
Office of Student Affairs

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A Modest Proposal, vol. 3, no. 8

Kimberly Allen, *et al.*

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A Modest Proposal

Mindless Markup

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Waterview Phases I-IV
~~\$38,000,000~~
\$47,000,000

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SG slams door on students

Student Government exists for one reason and one reason only—to represent the interest of students. When it becomes non-responsive to students or, even worse, excludes them from participatory aspects to which they are entitled, it is nothing more than a vehicle for representatives' self-serving interests. A student government that arbitrarily bars the students it represents from the meetings it holds is an abject failure.

On April 24th, SG held its final meeting of the year, one that would prove to be decisive in determining the integrity of its constitution. A controversial amendment to the SG constitution was on the docket. As worded, it would effectively remove any SG representative from office who was charged with any offense that could be "possibly punishable by disciplinary proceedings," regardless of whether the representative was ever found guilty. In anticipation of this discussion, the meeting drew an unusual crowd of 15 students.

While standards are necessary for any governing body, it is the editors' opinion that former SG President Basher Benhalim had ulterior motives. It's now well-known that newly elected SG President Manfred Mecoy was issued an alcohol-related citation just days after being elected to office. Benhalim saw the opportunity to exploit Mecoy's mistake and replace him with Snir Cohen, who Benhalim had personally groomed to be his successor. Benhalim threw his weight behind Cohen for the election: openly campaigning for him and releasing a diatribe in the Mercury expressing his disappointment in the student body for electing Mecoy, saying he thinks "students didn't make an informed decision."

After the Executive Committee refused to select Cohen as senator of the year, he invented a special award to give Cohen instead. And angry that his hand-picked candidate lost the election, Benhalim used everything in his power to subvert a fair election process. The whole purpose of this amendment, thinly veiled with concerns for "standards," was to remove Mecoy from office.

The meeting began as usual and quickly turned sour. Iris Kwong, who at publication was dating Cohen, stood up to give her Academic Affairs Com-

mittee report. She called for a "point of privilege" for the meeting to be closed to everyone except members of SG. Her justification? From an audio recording of the meeting obtained by this paper, Kwong states: "Recently there was a party thrown by SAE, one at which I was blacklisted, and I don't feel comfortable giving my report with so many hostile members in the room." (According to high-ranking members of the fraternity, she never even made an appearance that evening; her excuse does not stand under scrutiny.)

Steven Rosson, Cohen's running mate in the election, agreed: SG is not used to having this many students in a meeting, and their presence would be "distracting." This move had been obviously choreographed, as Kwong and fellow SG members were intent on passing the amendment behind closed doors.

There were voices of dissent. Isn't SG supposed to be accountable to its constituents? SG regularly displays a sign outside its meetings encouraging students to attend, but few ever do. Why, then, does SG reject the students when they finally come?

The motion to close the meeting was put to a vote and passed, and all non-senator students were asked to leave, including two AMP editors. According to the recording, the senators debated whether members of the press should be let back in to the meeting. Certain senators questioned whether AMP could even be considered a press organization. Fortunately, we are officially recognized in SG's by-laws, and one AMP editor was allowed back in the room.

As soon as all the students were out of the room, Benhalim immediately changed his tone. He began the discussion of the amendment with this statement: "Let's talk about the elephant in the room, everybody. What everyone wants to know is who will be the leadership for next year." Finally, an ounce of honesty.

As the amendment was revised, it was apparent it would be enacted solely for the purpose of removing Mecoy from office at any cost. Some expressed concern that the wording would make it too easy to abuse the amendment in the event of a power struggle. This was a valid concern, since it is clear that SG's constitution was

being hijacked by Benhalim for just that purpose. There was a sense of urgency by some senators to pass the amendment as soon as possible; support for the amendment would wane because the leaders of the movement are leaving SG.

Fortunately, the amendment failed to pass; following, for the most part exact party lines, 22 voted for the amendment and 15 voted against. Taking a gander at the Facebook pictures of some of the proponents of this amendment, their call for "higher standards" rings hollow. The amendment serves as an example of how easily SG could be abused for personal interests: SG members have resorted to party politics, prioritizing the interests of a few over the well-being of the entire student body.

We make no effort to hide that Vice-President Ben Dower served as an editor of this newspaper for the past two semesters; we also make no effort to hide the fact that he, in a show of respect to the responsibilities of his office, stepped down from his position as editor after the election. This editorial is motivated not by personal political interests, but by a desire to show the truth behind the recent actions of SG.

This is not an editorial that should need to be written. Individuals at the collegiate level should act in a mature and honorable fashion; however, as these events have demonstrated, this rarely happens. We at *A Modest Proposal* write this editorial in the hopes that the student body will become aware of the actions of those in office, and that those representatives are ultimately held accountable for them. After all, it is to this student body that our student government answers to—a fact, we are afraid, that has been sorely forgotten.

Sincerely,

The editors of *A Modest Proposal*

Check out Page 18 for student responses to the Student Government meeting. More available at <http://amp.utdallas.edu>

Senators who voted to close the meeting

- Zeeshan Abedin
- Jessica Amber Ahmed
- Bruce August
- Harrison John Boyd Jr.
- Clinton Brennan
- Snir Cohen
- Farzan Ghodsianzadeh
- Maria Islam
- Haseeb Jangda
- Nicholas "Kyle" Keller
- Iris Kwong
- Cassiopia Lippold
- Shamin Masrouf
- Sarha Mavrakis
- MiaoMiao Qu
- Steven Rosson
- Jason Stephen
- Ana Tavares
- Chris Toolin
- Adit Wongsaroj
- Yen Yoon

Senators who voted to keep the meeting open

- Eraj Akhtar
- Ben Dower
- Julie Evans
- George Graham
- Scott Hooker
- Paul Ingram
- William Kelly
- Felicity Lenes
- Arie Litovsky
- Megan Malone
- Shubham Manchanda
- Manfred Mecoy
- Tiffany Ornelas
- Juliann Peterson
- Jeff Poole
- Albert Ramirez
- Lori Skillestad
- Alex Swaim
- Bradley Wallace

Check amp.utdallas.edu for audio clips from the meeting, including this specific roll call.

The Utley Scandal

Waterview rents are padding a millionaire's pockets



by kimberley allen
kim.allen@student.utdallas.edu

UTD President David Daniel points to increased maintenance costs and the deficit in Phases V-IX to justify 10% rent increases in Waterview. He's only telling students half of the story.

After analyzing the Waterview contracts, the Utley Foundation's tax statements, and a host of other official documents, one thing is evident: Bob Utley overpriced Phases I-IV by as much as \$10 million when he sold them to the Utley Foundation in 2003, and students are being forced to pay for his greed.

It all started so innocently. In 1983, UTD began to consider student housing options for the first time. The university had no money of its own to dedicate to the housing project, and the administration decided that the best way to provide housing was through a private partnership. Bob Utley, founder and chairman of the FirstWorthing Corporation, stepped in and did the university a huge favor. Through an agreement with UTD, he took on the risk of building the apartments now known as Phase I, and the project was finished in 1989. At that time, Utley was the great philanthropist who brought housing to needy students.

By 1995, the first four phases had been completed. These were owned by four Texas partnerships, in which Bob Utley owned a controlling interest. Over the next few years, he continued to build other phases, which were later purchased back by the university.

Fast forward to 2001. Utley is ready to sell off Phases I-IV and make a hand-

some profit. The only problem is that he has to find a buyer, and one who is willing to pay his price. Why didn't UTD buy the buildings when they had the chance? The answer is simple: Bob Utley asked too much, and the university was not willing to pay more than the buildings were worth.

To solve this problem, Utley set up a non-profit (tax exempt) corporation in 2002 called the Utley Foundation, supposedly for the "sole benefit of the University of Texas at Dallas." He convinced the mayor of Anson, Texas (a tiny and unrelated town west of Abilene, population 2,335) to issue a \$55 million municipal bond so that the Foundation could purchase the buildings from the four partnerships at Utley's exorbitant price.

“ Because Utley essentially negotiated the price with himself, he was able to sell the apartments at any price he wanted. And he banked quite a bit of cash: to use Utley's words, “Box-rattling money, stuff you can hear.” ”

When Utley sold Phases I-IV to the Utley Foundation, he overpriced the buildings by as much as \$10 million. In business-ese, he used an unjustifiably low capitalization rate (approximately 7%) and projected future income that was too optimistic. According to the bond prospectus, he predicted an operating income of \$3.3 million, but the apartments have only realized an operating income of \$2.9 million. In layman's terms, he overvalued the apartments and predicted they would make more money than they've been able to. While this was not an altogether unreasonable assumption in light of past years' performance, the key is that

he used an unfair capitalization rate that gave him more money than the apartments were worth.

Although the actual selling price is not explicitly disclosed, the prospectus suggests it is nearly \$47.5 million. According to the real estate agents I spoke with, an adequate capitalization rate falls between 8% and 9%, placing the real value of the buildings at \$38 million or less. Because Utley essentially negotiated the price with himself, he was able to sell the apartments at any price he wanted. And he banked quite a bit of cash: to use Utley's words, “Box-rattling money, stuff you can hear.”

This is the arrangement that former UTD VP of Business Affairs Robert L. Lovitt, in an interview with the Dal-

las Observer in 2005, called “one of the best success stories in the United States.” Similarly, Utley called it “an extremely successful story about public-private partnership.”

Perhaps it would be, if Utley didn't also own FirstWorthing, the company that manages Waterview. According to the Observer article, Utley has told UTD to increase rent since before 2005, and he has good incentive. Part of the bond money was put aside to pay the ground lease, which the Foundation pays to UTD to compensate for using university land. Now that money is gone, and the Foundation is in trouble. As of last

year, the Utley Foundation was operating at a \$600,000 annual deficit and was in danger of going bankrupt. When rents increase next year, the Foundation will receive an additional \$600,000 in rent revenue—exactly what it needs to cover its deficit.

This is the reason rents “must” increase by 10%. It has little to do with a lack of money coming in from Phases V-IX; it has everything to do with the damage done by Utley's greed. Had Utley sold the buildings for \$37.7 million, the Foundation would be able to pay its debt service, and rent increases would fall in the normal, 3-5% range.

Up to now, the administration has largely ignored my articles and the questions in them. When investigating Waterview the past several months, I could find no reason for 10% increases. It simply made no sense—why wouldn't Dr. Daniel compromise, even a little? Now it's all clear. Dr. Daniel and VP of Student Affairs Dr. Darlene Rachavong are intimately aware of the Foundation's financial woes. Both are on the Board of Directors for the Utley Foundation, and they must know about Utley's dealings. When discussing rent increases with the Campus Housing Advisory Committee (CHAC) and the student body at large, however, these administrators have deliberately omitted the inconvenient truth about the Foundation and the real reason UTD must raise rent.

The third dimension to this story comes with FirstWorthing. The university's contract with FirstWorthing expires this summer, and UTD must decide if it will renew the contract or accept a bid from another management company.

Since UTD does not own Phases I-IV, however, the question is more complicated. If UTD switches management companies, will the Utley Foundation fol-

low? It's unlikely. Utley has a substantial financial interest in sticking with FirstWorthing — he owns it! This pressures the university to renew the contract with FirstWorthing, as well, if only for simplicity's sake. If the university is forced to negotiate and manage relationships with two separate management companies, the result would be inefficient, at best. In order to change management companies, then, UTD would essentially have to ask Utley to agree to ditch his own company.

It doesn't take a pessimist to see that the odds of this are poor. Utley knows the position UTD is in. He's a shrewd businessman; he sees the leverage he has against UTD. It could be an embarrassment to the university if the Utley Foundation goes bankrupt, and even if another management company places a lower bid, Utley knows that UTD will likely renew the contract with FirstWorthing. What incentive does he have to give UTD and its students a fair shake when he has UTD by the throat?

That's not to say the university is the victim in all this. In an interview, former UTD President Robert Rutford explained that the first campus apartments in the 1980s were designed to be a little larger and a little less expensive than what was readily available to students. UTD used the apartments on McCallum as a benchmark. The goal was to provide affordable student housing, as it should

be. Today, the administration's position is exactly the opposite. They believe students should be willing to pay a "premium" for living on campus. They've lost the original focus and intent of campus housing and instead have adopted a financially motivated position. In essence, Utley's opportunistic view of students has infiltrated the top ranks of UTD officials and persuaded them to act in the best interest of a business instead of their own students.

In all fairness, the university is in a tough spot. All of the questionable transactions took place during Dr. Franklyn Jenifer's presidency, and Dr. Daniel has merely inherited the consequences of his predecessor's actions. However, students are the only real victims. The rent increases place students in a much more difficult predicament than the university's. Whose interests are more important? And why did the university fail to act in students' interests all along?

It's evident that the fate of Waterview was decided many years before UTD ever succumbed to Utley's most recent suggestion to raise rent. For students, this is far from "one of the best success stories in the United States." It is an indefensible exploitation of students for the benefit of a wealthy few. I can only implore the university to do the right thing by its students and hope that

Dr. Daniel Responds

Dear Ms. Allen,

I write in response to your invitation to comment on your recent articles for A Modest Proposal. This response is made on behalf of Dr. Rachavong as well.

