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Office of Student Affairs

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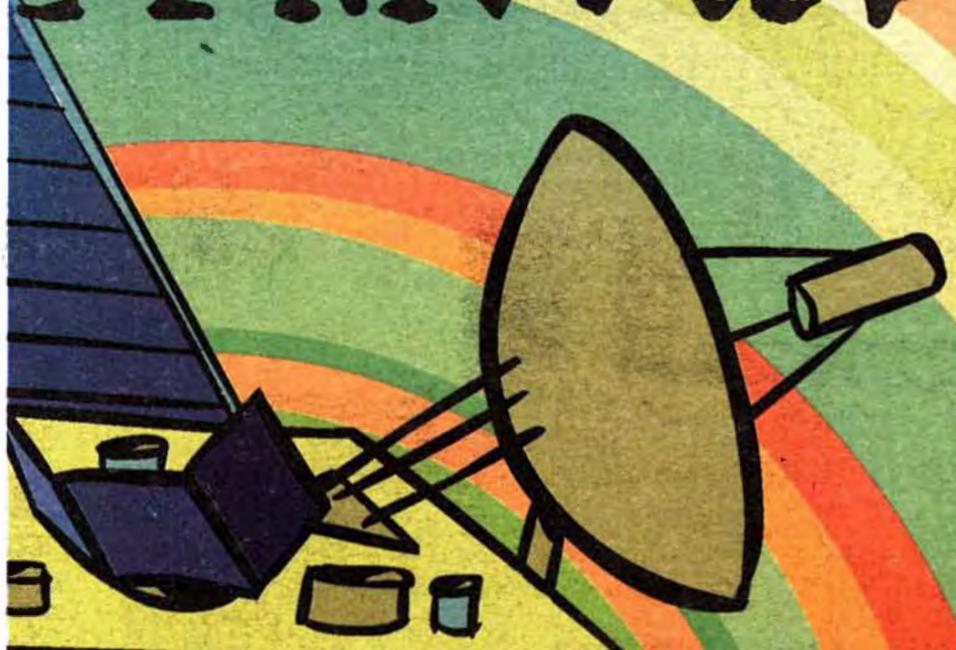
*A Modest Proposal*, vol. 4, no. 5

Jonathan Coker, *et al.*

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# A Modest Proposal

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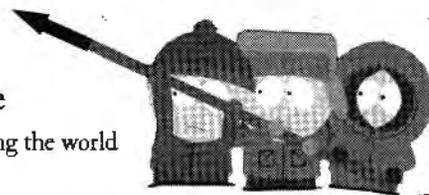
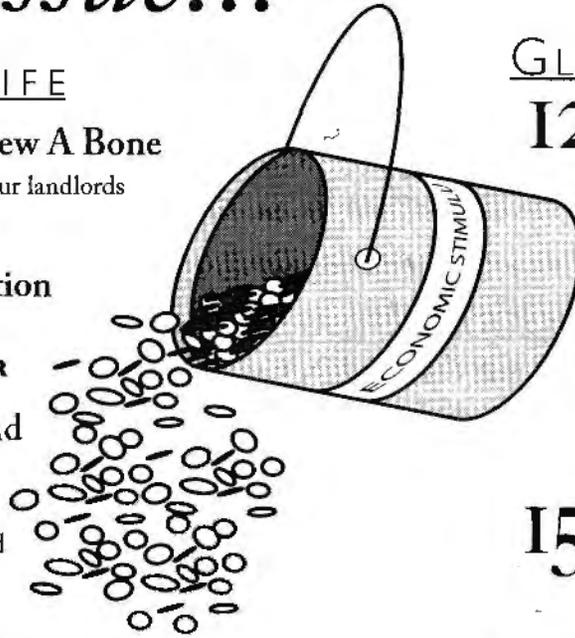
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## Disclaimer

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Cover design by Luke McKenzie. Uranus cover design by Jordan Youngblood.

## Things to do in March:

1. Read AMP
2. Vote in the primary
3. Read AMP again

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web-exclusives:

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# Throwing Waterview a Bone

*One contributor offers a more positive view of campus housing*



by alex palmer  
alexp@utdallas.edu

Let me preface this article with a disclaimer saying that I love to bash Waterview Park as much as the next person. As far as what I have read, it seems that the conditions in the apartment complex were abysmal until 2005 when the Dallas Observer published a piece bringing the situation into the limelight. Since then, many changes have happened with regard to on campus housing at UTD. An advisory board was commissioned to make suggestions regarding Waterview Park, and in the final report the commission concluded that maximization of Utey Foundation or university profit should be a secondary goal to affordable campus housing for its students.

After a long series of events, the students of UTD now have two management companies running the on campus housing. The university's choice to evict Waterview from phases V through IX is a testament to the unique power that a collective student voice has on a university campus, and I firstly encourage students and publications on campus to continue to cry out when something unfair occurs.

However, I also believe that there is a fine line between that same collective student voice and outright mob mentality. I admit that I am ready on nearly all occasions to jump on the bandwagon, write articles, bitch to my friends, and buy massive amounts of Ramen in protest to nearly anything Waterview Park does that does not go my way.

However, I also think that it is equally necessary to make the student body aware of things that the housing management company is doing right.

It's easy to absolutely vilify something; it is more difficult is to demand that some things need to be changed, while admitting that Waterview Park does many things correctly.

It is on that note that I would like to share a few of my good experiences with the red-headed stepchild of UTD student life, Waterview Park.

Firstly, appliance maintenance: this year I have filed four or five maintenance requests. Among them, a toilet was dripping, one of my blinds fell off, and my fan stopped working. All of the requests were completed in two days. The toilet was fixed by installing an entirely new flapper, floating bulb, and rubber chain thing inside the tank. I'm almost sure that the drip could have been temporarily stopped just by tightening something, but I found it encouraging that Waterview went ahead and replaced the entire flushing mechanism of the toilet.



Flowers showcase the welcome sign on Drive L. Waterview's improvements have been reassuring. Photo by Benedict Voit

I was happy that they went ahead and sprung for the extra \$5.99 at Home Depot to fix the problem correctly the first time.

My blinds were even more impressive. I have those hanging long-strip-of-plastic type blinds, and one of the panels fell off. I half expected to be charged for the replacement strip, but my experience far exceeded my expectations. They replaced the entire set of blinds. It was just another issue of something being old and needed to be replaced anyway.

Finally, I arrive at the case of my awe-inspiring, gorgeous new fan. One day my fan just up and decided that it did not want to work anymore. I flipped all sorts of switches and checked the power breaker box. The fan was toast. My lowest expectation was that they were going to try and make me pay for the fan, but that was again not the case.

I was also worried that they were going to take the fan away and try to fix it, leaving me without a fan for a week. Again surprising me, the maintenance men came in and less than half an hour later, I had a completely new fan. It's stainless steel, silent, works, and has lights! The old fan breaking is the single coolest thing to happen to me so far in my sophomore year.

Additionally, the people that work in the Waterview office have generally been very nice. Recently, a friend of mine had an experience that increased my opinion of Waterview greatly. This friend of mine likes tea a lot, and for her birthday her father had bought her handmade porcelain tea cups. One morning a Terminix worker came in to bait the apartment, and when he opened one of the cabinets, one of these cups fell out and broke.

The Terminix man, who later signed his name in what I can only describe as a combination between a star and the letter "b", was completely unsympathetic, did not apologize, left the shattered mess on the counter and the floor, and even asked if anything else was going to "fall on him" as if she was in the habit of booby-trapping her apartment to spite unsuspecting pest control men.

Later that morning, she wrote an e-mail to Donna Taylor explaining what had happened and asked if there was anything she could do to be reimbursed for the \$17 broken cup. Personally, I thought that, although rude, the Terminix man's actions were ultimately an accident, and that the replacement cost would be entirely on my friend's shoulders. This was not the case. Donna Taylor personally called the same day to inform my friend that there was a \$25 Visa gift card awaiting her in the Waterview office. She apologized for the inconvenience and didn't even ask to see the broken cup as proof.

I cannot speak for the entire Waterview Park community, but I am willing to bet that most residents have had at least a few positive experiences with the management company. It's important to continually demand that Waterview Park meets the requirements set out in its mission statement, and things are not perfect yet. However, we also need to be honest with ourselves, admit that things have improved, and give Waterview Park some due credit. ■

*If you rearrange the letters in Alex Palmer and also add and subtract a few of them, you get Bob Utley. Nice try, Bob... nice try. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*

*Stick it to The Man.  
Make your campus radio station  
part of your college life.*



by kaitlin butler  
khh061000@utdallas.edu

Radio UTD will soon be broadcasting from space. Outer space.

On March 2nd at 3:00 pm, Radio UTD will have a two-hour segment on XMU channel 43 on XM Satellite Radio! We're being featured on their Student Exchange Program, one of only a few college radio stations throughout the nation selected for this honor. Many of the other stations who've been picked are giants in the college radio field, such as KALX from UC Berkeley (around for 45 years!) and KSLU in St. Louis.

Why on earth was Radio UTD selected, then? We're a young station, formed only five years ago, and our on-campus reputation isn't all that huge. However, in our short time as a station, we've gone from a small ska-only station in a moldy basement room to a blossoming, vibrant station playing the best independent music being released today.

Our more than 40 DJs play everything from Radiohead and Daft Punk to Animal Collective and Neutral Milk Hotel. The rest of the world has noticed this: we've been nominated two years in a row for Best Internet-Only Station by *College Music Journal* (basically the Bible of independent radio) and some of our old employees have gone on to work in the industry.

We've made important connections with many independent labels, and the feedback we give about albums goes directly to the artists themselves.

Radio UTD streams 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We never assault your ears with mindless Top 40 crap; we play the songs you'll never hear on mainstream radio. Our DJs have complete control over their shows, and no two shows ever sound the same.

The only real stipulation that they have is a rule that benefits the listener: during every show, a DJ must play at least five new songs—songs from any albums we've received in the past eight weeks. We receive more than twenty-five new albums per week, many before their actual release date.

As music director, I personally listen

to and rate each new album we receive. We filter through the crap to give you, the listener, a sample of the absolute best music being released.

As a recent music blog post stated, "Never have so few companies controlled so much of the music played on the radio and for sale at retail stores. At the same time, there are more bands and more ways to discover their music than ever.

"Music seems to have split in two—the homogenous corporate product that is spon-fed to consumers and the diverse independent music that finds devoted fans online and at clubs across the country."

We at Radio UTD are prime examples of that quote. We strive to be an alternative source for people who truly love music. We are tired of the stagnation of the music industry, caused mostly by corporations who only want to make money from their vapid musicians.

We want to find the true artists among the wave of so-called musicians today: the innovators, the boundary-pushers, the visionaries.

We're tired of letting music (or, god forbid, muzak) simply exist as background noise. Music is art! When

we forget this, we lose the chance to revel in how beautiful music can be. Choosing to listen to a Clear Channel station when you can have a vibrant college radio station instead is like choosing to look at a McDonald's advertisement rather than a Van Gogh. And who wants that?

Independent media has long been part of the college tradition. Try to imagine the civil rights movement without college newspapers or the Vietnam protests without student radio. Impossible! Stick it to the man! Listen to Radio UTD!

Convinced? Visit our website (<http://radio.utdallas.edu>). From there, you can tune in, read about current programming, look through current and past playlists, and read our blog (full of album reviews, weekly charts, and even artist interviews).

Join our Facebook groups, call us in the station, and hit us up on AIM. We exist to serve you, the student population, and we'd love to hear from you. ■

*Kaitlin Butler is Radio UTD's music director. She likes to wear colorful dresses and shout at things. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

Listen to our Extra-Special, Über-Special, Super-Special Radio Special on  
**Sunday, March 2, 3-5 p.m. Central time**  
 as featured on the Student Exchange Program with Billy Zero  
 XMU ch. 43 on XM Satellite Radio / DirectTV ch. 831 / [xmradio.com](http://xmradio.com)

# Whooshing Around the World

*Study abroad is life-changing and easier than you think*



by ryan henry  
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Before coming to UTD, I looked at many different colleges. The one thing that they all had in common was that each and every one stressed that there was ample opportunity to continue university studies overseas somewhere. UTD, however, did not.

As many of you probably don't know, there is an Office of International Education, and they offer a surprising number of partnerships with other universities across the globe. These partnerships range from University of Kaiserslautern in Germany to Hanyang University in Korea.

The first problem with studying abroad is deciding where to go, and unless you are one of the lucky ones with an unlimited budget, cost is definitely an issue. The easiest and cheapest way to go abroad is through one of the exchange programs. UTD has exchanges with universities in Korea, China, Prague, Israel, France, Germany and others, and supports study abroad programs on almost every continent. In order to figure out which programs are right for you, start thinking about which field interests you the most and how that will fit in to your own degree plan.

Now many of you are probably wondering, "Wonderful, having all these exchange programs is great, but I can't afford it." You'd be surprised at the actual statistics. OIE is very dedicated to meeting the needs of those who want to see the rest of the world, while learning quite a bit along the way.

Exchange programs are often locked in at UTD tuition rates, meaning that

you pay no more for hours abroad than you would here in Richardson. Scholarships are available as well; just last year, a number of students were given \$1750 to spend on tuition, fees and housing while studying Spanish at La Universidad de Guanajuato in Guanajuato, Mexico.

Meagan Olson, a

a short time, you will be immersing yourself in a new language, culture, and society. How exactly do you deal with something like this?

Sherry Marek, coordinator for the McDermott Scholars Program, suggests that you should "shop with the locals, eat in the

He spent time in the University of Cologne and walking in the streets of Munich during his time at UTD, and these experiences "helped shape who [he is] today." Forcing yourself to adapt to a foreign environment shows potential employers that you have some of the necessary qualities required to excel in the workplace. Michael Seeligson, another UTD alum, states, "[Studying abroad] also

shows a potential employer that you are willing to try new things."

In my own experience in Guanajuato, Mexico, I struggled with the language barrier. This was because the main provider of my meals was an 84-year-old Mexican woman who did

not speak or understand a word of English. After that month, however, not only could I tell her how good the food was (and it really was), but I could even have a conversation with her. Now that I am back in the U.S., I not only appreciate this country a little bit more, but I also know more about the Mexican culture.

The important thing to remember about study abroad is that there is something out there for everyone. So, if after an initial perusal of the OIE website nothing strikes your fancy, try going in and asking Dr. Hernandez. Studying abroad is one of the most rewarding things that you can do with your time here at UTD, and the administration is more than willing to help. Take them up on that offer, and don't forget to send Dean Coleman a picture of your own personal international Whoosh! ■



Ryan studying in Guanajuato  
Photos by Jonathan Coker

biochemistry sophomore, spent the month of June gallivanting around Mexico. "The money that OIE gave me for the trip was enough to live on in Mexico for the month. It paid for tuition, fees, books and meals provided by the local family."

Staff members like OIE director Dr. Rodolfo Hernández Guerrero guide you throughout the process, aiding in filling out the proper forms. Once these forms are completed, OIE informs the necessary people that you will be traveling and carrying the UTD banner abroad.

