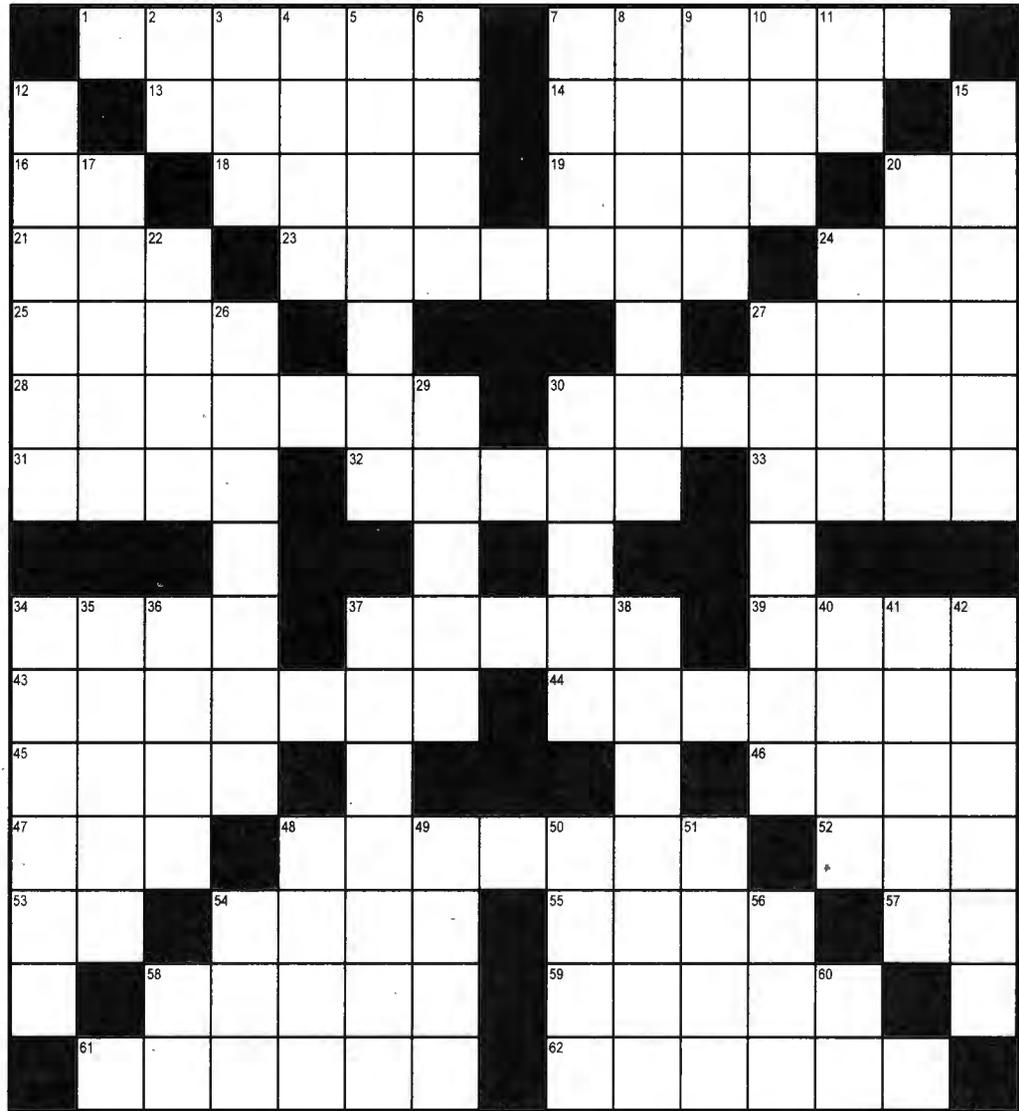
# Spring Break

**Across**

1. Recently merged radio
7. Spring break hotspot
13. Preferred forecast
14. To build up, as in wealth
16. Northern neighbor sentence ender
18. National Comprehensive Cancer Network, abb.
19. Synonymous with smote
20. Army rank
21. I heart ...
23. Contains an -OH bond
24. Grime
25. Venezuela, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and others
27. Central point of attraction
28. Carrot top
30. A hero's nemesis
31. One-half base times height, for example
32. If you have soul, stay south
33. Chances of winning
34. Against
37. Summarize
39. A metrical foot consisting of unstressed, stressed
43. This month to Caesar
44. Von Catan
45. Because \_\_\_\_\_ so!
46. Clearasil helps
47. Mind the \_\_\_\_\_
48. Eating away at you
52. Not served at The Pub
53. Old abbreviation
54. New American soccer term
55. Donald Duck's friend
57. Take the yellow brick road to get there
58. Create one on facebook
59. To make happy
61. A relaxing Spring Break option
62. Spring Break often aligns with this