You have not requested to meet with me and, therefore, I have not had the opportunity to share my thoughts about student housing with you or to inform your evaluation through direct dialogue.

I have an open door policy and am always willing to meet with students, individually or in groups. Students may share input with me via email (dedaniel@utdallas.edu) or request a meeting by contacting Judy Snelings (jsnellin@utdallas.edu).

This semester, I have met with several student groups, including

CHAC, to discuss issues of interest to students and to answer questions. At the conclusion of my recent meeting with CHAC, I offered to continue the dialogue and suggested as a minimum that we meet early in the Fall, when more specific information about budget plans for student housing will be available and can be shared and discussed.

Given the number of issues covered in your articles and the complexity of some of the issues, I believe that the best way to share my input would be through direct dialogue with students when we can talk about questions and concerns.

Sincerely,
David E. Daniel
President

it will do whatever it can to make amends for the Waterview scandal that will leave students with empty pockets and unanswered questions. ■

*Aidan Skoyles contributed to this article.
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From our Website

amp.utdallas.edu

I believe that the University has had the time to come up with a solution to the issues at Waterview, and that they have at the worst chosen not to, and at the least chosen not to go further than a superficial 'patch job' on the situation. I think that this article is a good beginning of what students need to start doing to go beyond the current administration in seeking outside solutions in addition to the current efforts that should not be abandoned, such as going to the regents, congressmen, media, etc. I think this could be a great university, and have enjoyed the four years I have been here so far, and I sincerely wish that this is a growing pain for UTD, however I think this is a pain that must be addressed and is not one that will heal on its own."

-Anonymous, comment #65

"The only part of this article I disagree with is the apparent 'malicious intent' put forth by Utley. I tend to think more optimistically and chalk it up to pure incompetence. The style in which this was written, while it works well for the situation, is clearly an expose, which leads to claims of sensationalism and conspiracy theories, even if they aren't intended by the author.

"Either way, I'm content where I am, but fully sympathize with the majority that is less fortunate than I. I enjoyed the article, and am appreciative that someone has more time than I to do their research."

-Michael, comment #63

"Great article? Honestly. I will give credit where it is due, it was a well written article and while I don't really want to defend Waterview, you fail to even mention any facts besides those that help your argument. Instead of being so intent on trying to prove a point, how about you actually tell a true story... I don't want to defend Waterview because there are many valid complaints, but all you people and your conspiracy theories are just plain stupid. No one is out to get you, and the world does not revolve around you."

-K., comment #53

"I have crashed into love with Kimberley Allen."

-Mahendran, comment #44

Room For Improvement

UTD's room reservation system fails the test



by **liam skoyles**
lts033000@utdallas.edu

Imagine you had spent months planning a surprise birthday party for your friends; you made all the preparations and invited a bunch of people over. Then an hour before he showed up, your roommate busted in with 20 of his annoying friends—disaster!

The Office of Undergraduate Education hosted the Destination Imagination State Competition a few weeks ago and faced a similar situation—except instead of a few friends, they had nearly 8,000 visitors from around the state descending on campus.

The competition, scheduled nearly a year in advance, was expected to take up all the large rooms on campus; Hoblitzelle Hall, the Activity Center and most of the School of Management were some of their prime locations. As competition day approached, however, a terrible realization occurred. A few students realized there were other events scheduled for that weekend and each had their own different version of the room reservations.

At this point panic began to set in. 8,000 people were expected on campus and they had nowhere to go. Eventually the venues were reorganized, shuffling prospective Comets from the marbled floors of the School of Management into the worst parts of campus. Every student visiting UTD that day, expecting to see high class academia, instead toured our portable classroom buildings—something we do our best to gloss over even to people already attending the university. They were denied any access whatsoever to the Activity Center, Hoblitzelle Hall or the School of Management.

Through the selfless efforts of numerous volunteers and UTD staff, the event turned out a success, but it could have been so much more if a few simple preparatory solutions were in place. With an online reservation and scheduling sys-

tem, it would have been easy to see that the rooms were double-booked, or even better, the double-booking would have been avoided in the first place.

This terrible bumbling of the reservation system just a few weeks ago borders on incompetence and severely damaged UTD's reputation to a large group of potential students. The complexity of the booking system makes blame almost impossible to assess; however, lessons can be learned and things should change.

All told at UTD, there are about forty spaces you can reserve for university sponsored events. They range in size from Hoblitzelle Hall to that little meeting room in the Student Union next to the pub. In fact, UTD is surprisingly open to having its facilities used by student organizations. However, there are problems that do arise when trying to make

a reservation. Perhaps the most notable obstacle is the nearly twenty phone calls required for the completion of the transaction. That is completely unacceptable.

The room reservation system at UTD is a badly distributed and fundamentally flawed mess that has embarrassed our university time and again. The formal process to reserve a space requires calling the Student Union Events Management Office or the President's Office, who are then expected to contact each of the twenty or so people who are responsible for scheduling the rooms. Sometimes rooms are not the responsibility of a single person but rather are reserved out of "an office."

In a best case scenario, these individuals and offices are organized, given plenty of preparatory time, and most importantly (and unlikely), actually care about

the event in question. When the stars align along with the best possible intentions, twenty groups of people cannot act in a coordinated and logical manner.

The brightest point of the campus room reservation system is the Student Union, a testament to what huge student demand will do. The Regency rooms are some of the most reserved rooms on campus and have an extremely convenient online booking system, complete with a schedule that runs until the end of next semester!

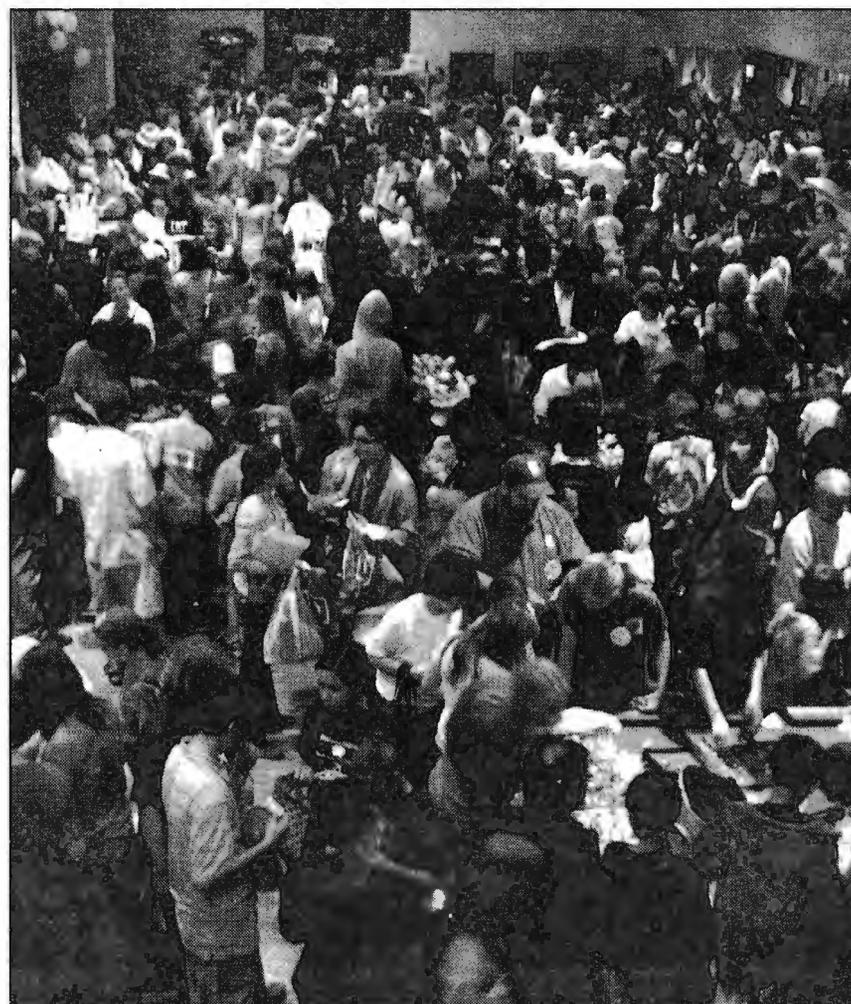
This pillar of good planning exemplifies exactly what can be accomplished with only the most meager means. The schedule is simply an excel spreadsheet that can be accessed online.

With the technical prowess and computer science focus that UTD boasts, it is laughable that we must rely on a simple spreadsheet for this important task.

Some incredibly bright programming minds call UTD home, and I am certain a few of them could hammer out a reservation system in a semester or less. It wouldn't have to be complicated, just a simple schedule and application system that would allow students and organizations the flexibility to reserve rooms and check up on their reservations.

In order for more events to be held here on campus, it is absolutely necessary for students and faculty alike to have confidence that the rooms they reserve will be empty and prepared for their events. Further incidents like at the DI competition will only reinforce negative conceptions of our campus and keep us from making the impact we are capable of making in the community.

It is the system itself that is most to blame. An effective, convenient and practical solution is within our grasp, with an easily creatable program that would meet or exceed all our requirements. A few simple changes would make a huge difference and would give students a strong support system that they can use to bring more important events to campus and inevitably benefit UTD. ■



DI participants flood the Student Union on Friday night to trade pins. Photo by Benedict Voit

Liam doesn't have trouble with his room reservations.

Call him to sign up for a time.

Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

Procrastinator's Confessional

A "how-to" for channeling the lazy within you



by hannah frank

hannah.frank@student.utdallas.edu

Term papers, lab reports, theses, AMP articles... We all have assignments due at some point in our academic careers that we would rather not have to suffer through. Even as a literary studies major, there are times when I would rather do anything besides write the next paper that is due. As finals draw to a close and I finally have a chance to reflect upon this semester, I find that there are a surprisingly diverse number of activities with which I managed to distract myself this semester from doing what had to be done.

Watch a Movie

What better way to wallow in your own inability to articulate your thoughts than by watching a movie about that very subject? In the 2002 movie *Adaptation*, screenwriter Charlie Kaufman accidentally writes himself into his own screenplay as he struggles to adapt a book about flowers for the screen. If you've ever suffered as Kaufman and I from writers' block, you might find this movie to be a wonderful way to get the creative juices flowing again. Or it might just get you two hours closer to the due date with nothing to show for it.

Food Run

At one point during *Adaptation*, Kaufman (played in the film by Nicolas Cage) sits at his typewriter thinking, "How to start? I'm hungry. I should get coffee. Coffee would help me think." How many times have you sat down at your computer to begin a paper and stared at the blinking cursor for a full ten minutes before getting up and going to get dinner? It seems that this is the way I start every paper. How about a double-dip waffle cone from Braum's? Or an iced mocha from Starbucks? Or a burrito from Chipotle? The choices are



Charlie Kaufman awaits inspiration in the 2002 film *Adaptation*. Photo courtesy of the Cinematic Intelligence Agency.

endless and so is the struggle to resist the temptation to run out and waste another 30 minutes of precious writing time. After all, we all need nourishment to think properly.

"Research"

When you get home from your food run, what then? How does one get back into the paper-writing mood? You've (hopefully) put in a few hours of research to prepare for your paper, looking through the library for that perfect quote or finding just the right statistic to back up your claim. As you sit once again in front of the computer, waiting for the words to flow, you may have a sudden urge to see what Wikipedia has to offer on the subject. **PROCEED WITH EXTREME CAUTION!** Your professor will most likely not accept this as a source, as there's no telling where the information came from. Try to stick to credible sources and you'll probably be better off.

eBay Shopping Spree

So "research" is out, but you're still connected to the internet. How else can you pass the time as you wait for the muse to strike? Visiting eBay at five o'clock in the morning can be a very dangerous thing. Don't give into the temptation to bid on random things just because you think other interested bidders will be asleep. My last paper-writing session left me not only with heartburn from my midnight snack but also with a new mandolin, which I bought for the bargain price of \$0.01 (plus \$29.99 shipping and handling). I didn't need it, but it was so cheap and easy, and most importantly, it kept me distracted from the task at hand for a full thirty minutes. And just think about all the time I could waste learning to play it!

Sleep on It

By this time, you've procrastinated your way late into the night. Your eyelids are becoming harder and harder to keep open. You decide that it would be a good idea

to take a nap – just for an hour or two to clear your head. Then you'll wake up and get back to work. I've found that this method produces mixed results.

Often I wake up after a nap feeling refreshed and productive, and manage to whip out the paper that I need. But you have to be careful that you give yourself enough time to finish what you need to do. If you think you need two more hours to finish the assignment, tack on another hour or two just to be safe. You may not need them, but you'll be glad to have them there as a back-up.

If you too have done any of these or similar things to keep from doing what needed to be done, keep in mind that you're not alone in your habits of procrastination. I'm here too, writing this article long after the deadline and just barely getting it in for publication. This article is going to be published, right? ■

We were going to write a blurb for Hannah but we put it off until the last minute and ran out of time. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

Caught in Lacrosse Fire

Duke case, built on grandiose lies, a societal embarrassment



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

A full year has passed. A season has been suspended, reputations put on the line, and lives put on hold. When the story broke about a potential Duke Lacrosse rape last March, uproar ensued.