Now that you have selected a final destination, obtained funding and filled out all the right paperwork, it is time to start thinking about what the new country will be like. In just

local cafes, and live with a family where you are forced to interact in a foreign language on a daily basis. Read the local papers. Try to listen to the local radio stations. Don't study abroad and live with Americans; you will be cheating yourself!" So what is the easiest way to acclimate yourself to the culture? Go out there and experience it!

Going to a new culture is an integral part of the study abroad experience. Studying abroad will take you out of your comfort zone and make you a better person because of it. "Studying abroad is one of those experiences that changes you. It makes you grow up. It places you in a world where you must struggle not to be the best, but just to fit in," according to Walter Voit, UTD alum and study abroad veteran.

Ryan would love to help you with your study abroad experience. Just tell him what color wig to bring.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

# Just Do It Already

*Why you should become a Student Ambassador*



by jared conway  
jsc035000@utdallas.edu

If you're anything like me, when you came to university your freshman year, everyone in your life had enlightened you with exactly what college was going to be like before you'd even gone to your first class: the loads of studying, the exponential increase in the cost of tuition over the past 20 years, the parties, the art of dealing with professors, and so on.

I decided that I just had to see it all for myself, so I did. Within the first few weeks I had met hoards of new people from classes and various student organizations. Next there was that massive rush of blood to my brain during the task of keeping up with my reading. It was fantastic and exciting to say the least.

Then the first round of tests hit, and it got serious. That's when the hype and the fun disappeared. I realized that I had come to college to learn something, not just sit back and relax. I knew that my experience over the next four years would play a major role in who I would become for the rest of my life; I had to make the best of it.

For me, part of that was getting involved. In fact, I had come to UTD knowing that I wasn't going to just be another face in a crowd of thousands of students—I could have an impact. And I did. Over these past few years, I have joined multiple organizations, one of which has given me an incredible opportunity to rise above the fold. I've become a Student Ambassador.

I am a student face of the campus. When VIPs come to campus and meet with the top administrators, they also want to see students too. The Student Ambassadors fill that role, both in terms of welcoming them and holding doors, and participating with them in small-group discussions.

Furthermore, not only do we get the chance to get to know President Daniel personally, but we also have the opportunity to assist with premier events on campus such as congressional hearings and coordination of two of the largest events on campus: Sounds of Class and Oozeball.

Apply for Student Ambassadors and you just might get that golden opportunity to stand out that you've been waiting for. Accuse me of being a salesman, send me some hate mail, leave me begrudged voicemails and come knock on my door and yell at me, but by golly I want to have a part in making this University among the best in the country, and I firmly believe that you can contribute too.

One of the qualifications is that students have a history of being involved in at least one other organization on campus; another, ten service hours per semester.



The rocking Student Ambassadors represent while representing the university and Dr. David. Apply to be a Student Ambassador now through March 21. Graphic illustration by Brad Perkison and Jared Conway

"But I won't have time to be in any other organizations because this will take up all my time," you say; "Ten service hours per semester?!" Give me a break and just go ahead and break me off a piece of that Kit Kat bar while you're at it, because this is simple and enjoyable. Trust me, you can put down the Halo 3 or Guitar Hero 3 controllers for less than one hour a week and actually have fun contributing something worthwhile on campus such as working Sounds of Class, UTD's fall community carnival for families that features a concert and fireworks.

Moreover, the Student Ambassador program provides you with the invaluable skills of being, well, an Ambassador. In all seriousness, there is great benefit in being comfortable interacting with top dogs like the Dr. Daniel or Governor Perry. The capability to present yourself in formal settings is a great help in preparing for those graduate school or job interviews. Plus, the ability to add a line to your résumé about working for the President's Office will inevitably help you stand out. What this boils down to, folks, is realizing that this University is in the midst of great advancements and you can be a part of it in a big way.

So, apply for Student Ambassadors if you want to be part of one of the most elite groups at UTD that is in the forefront of making this University into a nationally-renowned school. And if you join, know you'll be

part of a group that will turn heads when you hang up your crisp degree in your office or show off that shiny class ring in a few short years. ■

*Jared opens doors for VIPs which opens future doors for him. Oh yeah. He's that good.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)*

## Ambassador Information

Look for booths in the Student Union the week before and the week after Spring Break.

For more information, contact Rachel Markowitz:  
[rmarkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:rmarkowitz@gmail.com)

or

Visit <http://www.utdallas.edu/orgs/ambassador>



# Probing The Issue

*Recent episodes show South Park to be more than a load of crap*



by ben dower  
bld051000@utdallas.edu

Eight years ago, I thought *South Park* was the stupidest, most juvenile cartoon on television. Feces and fart jokes? Please guys, we're in high school now. I always held a certain uncomfortable disdain towards people that thought *South Park* was the pinnacle of humor. This is an opinion that I have largely held onto in the intervening years.

However, a few months ago I decided to give the show another chance. I was surprised to find that in the decade between the show's first debut on television and their eleventh season, the crude humor had been overshadowed by cutting social commentary. And I am not ashamed to say that I actually found the animated comedy funny.

This leads me to two uncomfortable possibilities. Either I am completely inconsistent with my preferences (I was for *South Park* after I was against it) or I am actually becoming more juvenile with time (unlikely). However, looking back at the show itself, I think there is a third option. Like me, *South Park* has grown considerably in the last decade. While the show has enough poo jokes to make me embarrassed to be writing this article, the plots of the episodes themselves have evolved considerably since the alien's anal probe that launched the series.

On that note, I'd like to take a moment to compare the first episode in the series to a more recent episode. The first episode of *South Park*, "Cartman Gets an Anal Probe," revolved around an obnoxious

fat kid farting fire before having a giant robotic device emerge from his butt. The romantic subplot involved one of the boys vomiting whenever his love interest spoke to him. This was a fairly standard episode for the First Season, which relied heavily on shock value.

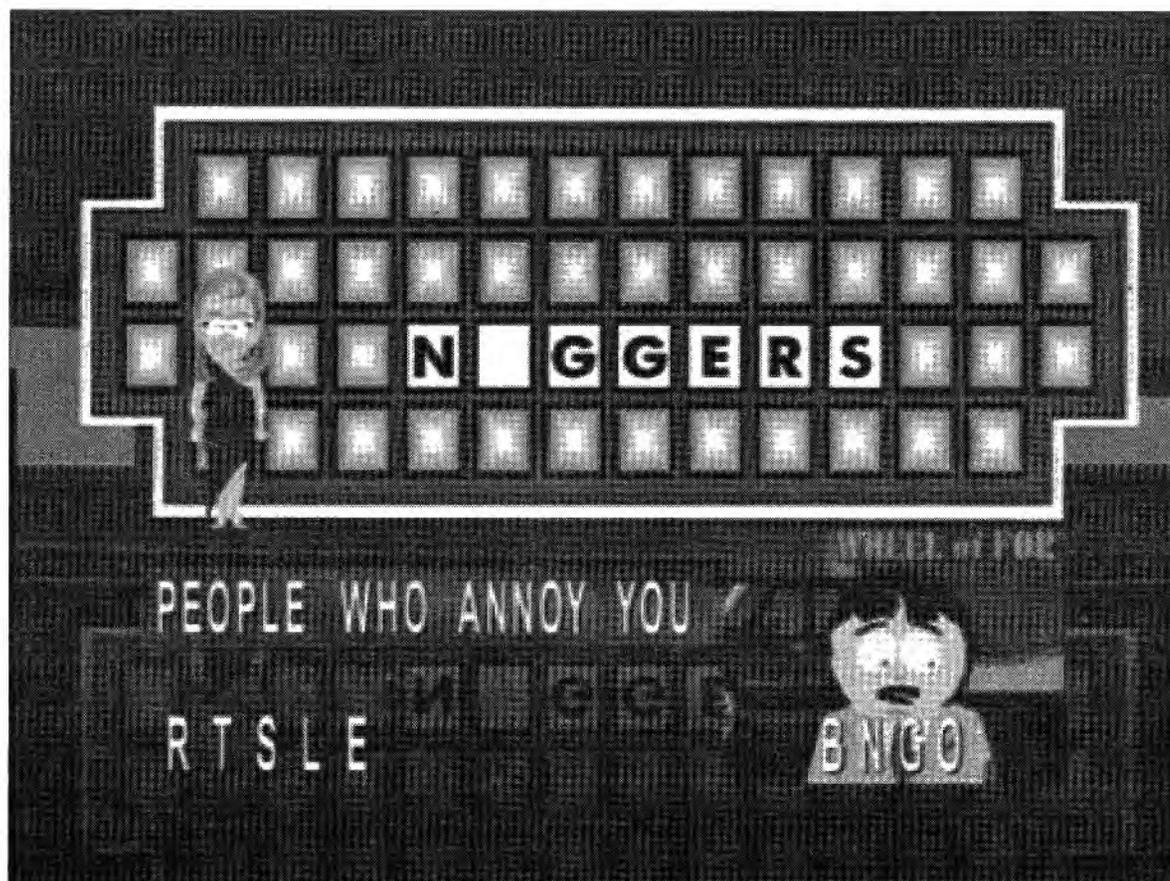
By way of contrast, the two-parter "Cartoon Wars" relied heavily on the viewers containing a basic knowledge of

the story becomes irrelevant, the Bush Administration for being completely ignorant of the First Amendment, the sensationalist and unprincipled media ("this 'First Amendment' sounds like a lot of bureaucratic jibbery-joo"), and the American public for being willing to literally stick their heads in the sand to avoid actually taking a risk on behalf of free speech.

University women's basketball team as "nappy-headed hos." In the episode, Stan's dad appears on *Wheel of Fortune* and guesses "niggers" instead of "naggers" under the category of "people who annoy you." This leads to a confrontation between Stan and Token, the appropriately named black kid at their school, the latter of which is extremely upset.

The episode highlights the hypocrisy of some black leaders who, in addition to acting as though they speak for their entire race, often mask the truly damaging nature of the issue by hijacking the incident and making it all about them. It ends with Stan's acknowledgment that, despite his earnest attempts, he as a white person is genuinely incapable of understanding why the word is so provocative and upsetting to an African-American. This unusually inconclusive finale seemed to me a more realistic and fair assessment of the issue than other attempts by other television programs to explore this uncomfortable issue.

While *South Park* still contains more than its fair share of shock value, it has come a long way from its overwhelming reliance on toilet humor during the 1990s. Not all



Screenshot from Comedy Central

current events. The story offered, through its humor, a serious look at the issue of balancing free speech rights with the importance of sensitivity towards others in an increasingly global society. The episode referenced the Dutch newspaper that printed a cartoon depicting the Prophet Muhammad and the violent backlash that it produced across the Muslim and Western world.

The plot is a little bit complicated, but the underlying—dare I say—sophistication of the story can be illustrated in its list of targets: *Family Guy* and its audience for going on such frequent tangents that

I don't want to say that *South Park* has completely disowned its roots; even this episode contained some poorly animated defecation. But unlike those in its early broadcasting history, these feces were politically motivated and contained a powerful underlying message about American values and First Amendment rights.

Another recent episode, "With Apologies to Jesse Jackson," dealt with the power of racial epithets shortly after the Don Imus incident incited a national debate. The controversial radio host was fired after referring to the Rutgers

the episodes are worth watching or have some deep underlying critique, but the show's creators seem consistently willing to push the envelope in ways that extend beyond four letter words. It's still not the best thing on television, but if you're like me and were initially repelled by the series' overwhelming vulgarity, you may want to give *South Park* a second chance. ■

Ben Dower will be getting a personal visit later this week from Jesse Jackson and his two buddies, Mr. Fist and Mr. Pimp Slap. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!

# The Death of Silence

*How elevator music is destroying the world*

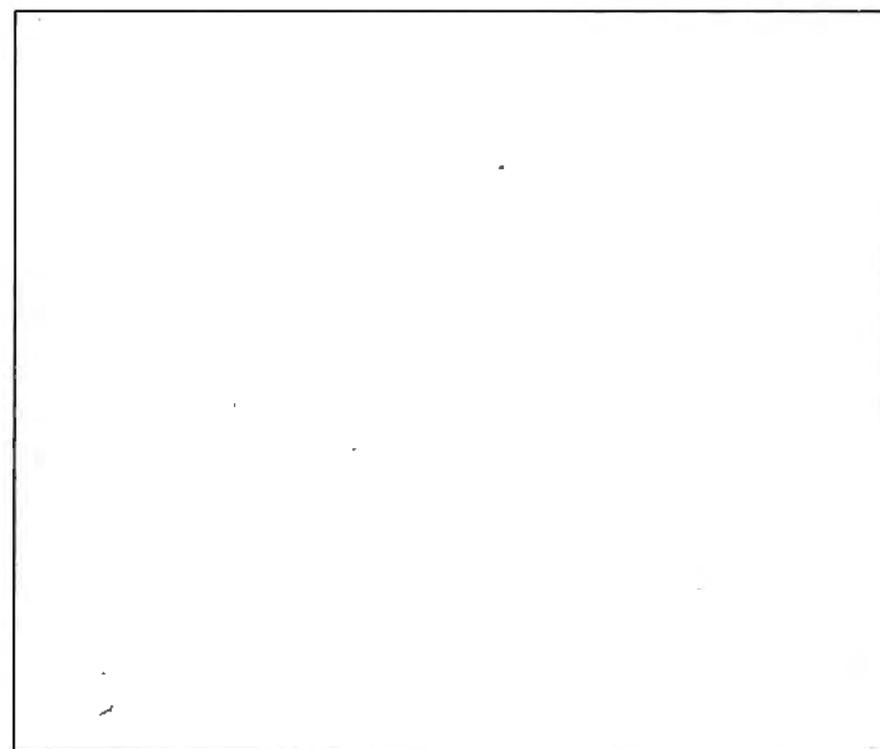


by larua miller  
lim052000@utdallas.edu

Maybe it's because I live in the city; maybe it's because I take too many elevator rides, or maybe I only notice it because I'm surrounded by an excess of introspective individuals (including myself). I'm referring to the eternal presence of mindless noise. This is not to be confused with music, which, in most cases, attempts to communicate with an individual or group of individuals. No, what I'm referring to is the noninvasive, mildly euphoric, usually instrumental nonsense that attempts to fill every awkward moment mankind could possibly encounter.

Take, for instance, the apotheosis of useless noise: elevator music. My, how tragically embarrassing for two people to spend twenty seconds together in an enclosed space without *anything* to help resist the suffocating heaviness of silence. Heaven forbid two strangers exercise their vocal chords in what might be an invigorating smatter of conversation. Of course, tapping our heels and avoiding eye contact is infinitely less torturous, and besides, what could two people with the same destination have in common?

Perhaps our fear of silence results from the cultural context in which it's used. We typically reserve silence for such solemn occasions as worship, study, and mourning the dead. A recent trend has developed in England in which the traditional moment of silence is filled with a minute of applause. The idea is to



"Visual Silence." Sometimes it's just nice not having anything at all. Graphic illustration by Laura Miller

celebrate life instead of mourning death. Maybe we could try something similar, by replacing traditional elevator music with hardcore death metal. This would inspire a re-examination of the purpose and value of silence, and at the very least facilitate an interesting and hilarious conversation between some otherwise stodgy individuals.