**Down**

2. For Bill, it depends what this means
3. Command given to Forrest
4. Owners of vast sums of gold
5. How Hogwarts students might address
6. Justin sings in \_\_\_\_\_
7. Needed for the trip
8. NH<sub>3</sub>
9. Hit this on the head
10. Dallas Time
11. "Just the two of \_\_\_\_\_"
12. Spanish lady
15. Use this diet before hitting the beach
17. Caffeine can make you this
20. Transparent
22. Give in
24. Prod
26. Some use Spring Break for this work
27. State of choice for break
29. Symbols of peace
30. What happens here, stays here
34. Juan's friends
35. Of the nose
36. Mouse \_\_\_\_\_
37. Causing or apt to cause destruction
38. A small piano
40. Advanced Light Combat Aircraft, abb.
41. Park in N.J.
42. Seals and Crofts' "Summer \_\_\_\_\_"
48. Mongolian Desert (bad vacation choice)
49. It was as tall \_\_\_\_\_
50. "Do you see what \_\_\_\_\_?"
51. Fat Tuesday (part two)
54. Will keep you in bed
56. Merged with Cingular
58. Home State of the Razorbacks
60. Typical UTD major

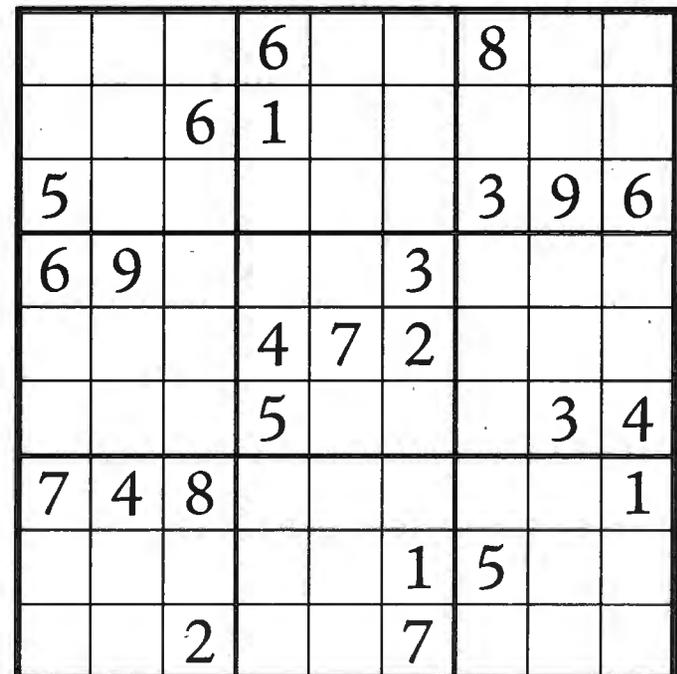


The answers to the February puzzles are available on our website: <http://amp.utdallas.edu>

## EXTRA Sudoku

(because AMP loves you)

There were no submissions to [amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com) for the Contest: *Rename Our Streets!!*



			5		8		7	2
5				3		1		
					6	9	5	
6			7	8			3	
	2						6	
	1			2	3			4
	7	1	8					
		6		7				9
2	5		4		9			

# Sudoku

			9				2	7
			7			8		4
	4		3					
		8						6
3	1			5			7	2
9						5		
					1		9	
2		4			7			
5	8				3			

# Kakuro

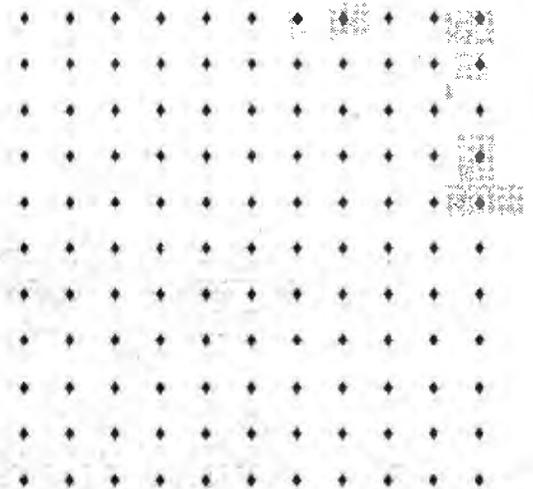
Directions: Place a number (1-10) in each box. Each row of boxes adds up to the number to the left of it, each column of boxes adds up to the number above it. Each numeral is used only once in each series of boxes. This puzzle has only one solution.