All across the country, activist groups led the charge against three white Duke Lacrosse players accused of raping African-American Crystal Gail Mangum. The University quickly responded. The three males were temporarily suspended from school. The lacrosse team's season was canceled, and the coach eventually resigned after receiving masses of hate mail and threatening letters.

Over 85 Duke faculty banded together to express their dismay at the incident. Their concern, though, was not one over a rising cultural acceptance of presuming guilt until proven innocent, but rather took it upon themselves to question the motives of the accused on the grounds of race and sex.

They spoke out about Mangum, specifically in an advertisement in a Duke newspaper when they claimed that "...what is apparent everyday now is the anger and fear of many students who know themselves to be objects of racism and sexism."

One particularly outspoken faculty member asked an even more daring question in the ad: "How is a Duke community citizen to respond to such a national embarrassment from under the cloud of a "culture of silence" that seeks to protect white, male, athletic violence...?"

The professor went on decrying that these players were "...safe under the cover of silent whiteness. But where is the black woman who their violence and raucous witness injured for life? Will she ever sleep well again?"

The group advertisement labeled the incident "...a social disaster." Funny. One year later we must ask: Could they have been more right?

Turns out that Mangum made the story up. The lacrosse players are innocent. The shroud of "silent whiteness" that granted these men protection turned out to be the Constitution – allowing innocent men to go free.

As for Mangum, I do wonder how well she sleeps after a year long dramatic episode of creative storytelling.

The prosecutor originally leading the case, Durham District Attorney Mike Nifong, removed himself from the case in January 2007 after questions were raised into the honesty and ethics of his behavior.



Former North Carolina Attorney General Mike Nifong was responsible for leading the charge against the accused Duke Lacrosse players. Above, Nifong at the shooting range uses other innocent people as targets. Photo illustration by Benedict Voit.

Nifong had been appointed as North Carolina Attorney General in 2005 and was up for election in 2006. The immense amount of publicity that Nifong gained from his role in the case undoubtedly eased the struggles of his election bid. This is not bad in itself. However, the law should be above politics, and we can only hope that Nifong's intentions in the case were completely impersonal. However, it becomes questionable since the North Carolina Bar filed ethics charges against him in late 2006.

The case drew national attention and the involvement was not limited to Duke personnel only. Al Sharpton was confident that since the trial was brought forward, the evidence against the lacrosse players was solid.

Jesse Jackson not only lent his word of support, but his Rainbow/PUSH coalition offered to pay Mangum's tuition at North Carolina Central University for presenting her claims. Both were quick to hint at the guilty nature of the lacrosse players without any seeming desire for them to be innocent.

Last month Sharpton also called for the resignation of radio host Don Imus because of Imus' racial comments. One wonders exactly when Sharpton and Jackson will apologize to the lacrosse players and families for their comments and behavior in the Duke case.

I'm not holding my breath. But I will hold my breath for a society where media hype no longer justifies a reactionary search for equality. Rape is horrendous on its own. Still, gaining attention by fictitious reports is hardly better. The reputation of the entire Duke Lacrosse program will remain tainted. The coach has moved jobs to Bryant University in Rhode Island.

The accused have been cleared, but what they lost over the last year – reputation, pride, sleep, money – is incalculable. Legal clearance does not repay them for these losses.

Will the Duke faculty, who joined unified to decry these events, buy another advertisement espousing the decency of the legal system? Very doubtful. The question posed early becomes even more pertinent: "How is a ... citizen to respond to such a national embarrassment?"

We must remain clearheaded and impartial as we digest future news. Allowing ourselves to be swept away in accusations simply because of their racial or sexual basis would be improper. In fact, it could be called a social disaster. ■

*Benedict doesn't have trouble sleeping. Why should he?
 He lets out all of his lies on pages 22-24. Have you seen Uramus?
 Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*

Politics 2.0

How the Internet is redesigning campaign politics



by ben dower
ben.dower@student.utdallas.edu

The 2008 Presidential Election has already been the host of several historic “firsts.” For one thing, it is the first election without an incumbent President or Vice President looking to move up the ladder since 1928. Perhaps for this reason, the race is wide open for a broad range of figures. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton represent two historic firsts: the first black and female frontrunners for a major party nomination, respectively. Mitt Romney, a leading candidate for the Republican primary, is the first serious Ladder Day Saint, or “Mormon,” Presidential Candidate. And finally, a less publicized first is John McCain, who at age 70 would be the oldest man to assume the Presidency.

However the most interesting “first” isn’t the diverse field of candidates, it’s the medium they’re using to get the word out. For the last ten years, the Internet has played a role in every Presidential campaign. This year, however, cyberspace has taken center field in the political battles. The controversial “1984” clip depicting Hillary Clinton brainwashing a group of mindless citizen-zombies has already garnered over 500,000 views on YouTube. Although the Obama campaign, the primary benefactors of the Internet-only advertisement, denied any involvement with the creation and publication of the ad, the very fact that they had to address the issue illustrates its significance.

The most engaging new election Internet feature is YouTube’s “You Choose 2008 Spotlight.” Each candidate posts a brief clip asking a question or making a request for feedback. The YouTube Community then has seven days to respond with a video of their own, addressing the candidate’s inquiry and give

general feedback. At the end of the week, the candidate posts a holistic response, addressing the concerns of the audience. One candidate, Mitt Romney, was particularly good about posting individual video responses to specific posters, whereas John Edwards posted fewer videos but made sure to mention specific posters during his holistic response.

Mitt Romney asked his posters what they thought America’s single greatest challenge was and how they would address it. The 71 different video responses showed great assortment ranging from a 16-year-old girl talking about vocational tracts to a cartoon of Osama Bin Laden roasting in hell and expressing concerns about anti-American sentiment abroad and corrupt media at home.

Romney’s response identified the spread of radical Islamic Jihad as the greatest challenge because it undermines national and international security.

His presentation was professional but had a personal touch, with Romney sitting at his desk with pictures of his family on obvious display behind him. Furthermore, although the main response video contained a few slight stutters, these slight speed bumps were left in the video, emphasizing the impromptu atmosphere of the monologue.

John Edwards’ took a different approach in his inquiry by placing more responsibility on the viewer and asking them what they were going to do to bring about change in America and the world. While consistent with his campaigning style and message, this was a high-risk strategy because it took the emphasis away from the candidate. If the payoff could be measured by the video responses, then Edwards’ tactic may not have worked because he only generated 53 video responses, many of which totally ignored Edwards’ question completely.

An older gentleman who identified himself as “Pappy” talked about his work on nuclear submarines during the Cold War while user KingUmbele made the case for mandatory gun insurance. Edwards’ presentation was solid and personal, but his video had several notable cuts where multiple takes were strung together. This style differed from Mitt Romney’s, whose videos were notably continuous.

John McCain’s attempt to engage the viewer was a little bit more vague than the other two candidates; his request was just for some “straight talk” about the most important issue. His video responses are still coming in and although we are four days into the process, so far he has only received fifteen responses. McCain’s video has also received strikingly lower ratings than the other candidates’ videos.

This may be a result of the video’s presentation, which feels more like a campaign ad than a “chat” with the viewer. The video is filled with cuts to the McCain campaign trail while the candidate himself continues talking over the various handshaking, speech-making scenery. Hopefully this will be a lesson to future candidates. Partially because of this low turnout, I took the initiative to post my response, hoping that the low numbers will make it more likely to receive direct mention in McCain’s response.

Knowing that Senator McCain, or at least someone on his staff, is going to hear my thoughts is exciting to a political junky like me.

While the McCain week will be over by the time this article is read, I encourage all my readers to go to YouTube and search “You Choose Spotlight” and post your own responses to whichever candidate is up to the plate. How YouTube will impact the outcome of the Primaries is uncertain, but with the first online Presidential Primary debate scheduled for later this year, the Internet is clearly going to play a major role in this year’s election results. ■



Hillary Clinton brainwashes the masses in this online attack ad. Photo courtesy of YouTube

*Ben campaigns on a platform of public nudity.
He is accepting video responses.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*

Politicizing Grief



by **benedict voit**
benedict.voit@gmail.com

I've been scared before. I'll admit it. My heart races, even skips a beat, as that feeling of fear creeps across my entire body. We've all felt that sudden rush of adrenaline, compounded with your muscles suddenly locking into place.

But I can't say I've ever been terrified – that I have gotten to the point where my life is in peril and I seriously think, "This could be it." I'm lucky that's never happened, and I'm not sure I can even imagine what it is like.

I don't think most of us can. Reading about the events that happened at Virginia Tech on April 16th in the seclusion and protection of our rooms, we think "Oh, that must be horrible." Anger builds, or sorrow floods, but only for so long. Human nature compels us to shut out the negative. We feel compassionate only as long as we can muster before either disinterest or unease allows us to flip to the next story. When we return to the news, we return with our emotions spent.

It is at this point that we seek understanding. We want to know exactly how it happened, but even more so, why it happened. We attempt to find some reason as to explain how such horror is possible. With, in this case, the murderer having killed himself, we are desperate to find something on which to dump our hatred. We turn to societal politics.

One group blames Virginia's laws allowing possession of weapons. If Virginia had tough restrictions, Cho Seung-Hui would have never gotten possession. Another group counters that if all students had carried guns, the death toll would have been much lower as they could have stopped him. Or perhaps immigration is the problem. "Close the borders!" they shout. Cho was, after all, from South Korea originally.

Perhaps it was the video games that have influenced

society. This shooting makes clear that we need tighter controls on what young adults are exposed to. The arguments go on. Life as many knew it, though, will not. They need time; they deserve our support.

Next week, next month, next year, time exists to have these debates. The discussions pertinent now will still be pertinent then. Therefore, let us allow ourselves as a society, in this time of fresh grief, to provide comfort instead of placing blame. Don't point fingers, but hold hands. Of course we mustn't wave off the incident as a freak occurrence – it would be stupid and unfair not to take lessons from this horror. However, our nauseating desire to immediately provide reasons that fit our predetermined notions of what is right or what should be allowed does not advance any situation. It would be wise for us to allow the rage of the situation to calm before making rash decisions, be they legal, academic, or social.

It is a tribute to the human spirit that tragedy can pull people together, keeping each other strong in a moment of sorrow. It's unfortunate that in the midst of this tragedy, Presidential bids and a divided Congress can use the politics of the situation to create another method of advancing a platform.

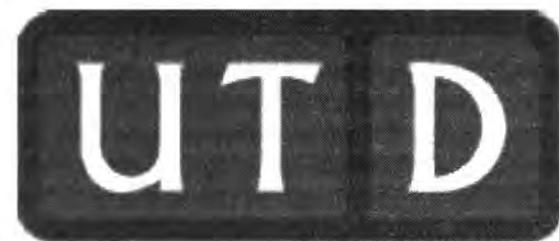
Perhaps the most heart-warming responses were those on facebook – students changing their profile pictures and creating groups to express sympathy and support. Yet even then, it wasn't long that facebook groups arose defending video games or the 2nd amendment.

I have plenty to say about this politically – about the contentions that it was the fault of video games or immigration or liberal professors or inattentive counseling or bad security etc. etc. etc. But before I will ever be a politician, I will be a human. Long after my profile picture reverts back to me smiling in some goofy way, Virginia Tech families will still be left incomplete. My heart pours out to these people. To them, and not to today's politics, this page is dedicated. May God bless them and keep them in these days to come. ■

*This month, Benedict Voit is a Hokie.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/*

In Loving Memory...

- Ross Abdallah Alameddine
- Christopher James Bishop
- Brian Roy Bluhm
- Ryan Christopher Clark
- Austin Michelle Cloyd
- Jocelyne Couture-Nowak
- Kevin P. Granata
- Matthew Gregory Gwaltney
- Caitlin Millar Hammaren
- Jeremy Michael Herbstritt
- Rachael Elizabeth Hill
- Emily Jane Hilscher
- Jarrett Lee Lane
- Matthew Joseph La Porte
- Henry J. Lee
- Liviu Librescu
- G.V. Loganathan
- Partahi Mamora Halomoan Lumbantoruan
- Lauren Ashley McCain
- Daniel Patrick O'Neil
- J. Ortiz-Ortiz
- Minal Hiralal Panchal
- Daniel Alejandro Perez
- Erin Nicole Peterson
- Michael Steven Pohle, Jr.
- Julia Kathleen Pryde
- Mary Karen Read
- Reema Joseph Samaha
- Waleed Mohamed Shaalan
- Leslie Geraldine Sherman
- Maxine Shelly Turner
- Nicole White



Anti-Choice and Anti-Life

The Vitriolic Rhetoric of the Abortion Debate



by molly wurzer
molly.wurzer@student.utdallas.edu

For the first time since I have gotten used to the humdrum life in the nation's Capital, I felt as if I was watching history announced. When I first arrived in Washington, DC, I constantly thought about the history of the city: who walked here before I did, who once stood on this spot, who lived in this building one hundred years ago. That feeling quickly disappeared as I became accustomed to working every day as the intern: copying papers, writing briefs, and processing forms. I often forgot to stop think about my unique and incredibly important environment.

But here I am, in the courtroom of the Supreme Court of the United States. The justices file in for oral arguments. Before oral arguments, the justices announce any opinions they are releasing today. Little did I know that today would be the announcement of the most controversial decision of the term: *Gonzales v. Carhart*, which upholds the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. The Act itself bans an infrequent second-semester abortion procedure called intact D&E abortion, which involves intentionally delivering a fetus vaginally, then intentionally terminating the fetus.