You may not have noticed, but the presence of noise increases exponentially with affluence. It seems that the fancier the place, the more likely it is that speakers will be hidden in every fake plant and toilet stall. So, it is the wealthy who are afforded with this convenient lack of awkwardness, while the rest of us must exist in a constant state of anxiety,

fearing the approach of another human and the pressure to fill the empty void that exists between us.

Unfortunately, noise is not strictly an auditory sensation. There is such a thing as visual noise. It exists in the form of commercials, advertisements, and the number one villain—electricity. Nowadays, nearly everyone can avoid the inconvenience of visual silence, or darkness, in this case. We live inside boxes that shelter us from the elements and allow us to continue business as usual long after the rest of the world's diurnal creatures have retired. The advantages of Franklin's discovery are limitless, but I am nonetheless haunted by the faint, inextricable glow that is mankind's

constant companion.

The presence of noise is unavoidable in a technologically driven society, and it has been the subject of a number of debates. Take modern art. If you have been to the first floor of the Dallas Museum of Art recently, you will have noticed the minimalist trend. One piece in particular comes to mind; it is simply a white canvas hanging on a white wall.

I was one of the first to scoff at this so-called work of art, but I recently had an epiphany. We are over-inundated with visual stimuli, and this piece allows us a quiet moment to reflect, to exercise our imagination, and re-discover our inner child. Hopefully, the time will never come when we all look at a blank piece of paper and see nothing. The experience is subjective, and it allows us time to explore ourselves in a world in which so many institutions are trying their best to do the job for us.

So, what is it that we are afraid of? Are conversation and introspection so terrible that we must install speakers and billboards in every available outlet? Is there a reason why useless noise is more prominent in the business world? Could it be that we are so busy with our own mindless agenda that we have nothing left to reflect on?

All is not lost, though. We can choose to overcome the inundation of useless stimuli. Initiate conversation with strangers, visualize a unicorn in place of a Burger King billboard, immerse yourself in complete darkness. Resurrect silence and prevent humanity from drowning in a sea of elevator music. ■

*Laura hopes if you have a comment,  
you'll type it. Save the airwaves.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)*

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# Finding the Right Angle for Economics

*Why Austrian Economics offers a new way of viewing society*



by sebastian quick  
john.quick@utdallas.edu

I would like to recount a unique intellectual journey that began in Professor Peter Lewin's BA 4309 Regulation of Business Class and continues with my current curiosities that culminated in a private interest group which meets every Sunday night.

Fascinated by Professor Lewin's class and by a seminar held by the Institute for Humane Studies called "Exploring Liberty," I became a student of libertarian thought. I followed Professor Lewin to another seminar, held by the Foundation for Economic Education, entitled "Austrian Economics."

This seminar was a week-long crash course in a variety of economic theories: humanistic (concerned with human well-being), heterodox (minority), qualitative (not many mathematical formulae), deductive (some mathematical logic), individualist and subjectivist (from the perspective of oneself and the individual), and free-market (tending to suggest that markets are the most efficient form of human organization to achieve any goal).

Through these acts, I accidentally stumbled upon a "sub-science" of economics which, in my opinion, both embodies in the present and will become in the future the pinnacle of Western science, philosophy, and civilization.

I learned that, unlike mathematics or physics or other experimental natural sciences, there is a minority rift in the science of economics which asserts that everyone else is doing it all wrong.

By successfully combining subjectivism and introspection, skepticism and limited empiricism, and the deductive method with "reality checks," Austrian Economics produces economic theory of applicability to all human economic action.



Copernicus at work with his compass. Painting by Jan Matejko

By placing a particular emphasis on the use of history to contextualize theory rather than to create it, Austrians have succeeded in creating a reaction among social scientists which might aptly be called "if you can't refute 'em, ignore 'em."

Richard Feynman said that "science is the belief in the ignorance of the experts." To find out if the experts are ignorant of Austrian Economics, go ask any of your social science professors what they know about the topic. Let me know how you do.

That's right; the mere mention of the two words "Austrian Economics" will turn the smiles of most mainstream social scientists upside-down.

I have been grappling with this phenomenon, as it is somewhat unique in the 21st century. My best explanation, which is largely introspective, is that economists are scientists with an empirical bent who have too short an attention span to be physicists, too humanistic to produce anything new in mathematics, and are too self-sure to question or understand the soundness of their methods. Don't ask; I have not

tried to characterize the rest of the social sciences.

My "philosophy of science" insights began to come only a short while ago. My mother returned from Poland with a picture of Copernicus. The lovely print my mother bequeathed me pictures Copernicus in his "moment of discovery," to use an Austrian term which characterizes entrepreneurship.

Copernicus is holding a compass and is surrounded astronomical tools and a heliocentric diagram of the solar system. In trying to understand "panempiricism," I turned to Copernicus. Copernicus, I realized, though an empiricist, was not a panempiricist. He was holding a compass in his hand and his chart depicts perfect circles. Copernicus could not have gotten very far without Euclid! That's right; the most fruitful results of the experimental natural sciences have emerged after the deductive developments of mathematics.

So goeth sound science – a careful choice of axioms is followed by rigorous use of deductive logic, formalization, then empiricism. Not even all Austrians have this part figured out. Sound and

“ Social science without Austrian Economics is like astronomy without Euclidean geometry.”

useful science will be pleasing to the mind, correspond with reality, and enable humankind to match means with ends.

Social science without Austrian Economics is like astronomy without Euclidean geometry. The explanations which social scientists will contrive to try to "fit" the data are more likely to be geocentrism concocted with Ptolemaic epicycles or voodoo magic where the cure for human wellbeing is to poke more pins into the straw man as explanations that correspond soundly with reality.

If this article has sparked your interest and you'd like: (a) recommended reading; (b) to find out why there is a moral imperative to study economics to do social good and to understand and teach Austrian Economics alongside mainstream economic thought; (c) why political action, bureaucratic decision-making or theoretical teaching which is guided by deliberate ignorance of a potentially sound science is incredibly harmful; or (d) why there is an impending Copernican and Newtonian revolution lying dormant in social science—well, here I am.

Simply look for me on Facebook at "Sebastian Quick." I will have an event in my profile. Or, search "Austrian Economics at UT Dallas" and you will find us lurking in the low-traffic corners of Facebook.

I hope to see some of you on Sunday nights. Feel free to contact me at john.quick@utdallas.edu for more information. ■

*Sebastian Quick gazes lovingly at his picture of Copernicus every night before bed.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)*



# Three Cheers for 3-D

*3-D movies are the future... again... for real this time*



by jonathan coker  
jcokerutd@gmail.com

3-D movies have existed for over 80 years. However, not including a 1950s craze, few movies have had success in 3-D. *The Stewardesses* is the most profitable 3-D movie ever, probably soon to be overtaken by *Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert*, it was a soft-core porn made in 1969 (*The Stewardesses*, not *Hannah Montana*).

3-D movies never caught on with the public because they were gimmicky. The 3-D technology our dinosaur parents used was to blame. It depended on color filters to separate out the two images necessary to fool our stereo vision into the illusion of a 3-D experience. It worked if you didn't mind seeing your movies in blue and red.

It also required the dual camera systems used to be fixed in place and excluded the use of zoom lenses because of the difficulty in getting them to work in concert. Imagine the headache that would be caused by a breast lunging towards you at different speeds for each eye. (I'll let you decide if I was talking about *The Stewardesses* or *Hannah Montana*.) Also, the directors failed to take viewer comfort into consideration.

They used sudden shifts in depth and objects thrusting toward the screen to exaggerate the 3-D effect which led to nausea, headaches and a bad experience for moviegoers.

It's 2008 now and things have changed. Modern 3-D systems use polarized light and lenses to separate the different views. This means there is no color distortion. Today's editing systems also allow for all the zooming, swooping, and panning shots a director could ask for. Aside from having two camera rigs side by side, there is very little difference in shooting a 3-

D movie, although the digital editing process is a bit more laborious.

Shut up about the process you say. How are the results, you ask?

Amazing. Almost eerily good.

Imagine this. You haven't seen your favorite band tour for two years and they announce they're releasing a 3-D film. (You're out of luck unless you adore U2, the Rolling Stones or Hannah Montana.) You go see the film expecting the absolute worst: a terrible 3-D effect, vision-ruining headaches, and a guitar pick or microphone thrown at the screen

say this not because it features U2, but because of the litany of firsts it represents. It is the first ever multi-camera 3-D shoot and the first ever 3-D live-action concert film among other things. It has set the standard future live action 3-D movies will have to match.

So, I'm glad my first modern 3-D movie was a U2 concert, not just because I adore U2, but because I've been to a U2 concert. So, I could compare the movie to real life. I thought I was there. I lost my ability to differentiate between reality and the photons of light that were being

addition of sound and color. Resolution has increased. More channels of sound have been added. Portability of media is new, but the media is the same. 3-D is something truly different.

This is also the appeal for the media conglomerates. 3-D is different and it gets people out of the house. You can't view a 3-D movie at home... yet. So, there's no waiting for a 3-D movie to come out on DVD, there's no waiting for the movie to hit the dollar theatres, and there's no stealing the movie on a peer to peer site. If you want to enjoy the content, you have to go and shell out the money to do so.

This is especially enticing to an industry that claims its profits are being eroded due to homebodies who download the content for free, though I would argue their outrageous pricing on terrible movies and music is to blame. 3-D movies are a revenue source that is impossible to steal, or incredibly close to impossible.

However, I would love to meet the first man to tape a 3-D movie in the theatre. To bring two perfectly aligned cameras with polarizing lenses into the theatre would be impressive. Even more impressive would be if he had the incredibly expensive projector and screen to then view the movie on. He would become my best friend and we would watch *U23D* until my heart exploded approximately five viewings in.

3-D cinema is a win-win for everyone and I look forward to the future as directors begin filming

more mainstream movies in 3-D. I also dream about the potential for 3-D video games in the future. Computer-rendered media is perfect for 3-D conversion, which is why animated films were the first to market in the new 3-D technology. The day I can play *GTA VIII* at home in 3-D is the day I cease to be a productive member of society. ■



The advent of time travel allows for a mixed movie-going experience. Photo Illustration by Jonathan Coker  
Can you find the famous movie viewers in this audience? Photos Courtesy of U2.com, Citizenarcane.com

in 3-D movie gimmick fashion.

Instead, you're treated to something truly incredible. You forget you're watching a 3-D film. You forget you're watching a film at all. The polarizing glasses don't distract you from the movie. The sound of the crowd around you is rumbling and lifelike. The band you adore looks like they're right in front of you. You can almost lick the sweat off of Bono's neck... sorry for that.

This was my experience seeing *U23D* for the first time. *U23D* is a groundbreaking achievement in 3-D movies. I

reflected into my eyes. The movie was almost better than the concert. If you haven't seen a live action 3-D film you won't understand, but remember my words when you do for the first time. 3-D is the future.

3-D won't flop this time around. It's too compelling from all angles. While the novelty may wear off, just like it did for color and sound, it won't go away. From the consumers' perspective, they get something truly unique. They get a new experience in viewing. TV and movies haven't changed much since the

Jonathan Coker will look for literally any excuse to talk about U2. Look for next month's article about famous Cold War era spy planes. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

# Fatty J's Picks



by james fickenscher  
jxf036000@utdallas.edu

## Asia Wok



1520 Independence Pkwy  
Plano, TX 75075

Phone: (972) 769-8000

Hours: Everyday 11:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Food Tastiness – Excellent – 8  
Appearance and presentation – Excellent – 8  
Service – Great – 7  
Bang for your buck – Superb – 9  
  
Overall – 8.17

Best deal – Lunch Specials (Monday through Friday!)  
Worst deal – Fried Rice dishes  
James's choice – Sweet and Sour Pork

Having lived at UTD for over three years now, I have driven by this restaurant countless times without even realizing it was there. A couple weeks ago my roommate and I decided to give it a chance. Hidden in plain sight, it looked just "hole-in-the-wall" enough that it had the possibility of being fantastic.

As we stepped into Asia Wok, we were taken back to some of our favorite restaurants we visited when we spent four months studying abroad in Beijing. From the traditional Chinese music playing on the speakers, to the lazy Susans on the back tables, to the lack of a buffet (as much as we all love Chinese buffets, the only buffets in China we saw ironically served American food), the atmosphere was authentically Chinese.

The restaurant is owned by an old Chinese woman, who is also the server more often than not. She is very polite and prompt, and she didn't even laugh at us when my roommate and I used our rusty, broken Chinese to ask for 筷子 (chopsticks).

I was already growing quite fond of the quaint little restaurant, and then she brought us our order...

Even in China, I always order sweet and sour pork on a first visit to a Chinese restaurant, and my roommate always tests the waters with the beef and broccoli dishes. They were absolutely delicious and were even served "family style".

Upon later visits we have ordered sesame chicken, shrimp in lobster sauce, General Cao's chicken, lo mein noodles, fried rice dishes, and kung pao chicken. Sadly, I can't recommend the kung pao chicken or the fried rice dishes, but everything else I have ordered has been absolutely delectable.

As for pricing, going during dinner hours requires about 8 dollars a plate, which is actually a pretty good deal considering how much food you get, but if you want a great weekday lunch for \$6, Asia Wok is the place to go.

I am a fan of pretty much any and all Asian food, but as far as local Chinese restaurants go, Asia Wok is a gem. Because of this, it makes me sad when I go to Asia Wok and my roommate, Liam, and I are two of only about ten people in the entire restaurant.

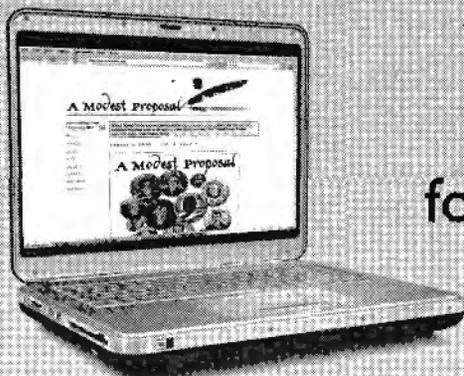
Since I returned from China over fifteen months ago, I have finally begun enjoying American-Chinese food again (I couldn't eat "fake" Chinese food for a while), but I was still lacking an authentic Chinese place at which to dine.

Asia Wok is the place I have been looking for. Ever since I sat down and saw "scrambled eggs and tomato" on the menu, I knew I had found somewhere authentic. Just for reference, eggs and tomato were my saving grace during a two week trip through outer Mongolia and the Gobi desert, where it was oftentimes the only normal, "safe" dish to eat.