		23	6		30	16		15	3		
	3				10			3			22
26							8				6
7			16						6		
			21						18		
	3	25				16					
19						3	6	25			
11				10	5			3			
		7			10						
		13									
		10				3				3	9
		10			6			6			
	3					5			6		3
4				6					7		
3					3						3

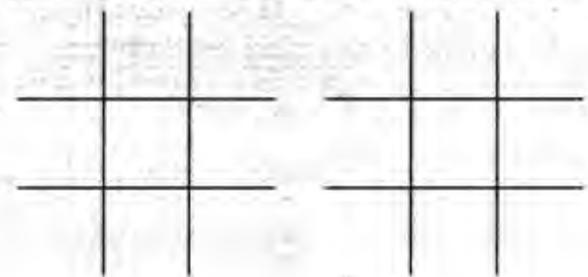


by liam skoyles  
lts033000@utdallas.edu

## Two-player Games



Directions: Take turns connecting two dots together with a line. When you create a box by closing the 4th side of it, you get one point and take another turn. (You must take this turn.) Create the most boxes to win!



AMP is not responsible for GPA loss due to obsessive puzzle solving.  
If your professor catches you in a puzzling state, either frown or ask him to join.  
Discuss these puzzles at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!

# Spears fails as Mary Poppins



"But umbrellas are for good!"



"Someone needs a spoonful of something!"