As I listened to Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy read the opinion of the Court, followed by Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg reading the dissent, I suddenly realized where I was. This decision establishes the first restrictions on an actual abortion procedure since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. It will result in major debate across the country, spurring both sides of the abortion debate to rally around their separate causes. And I was sitting there, listening to the announcement that would strike deep emotions in the hearts of so many people.

The rhetoric of the abortion debate is incredibly divided. Both sides manipulate language to label people with incredibly loaded terms. People classify themselves

as either pro-choice or pro-life. But wait! We all want choices; even though some don't believe it is reasonable or moral to be allowed to make a choice to kill a baby. Everyone wants to respect life, even though they may believe that women should have the right to decide what to do with their own bodies, including have an abortion.

As I sat and listened to the justices read their opinions, I realized that they, too, have become victims of the powerful rhetoric surrounding the abortion debate. Justice Kennedy's opinion describes the procedure in-depth, making the audience cringe at the detailed description. He writes in the opinion, "It is self-evident that a mother who comes to regret her choice to abort must struggle with grief more anguished and sorrow more profound when she learns, only after the event, what she once did not know: that she allowed a doctor to pierce the skull and vacuum the fast-developing brain of her unborn child, a child assuming the human form."

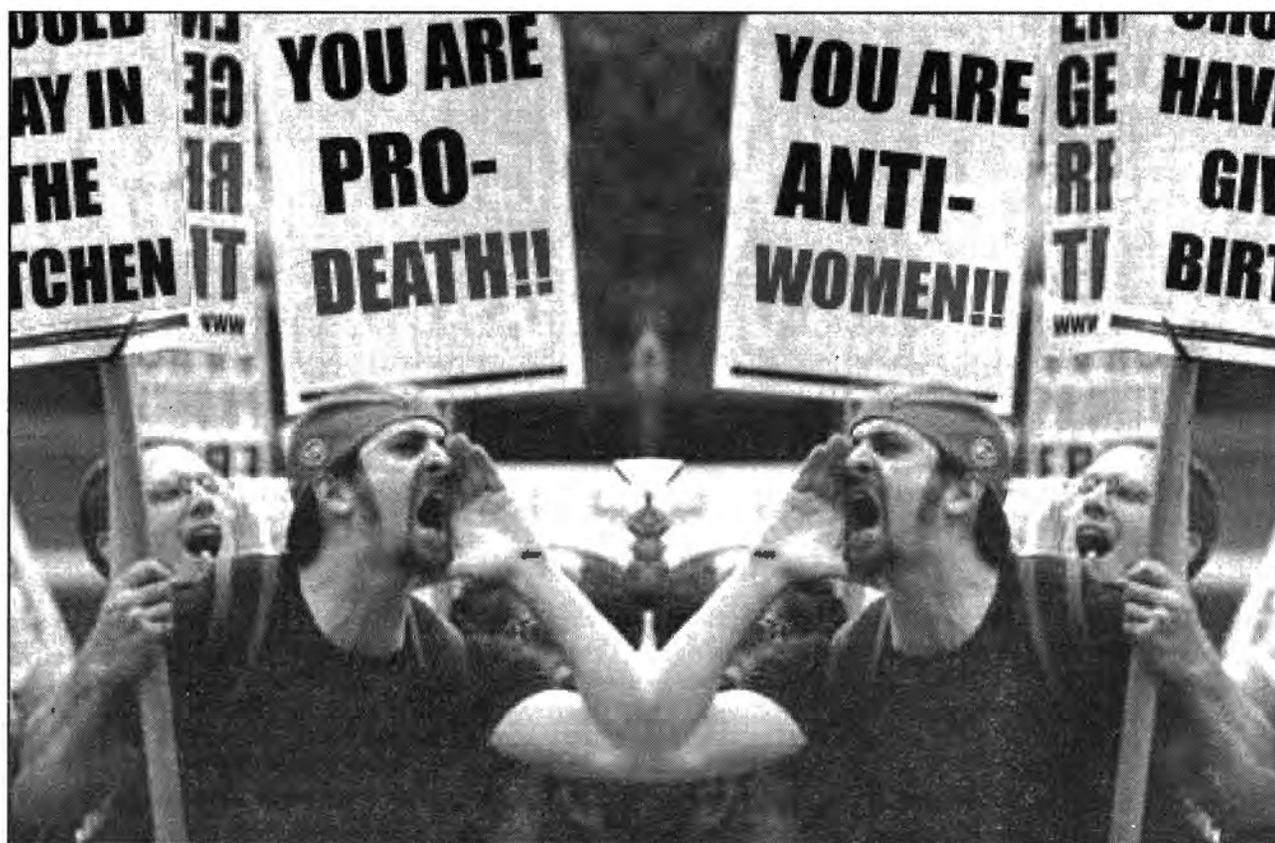
Justice Ginsberg criticizes the language of the opinion in her dissent. She accuses Kennedy of using loaded terms – rather than medical language – when he writes "abortion doctor," "unborn child or baby," "late-term," and "mere convenience," instead of obstetrician-gynecologist, fetus, second-trimester, and preference.

However, she does not escape the rhetoric either. The dissent adopts the language of the decision in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, when she compares "the centrality of 'the decision whether to bear... a child'" to a "woman's 'dignity and autonomy,' her 'personhood' and 'destiny,' and her 'conception of her place in society.'" She calls the opinion reflective of "ancient notions about women's place in the family and under the Constitution – ideas that have since been discredited." She further states, "Women's 'ability to realize their full potential'... is intimately connected to 'their ability to control their reproductive lives'" and "challenges to undue restrictions on abortion procedures center on a woman's autonomy to

determine her life's course, and thus to enjoy equal citizenship stature."

Unfortunately, most people will only hear what they want. It is quite doubtful that allowing the uncommon method of intact D&E abortions will result in the ethical downfall of society or the moral grief of large numbers of women. It is equally unlikely that banning rare intact D&E abortions will result in the immediate reduction of women's equality in society, or even the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Since I was present at the announcement of the decision, I was forced to listen to both sides. Researching and listening to both sides of the decision will ultimately make you more educated and yield stronger arguments. Before formulating your opinion on this subject, please consider both the dissent and the opinion of the court and create well informed arguments. ■

Molly was confused as she wrote this, because it turns out babies do not come from storks. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



Protesters say what they really mean. Graphic illustration by Liam Skoyles



jordan youngblood
jordan.youngblood@student.utdallas.edu

The Sounds of Summer

Animal Collective

May 26th @ the Granada - \$15

With drummer Panda Bear fresh off his successful side-project album *Person Pitch* and founding member Avey Tare finished with his not-quite-as-successful effort *Pullhair Rubeye*, Animal Collective appears to be ready to release their one millionth album of the 2000s. It's less hyperbole than you'd think; the Collective have averaged at least an album a year since the decade began and don't show any signs of slowing down. The band's mixture of tribal rhythms, infectious harmonies, and fits of yelling lends itself quite well to the live setting, and with an upcoming date here at the Granada, you'll have a chance to say goodbye to May through the joys of song and (flailing) dance. Expect a heavy dose of songs from their most recent album *Feels*, along with a number of new tracks they'll be roadtesting.

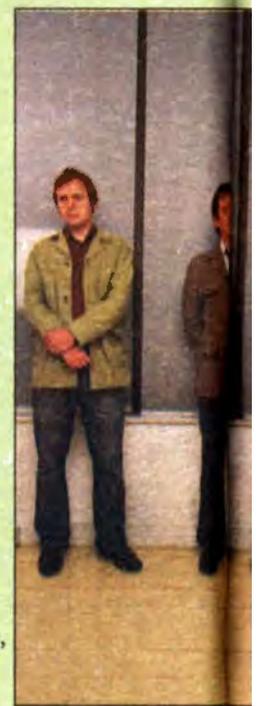


The Clientele & Beach House

May 18th @ Hailey's - \$10

Existing in a sort of endless time-warp between the British Invasion and the 80's arrival of dreampop, the Clientele staked out their claim on hazy summer sunsets with their debut *The Violet Hour*, cleaned up their sound with the more accessible follow-up *Strange Geometry*, and now, with the upcoming *God Save the Clientele*, appear ready to step out completely into the afternoon sunlight. New songs like "Here Comes the Phantom" and especially first single "Bookshop Casanova" reveal a band ready to stretch their muscles a bit more, increasing the tempo and brightening the production; they sound like the natural inheritors to the legacy the Zombies left behind with *Odyssey and Oracle*.

They'll be bringing their newly energized sound to Hailey's on the 18th of May, which should make an excellent double-bill with Baltimore natives Beach House. The duo, whose debut last year won raves across the board for its spartan take on downtempo pop, build their songs around simple rhythms, echoing keyboards, and the wispy vocals of Victoria Legrand; all in all, it's a cant-miss show for cheap.



Interpol

May 31st @ Palladium Ballroom - \$25
Our Love to Admire (Capitol) - July 10th

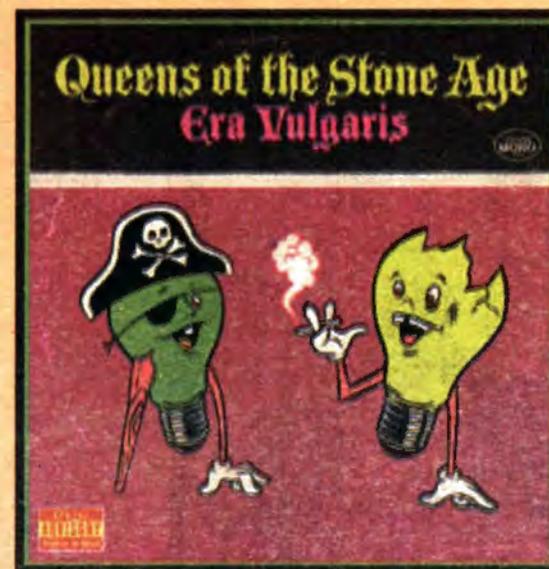


For local fans of New York's well-dressed favorite sons, this summer stands to give you all the Interpol you could want. Notorious for being perfectionists on stage, expect a long sound-check and relatively short set when the band makes an appearance at the Palladium Ballroom on May 31, touring in support of their upcoming album *Our Love to Admire*. However, if recent shows have been any indication, Interpol seems to have gotten a little extra fire in their belly; their performance at Coachella showed lead vocalist Paul Banks and company punching up their old classics (if they don't play "Obstacle 1," be very surprised) while debuting a set of new songs that hold quite a bit of potential.

If their Joy Division-heavy sound never did anything for you in the past, don't expect anything to change. However, if, like me, you find their take on post-punk more than just derivative, you'd be a fool to forego either the show or the album.

Queens of the Stone Age

Era Vulgaris (Interscope) - June 12th



A few songs have already trickled onto the Internet, the fifth full-length Queens did the second since former bassist Oliver left the band over obsessive drug use (which, by the way, users like QOTSA, indie rockers have been eating bricks of). For simply, they sound like hard rock thrown into the world's alien er—which is exactly what the band and company have delivered since 1998. No popular rock band has the chops or the guts of Queens Homme has turned into a rock vocalist along with a hell-bent Pray (or if you're a truly fan sacrifice a goat) that they'll be in Dallas soon, but if not, sacrifice done right come June 12.

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S p o o n
Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga (Merge) - July 10th

Yes, it might be the worst album title since Sigur Ros's (*Creative Looking Parentheses*), if only for how anyone is going to talk about it to other people. ("Excuse me, can you tell me if *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* is in stock today?") However, since it's coming from the best currently existing American independent band, I'm inclined to give it more of a chance. It'll be the "Black and White Album."

Since Britt Daniel figured out how to merge his influences with his distinctly minimal style of songwriting on *A Series of Sneaks*, Spoon hasn't released anything less than a great album: the mature pop of *Girls Can Tell*, the bare-bones hooks of *Kill the Moonlight*, and *Gimme Fiction's* anything-goes experimentation. Their only official release since then, the two-minute Beatles pop of "The Book I Write," indicates a shift of Daniel back toward concision; we'll see if the album follows those lines or goes somewhere totally different.

The Wrens

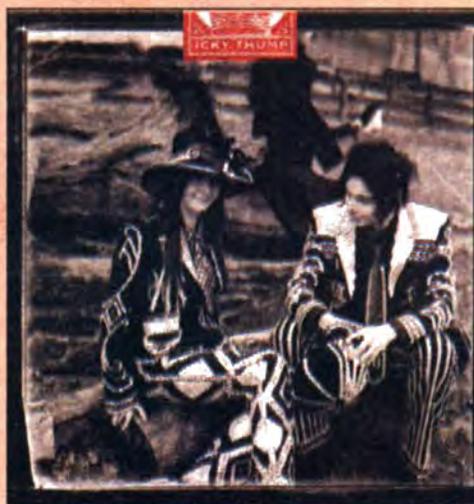
July 20 @ Hailey's - \$12

It's too bad these guys get so little press; then again, they haven't released an album since 2002's *The Meadowlands*, which was their first album in 6 years. Quantity doesn't equal quality though, and you'd be hard-pressed to find better power-pop for a cheaper price. Both *The Meadowlands* and *Seacaucus* are packed to the brim with catchy melodies, mixed with the world-weariness of getting bumped off record label after label. If they don't play "Built-In Girls," yell until they do.