All in all, Asia Wok is a great restaurant. I hope this review has inspired a few of you to give it a shot, so that this authentically Chinese restaurant doesn't follow the path of its neighbor 福星餐馆, another Chinese restaurant once adjacent to Asia Wok that is now "The Grind". ■

*James can Talk the Talk, but can he Wok the Wok?  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

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## *A Choice that Matters: The Democratic Primary*

# Texas



by samia hossain  
samia519@gmail.com

I've watched the Austin Democratic Debates twice now, and this time, my extra dose of CNN wasn't just for additional time with Anderson Cooper's piercing blue eyes. I watched the Obama/Clinton word-brawl last night and again today (in Spanish) because the weight and responsibility of my pick is driving me crazy. It's been well over 50 years since the Lone Star State has mattered in the Democratic nomination, because by the time our turn rolls around, someone is already the frontrunner. This time, there can't be any more crying about Iowa and New Hampshire having an unfair influence on the race; to add to the oddity and excitement of this election, Texas may well end up being the deciding factor in the nomination.

Obviously both Hillary and Barack's camps realized this and held rallies across the state, from Houston to El Paso. Honestly, I've been an Obama girl since the beginning. So when I learned he was coming to Reunion Arena, I ironed my "Democrats are sexy" T-shirt, filled up my tank with gas, and set my alarm for 6:00 am to claim the best seat possible.

And then I heard Chelsea Clinton was coming to campus.

Suffice it to say, I lost sleep making the decision between the Senator and the daughter of the most capable and accomplished president of our time (online-comment that, I dare you). I'd gotten to see Barack in Austin, and even shake his hand – the feeling of fresh hope hadn't left me, and I was eager to chant "Yes we can!" with thousands while fist-pumping my heart out.

Clinton's dirty finger pointing in debates and the recent unnecessary jabbing about plagiarism in one of Obama's recent

speeches had left a bad taste in my mouth. But I decided to suck it up and lend my ear to the other side and learn about icy Hillary from perhaps the most personal perspective possible: that of her daughter. As I learned more about Senator Clinton's plans to create "green" jobs and target immigration issues by working more closely with Mexico to improve their economy, my skepticism lightened.

Clinton's policies may not have the same inspiring hope of Obama's plans to work with our country's friends and enemies and to diminish the influence of lobbyists in Washington, but the girl's got a point. Chelsea spoke about her mother in a light that presented Hillary as a tenured politician who can use her experience to make way for change. She's paid her dues, she knows how Washington works, and her policies have a substance that many say Obama's lack.

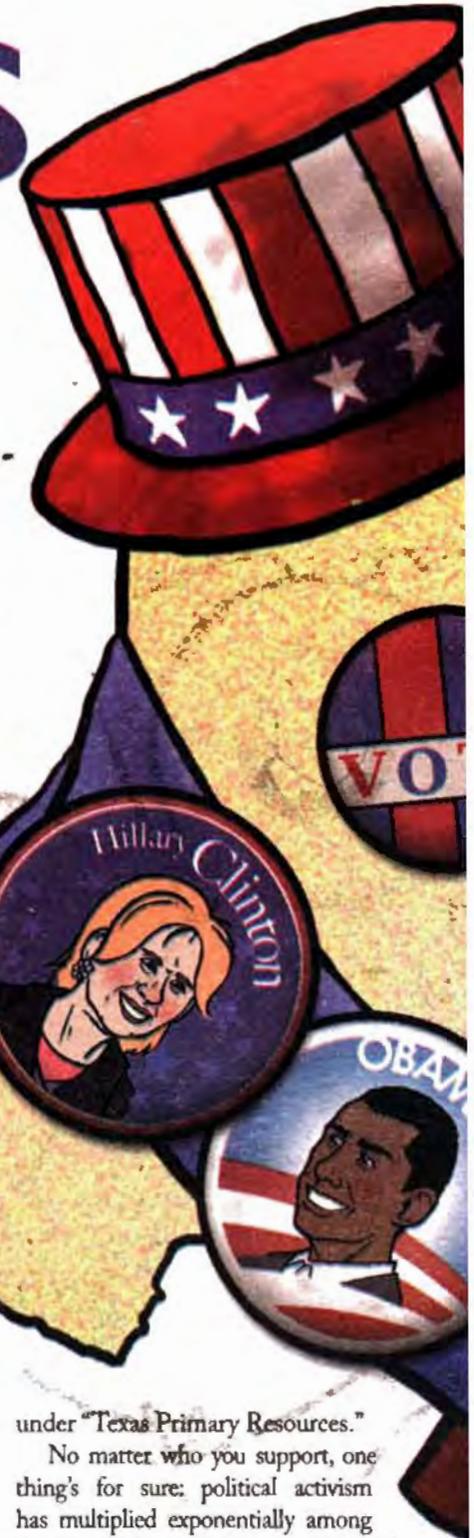
Last night's debate elucidated a few policy difference between the candidates. While Hillary calls for a mandated universal healthcare system, Obama skips the mandate for more affordable healthcare for all. While Obama would fix the remittances and travel policies with Cuba and then begin talks with Raul Castro, Clinton would wait to see if there was active change in the Cuban government until she began vigorous bipartisan diplomatic relations to perhaps sit with the leader as president in the future. As president, Clinton would create a trade prosecutor to make sure environmental and safety policies are followed, enact a moratorium on home foreclosures and end Bush's "war on science;" and as president, Obama would give tax breaks to companies shipping in the US than those shipping abroad, decrease our addiction to foreign oil by investing in biodiesel and solar and wind power, and overcome the weight of special interest groups on the economic decisions of Washington.

Yet both recognized that the crux of their economic, immigration, and foreign policies is the same – it's the Democratic platform, duh. Point being, whether I

vote for change or experience, many of the improvements in our country will be similar. So why am I voting again?

For me, it's an issue of the image of a president. Does he or she embody the values and image we believe our country to represent? Clinton's message of achievement and know-how puts America in the hands of an empowered, strong person who has the experience to re-hoist our country as a strong economic force with a viable healthcare system. Obama would improve our diplomatic standing by rewiring Washington; the oratorical and charismatic skills he funnels into his messages of hope and inspiration would cement America as "a country that does not negotiate out of fear, nor fear negotiation."

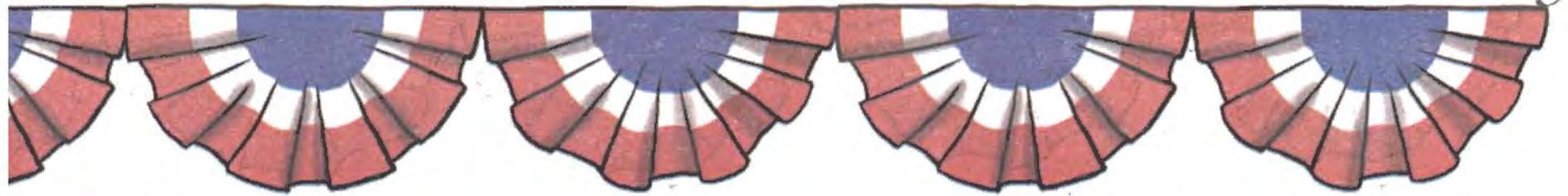
Regardless of my pick and yours, keep in mind Texas's convoluted dual delegate primary system. The reason you may not know how it works is not just because you didn't pay attention in GOVT 2302 – it's because it never mattered before. Texas has 228 delegates up for grabs, 35 of which are superdelegates (party leaders who can vote for whomever they choose). Of the remaining 193 pledged delegates, 126 are allocated according to the results of early voting (now until Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>) and votes cast on the March 4<sup>th</sup> primary. Fifteen minutes after the polls close on March 4<sup>th</sup> (7:15 pm), caucuses begin. At the precinct conventions, Texans will be allocating 67 delegates – about one-third of the total delegates from our state. In a close race such as this, it is crucial for both Obama and Clinton supporters to rush to caucus to grab as many of these delegates as possible. For more information, check out [burntorangereport.com](http://burntorangereport.com) and click



under "Texas Primary Resources."

No matter who you support, one thing's for sure: political activism has multiplied exponentially among young people across the country, and on Wednesday, both Reunion Arena and our own Student Union were packed with supporters for each campaign. Get involved in this momentous time in our nation's history, vote early, and don't forget to caucus! ■

*Samia Hossain is president of University Democrats.  
And, as always, she will cut you.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)*



# The Primaries

## A Brief Guide to the Candidates

A few short months ago, the array of presidential candidates was dizzying. The scent of dissent was in the air, and it seemed everyone wanted their chance at the White House. Luckily for the informed voter, as time passed the sheer number of people vying for president was whittled down to a manageable few. Doubtless there are



by **megan newman**  
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disappointed people throughout the nation whose candidate did not make it to the end of the race. However, regardless of what party you might belong to (or lack thereof), what views you support, and who your choice for president might be, the 2008 race promises to be an exciting one. The first step in that race is the primary elections.

For those of you who have had your head in the sand (or perhaps a textbook) lately, there are only a few remaining contenders for the party nominations for president. To get some basic information about these candidates, I went to the League of Women Voters website, which publishes basic, non-partisan information about presidential candidates for every election. If you

would like more information than my basic summary here, go to their website, the candidates' websites, or CNN's website for good summaries of their views.

On the Republican side, the survivors are John McCain, Mike Huckabee, and Ron Paul. McCain supports a market based cap and trade system to limit emissions, make sure Iraq is stable and prosperous to end the war, propose a health care plan to address rising costs and provide universal access to care, and secure the borders. Huckabee advocates promoting conservation and alternate energy for energy independence, ending the war in Iraq and addressing the Middle East

with a regional summit, encouraging the private market sector to improve healthcare and bring down costs, strengthening the borders, and opposes amnesty and sanctuary for illegal immigrants. Paul wants to repeal federal regulations and taxes to allow alternative energy to flourish and diversify within the market, withdraw troops from Iraq ASAP with safety considerations, remove federal healthcare regulations to encourage competition and better choices, secure the borders, enforce visa rules, end welfare for illegal immigrants, and end birthright citizenship (our policy that makes anyone born in the U.S. a citizen).

For the Democrats, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are still in the race. Clinton plans to cut greenhouse emissions by 80% and oil imports by 66%, end the war in Iraq while America plays a role in the peace process, give tax credits to help cut costs of health care, end discrimination by health insurance companies, strengthen borders, support family reunification, and provide a path to earned legalization. Obama proposes a market-based cap and trade system to reduce imports, increased investment in clean energy, an Iraq troop withdrawal over 16 months, U.S. work on a two-state solution for Palestine, universal health care legislation that would save the typical family \$2,500 annually, strengthened border security, repaired bureaucracy, and a responsible path to citizenship.

So that's just a *really* brief look at the candidates. Like I said, there are plenty of places to get more information, and I encourage you to do so!

Now I've just spent most of this article addressing candidates that are running under a specific party banner. Independents and undecideds, I have not forgotten you! A simple fact of our election process is that parties play a crucial role in selecting the main contenders of many races through the primary system. So, in order to actually influence the primary elections, you do, indeed, have to vote in a specific party's primary. *Sigh.*

If this doesn't sound palatable to you, or if you don't like any of the candidates on the ticket, keep in mind that all the information about the two candidates that win (and possibly the few candidates who will later run as independents) will be relevant in November. Also remember that the president is a very influential and visible representative of our nation throughout the world—which should be enough impetus for you to at least *think* about voting.

However, the local primaries and elections in November are important in their own way. Although our local government officials are less visible, they are the ones who influence your life more closely on a daily basis. Issues like education, immigration, and the enforcement of the laws are issues presidents talk about a great deal. But state legislators, city council members, school board members, judges, and sheriffs that you elect in your county or state are often the people who actually make the policy that directly affects you.

Regardless of your party or non-party affiliations, November is an important election. And you really should take your head out of that textbook for a few minutes to get informed about the possibilities for the next leader of our nation—it's much more exciting than studying, I promise! ■

*Megan Newman is a member of SPEAK. One wonders why she is so very against textbooks. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

SPEAK (Students for Political Education, Action and Knowledge) are dedicated to non-partisan promotion of informed political activity for college students. For more information about the candidates or transportation to the polls, email [utd.speak@gmail.com](mailto:utd.speak@gmail.com) or visit our SU booth on February 28 or March 3 from 10:30am-3pm, or March 4 from 8am-12pm. We'll also be holding a Post Primary Party on March 4 from 9-12 pm, location to be announced.



illustration by  
Luke McKenzie  
and Jordon Batura

# An Economic Insult

*The Economic Stimulus Package is offensive to the American taxpayer*



by **benedict voit**

benedict.voit@student.utdallas.edu

I'm insulted. Seriously. And that usually takes some work. You may be surprised to hear me say it, but it's President Bush who deserves much of the blame.

The issue at hand is the economy, and what a volatile and vibrant topic it is. From the government bailing out the bad investments of individuals in the sub-prime mortgage crisis to calls for the government to "fix" the troublesome price of gas, I suppose I'm not too surprised that the federal government has taken it upon itself to "save" the failing economy.

President Bush, with great support from many Democrats in Congress – which in itself should raise suspicion – called for an "Economic Stimulus Package" where the government would pump money into the hands of the people to fend off a recession.

The theory behind such a proposal is this: the economy isn't doing well, but if the populace gets an injection of income, they will go out and spend that money. Everyone spending this money will increase aggregate demand, which in turn will benefit the suppliers, who can in turn hire more workers. This upward spiral will pull the economy of the country up.

There are many potential flaws within the assumption (like that the populace will actually spend the money right away rather than saving it), but there is one glaring and disturbing part of the plan: the fact that it's based on a potential recession.

This stimulus package is being set up not because the economy is in a recession, but because it could be. In January, columnist George Will reported that 57% of Americans thought the country was already in a recession. Well, 57% of Americans don't know who the Secretary of the Treasury is, but that doesn't mean

that there isn't one. In today's pandering-politics, it is often much more important what the people think than what is actually true. For two examples, look at Iraq and global warming.

For those who haven't taken an economics class in sometime, the actual definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of economic contraction – or in today's PC-happy world, negative growth (sure we may be negative, but we're positively negative!).

This doesn't mean that if the growth in one quarter was 5%, and then the next two quarters were respectively 3% and 2% that a recession has hit. In that situation, there has been a decline in the *change* of growth, but not in growth itself. This is a major distinction that I fear is lost in 30-second clips and re-election campaigns.

growth of GDP (granted an often heavily flawed measurement system) for all four quarters of 2007 were 0.6%, 3.8%, 4.9%, and 0.6% respectively. This equates to a 2.2% growth rate for the year.

This means, that in the last two quarters, the economy grew 4.9% and then

government to intervene heavily every time the economy has the potential to not be quite as good as it was?

What makes this situation so insulting is that President Bush and Congress are patting themselves on the back and expect you to pat them on the back too for the wonderful ways in which they are supposedly helping you out. What they are really doing is spending money that they don't have, meaning they are increasing our debt – and our future tax burden – by throwing money at a problem that doesn't really exist.

Economist Russell Roberts equates the action of the federal government to "taking a bucket of water from the deep end of a pool and dumping it into the shallow end."