THE MOST TRUSTED NEWS ON THE PLANET

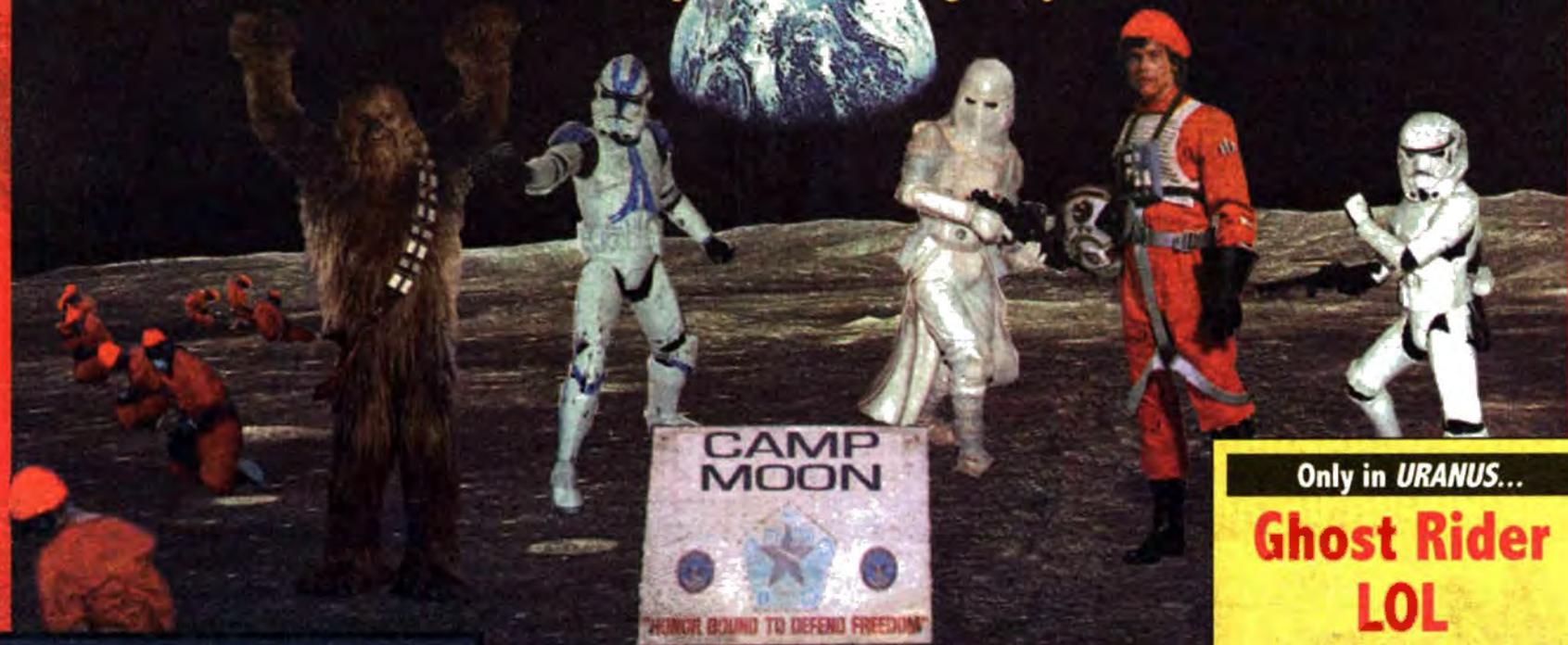
# URANUS

## BUSH RELOCATES GUANTANAMO TO MOON

■ Gonzales: 'Our facility is above the law'

■ Stormtroopers hired to 'keep order in the galaxy'

■ The Force deemed 'un-American'



Only in URANUS...

**Ghost Rider  
LOL**



(people paid to see it)

Pub offering 24 hours of sobriety



"Need...Beer!"



Doomsday clock five minutes slow

"How am I reading this when I'm dead?"

March 1, 2007

\$0.00 US / \$0.01 Canada



A MODEST PROPOSAL

amp.utdallas.edu

# Obama a 'radical Muslim'

## Candidate supposedly uses Arabic Numerals

by Candi Date  
Political Correspondent

CHICAGO (AMP) - It's never too early to start a political campaign, especially one filled with smear and slime. Primaries for the major parties are still a full year away, but frontrunners are already pushing ahead at full speed.

It is hard to run so hard so long, which is why Democratic candidates were thankful to learn news that will surely devastate the promising career of Illinois Senator Barack Obama.

Volunteers working on behalf of Senator Clinton realized they had struck gold when they captured Obama writing secret codes while on the phone with an unidentifiable source.

The picture reveals English text of a person's name juxtaposed with strange symbols. A smiley face, and a "call back soon" emphasized the importance of the quickly scribbled note.

An investigation performed by the Clinton campaign revealed that these symbols were actually Arabic numerals.

"We were flabbergasted," the senior communications director admitted.

"Here is a man who constantly talks

about wanting to unite America, to move our country forward in a bright and promising direction, and to oversee the continued strength of this country in this era of globalization, and yet he would do something so blatant as to use Arabic numbers," he continued. "The arrogance is absolutely overwhelming."

Rudi Giuliani and John McCain, the current favorites for the GOP nomination, were quick to issue public statements on the incident.

"This goes to show what would happen to our national security were a Democrat be elected President," Giuliani proclaimed. "Do you think I allowed this kind of behavior on the NYC subway?"

McCain agreed with Giuliani, adding "The Democratic party has failed this country on security since they lost the Vietnam War. Maybe Obama's youth and inexperience hasn't taught him how the people of this country operate."

Rumors of Obama as a radical Muslim started because of his family heritage and his school attendance in Indonesia.

Closer inspection of "the note" by AMP specialists revealed that the scribbles included the figure "\$100,000" and the phone number (972) 883 - 5354. ■

## Student gives up Religion for Lent

by Hye Priest

Special collaborative contributor

RICHARDSON (AMP) - In an ever secularizing world, the Church is facing difficulty gaining and even maintaining its membership. And although there has traditionally been a greater influx of churchgoers for the Lent season, this too might be a thing of the past.

Cue Archie Bishop. Bishop, a Senior Arts and Humanities major, has been a devout Catholic his whole life.

However, Bishop came to a startling realization while dozing off in the tropical climate of CB 1.110.

"I have heard all my life, give up something of importance for Lent," he noted. "They also have told me that my faith should be central to my life. Anyone else see the convergence?"

As a result of what he refers to as a "spiritual enlightenment," Bishop will hold strong to his promise even though he admits it will be tough.

"I know there will be times when I'm like 'Man! I could use a Hymn or two.' But I know I must follow through on this."

To make up for his lack of church attendance and religious studies he would normally take part in each week, Bishop will take up drinking, video games, chocolate, sweets and other desserts, romance, and even smoking.

Whether Bishop will reenter the Church after Easter presents an interesting paradox. Perhaps his newfound TV watching will provide him, and us, an answer. ■

# School Rings summon Temoc

RICHARDSON (AMP) - After the recent budget deficits and other problems began to threaten UTD, the deans of each school made an executive decision to summon the guardian spirit and champion of UTD -- Temoc.