The White Stripes

Icky Thump (Warner Bros.) - June 19th



In terms of unlikely success stories, the White Stripes have to rank high among the most willfully bizarre groups to still achieve chart success. From a origin story based in incest (now proven to be simply husband and ex-wife) to a refusal to use any studio equipment made after 1970, Jack and Meg White have cut their own path through popular music, and it's to the credit of Jack's songwriting--and Meg's, uh, assets--that *Icky Thump* remains one of the most anticipated albums of the summer.

So how do the Stripes treat this chance to return to the chart heights of "Fell In Love With a Girl"? Simple: release as the first single one of the craziest singles in recent memory, a mash-up between Zeppelin riffs and a synthesizer that sounds like demented bagpipes while Jack rap-sings about how "you can't be a pimp and a prostitute too." If "Icky Thump" the song is any indication of *Icky Thump* the album, we're in for another surreal trip into the White minds.

up between Zeppelin riffs and a synthesizer that sounds like demented bagpipes while Jack rap-sings about how "you can't be a pimp and a prostitute too." If "Icky Thump" the song is any indication of *Icky Thump* the album, we're in for another surreal trip into the White minds.

The Hold Steady

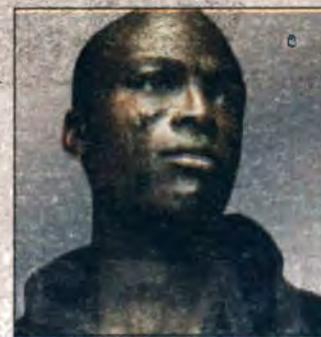
June 9th @ Hailey's - \$12



Hailed as everything from the second coming of Bruce Springsteen to "the only real rock n' roll band in America," the Hold Steady have never aspired to anything more than playing really good music for dancing and getting drunk. As this sounds like the definition of "an awesome summer night," I'd be a fool to not recommend their show on June 9th up at Hailey's in Denton. Lead singer Craig Finn spins Catholic guilt with universal growing pains, building stories around teenagers betting on horses while on drugs and Charlemagne on a road trip; the band responds with power chords and tinkling pianos. Go with your friends; you'll be hugging them by night's end.

Seal

May 30th - Price Totally Irrelevant



Jordan Youngblood built this article on rock n' roll. He then burnt every Starship album to ashes. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

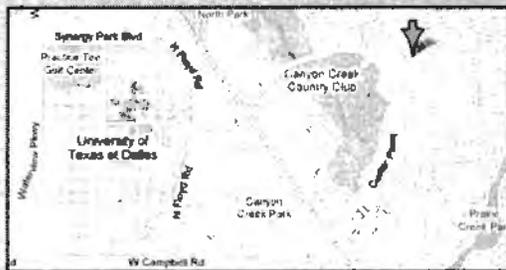
Fatty J's Picks



by james fickenscher
jxf036000@urdallas.edu

Michael Mark's Trattoria

2701 Custer Pkwy. #700 - Richardson, TX 75080 - Phone: (469) 330-0900



Food Tastiness – Superb – 9
Appearance and presentation – Excellent – 8
Service – Excellent – 8
Bang for your buck – Great – 7
Overall – 8.25

Best deal – Pizzas
Worst deal – “Kicking it up a notch”
James's choice – Gabriella Pizza

If you are looking for a fine Italian dining experience close to campus, you will find it at Trattoria.

When you step into Trattoria, you walk into an intimate, relaxed Italian restaurant reminiscent of an Italian countryside, complete with an outdoor fireplace lighted with aromatic piñon wood and lanterns to illuminate your meal and give a wonderfully relaxing, romantic ambiance.

Service is friendly and prompt, and prompt service for outdoor, patio seating is an anomaly for most restaurants I have visited. Even before your food arrives, you are treated to complementary bread which happens to be delicious and toasted. It is served with a flavorful oil-based dipping sauce.

The food offered, regardless of what you order, is delicious and satisfying. They have a nice menu of choices including homemade pizza, sub sandwiches, pastas, and other entrees.

If you choose a pizza, you will receive a delectable, pizza large enough for two to share, as long as the two aren't 200 pound dudes. The tomato sauce featured on the pizzas is delicious and almost a little sweet, and the crust is amazing as well.

Should you decide to go with one of the sub sandwiches, you have also made a wise choice. Served on toasted bread,

the sub sandwiches come in a variety of selections and are served with incredible homemade chips. I was impressed with the restaurant enough upon first visit, but when I first bit into a chip, I was sold.

The entrees are also delicious but are also more expensive. The desserts are also a little pricy, but they make up for it with delicious flavor.

For those of drinking age, Trattoria's menu contains a wine list that covers the entire back page, and the restaurant also features a full bar. There is no beer on tap, but wine complements the food better anyway.

The hours are variable; the restaurant is, as advertised, open for lunch and dinner. That means that they will stay open as long as needed to serve dinner to people. They usually close around 10pm, but have stayed open as late as 12am or 1am, and they even have a permit to remain open until 2am, if necessary.

Trattoria is one of the most expensive restaurants I have covered (or probably will cover), but the food is delicious enough to warrant coverage; a meal can cost anywhere from 7\$ up to \$20.

I highly recommend that you visit Trattoria, and if you bring a special someone to enjoy it with you, then you have yourself ready for a wonderfully romantic evening.

340 Coit Road, Ste A - Plano, TX 75075 - Phone: (972) 312-8040

If you want some great Tex-Mex food and don't mind paying a little extra for it, Tin Star is a great place to visit. From their fire-roasted salsas to their frozen margaritas, Tin Star provides quality at fair prices.

Being a lover of Mexican food, I didn't think I would like Tin Star when I first visited, but when I tried their tomatillo salsa, I was hooked.

The restaurant's décor is fairly simple, greatly resembling a Tex-Mex version of Pei Wei, but it also expresses the simplicity and laid back atmosphere of the old Southwest. The service is what you can expect from any “casual dining” restaurant (mostly self-service). Workers take your order and bring your food, but that's all the service really required.

Now let's move on to the good stuff: the food. The specialty dish at Tin Star that distinguishes it from other restaurants is their burger tacos. They offer a half patty of beef served on two handmade tortillas.

They come in a variety of styles, ranging from traditional burger fixings to BBQ burger tacos to even Bleu Cheeseburger tacos. The sauces and flavor of the burger tacos are magnificent.

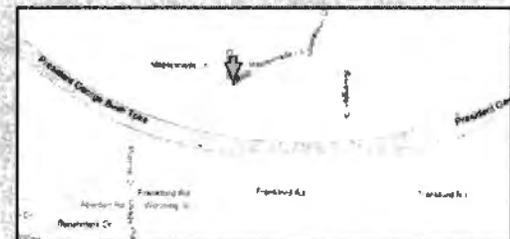
They also have traditional Tex-Mex food, serving tasty quesadillas and tacos, and their seasoned sour cream is the perfect complement to both.

For more Texan tastes, they also have chicken-fried steak, pork tenderloin, and even grilled salmon. For you “healthy” people out there, they also have a tasty selection of salads.

All the food I have ever gotten at Tin Star has been quite tasty, but my favorite thing isn't even included on the menu: their salsas. On your way to your seat, you can grab a basket of fresh, crispy tortilla chips and some salsa. They have green tomatillo salsa, classic red salsa, and even roasted corn salsa.

The tomatillo salsa is one of my all-time favorite salsas. The red salsa is also quite delicious, and the corn salsa is, well, corn. You can also adorn your dish with cilantro, fresh or pickled jalapenos, and even lemon or lime, if you so choose. The prices are a little more than normal fast food - \$7 for the burger tacos, about \$5 or \$6 for the other tacos or quesadillas, and even over \$10 for some of the other dishes. But as far as I am concerned, that is money deliciously well spent! ■

Tin Star



Food tastiness – Excellent – 9
Appearance and Presentation – Okay – 5
Service – Okay – 5
Bang for your buck – Great – 7
Overall – 7

Best deal – Free crispy chips and fire-roasted salsa
Worst deal – As with most places, desserts
James's Choice – Bacon Bleu Cheeseburger tacos



Rooting for the Underdog

When their worst might as well be good enough



by jonathan lane
jwl033000@utdallas.edu

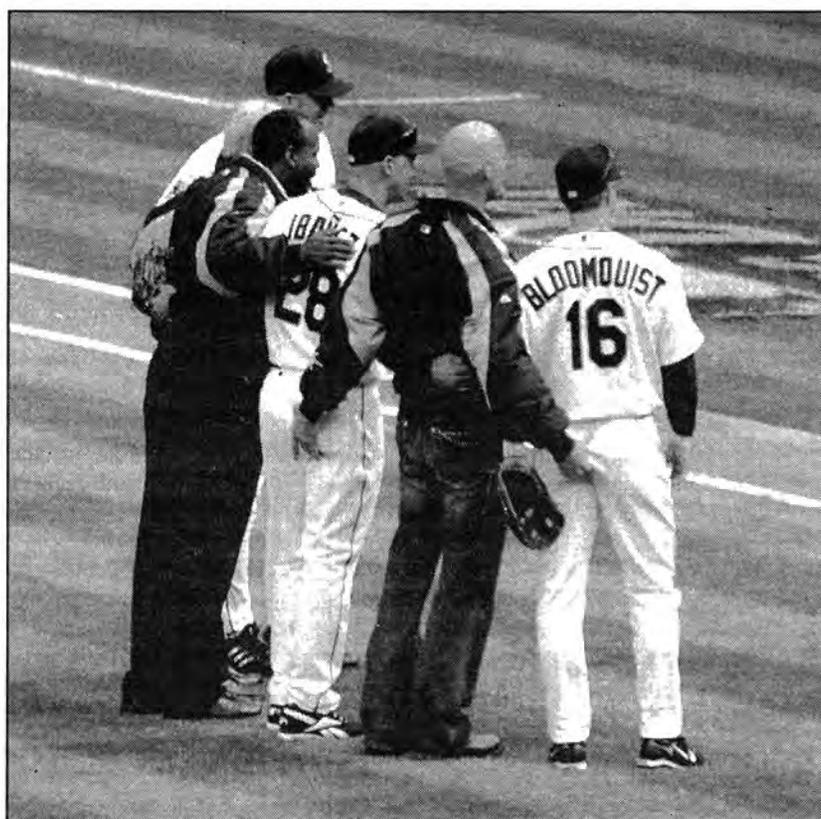
I have been a Seattle Mariners fan for as long as I can remember. Perhaps I pledged my allegiance to that team because I liked their colors, or because they inexplicably have a moose for their mascot. Regardless of the reason, I began rooting for one of the most hapless Major League Baseball teams around. In the thirty years the Mariners have been in existence, they have made the playoffs a grand total of only four times.

On the other hand, my brother fell in love with the Atlanta Braves. I can only assume that sprung from his affinity for the "Tomahawk Chop." Unlike the Mariners, they've managed to make the playoffs 14 out of the last 15 years with last year as their only blemish.

“ On the other hand, root for a team that is expected to lose and the worst they can do is meet your expectations. ”

I get a text message from my brother notifying me whenever the Braves win. Because they are a good team, this happens almost daily. He also tends to send me a text message whenever the Mariners lose. Because the Mariners have a propensity to hire players that other teams have already put out to pasture, this happens on a regular basis as well.

However, on the days that the Braves



Jay Buhner keeps a firm grip on his place in Mariners legacy. Photo courtesy of paulmphotography.com

lose, it's my chance to shine. Although it wouldn't take much more than casually mentioning the score to get my brother riled up, I prefer to make it more interesting. Sometimes it's by comparing the team's playing style to a comatose, paraplegic grandmother or simply rattling off a list of hockey teams more likely to win the World Series than the Braves. That sort of taunting may seem excessive, but I feel that it is my obligation as an older brother to take him down a couple of notches on occasion.

Sometimes he gets fed up with my taunts and proceeds to recount the many, many deficiencies of the Mariners in hopes that he can get a rise out of me. Unfortunately for him, I expect my team to lose, making it considerably more surprising when they actually win.

To be honest, I like it that way. I enjoy the fact that I can get surprised and excited when my team is doing well, and I don't think that I'm the only one either. In fact, I think that it actually makes a lot of sense rooting for the underdog.

After all, if you root for a team that is expected to win, the best they can do meet those expectations. On the other hand, root for a team that is expected to lose and the worst they can do is meet your expectations. How can you possibly complain?

Rooting for a lost cause rarely yields disappointment. It is because of this fact that people are drawn to the underdog. Everyone loves a good story, and what better story is there than one that features a person or a team that faces seemingly insurmountable odds

and triumphs in the end? Every sports movie ever made has been based on this premise. In fact, pretty much every chick flick follows this as well.

It really is just more fulfilling to brag about how you rooted for the underdog rather than a favorite. In non-sports terms, imagine if you were the only one around who rooted for the sun not to rise. Day in and day out, you wait, the outcome you are hoping for never happening.