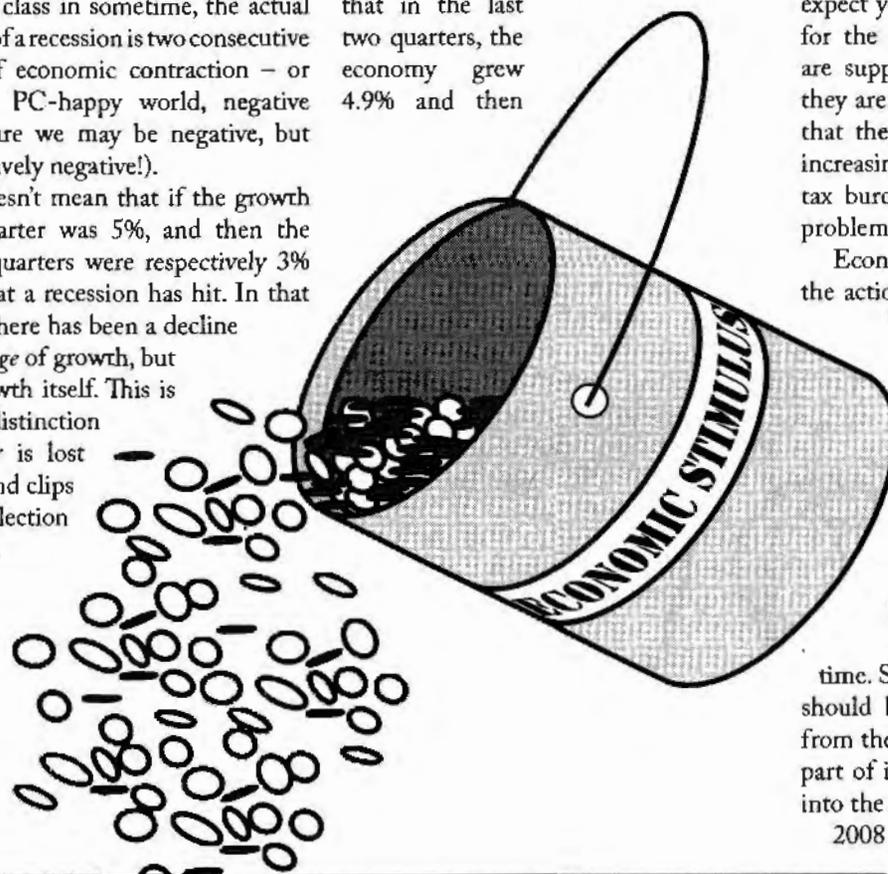
Unfortunately, Roberts leaves something out. In order to get this stimulus money, we have to first borrow it from somewhere – China, Saudi Arabia etc. – and then pay interest on it for quite some time. So really what Roberts' metaphor should be is taking a bucket of water from the deep end of the pool, dumping part of it out, and then putting the rest into the shallow end.

2008 has already proven to be a fascinating year of politics.

This economic stimulus package is just one part of the trend of more and more Americans wanting government to help them out instead of having to help themselves.

Hopefully, the fascination that will ensue will be that of politicians willing to risk re-election in exchange for cool-headed logic.

A first good step would be to rescind this package and save the country from even greater debt and an even more overbearing federal government. I'm not holding my breath. ■



**NATIONAL DEBT**

The proposed Economic Stimulus Plan will take money from our future to give to us now. Although this can be a smart tactic during a recession, we aren't in a recession. The government should reconsider wasting taxpayer money on other projects. Illustration by Benedict Voit

In terms of our country's performance (which, unlike Michelle Obama, I have been proud of in the last 25 years), it would be much more prudent to check out the data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis which reports such figures rather than getting opinions about what people think. In doing so, we can quickly find out that the aggregate

0.6%. I realize I am no longer a Computer Science major, but I still remember what a negative sign looks like, and I don't see one. There is no recession. There hasn't even been *one* period of negative growth.

In short, we are stimulating something that does not even begin to need stimulation. What precedent are we setting if we allow the federal

*Benedict proposes Congress take the rest of the year off. They can even keep their salaries. At least this way they will stop wasting our money*

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

# Pumping Up A Puny Issue

*Why the Clemens steroid case only reveals government waste*



by jordan youngblood  
jyoungbloodutd@gmail.com

If you're a sports fan at all, you've noticed in the past few weeks the scandal around Roger Clemens and his purported steroid use. Clemens, arguably one of the most dominating major league pitchers in history, now finds his reputation—and the possibility of a Hall of Fame induction—on the line after multiple reports and witnesses claimed they knew of him using the banned substance HGH on multiple occasions.

And, like all stories involving professional sports in the United States, the importance of the event has exploded to such a level that now we're entering the second week of hearings in front of Congress to conclude whether or not Roger Clemens is a big cheater.

Of course, you and I, the taxpayers, are the ones funding this crusade for justice.

Like Barry Bonds before him, Clemens has made the foolish decision of committing the most white-collar crime possible: cheating in a multi-million dollar job where he wears pajamas for a living, so that he can make millions of more dollars for many more years. As the only entity able to combat such atrocities, Congress has barged head-on into this problem to save America from the horrors of excessively bulky athletes.

Yes, HGH is a banned substance in baseball that also is a controlled substance in the United States. If Clemens is found to have used it to enhance his performance, he should be punished for that act along with lying to a federal court. I have no desire to see athletes blatantly ignoring the laws of the game and of the government; the game has taken a blow that will take a long time to work back from, and it cannot afford to be lax against offenders—even those as prestigious as Clemens.

But does such a thing possibly require a full Congressional hearing? Do we really need millions upon



Roger Clemens resumes his role of holding up Earth. Photo Illustration by Jordan Youngblood

millions of dollars poured into intensive studies on whether or not our favorite players spent their afternoons plunging syringes into their asses? Aren't there more important things for these representatives to be doing?

If you've seen any footage of the hearings, you'll see your beloved elected officials pouring more energy and attention into whether or not Roger Clemens is a mutated superman than they've managed to muster for things like immigration reform or education bills. Thank God for men like Indiana Representative Dan Burton for offering up such gems of truth like "Roger Clemens is a titan of baseball" in a hearing wasting dollar after dollar of our money. Were it not for these paragons of civil service, I would lose all faith in the possibility of efficient government.

Not only that, but we've managed to turn a hearing on *friggin' baseball*

into a partisan car-wreck of a situation. Thanks to Clemens having a close personal relationship with the Bush family and some well-timed lobbying by his camp on the Hill, Republicans (like the aforementioned Mr. Burton) have appeared out of the woodwork to hoist their man out of the quagmire of accusation and back into his deserved position of overpaid diva.

Not to be outdone, Democrats have hopped onto the case as a chance to clean up the wretched hive of scum and villainy that is baseball from depraved madmen like Clemens. All the while, people get stupider watching.

For that matter, let's not forget the representatives up in Massachusetts who want to turn the Patriots taping scandal into a similar federal debacle. Considering that Bill Belichick is, in fact, Beelzebub already, I highly doubt the government will be able to put much of a

dent into the work of an immortal evil deity. Knowing them, however, they'll march full strength into the arena of total ineptitude and win a resounding victory over common sense in 20 long weeks of wasteful examinations.

Many are framing these hearings and deliberations as a forum on ideas of basic dignity and goodness in role models for our children. Well, goodness me! If our athletes can't be trusted to not want to make more money, who can save our children from the basic idea that drives American society? Who will keep them from being disillusioned about the pure nature of hitting a ball with a wood stick and running in a diamond shape for 162 games a year?

Parents have a hard enough time these days letting other people teach morals to their kids, and if we lose the peerless sage that is professional sports, the world will assuredly implode. Or not.

Look, I love baseball. If you visit my childhood home, you'll see stacks and stacks of baseball cards that I checked in Bowman's every month for minute changes in value. I still hold a grudge against Ken Griffey Jr. for not returning my fan letter which contained an immaculately drawn depiction of the man himself, albeit with legs five times the size of the rest of his body. It was an integral part of my childhood and a game I still follow to this day. Yet even as a kid I knew it was just that—a game, an aptly-named *pastime* that filled my summers and left just as easily once the Series finished up in October.

It pains the kid in me to see my old love mixed up in corruption and lying, as the sport has been covered in for a long time now. Yet, as an adult, it pains me to see the government I help pay for waste its time and my earnings chasing down phantoms for some blind ideal. Let people like Clemens or Bonds receive their proper punishment and be done with it, instead of wasting a lot of valuable time on whether or not a man's arms are noticeably bigger in one picture or another. ■

*Jordan doesn't need steroids. His guns are natural.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# Can You Hear Me Now?

*The government is finally listening to me and I'm not happy about it*



by kimberley allen  
kimberley.allen@gmail.com

I'm not trying to be alarmist, but the Bush Administration's surveillance and wiretapping initiatives are disturbing. Equally disturbing are laws such as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) which threaten to undermine our most fundamental rights.

Over a year ago, I abandoned my support for the Administration because of its aggressive and indiscriminate homeland security policies. Constitutional checks exist to protect U.S. citizens from the government and from a president who uses national security threats to justify an expansion of power.

While I'm not a Democrat, I sympathize with congressmen who question the wisdom of handing the executive branch absolute authority for the sake of "protecting" America. Often these dissenters are painted by hardline Republicans as being "soft on

terror," as though immediate security concerns should always trump long-held American values such as liberty and privacy.

The underlying assumption of most supporters is that the government will always act in its citizens' best interest, and there is an almost naïve trust in the government's paternalism. To what degree should we trust the government

“ In a perfect world, I'd want Bush to understand that the same power that might be used to protect American citizens today could be used to terrorize and control Americans tomorrow. ”

to keep itself in check? The Bush Administration has repeatedly attempted to undermine checks that prevent the executive branch from overstepping its authority. In some instances, such as the Military Commissions Act, I believe it has succeeded.

The most recent example of this attempt was the Bush Administration's

push for Congress to reauthorize a FISA amendment, the Protect America Act (PAA). The PAA allowed warrantless surveillance when approved by the National Security Agency's internal controls, essentially sidestepping the FISA Court's (FISC) oversight.

Because the Act required that the FISC be notified of a warrantless surveillance authorization within 72

hours, there is little reason to avoid the court's oversight. The court has secret proceedings, and it rarely denies a warrant request. Of the 2,072 secret surveillance requests in 2005, none were denied.

So what's the problem? The Administration's demand for super-duper-secrecy instead of extra-special-secrecy escalates a surveillance program that is only dubiously constitutional to begin with. While the FISC isn't a very good check on the executive branch, it's still something.

In a perfect world, I'd want Bush to understand that the same power that might protect American citizens today could be used to terrorize and control Americans tomorrow. In that way, the Protect America Act could perhaps more appropriately be called the Endangering Long Held American Freedoms Act. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Those who sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither."

In addition, Bush threatened to veto any FISA extension unless Congress gave telecommunication companies immunity for complying with the government's warrantless wiretapping program. (Interestingly, Sprint is the only telecom company that refused to comply with the government's request

without a court order. I take it that terrorists prefer AT&T and Verizon, since Sprint's defiance didn't lead to the downfall of America.)

Now, these companies are defendants in over 40 lawsuits, and Bush doesn't want them stuck with any liability for helping the government. True, it's not entirely fair for the government to turn around and punish these companies for their cooperation, but illegal wiretapping is illegal.

The FISA reauthorization never passed, and the Protect America Act expired on February 17, 2008. That week, Congress recessed so that congressmen could go home to their districts. According to CongressDaily, a legislative reporting service, Republican leadership told their members to "score political points at home... by using a stalemate over a provision in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to accuse Democrats of making the country less safe."

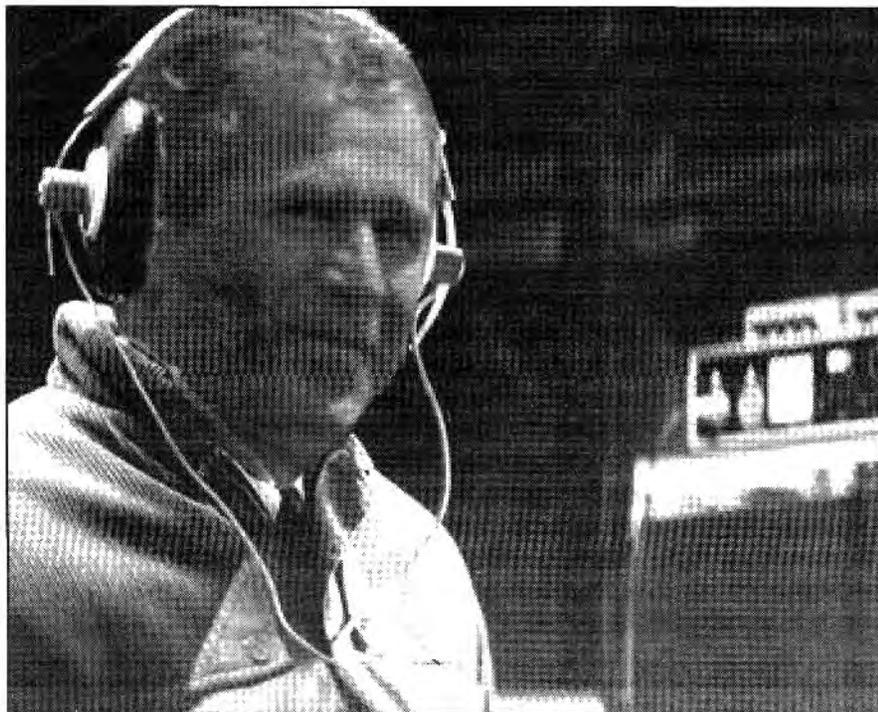
Maybe passing the Protect America Act is the only way to protect America and no compromise should have been sought. Maybe Democrats care *nothing* for American security and would love to see all their constituents go up in flames. More likely, Democrats and Republicans differ in their willingness to sacrifice freedoms for the sake of guaranteeing the safety of every American citizen.

That's a good thing. Politics is about compromise, hammering out differences until both sides come to an agreement. It makes for moderate decisions and protects against hasty extremism. Democrats offered to extend FISA for three weeks, but Bush threatened to veto the extension. He wanted a hastily passed, partisan bill with some telecom immunity on the side, and because he was unwilling to compromise, he got nothing.

Finally, six and a half years after 9/11, reason triumphs over paranoid rhetoric. Let's hope it stays that way. ■

*Kim only thinks spying is acceptable if it leads to handsome, urbane gentlemen parachuting into her house and offering her a freshly-mixed martini.*

Discuss this article at [amp.usdallas.edu/](http://amp.usdallas.edu/)



The president makes a cameo in *The Lives of Others*. Photo illustration by Jordan Youngblood

# Lifting the Clamps off Cuba?

*Leadership changes on both sides may lead to an economic re-evaluation*



by **alice post**  
apost@student.utdallas.edu

Part of the college experience involves the gradual realization that not all things in life remain constant. Don't get me wrong, death and taxes still rank at the top of the Indestructibles list. I'm speaking of how the half-century constant of Fidel Castro's presidency in Cuba has come to an end.