"All of us, upon being chosen to serve as the deans of our respective schools, were taken aside and given a special responsibility. Into our hands were placed the 5 special rings that summon Temoc, one for each school except the A&H department and General Studies; they have to share the Heart ring," said the dean of Brain and Behavioral Sciences.

Temoc, a blue-skinned avatar of good will and educational reform, was revealed to high-

standing officials at UTD after the threat of rising tuition and decreasing school spirit cast a pall over the hearts of the student body. He is summoned through the four classical elements and, because someone inevitably was going to feel left out, the completely superfluous power of heart.

"We figured the heart would be good for the humanities people, since they spend a lot of time talking about souls and the human spirit and all that gibberish," said the Engineering dean while cackling and creating enormous pillars of fire. The General Studies dean attempted to send him a positive mental message, but was drowned out by the crackling flame.

Temoc appears to resemble a speeding comet, from which his name is derived. He possesses the abilities of flight, immense strength, telekinesis, and the fashion sense of a energetic seven-year old. Weakened only by the powers of lackluster student turnout and breaking of the Student Honor Code, Temoc has often attempted to save students from the threat of villains such as Thrall the Orc and Blotterview Dark.

"I don't know what we'd do without Temoc. Actually, I imagine things would be about the same. In fact, I can't think of the last thing Temoc actually did," said the dean of Management. He then drenched the A&H dean with water. ■

# Veterinarian's Monthly spices up March Issue

## For Radcliffe and Company: Happy Trails Ahead



Daniel Radcliffe, star of the blockbuster "Harry Potter" movies, expands his acting resume by starring on the cover of the increasingly popular "Veterinarian's Monthly" magazine with this month's feature horse. Radcliffe called it "a great honor." VM's editor hailed the cover as a monumental occurrence in the magazine's 83 year history: "We have been waiting to get a white, pure breed for so long." Whether she meant Radcliffe or the horse is a question that will plague man for days.

## Waterview needs money to finance rent increase

**"It takes money to make money," extortioner claims**

RICHARDSON (AMP) - There ain't no such thing as a free lunch - a saying that tends to dominate economic and political actions.

Perhaps surprisingly, there is not an exception for Waterview.

Realizing that buildings don't repaint themselves, and that smoke alarms located above the stove in the kitchen do in fact wear out, Waterview has made reparations a priority.

The result? A "needed" 10% across the board rent increase. But it is not as easy as it sounds.

Deciding just how much to raise rent was a process all by itself.

"Creating the dartboard with differing percentages took a solid week," a spokesman admitted.

"Then we had to play a best-of-99 series. We were excited when it came down between 13% and 10%," he continued. "Either way we knew we were going to clean up."

After the tedious process of justifying the random selection in a report never released, a plan had to be formulated detailing the best method of using these new funds.

"I was always a Bermuda investment kind-of-guy," the manager chimed in. "But the rest of the office liked the Cayman banks better."

An early April trip has been planned to inspect the bank of choice.

Here at home, though, it was high time to put action behind their words.

Air filters and smoke alarms were first on the list to be tested.

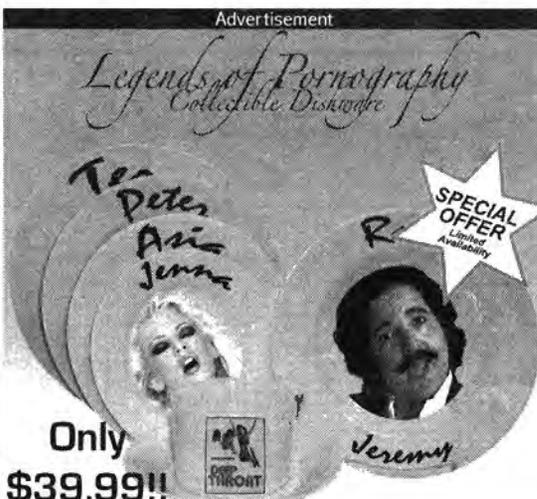
To prove their economic efficiency, Waterview contemplated testing the both parts in Phase III in one full swoop by burning down building 31.

"All we'd have to do is listen for the beep-beep-beep - check the list; then afterwards inspect the air filters. Check," a third employee added. "Two birds, one stone. We feel the students would not expect anything less."

However, Waterview employees were discouraged from the plan when they were unable to reach the building due to copious quantities of dog crap and their own sprinklers flooding the concrete sidewalks. ■

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