Of course, you don't mind; you don't really expect it to happen anyway. But if one day the sun doesn't rise, no one would ever be able to shut you up for "calling it." Well, unless the sun stopped rising altogether. However, at that point, making sure that you are rubbing it in enough faces is probably the least of your concerns.

The happiest that I've ever seen one of my friends was while watching a football game on television. He correctly predicted that a team would perform a fake punt, a play that might be called once every 10 games. He was absolutely giddy when it finally happened, his predictions for a fake when every team was preparing for a punt aside.

I'm starting to believe hoping and rooting for something whose occurrence is seemingly impossible is a great strategy to take in all aspects of your life. Whether it's praying that the paper you wrote five minutes before class will give you a decent grade or crossing your fingers that your blind date, described only as having a "nice personality," won't look like the elephant man—you can always take solace in the fact that you were fighting "insurmountable odds" regardless of outcome. After all, there was almost no chance of these things happening anyway. ■

Jonathan Lane would like to thank a nameless contributor who keeps his nights (and days) filled with piping-hot "inspiration."
Discuss this article at amp.n@dallas.edu!

A Flood of Progress

How the Trinity River Project will make Dallas a stronger city, one bridge at a time



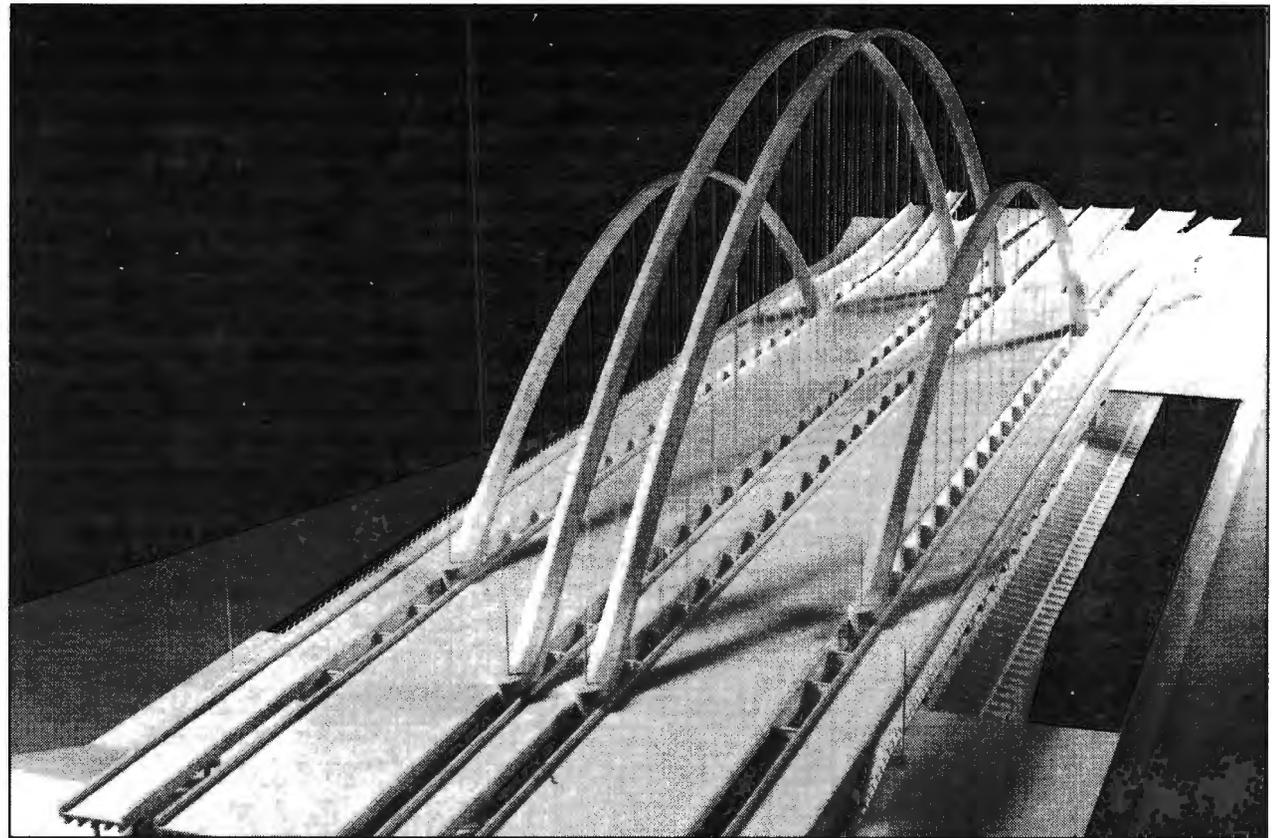
by jonathan coker
jcokerutd@gmail.com

Dallas is a city built on a rare and beautiful natural resource, the Trinity River. However, while the Trinity once acted as the city's lifeblood, floods and pollution have turned it into a source of shame for residents.

If you're anything like myself—an out-of-towner, disconnected from the local news, devilishly handsome—then you might be thinking, “Dallas has a river?” If you're from around here, the words “Trinity River” probably bring to mind images of current-swept trash, the threat of flooding, and banks strewn with syringes and condoms. A Dallas native might also lament the traffic over the three TXDOT-built interstate bridges that cross the Trinity.

All in all, the river has been left to dry, quite literally, by the city of Dallas, which instead has focused its attention and money on development in the north.

Someone with an eye on the local news, however, might remember a \$246 million bond package passed in 1998 aimed at rejuvenating the Trinity River area and turning it into Dallas' own version of Central Park. Along with strengthening the levee system along the river to ensure that it doesn't overrun its banks, the bond package promised an



A early model of the proposed Calatrava bridges, part of the Trinity project. Image courtesy of the Trinity River Corridor project

extensive park system. Nine years later, with the incredible speed typical of most government projects, the Trinity River improvements are only now underway.

Incredibly though, over those nine years the original vision has expanded in scope and resources to a city project unmatched in the history of the U.S. Through private donations, support from

local businesses and grants from the federal government and various public agencies, the Trinity River Corridor enhancement has turned into a \$1.2 billion project that promises to supply Dallas with America's biggest urban park.

This will include 150 acres of lakes with boat launches and a white water rafting channel all directly south of downtown Dallas. Plans also include miles of trails and multiple gateway parks. Dallas is also acquiring 3500 miles of land southeast of Dallas to allow for the preservation and expansion of the Great Trinity Forest. New bike and horse trails will be constructed along with a world class equestrian center. The people and bike trails are kept separate to prevent the encounter of hiker foot and horse poo; I'm told this is important. Three signature bridges designed by

Santiago Calatrava will now be built as well, replacing the current TXDOT bridges which were built with concrete and ugly.

Now, you're either really excited right now, or you're saying to yourself, “Bridges and an equestrian center... fun?” I'd argue the prospect of epic jousting on suspended bridges is nothing less than awesome, but either way, keep reading.

In my opinion, this project promises to be the single greatest thing the city of Dallas has ever done. The economic benefits alone will be astounding. A city doesn't spend a billion dollars without the local economy feeling it. That's not to mention the increase in land value along the banks of the Trinity River. Many business leaders already have plans to create extensive boardwalks and to build new uptown restaurants and shops in the area around the Trinity. If the economic

“ Through private donations, support from local businesses, and grants from the federal government and various public agencies, the Trinity River Corridor enhancement has turned into a \$1.2 billion project that promises to supply Dallas with America's biggest urban park.”

“Continued voter pressure is required to ensure elements of the project aren't cut or reduced. One of the most important things a concerned citizen can do is to learn about the project, keep an eye on its development, and contact city leaders about what's important to them.”

benefit doesn't interest you, perhaps the prospect of a night of eating and shopping in a beautiful setting does. The river will be the perfect place for a date or family excursion.

The park system, bridges and equestrian center also promise to maintain the city's economic boom well into the future. The equestrian center will be among the best in the nation and should bring in horse shows and other business from around the world. The park system and river will become a tourist attraction in of themselves with the help of the three Calatrava signature bridges; their presence will bring added business to Dallas' many hotels and restaurants.

These bridges, built by the world famous Spanish designer/engineer, are to feature 400 foot tall central trusses built with Italian white steel. I don't actually know what "Italian white steel" is, other than perhaps a racist sequel to the Shaquille O'Neal blockbuster "Steel," but it sounds impressive and will look good. The bridges will be unique to Dallas and

their image will be forever associated with the city. They'll also help to manage traffic in south Dallas, ensuring enhanced downtown development doesn't create traffic snarls.

The environmental impact will also be immense. The current Trinity River channel was built artificially straight; the resulting lack of natural meanders leaves the river unable to filter and clean itself. Wetlands have also been destroyed in the past and the general condition of the Trinity River flood plain is not good. Until recently the Trinity was deemed unsafe for any human contact, and even now it's only safe for very limited human contact.

I spent a Saturday morning about a month back with a volunteer group removing trash from the river banks. I've never seen so many tires, chunks of carpet, and shards of glass in my life. This project will build wetlands, plant trees within the flood plain, and restore the river's ability to clean itself. These improvements will create an environmental sanctuary right

in the heart of Dallas. We may soon even be able to spend five minutes in the river without getting that dirty all over feeling.

Furthermore, the preservation of the Great Trinity Forest means there will be thousands upon thousands of acres of natural forest for our children and grandchildren to enjoy, all a very short drive from downtown Dallas.

So how can you, the average UTD student, find a way to help out in such an important effort?

You can inquire about ways you can help with one of the many organizations that seek to continue the momentum built behind this project. These organizations also help to secure public and private funds for various projects associated with the expansion. Contact the Trinity Trust or The Trinity Commons Foundation to inquire about internship opportunities or other ways you can help.

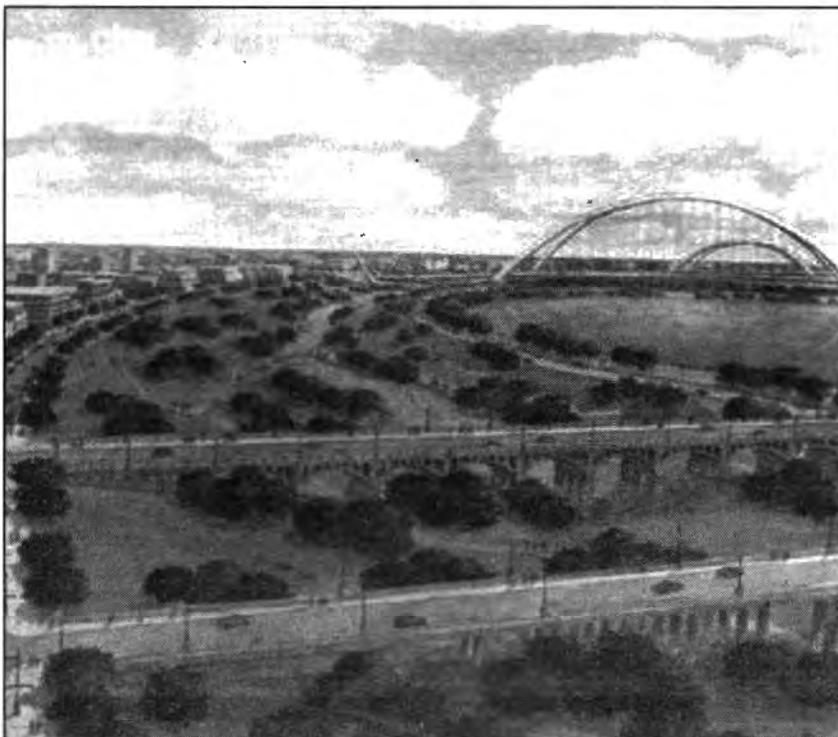
If you happen to have a spare couple of million dollars sitting around, there are still naming rights left for a couple of islands and a bridge. This would be a great way to donate the money and ensure your name is associated with Dallas for a long time to come. Using some of my ample funds, they will be installing the Jonathan Coker Memorial Patch of Gravel late in 2008.

You can also spend time with one of the many volunteer organizations that spends weekends cleaning up various Trinity River parks. The job is rewarding and it can actually be quite enjoyable to spend a Saturday morning in a beautiful place making it even more beautiful. Groundworks Dallas is a local volunteer group which cleans up area parks and has recently focused itself on cleaning up the Trinity River. It is run by good people and they will often feed you after a hard day of work. A hard-earned hot dog is a tasty hot dog.

Of course, the Trinity River Corridor project is not without its setbacks and controversies. Costs of the project have inflated tremendously and some sentiments have changed while elections have brought in new city leaders since 1998. Continued voter pressure is required to ensure elements of the project aren't cut or reduced. One of the most important things a concerned citizen can do is to learn about the project, keep an eye on its development, and contact city leaders about what's important to them. The mayor of Dallas and the head of the Trinity River Corridor Planning and Development department are good people to voice your concerns to.