Earning airtime, Cuban-American relations has edged its way into the periphery of media attention if only briefly. Longstanding questions arise as to the nature of the trade embargo and the politics of new, younger leadership in government on both sides.

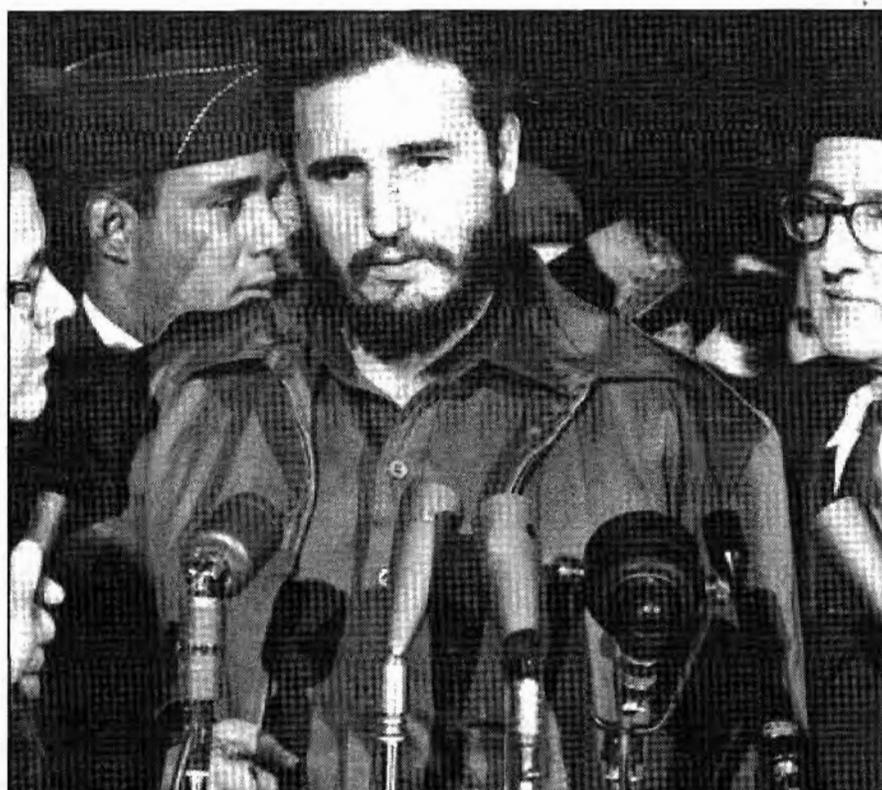
The trade embargo, created in the 1950s with the purpose of spreading democracy to the communist country of Cuba, has clearly had little effect for over fifty years. In fact, it has had the opposite effect insofar as economic and social conditions are concerned; Cuba has increased national control over markets.

Cuba ranks at the bottom — 156 out of 157 countries — in the 2008 Index of Economic Freedom, published by The Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal. It is the least economically free country in the Western Hemisphere.

Frankly, the current U.S. attempts at spreading democracy fail dismally anyway. Rather than excluding countries from the economic reach of U.S. businesses, why not create more dependence so that an embargo actually has some clout? Use the drug dealer mentality: get 'em hooked and then up the prices.

Economically speaking, freer trade and tourism between the U.S. and Cuba benefits the markets of both countries. From these actions, an economic base to promote domestic reform on the part of the Cuban government would exist.

Domestic politics of normalizing relations becomes intriguing especially



A young Fidel Castro in Washington, D.C. in 1959. Photo courtesy of Leffler/Library of Congress.

“ The trade embargo, created in the 1950's with the purpose of spreading democracy to Cuba, has clearly had little effect for over fifty years. In fact, it has had the opposite effect insofar as economic and social conditions.

during election season. In the Texas debate between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, the very first question was about meeting face-to-face with the new leader, presumably Fidel's brother Raul Castro.

Clinton's reply required some measures to first be taken by the new leadership of Cuba in matters concerning democratic freedoms and opening of domestic markets of Cuba. Rather than using the embargo as a political incentive, the meeting itself would then become an incentive to open up the press, release political prisoners, and conduct democratic elections.

Obama held by his position that he would meet with leaders of estranged nations without precondition, but then urge more democratic reform. John McCain holds the view that relations between the U.S. and Cuba will not change until Fidel “meets Karl Marx.”

When Fidel stepped down as president, he wrote, “I am not saying goodbye to you... I only wish to fight as a soldier of ideas.” This transition of power has been underway since July 31, 2006, when due to illness, Fidel announced a “temporary transfer” of power and yielded day-to-day control of the government to his brother, Raul

Castro. Brother Raul's coronation was announced furtively, in the middle of the night, and online in a country where practically no one but the Communist nomenclature has access to the Internet.

So, 81 year-old Fidel cedes power to 76 year-old Raul; this clearly provokes the question, “Can there really be a change?”

Raul himself has played second in command to Fidel, always in his shadow even these past 18 months. Judged by most to be more radical than Fidel, Raul was a Marxist before his brother. He worked with his brother since the 1950s when they plotted the Cuban Revolution.

In the first few months of the Revolution, he was actually kept out of the limelight because his militancy was thought unpalatable. The early guerrilla army grew and evolved under the leadership of Raul, which assisted pro-Soviet forces in Angola and Ethiopia during the 1970s.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the army under Raul's leadership propped up the ailing Cuban economy. Raul's reputation is more repressive than Fidel; however, political scientist Samuel Farber has characterized Raul's leadership style as “more practical and more executive than Fidel.”

In the arena of change, Fidel's influence while still alive may inhibit any significant economic developments. However, Raul's practicality leads some to believe that he will allow trade to open up while keeping tight political controls—in essence, a Chinese model. If this becomes the case, it would be even more hypocritical of the U.S. to maintain chilly relations.

Yes, ideologically the U.S. disagrees with the governmental leadership and actions of Cuba. No, that does not mean death, taxes, and the embargo should remain on life's list of constants. ■

*Alice can't say anything specific here, but if you're looking for some Cuban goods, well... give her a ring. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# Punxsutawney Phalse!

*Where will you look on the Day of Judgment?*



by mac hird  
and kevin tydlacka

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Amidst all the hustle and bustle of heralding in a leap year that is bursting with promise, it is easy during this time of year to lose sight of the true reason for the Season.

I'll give you an example: what comes to mind when we say "February 2008?" The beginning of a vicious and intriguing political battle that will hopefully land us with a president? Black History Month? Valentine's Day? Or perhaps even Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day (which incidentally is a week before Valentine's Day)? You may even think of all of these holidays and monumental moments in history.

But, you would fool yourself into a false sense of omnipotence if you neglected to acknowledge the most important yet most overlooked event of them all—Groundhog Day.

Or, as it's known in Canada, Groundhog Day.

After observing this day of potential national peril come and go with no festivities, moments of silence, human sacrifices, or even an obnoxious T-shirt to be seen, Mac Hird and Kevin Tydlacka were flabbergasted at America's belligerent negligence of the day that just failed to be approved by the Apostolic See as a Holy Day of Obligation.

Gazing down on humanity from atop the pinnacle of scientific and ethical research, the men known as Team CanonFlux looked each other in the eye and proclaimed "This will just not do."



Emperor Phil contemplates destroying winter completely. Photo illustration by Jordan Youngblood

So reborn and invigorated with a consuming passion tantamount to bloodlust, these two Angles of Acute Awareness decided to tear away the veil of deception and replace the ascetic apathy of the world with the sobering truth about Groundhog Day.

This noble holiday began in 1886 when the "Esteemed Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinaire," in an astonishing coup which would eventually gain him a monopoly in 'weather forecasting,' overthrew the traditional German badger (whose authority is derived the age-old tradition of Candlemas).

This is one trust even Teddy Roosevelt could not bust, and to this day, Dr. Phil continues to rule his regime with an iron fist from his mountain fortress, Gobbler's

Knob, in Pennsylvania.

TeamCanonFlux issued a warning Monday morning in their weekly video-blog pointing out the imminent danger of turning a blind eye to the tyranny of this rodent. "After sifting through mountains of empirical evidence and infiltrating the heart of his devious operations via a free sight seeing tour of Punxsutawney, we have come to the appalling conclusion that Mr. Wood-chuck-who-could here does not actually predict the weather as he claims to.

"No, ladies and Pilgrim...mens, this fiendish pixie manipulates it. That's right, folks. Kinda like Storm. And that bald kid with the arrow from that cartoon show," ranted Herr Hird, sporting the accent of the week: German. 'Able' Kevin was quick to clarify that TeamCanonFlux validated their findings during a two

minute think-tank meeting of the most talented and learned minds of the era—Kevin Tydlacka and Mac Hird.

They went on to explain why exactly this abomination of Mother Nature could potentially result in the destruction of all mankind. Obviously, a key player is the theory of Global Warming.

While scientists have never actually proven this phenomenon, it could nonetheless be attributed to Phil's hunger for world domination in which he would use extreme temperature fluctuations to make it agriculturally impossible for earth to support human life. And with humanity wiped off of the face of the earth, he could officially crown himself Lord of the Flies. (This, of course, could only happen after personally offing Piggy, in the kitchen, with a gigantic rock.)

Another conjecture that is a little less calamitous would begin with Phil extending a frigid perennial winter over the continental U.S., directly causing the price of many commodities to plummet drastically. An example of this would be the upsetting of the wholesale bagged ice market which would lead to foreclosure of millions of homes.

Other End-Game Theses call for rabid polar bear migration, repeated enforced viewings of "The Wizard" starring Fred Savage, and mass colourblindification caused by the general lack of hue reminiscent of Mario Kart's 64-bit Frappe Snowland level.

How do we propose to settle this unethical treatment of the world? Well, we, um, don't really have an answer.

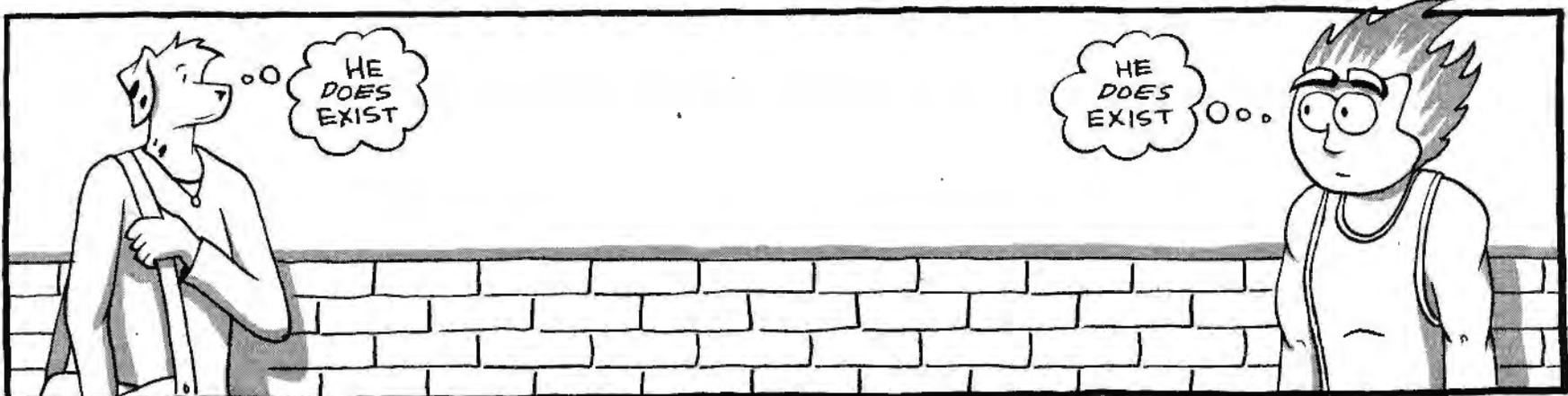
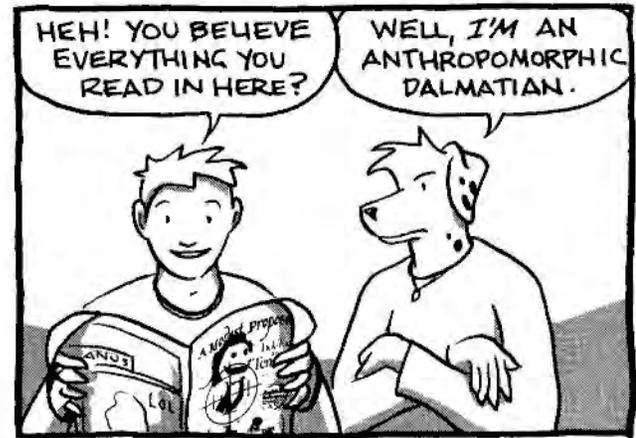
"Really, I just propose to stick the little guy back in the hole and keep him quiet. I mean, he's been doing this for 114 years I think, and we're still okay. We're just saying. If he did ever have malicious intent, we'd be ready," Mac concluded.

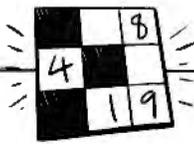
"And besides," surmised Kevin, "that's what she said." ■

*Mac Hird and Kevin Tydlacka will not rest until all groundhogs have been taught their proper place as manservants in their fabulous fantasy palace.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)*

BWCARTOON.COM  
By LUKE MCKENZIE

# BLACK & WHITE





by **benedict voit**

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and **jessie harpham**

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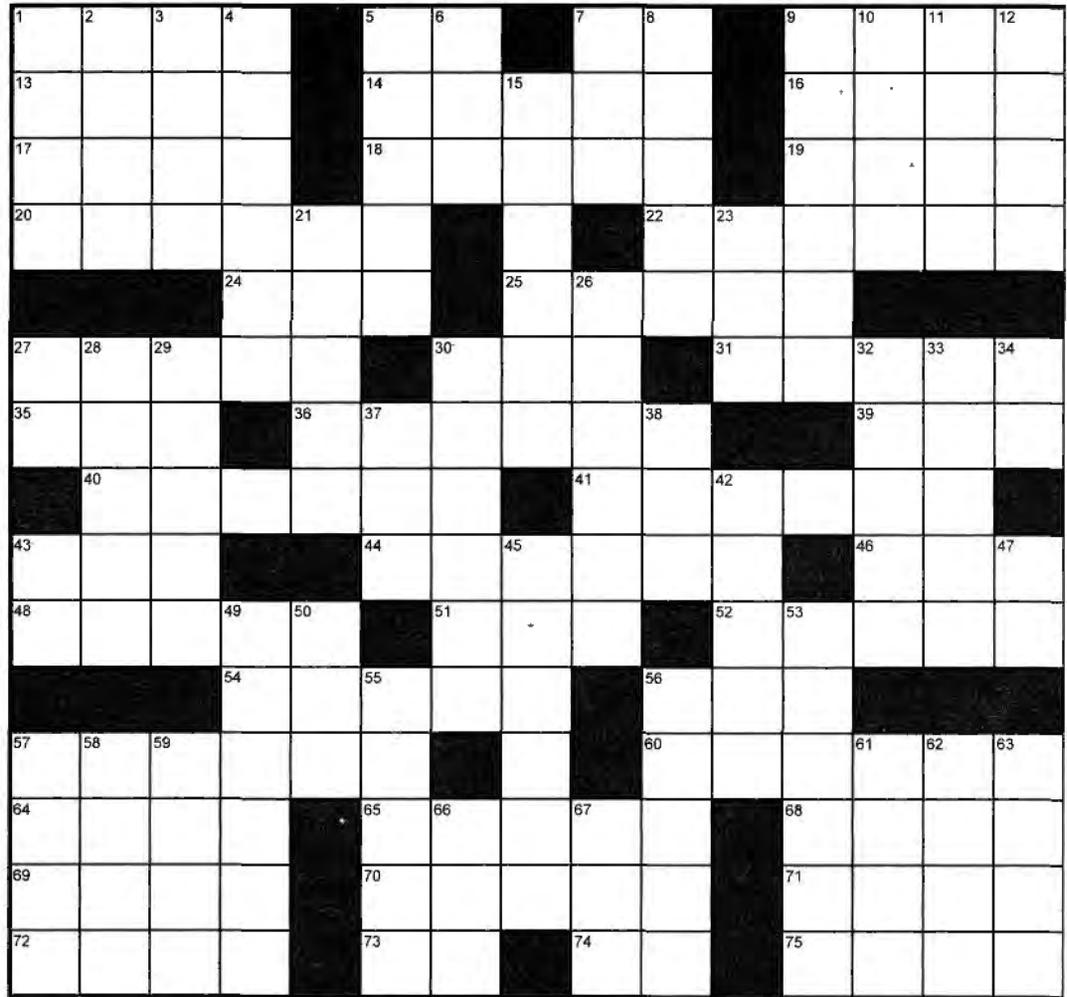
# Texas on the Mind