Info You Should Know

- Mayor Laura Miller
Phone: (214)670-4054
- Trinity River Project
Planning and
Development
Phone: (214) 671-9500
- The Trinity Trust
Foundation
www.thetrinitytrust.org
Phone: (214) 740-1616
info@thetrinitytrust.org
- The Trinity Commons
Foundation
Phone: (214) 363-3284
- Groundwork Dallas
www.groundworkdallas.org
Phone: (214) 269-5692
groundworkdallas@yahoo.com



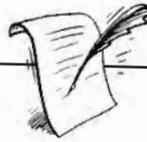
An artist's rendition of the Oak Cliff floodway. Image courtesy of the Trinity River Corridor project

Once it's completed, the project will leave Dallas with a pristine park system, beautiful bridges, and a new sense of pride in Dallas' southern face. The development will give Dallas' downtown a true uptown area. The project might even do something good for the environment, along with the minor bonus of protecting downtown Dallas from catastrophic floods.

Ultimately though, it's most important that Dallas-area residents take a personal interest in the future of the city and this project, and do something to ensure it is executed in its full scope. A simple phone call to mayor Laura Miller, a weekend spent cleaning a park, or a multi-million dollar pledge are all equally important, except that the multi-million dollar pledge is so much more equally important than the other two things that I have already forgotten them.

Reading this article was the first step. Now, armed with knowledge and a momentary surge of constructive energy, put down the Guitar Hero and go out and get something done. ■

Jonathan Coker will be honest: if you have a couple million to spare, screw the river. He is so very hungry. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



In response to **Page 3**
in this issue:

As UTD moves forward in our quest for Tier 1 status, there will inevitably be growing pains, but accompanying them are opportunities.

I believe in the power of Student Government acting as the student body's voice and representation. Our administration listens, and although this publication has expressed reservations about their transparency at times – and it is the function of the press to hold leadership accountable – I trust that their intentions are honorable and that they place value in the opinions and welfare of students.

But Student Government makes mistakes, too. We represent a diverse and unique group of constituents with competing priorities and goals, but at our April 24 meeting, students were wrongly left out of the equation. A majority of Senators voted to close the meeting to the students we serve, for reasons that, frankly, were political.

On April 24, SG had on our agenda several proposed amendments to our Constitution. Amendments require a three-quarters vote of the entire membership of the Senate in order to pass – then the entire student body gets to vote on the proposed change. All the while, the administration is involved, and so is the UT System. It's a pretty weighty matter, and it is meant to be complicated so we don't change it on a whim in the heat of the moment.

An amendment submitted by

Communications Chair Sarha Mavrakis called for accountability for our elected representatives – to the point of removing SG members who undergo any possibility of disciplinary actions, including parking citations – and although the timing of her proposal and her efforts during the election call into question her motives, accountability is important. As Senator Mavrakis pointed out in justifying the legislation, we have standards for grades and hours – why not behavior?

However, if you interpret our Constitution as I do, you would see that it already holds a standard for conduct: individuals put on disciplinary probation cannot serve in any capacity in Student Government. I agree that public figures ought to be held to a higher standard – and we are.

Interestingly, Senator Jason Stephens also submitted an amendment that one is hard-pressed to see as anything but specific to the situation. Stephens suggested that we change the line of succession if a President-elect is disqualified to serve from the Vice President-elect to the next-highest vote-getter in the Presidential elections.

At the meeting, Academic Affairs Chair Iris Kwong moved for the Senate to go into Executive Session – fancy jargon for a closed meeting. Kwong's explanation was that several members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Fraternity were present in support of President-elect Manfred Mecoy and she felt they were directing hostility towards her, as evidenced by her blacklisting from their most recent party.

Several Senators expressed the opinion that the student body at large should not be excluded or disenfranchised and a few outright said Kwong's reasoning was inadequate and inappropriate. In the end, however, the majority of Senators voted to close the session.

After ejecting the last observers, Student Government President Basheer Benhalim spoke in his prerogative as chair, announcing the reason he thought we needed to go into Executive Session: to address the "elephant in the room," the Senate's leadership for next year. It is Mr. Benhalim's opinion that Mecoy is not fit to serve as President. It is my opinion that he is, but the larger issue is that legislation should not be enacted within such a narrow context.

The cited reasons for closing the meeting were personal, and the real reasons could be interpreted as hypocritical. The actions of a few undermined all the great work that Student Government has done this year. We need to move forward from that.

There is never an issue that Student Government should address

in a vacuum. We ought always to be open to our fellow students. There is significant value in differing points of view, and I don't question that Senators voted as they thought best, but this is the time to come together and put aside personal issues.

So I want to issue a challenge to every one of my fellow students:

Make your decisions, but own them. Be aware of the consequences and the ramifications. Do not lightly spend the precious coin of credibility for which our predecessors have worked so desperately. Continue to be proud of your excellence. Always look to the future and at the "big picture."

We as students are stewards of the University for the time we are here and beyond. It is our job to grow its reputation both in academics and student life, and we all gain by doing so. Our educational experience is enhanced, and the value of our degrees increases.

I love the energy so many dedicate to improving our University. As we all move forward to next year, I want to offer encouragement to you whether you are involved on campus or off: keep on dreaming, hoping and believing, and keep on acting.

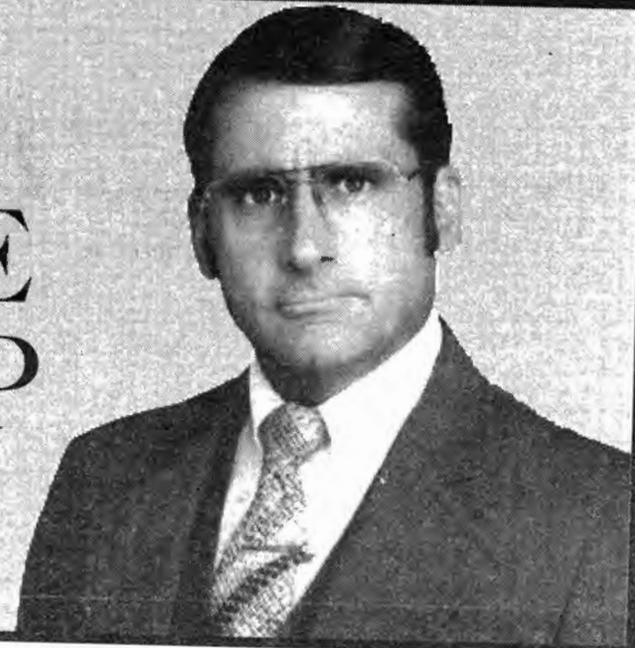
It has been a pleasure and honor to serve alongside you this year.

Sincerely,
Felicity Lenes

A
Modest
Proposal

WE
LOVE
AMP

amodestproposal@gmail.com
amp.utdallas.edu



I remember when copies of *A Modest Proposal* were dumped into garbage bins by an SG candidate for endorsing one candidate over another. I recall that the school board or similar governing body told AMP that a school publication could not endorse, officially or not, any candidate running for office in the Student Government Association. Why, then, did the UTD *Mercury* take such a liberty in endorsing a candidate when only last year a ruling was made against doing so? If the ruling was changed, why, then, was *A Modest Proposal* not informed? This is, either a foolish oversight, one of many that AMP has been diligently bringing to light, or a deliberate attempt to undermine what is, in my opinion, the most thorough and honest publication on campus. What gives?

Matt Eidson

Last year, the AMP editors endorsed a candidate for SG vice president and incurred some serious wrath. Our right as a newspaper to endorse candidates was called into question. In fact, some questioned whether we could be called a newspaper at all. At the time, we were not a registered student organization, so we could not fill out the requisite paperwork to endorse a candidate. Unfortunately, certain candidates were penalized because of this misunderstanding.

In the aftermath of the election, AMP editors met with certain administrators who forbade us from endorsing a candidate in the future. They believed that providing students with an informed opinion of the candidates was unfair. In addition, we were required to register as a student organization.

Since then, SG has changed its election policies and has explicitly allowed for campus papers to endorse candidates. It seems that our colleagues at the *Mercury* were informed of this change, and we were left in the dark. While this may have been, as you said, a "deliberate attempt to undermine" AMP, we're giving them the benefit of the doubt. Had we known, we might have taken the liberty of expressing our opinions again this year. Now that we know, you can look forward to thorough coverage of SG elections next year.

AMP Editors

From our Website

amp.utdallas.edu

In response to **Page 4-5**
in this issue:

"Kim you deserve a damn Pulitzer. But, what can we do about this? And also, I wouldn't be so quick to forgive Dr. Daniel for his actions. He failed to be transparent in the financial dealings with Waterview. I still don't feel this topic is closed, as the current situation is going to be untenable for some and will continue to create unnecessary financial tensions.

And if I may throw out a bit of a red herring, this is proof that AMP is the newspaper that the mercury only wishes it was. This article is high class journalism and it is not about something that nobody cares about, like a student getting an MIC."

Stephen

I'm sure the last thing they suspected during these dealings was a keen student having her ear to the ground and getting answers. (And thanks for providing spreadsheets previously). My next concern is what we average Joe's can do about this and other antics while there's still cash left in our pockets. Anyway, major kudos for following the money on this one, Kim!

DigiTan

Obviously Utley's actions are immoral, but are they illegal? They're certainly demonstrably NOT for the "sole benefit of the University of Texas at Dallas." If this is worded into the contract, is he in breach of it? Where's all the law students when we need them.

And this business about paying a "premium" for living on campus is simply idiotic. We're paying the university to provide services to us, not to be a cash cow for some rich guy who happens to have been able to catch UTD in a tough spot financially 20 years ago.

Ryan

This article made me really realize how AMP makes the Mercury look like a 10th grade girl's slam book. Thank you, Ms. Allen. Thank you, AMP.

Rebecca

In response to **Why Geology?**
article 7 in the April issue:

"Diatomite! The formation of your thesis was solid! Selecting geology took a lode off your mind...Not to be taken for granite! Calculus was not a pediment for you!"

-chip off the old block

In response to **Voting to Get Rid of Democracy**
article 10 in the April issue:

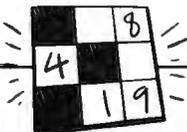
I like the intent of your article - that mass democracy is generally a bad idea. However, I think you are a bit naive to blame ideas or opinions you don't like on democratic governance.

Can you say that, for example, slavery and racial segregation are objectively bad ideas? No, they are subject to the methods of rationalization that exist at whatever time the debate happens. And, as a matter of fact, slavery was mostly the province of the rich and wealthy (large productive landowners), not the commoner. Mass voting was not particularly common in many of the slave-holding territories for a long time, either.

As for the Israel/Palestine issue, I tend to not want to get involved at all. However, evaluating the situation, it basically boils down to two sides fighting over limited pieces of land and each side believing they are more deserving and righteous than the other. Saying that you don't like what we normally brand as 'terrorism' is a fallacy resulting from democracy is erroneous reasoning in my opinion. It is simply a clash of your moral philosophy with theirs.

Although I believe in objective inquiry, objective inquiry on its own has only a rational basis. There are no moral standards behind it. Plato, in fact, did not believe in a pure ideal of objectivity. There is a whole section in *The Republic* that deals with this issue.

-Anonymous



by **benedict voit**

benedict.voit@student.utdallas.edu



and **jessie harpham**

jessica.harpham@student.utdallas.edu

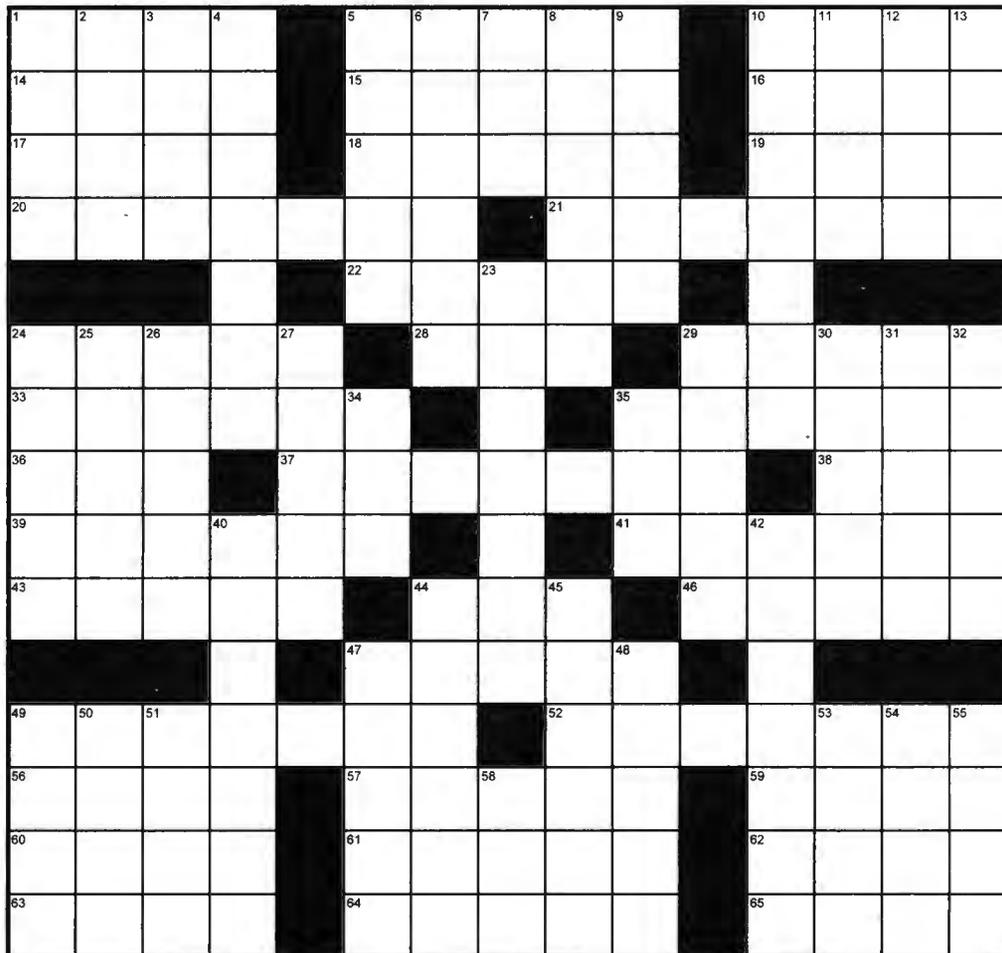
Summer Relaxation

Across

1. Results in summer school
5. User-guided evolutionary computer game
10. Adorned
14. Strong against the Dollar
15. Playing on the radio
16. Puerto ____
17. NY Yankee
18. Belonging to the Greek God of War
19. Not your PC
20. 17 across was once with them
21. Bridge to Nowhere, i.e.
22. Summer weather
24. Sell hotdogs, ice cream...
28. What you do with 24 across purchases
29. A function of ice
33. Improper use of 'hung'
35. One in a pair of commonly removed organs
36. "As Good as it Gets" disorder
37. Form of differentiation
38. Certified Nurse Assistant, for one
39. Three per hockey game
41. Wandering, hunter-gatherers
43. An expandable wire form; a type of Graft
44. C.E. counterpart
46. ____ Jones, singer
47. Desire
49. Like an Icee
52. To pillage and plunder
56. Put this away
57. Carries the Earth
59. Something that can go flat
60. Sandwich shop, a DC favorite
61. The bias of a story
62. Origin of expulsion
63. Continent of 50 down
64. Cuddly bear
65. Relaxation