### Across

1. Has primary on March 4<sup>th</sup>
5. Nosotros
7. Huckabee's state, abb.
9. Not a common sign in front of a "For Sale" house
13. "Let's do the Time \_\_\_ again!"
14. Obama at Reunion \_\_\_
16. Three singers
17. To revise or correct
18. This state's primary is important this year
19. Period of inactivity
20. "You are my fire, my one \_\_\_"
22. People lacking common sense
24. Similar to a paddle, but fastened to the boat
25. Frenzied or agitated
27. First American to orbit the earth
30. To choose
31. Fundamental values
35. Hillary Clinton is this
36. Leader of the Communist Party of Cuba
39. A period of time
40. Architecture style of medieval period
41. Current Cowboys' home
43. To rest in a chair
44. 2<sup>nd</sup> longest European river
46. Snoop Dogg's category
48. Indian, for example
51. A male sheep
52. When it \_\_\_\_, it pours
54. Texture of a good cake
56. Aspartic Acid, abb.
57. A fever caused by sunshine and warmth
60. Obama, Clinton, or McCain will hold this role
64. Gave compensation for
65. Lacking moral integrity
68. To move into view
69. *Romeo and Juliet* has 5 of these
70. Proprietor
71. Wrote *A Treatise of Human Nature*
72. Edible part of animals
73. Not off
74. @
75. *Music Man* exclamation

### Down

1. Deserving of money
2. The angle between a fault plane and the vertical
3. A Goo Goo Dolls song
4. A choice
5. Hydrogen Dioxide
6. Previous to
7. SG VP
8. "A \_\_\_ in the Sun"
9. Opposite of 65 across
10. Can be double stuffed
11. An organized grocery shopper has this
12. Gumdrops produced by Tootsie Roll
15. A student's status in regard to jury duty
21. A type of dressing
23. Live free or \_\_\_
27. Saturn and Chevrolet's corporation, abb.
28. The skill Sudoku requires
29. To show or pretend emotion
30. Had 80<sup>th</sup> ceremony
32. Artist Matisse's first name
33. A group of tissues in the body performing the same function
34. Home of the Spurs, abb.
37. Red Cross supply
38. A sphere or globe
42. A metrical line in poetry
43. Extremely
45. "We are, we are, the youth of the \_\_\_"
47. Follows a signed letter
49. In the middle; between
50. Prefix for someone who doesn't partake
53. Army helicopter
55. An Eskimo home
56. Warning
57. Junk email
58. Rate of walking or running
59. Category 5 hurricane in 2005
61. A Nickelodeon series
62. Jane Austen novel; Name of Rachel's daughter on Friends
63. Army Hospital of scandal
66. To possess something
67. "One if by land, two if by \_\_\_"

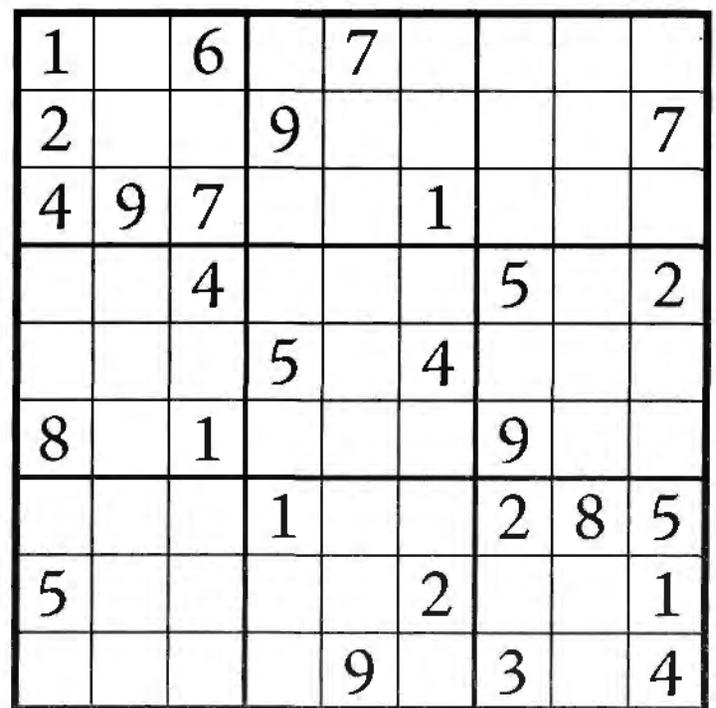


Don't find yourself puzzled? Paying too much attention in class? Send suggestions of other puzzles to [amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com), or check us out: <http://amp.utdallas.edu>

## Bonkers! Sudoku

Which one is most difficult to you?

Difficulty:  
Clinton





by alex palmer  
alexp@utdallas.edu

**Across**

1. Gangstas have street \_\_\_\_\_
5. Test taken sophomore year H.S.
9. Take forcefully
13. Was shown on TV
15. Quality, state, or degree: suffix
16. Brett Favre 2.0?
17. Small opening on a plant's leaf
18. Very small quantity
19. The color black
20. They roam ECSN and ECSS
21. L of LSAT
23. Tasty sour milk curd
25. Chimney opening
26. Famous Jackie
27. UTD President
29. Distribute
33. Colonel Sanders' favorite part
34. "...and justice for \_\_\_\_"
36. Human Leukocyte Antigen
37. Union of International Assoc.
38. Foolish
40. As opposed to offs
41. Lowest energy color
42. Golf ball stand
43. Adrift on a life raft
46. A common tag
48. The body of UTD
50. Playing the \_\_\_\_
52. Gibson, Brooks et al
53. Quality of a clutz
56. Mexican political party
57. \_\_\_\_ WOOSH!
60. Ready to eat
61. Engraved in churches
64. "Helloooooo \_\_\_\_!"
66. Football after the 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. (2 wds)
67. Close
68. Type of salts
69. Franklin, Big, et al
70. Fence opening
71. Impudent talk

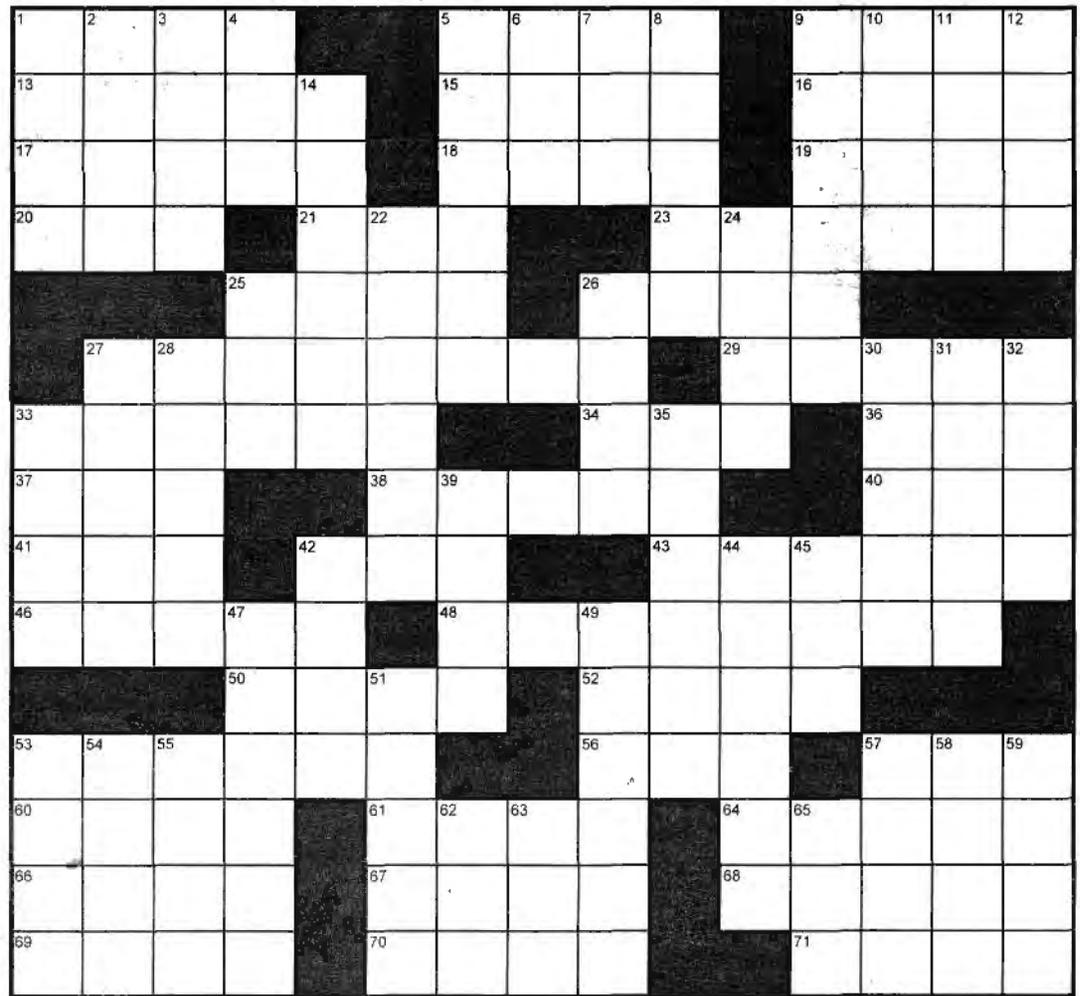
**Down**

1. Police officer's file
2. Ritual
3. Aphrodite's son
4. Rep competition
5. Common Chinese restaurant
6. Colloquially precedes "cone"
7. Pretend
8. 80's teacher's nickname
9. Two buildings on campus
10. Judge's garb
11. Has famous cookies
12. Femur e.g.
14. Home of the comets
22. Your father's sister
24. Might damage cars
25. Mandates nutritional facts
26. Early social group
27. More arid
28. Whip from a can
30. Fire
31. Forearm hones
32. Direction
33. Belch
35. Follow the \_\_\_\_\_
39. Famous loch
42. Kaczynski et al
44. UTD's midnight population
45. Natural logs
47. Winner of the mascot poll
49. Baseball, football official
51. *As I lay* \_\_\_\_\_
53. Infant's bed
54. Mathematically infinite
55. "Once \_\_\_\_\_ a midnight dreary"
57. Precedes major or minor
58. General \_\_\_\_ Chicken
59. 4 downs
62. National Education Assoc.
63. This year's Zodiac
65. Brown

*AMP is not responsible for GPA loss due to obsessive puzzle solving; AMP takes credit for increased GPA due to obsessive puzzle solving.*

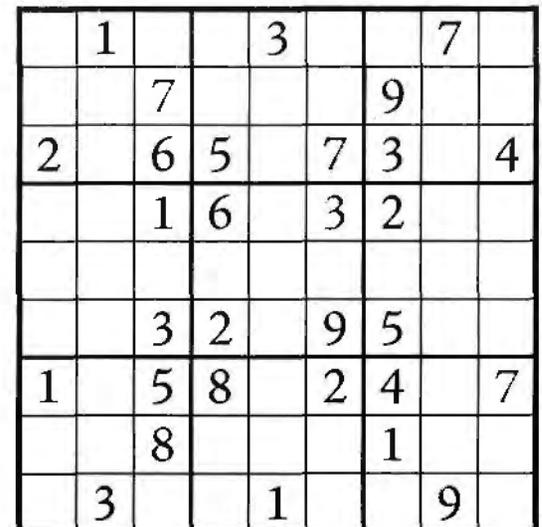
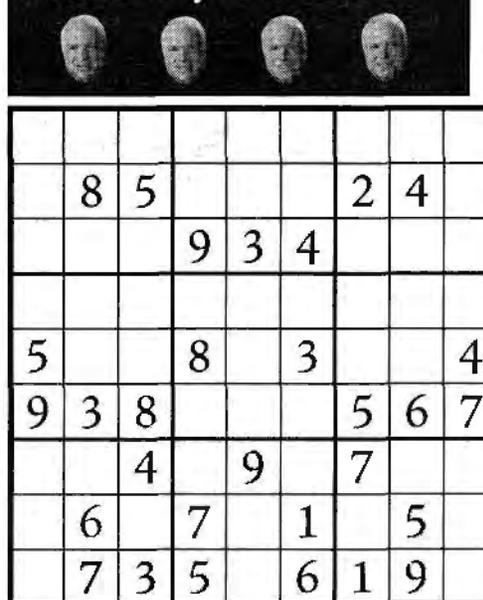
Discuss these puzzles at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

# Campus Potentials



## More Sudoku

Difficulty: McCain



Difficulty: Obama

Have a puzzle you want to see? Want to write your own crossword? Wondering which Sudoku was supposed to be most difficult?

Let us know. Send emails to: [amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com)

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**UTD NOW READY FOR ZOMBIE ATTACK!!**

**'Now my daughter's safe!'**



**'Like, CS majors?'**

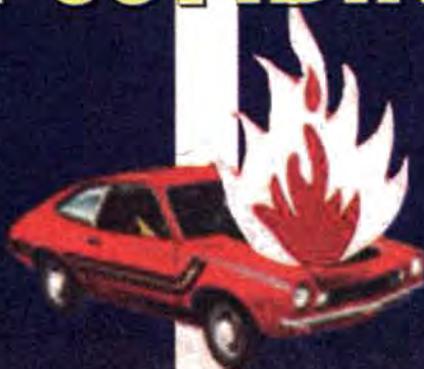
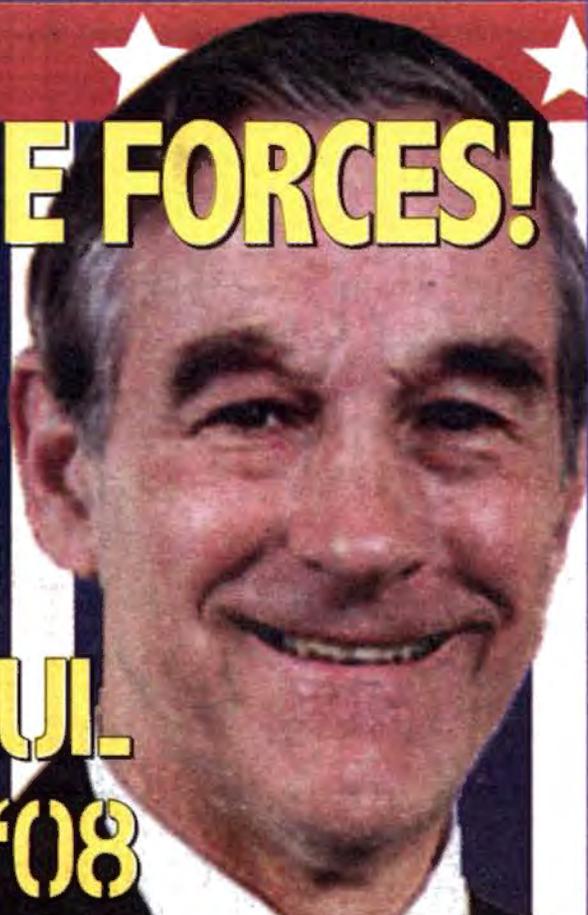
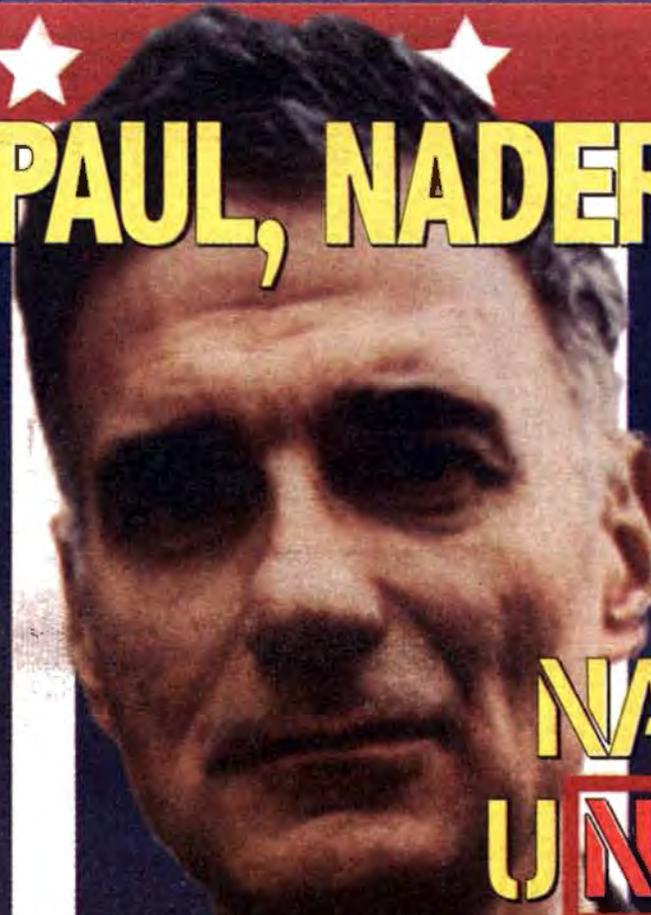


**UTD uses budget surplus to prepare for worst**

*THE MOST TRUSTED NEWS ON THE PLANET*

# URANUS

## PAUL, NADER COMBINE FORCES!



### NADER / PAUL UN...LIKELY '08

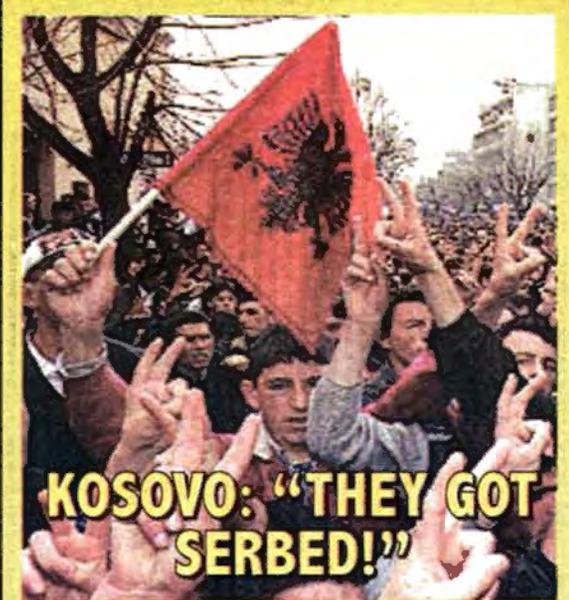
■ YouTube to collapse under commenting spam strain

**URANUS EXCLUSIVE**

■ Already preparing for "UNLIKELY '12"



**George: "I'll show you what killed curiosity"**



**KOSOVO: "THEY GOT SERBED!"**



Only in URANUS...

**OSCARS**



**LOL**

## Iraqi Parliament bans Turkey for one week

BAGHDAD (AMP) - In response to Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq, the Parliament in a special session united behind a resolution to ban Turkey for a week.

"This was a true, how do you say it, ahh, meat-and-potatoes issue for us. We knew we didn't have the military force to do anything about it, but luckily now we have the political ability to pass meaningless resolutions," a Parliament member noted.

"We believe that this will send a symbolic message to our northern neighbors that we don't appreciate what they have done. Iraqis are urged to unite and not eat turkey for a week."

The UN praised the resolution as a "truly inspirational piece of B.S." that they will attempt to emulate sometime in the next five years.

## Lohan Family Album finds its way onto web

NEW YORK (AMP)- Lo-han Behold! So were the cries of fans and critics alike after nude pictures of Lindsey Lohan were uploaded onto the web.

The pictures were apparently scanned and uploaded from the Lohan 2007 Family Album, ironically titled "At Home, A Broad."

Mrs. Lohan was utterly disgusted with the publication of what she thought to be family-only pictures. "How is it that only Lindsey gets published? Did they not see any of my shots? If not, they should let me know," she winked.

Due to the popularity of the leaked pictures, the Lohans have decided to plan a family Spring Break trip.

## Obama breathes, gets thunderous applause

AUSTIN (AMP) - National rock-star and international prophet of change (and in his spare time, U.S. Presidential Candidate) Barack Obama found a very receptive audience in Austin before the debate.

Obama's fans, already likened to an entranced cult, took their wild passion to the next level. They began following him around, taking notes on life, enthusiastically cheering him on in each step.

"The way he raised his hand and then that smile... I couldn't resist," one admitted. "Then, after it got quiet, he looked around and took in a deep swath of air. OMG OMG OMG! That represented the struggle of life we all face. All I could do was cheer."

# u iz Lip-Lickin' HAWT!



SG President Ben Dower and the visiting Chelsea Clinton exchange acknowledgements of how hot they both are.

by D. C. Paige

### UTD's Chelsea Clinton Correspondent

RICHARDSON (AMP) - The recent Hilariously held in UTD's very own Student Union gave birth to an event like no other seen by human eyes.

In a truly blinding spectacle, super hotties Ben Dower and Chelsea Clinton both occupied the SU stage which smoldered and smoked under the combined hotness of their being.

"A collision of hot bodies like this hasn't occurred since the last binary star collapse," said nerdy UTD political hanger-on, Ted Strangler, an astrophysics major and unrequited lover of both Ben Dower and Chelsea Clinton.

600 eager students looked on while Ben and Chelsea occupied the stage for well over 10 hours. Each of them simultaneously locked gaze with each and every student attending for at least 10 seconds while doing their best to look as absolutely breathtakingly gorgeous as they could.

Most students merely fainted upon exposure to such intense heat, but a select few were engulfed in flames.

"I was standing two people away from the stage when their combined gaze found me. While my flesh seared, all I could think about was how very fortunate I was to be there."

While the onlookers had the beautiful privilege to bask in the overwhelming glow, Ben and Chelsea were hard at work gracing the crowd with their stunning brand of sexy.

"Looking amazing comes pretty easy for me," said Ben Dower while buttering down his manly physique "but I really had to step up my game to stay on the stage with Chelsea. If you'll notice the way I placed my tongue ever so gingerly against my lips. It's subtle motions like that that allowed me to sizzle up there with the undeniably hot Chelsea."

Chelsea comes from an arguably mixed sexiness family, but it's clear where she got her hot hot genes from.

"Some presidents sweep the nation off their feet. Some sweep the nation off their feet, out of their clothes and into bed. My dad was that kind of president," Chelsea said in a post rally interview.

In an attempt to further explain Ms. Clinton's inherited looks, scientists found that Bill's DNA actually contained three sex chromosomes including X, Y and why not?. It is the why not? chromosome that is credited with giving him his smooth voice and bewitching eyes.

One could only imagine the ramifications of two such clans merging. "At least a 3x Supernova," imagined Strangler. "Too hot. Much too hot." ■

# U.S. ATTACKED! Imperialist America shoots our satellite

by D'Brickshaw Cunningham  
Constantly Representin'

WASHINGTON (AMP) - In a bold declaration of war, America launched a "kinetic kill device" at a crippled U.S. spy satellite on February 21st. While the top secret satellite was non-functioning, the missile attack was clearly intended to send a message.

"The U.S. cannot sit idly by and let America shoot down anymore of our satellites," said President Bush at a press conference held in an underground bunker where he is being held for his own safety and the safety of others. "As soon as we locate America on a map, you can rest assured we'll get into an endless, trillion-dollar land war with them."

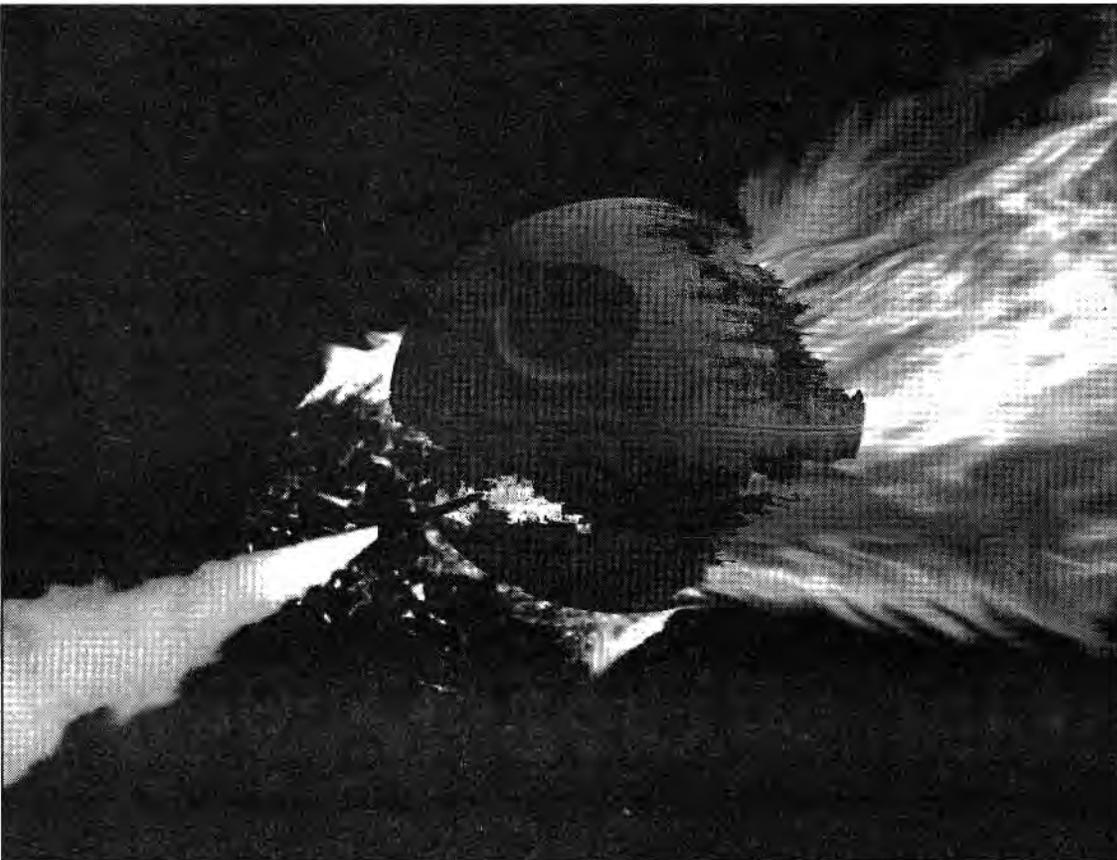
"America has been a country without values ever since I've been in office," Bush added. "I really should check with Dick on this one first, but I'm gonna go ahead and say it anyway: Americans are terrorists."

Congress took note of Bush's striking rhetoric and immediately went into action. The bi-partisan bill agreed to take up to an infinite-minus-\$500 amount of money from the American people to assist with anything that could possibly be needed in the U.S.

"We figured it was like the Price Is Right where we should wager just under what we figured the Americans would be doing," claimed Pelosi. "We're just doing our jobs."

The U.S. has begun lobbing its own missiles at whatever orbiting craft falls whim to Bush's button finger. "We noticed a shuttle emblazoned with the American flag docked to a space station," said the Space War Chief of Staff General David Petraeus. "We launched eight nuclear devices and shot a high intensity laser at it for good measure."

Asked about the nature of the U.S.'s lost satellite, Petraeus could only mutter something about Alderaan and the rebel forces before letting out a guttural, animal like howl. ■



America's "kinetic kill device" scored a direct hit, demolishing what was left of the U.S. "top secret spy satellite."

## Congress approves "Virtual Border Fence"

"Virtual illegal immigrants  
should watch their virtual  
back."

EL PASO (AMP) - In a bipartisan move on Thursday, Congress approved a 28 mile long stretch of "Virtual Border Fence" to be installed on the U.S.-Mexico border somewhere in Arizona.

"We have basically drawn a 20 million dollar line in the sand between us and Mexico," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "If this demarcation isn't enough to stop illegal immigrants from crossing over it, walking around it, or digging under it, well, I'll guess we'll just go back to the drawing board."

The 28 mile virtual fence will complement other measures that help to secure the 1,969 mile border including actual fences and the absence of fences.

"Using these methods, we've seen some success in deterring the estimated 500,000 illegal immigrants who enter the US each year," said Chertoff. "Besides, when has government ever spent billions of dollars on something that ends up not working?"

Some members of Congress were under a different impression when they voted for the bill - a rare occurrence because members of Congress are always well informed about the bills their voting on.

"When Chertoff came in and spoke about a virtual fence on the border, I thought he meant it would be a fence that was *virtually* on the border. You know, like within 2 miles or something," argued Tom Coburn. ■