Down

1. ____-less Engineering
2. An air or atmosphere around someone
3. Fe
4. Needed for a long trip
5. Represent us on ice
6. Go after
7. Neo, for example
8. Hate
9. Type of exam
10. Color worn at Harvard
11. Peru's capital
12. Something with four tires (two words)
13. Sitting on this by the bay
23. Men's outwear company
24. Key ingredient of a mall
25. Silent
26. A giant
27. A storehouse; Home or Office, i.e.
29. Large Intestine
30. My bologna's first name
31. Paul McCartney's former wife
32. ____-dot (website)
34. 17th of June is for him
35. Laying out objective
40. Fundamental law of physics
42. Hiding in your closet
44. Slug-bug upgrade
45. A trip to the store
47. Raises bread
48. Disgusting
49. Protects animals
50. Neighbor of Cambodia and Thailand
51. Old Soviet Union, minus 'R', plus 'T'
53. Assistant
54. Music: get louder (abb.)
55. Superman
58. Strapping young man



Last month's puzzle erroneously contained an extra black square rendering the puzzle no longer symmetric or perfectly solvable (45 down was blackened). We apologize for this error and for any missed class notes. By the way, check it: <http://amp.utdallas.edu>

WOW!

(AMP... always represents)

Sudoku

Difficulty:
Political Science



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

Jamie Kennedy Breakdances

'Not in my chocolate factory'



'For real?!'



'Hoo-yeah!'



No!

THE MOST TRUSTED NEWS ON THE PLANET

URANUS

The Ultimate Summer Blockbuster Unleashed

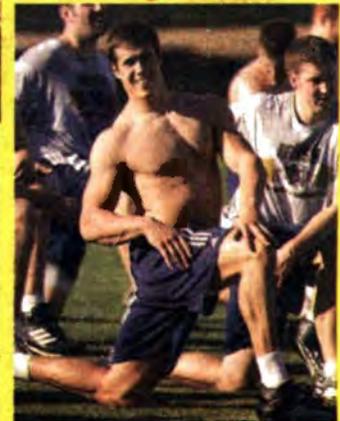
URANUS EXCLUSIVE

- Jack Potterman lauded as biggest hero ever
- Jones, Venom, Voldemort form new Axis of Evil



Only in URANUS...

Brady Quinn



LOL



Waterview outsources maintenance: Mario Brothers hired "...to fix plumbing, eradicate pests, and save the princess."

UTD SAFE!



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Summer 2007

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A MODEST PROPOSAL

amodestproposal@gmail.com

The Bees Strike Back! Workers Struggle for Fair Treatment

All across the country, American Honeybees are disappearing. The bees aren't dying, but rather are simply flying off the job. Keepers are perplexed.

Early Monday morning, a spokesman of a group calling itself the National Anthophiles Union announced that American Honeybees are officially on strike. The NAU cited continual abuse of workers under the Fair Labor Standards Acts.

"Bees are forced to work long hours in terrible conditions," said a member. "And by the end of the day, we barely make enough to feed our colonies."

A list of formal charges has been filed with the House Committee on Agriculture, and a copy of the list was sent to the National Farmer's Organization, and the National Farmer's Union.

Congress asked the National Labor Relations Board to act as a third party between agricultural representatives and the NAU for the first meeting held last week. When the meeting adjourned, the bees immediately held a press conference, publicly accusing the NLRB and the farmers of blatant disregard for their civil liberties.

"The farmers of America have abused the rights of Honeybees for far too long," commented bee spokes-insect, Terrence Honey-Powderly. "And now the federal government refuses to acknowledge our suffering."

The Reverend Al Sharpton publicly announced that he would be leading a midnight prayer vigil, in support of the bees.

"We bees aren't greedy," explains union activist Agnes Nector. "All we want is a fair

shake in life, just like anybody else."

When asked to comment on the situation, a spokesperson for the NLRB said: "I have no idea what happened. We get in there and the bees just start buzzing and bouncing around the room. It was really annoying. Besides, these charges are ridiculous; I don't even think the Constitution applies to bees."

Meanwhile, in order to combat the labor shortage, President Bush proposed a new guest-worker program that would allow foreign bees who immigrated illegally to work in American hives for up to six years. Immigration reform has been a hot topic in Washington lately, and this new step might prove to be a benchmark in the legislative process.

In response to the possibility of legalized bee immigration, angered activists have coordinated with the vigilante force known as the Minute-Birds in an effort to repel this new wave of illegal immigrations.

"Our ancestors didn't settle this land to be pollinated by no foreigners. American flowers will be pollinated by Americans," was an official statement that drew thunderous applause at the local chapter meeting.

Talk of buying 1000 miles of netting was also discussed as a possibility.

Nevertheless, if these disputes cannot be resolved quickly, Americans may soon see a sharp decline in honey production that could leave millions of residents without sufficient sweetener for everything from rolls to tea. In Washington, the air is a buzz with rumors about beehive subsidies but President Bush remains unavailable for comment. ■

Kryptonite Real?!

by Jimmy Olsen

The scientific community was thrown into chaos with the announcement that a mineral with the same chemical formula as Kryptonite had been discovered in Serbia. Scientists insist that a new study of the mineral deposit be carried out immediately to analyze the Serbian Kryptonite deposits.

"This is top priority," says geologist Martin Klaprock. "We need to determine if there is a serious risk to the public."

Comic book experts agree with Klaprock: "We need to know what kind of Kryptonite we're dealing with here. Most is harmless to humans, but if it's Jewel Kryptonite then we could face an invasion from the Phantom Zone, or if it's Bizarro Red then it could start turning the local population into dragons. How would they explain that to the media?"

The Serbian government assures the international community of their ability to handle the situation: "Serbia is perfectly able to take care of itself." When asked whether any civilians had been turned into dragons, Serbian officials declined comment.

Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced that Iran has acquired the means to refine Kryptonite and will begin producing X-Kryptonite within the next few years. X-Kryptonite is used to give humans super powers on par with those of Superman's.

In light of these developments, top Pentagon officials called a meeting with those few experts on Kryptonian science that could be found on such short notice. The general's waited for approximately 45 minutes before being told that the scientists would be unable to make it to the meeting, as their World of Warcraft guild was about to run Naxxramas. ■

Alternative Student Government Created

Student Union (AMP) - Do you hear the students sing, singing a song of angry men? It is the music of a people who will not be slaves again!

Viva La Revolucion! Spurred on by recent atrocities committed by Student Government rebel elements have seized the first and second floors of the McDermott Library.

Armed with their broken dreams of getting a job after graduation, a faction of government majors soundly defeated the librarians by shouting loudly.

The ECS building fell quickly, as well, when rebel leaders approached the local population of EE majors. Apparently this show of social

interaction was enough to send them fleeing.

A party sent into Jonsson to test for an SG presence found the building completely empty except for a long-lost tribe of Lit majors on the fifth floor.

The tribe promised to disclose the location of a secret passage into the Student Union (the SG stronghold) in exchange for food, water, or a copy of Homer's *Odyssey*. Unfortunately, the revolutionaries could only find a copy of *Silas Marner*. The party had to do the humane thing and leave native culture alone.

The battle for the Student Union will be hard-fought, as the current government may resort to throwing all the sandwiches that students

weren't allowed to eat at the last SG meeting.

The rebel leader Trotsky Mock spoke of a bright future filled with hope, justice and seats for all in every meeting.

The new government is heralded as a voice for the students and not a mouthpiece for the administration.

T. Mock promised to bring equality to all students, to beautify campus, to provide close parking spots for all, to make textbooks free, to make cell phones never go off in class, to make the summer less hot, to reduce the distance between Green and the School of Management, and to make everyone get an A in calculus. What a guy. ■

Yale Adopts Early Rejection

“When they suck, waiting only gives them hope,” Provost notes



Yale University's Admissions Board utilizes Uncle Sam in their flyer letter rejecting non-blue-blood students.

by **D'Brickshaw Cunningham**
Education Correspondent

After several months of research, Yale University has finally released their answer to Harvard University's ground-breaking decision to do away with early admissions: early rejection.

Harvard, Yale's rival in everything from academics to "Super Sloppy Double Dare," has received nothing but praise for abandoning early admissions. Educators believe it gives students the opportunity to make a decision from a variety of options, and students believe an extra few months to fill out the 12 page applications is awesome.

Feeling overshadowed by the amount of attention that Harvard has been receiving, Yale created a committee to discover an admissions tactic that would be even more lauded. Despite many setbacks, mostly having to do with one committee member's unhealthy obsession with chinchillas, the committee came up with a plan that would make Harvard's decision look like, as they put it, a "drunk baby babbling."

Their plan involves not simply removing early admissions, but implementing a policy to notify unqualified applicants of their rejection immediately.

"Naturally, being the university that not only graduated Lewis Black but convinced Dick

Cheney that he should go to college in Wyoming instead, we get considerably more applicants than we can possibly accept. Of course, not all of these applicants really have a chance to be accepted in the first place, so we feel it's best to not get their hopes up," one committee member was overheard saying.

Through intense investigative reporting – we know a high school senior with a 1.43 GPA – we were able to acquire the form letter that the university now sends to each of the early rejects:

"Dear sir and/or madam,

We at Yale take great pride in selecting the best and brightest from across the globe to join us in our exciting education opportunities. Thus, we must maintain our image as a prestigious university. It is because of that reputation that we wanted to immediately inform you of our decision that you are not Yale material. Please do not go around telling people that you may attend our university in the future, as there is a greater chance that Britney Spears will be our university's next president. This letter will also serve as notification that your email accounts have been blocked from our servers and any paper mail we receive from you will be burned upon arrival. If you attempt to visit the campus, you will be forcibly exported to Zaire.

Cordially,
Yale Admissions" ■

Vermont reminds Country that it still exists

“Well I’ll be...” says Nebraskan

RICHARDSON (AMP) – To prove its significance to the American people, Vermont has taken a leadership role amongst the states. The Vermont legislature took a bold step when it declared that, should the other states vote to impeach President Bush, it too would do the same.

The AP wires picked up on the story when a news flash indicated something was happening in Vermont.

"I didn't think we would run the story, since we typically try and keep our content national," one small paper reporter claimed. "Oh, you mean that place that provides maple syrup?"

Newspapers that covered the buzz highlighted the issue at stake, calculated the infinitely small probability that the rest of the States would also impeach Bush, and most importantly provided a map of what Vermont looks like, and where exactly it is (older readers may remember Vermont as the state bordering Massachusetts).

When told the news of the confirmed impeachment, President Bush shrugged it off.

"I've known the Canadians have hated me for years. But guess what? Joke's on them. They don't got a vote," he chuckled.

When informed that Vermont does in fact get votes, as it is in fact one of the 50 states in the Union, Bush leaned over and whispered into Cheney's ear.

After a slow nod, Bush looked up, chuckled, and noted "Well, this just means they've got freedom. And freedom allows them to have democracy. Sometimes I don't agree with the outcomes of elections, but that doesn't mean I don't love freedom."

Cheney condemned the actions of Vermont as 'partisan' and 'irresponsible,' adding that "...if Vermont was worthy of my time, I might go up there and tell them how I really feel. [inaudible grunt] It's not."

As a response, Vermont has doubled its Public Relations effort to attract new tourists and vacationers: "Hey, we're beating Wyoming!" "Montpelier: 8,000 and growing!" and "Really, Thank YOU for Smoking." ■