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A Modest Proposal, vol. 5, no. 6

Richard Badgett, *et al.*

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A Modest Proposal

Old Boys Club

How the Supreme Court destroyed pay discrimination claims and Congress picked up the pieces

Page 11

ALSO INSIDE
Waterview Park
A look into the motives behind extra fees and shady rent practices
Pages 16 & 17



ALSO INSIDE
Fred Hill
An interview with one of UTD's strongest supporters in the Texas Legislature
Pages 12 & 13

ALSO INSIDE
Twilight
Meyers' novels are harming a generation of young girls
Page 18



From our
Website

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I agree with you to a point. Your point that "human rights are universal, which is why they are human rights, and not just American rights" falls away from the truth.

Human rights, as distinguished from natural rights, is (sic) contingent on the application of empathy and emotion. Modern day rights theorists such as Lynn Hunt would argue that the idea of human rights is contingent on a society's ability to empathize with the plight of those not directly concerning themselves. Human rights, as evidenced by the writings of Robespierre and *The Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen*, reflect an understanding in society vs. an inherent, seemingly inviolable Kantian quality that humans qua humans possess. No wonder then that the notion of "human rights" paralleled the rise of higher literacy rates and the popular consumption of epistolary novels in Europe in the 18th century.

Human rights are not universal. Note that I am not making this argument to devalue the claims and position of human rights as much as I am to debunk a popular misconception permeating rights discourse today.

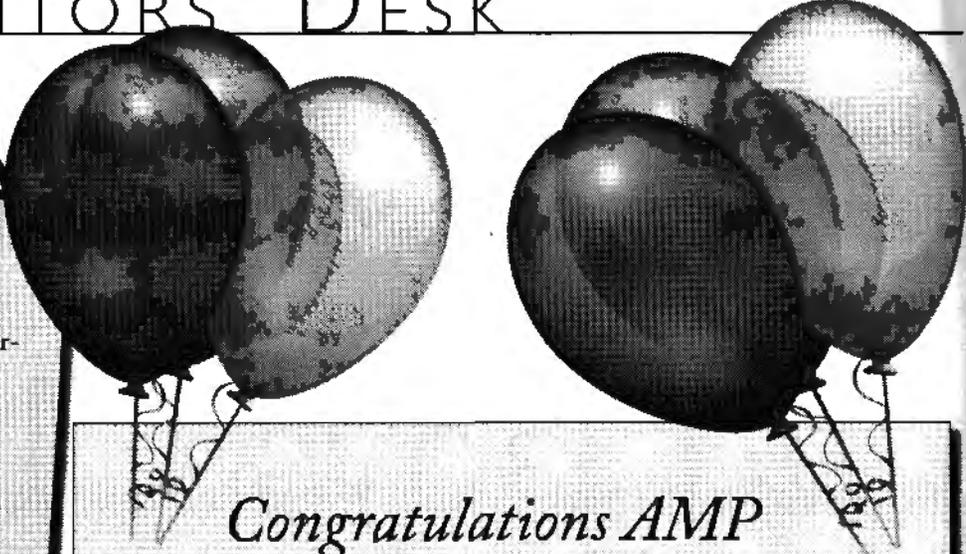
I enjoyed this article.

Kant touch this..., "At All Costs" post No. 9

Language can be very important — attempting to eradicate the word nigger is an excellent example. That was a reflection of racism that has been taken out of polite society's discussions. Language is the primary communication tool humans use (vs. you know, hand signs and body language and such), and it's meant to evolve and change. If that change incorporates more people/offends less, why not do it?

This article was about gender neutrality in academic writing, right? The "feminists" aren't trying to correct "harmless habits," but to bring an easy yet meaningful change within academia. S/he is not that much harder to write, nor do I find it particularly cumbersome.

Lauren, "To Each Klor Own" post No. 3



Congratulations AMP

The *A Modest Proposal* website, created in 2006, just surpassed 100,000 hits this month. The number of AMP website views has increased dramatically during the past year, with a total of 50,000 hits in the last 9 months. We would like to attribute this to the increased quality of the publication since joining the Student Media Operating Board in May 2008.

We would like to thank our contributors, readers, former editors, our adviser, the Student Media Operating Board, and the university administration for their ongoing support of *A Modest Proposal*.

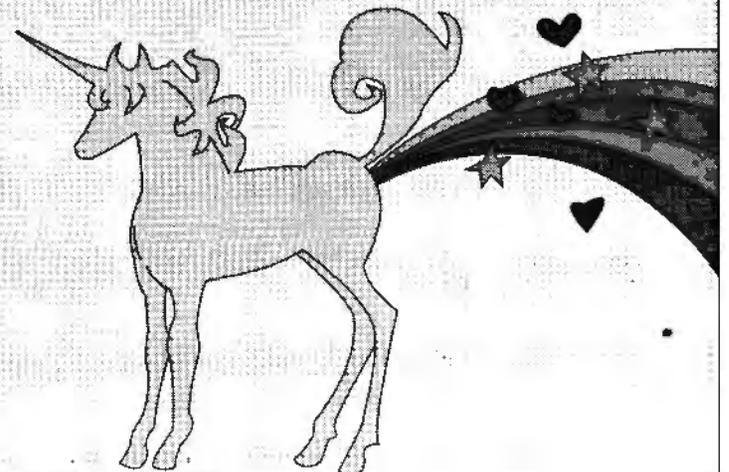
Sincerely,
The AMP Editors

A Modest Proposal is composed entirely of submissions by students just like you. We publish articles about anything you have an opinion about: campus life, politics, religion, sex, and even baby-eating.

We ask for articles that are well-written and approximately 800 words. Everything beyond that is up to you!

Email articles as attachments to amodestproposal@gmail.com. Please include a face-forward, high quality picture of yourself and your full name with submissions. Anyone can contribute. This month's deadline is Sunday, March 15.

AMP contributors shit rainbows!
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In This Issue...

GLOBAL POLITICS

4 That's All Folks
America gets a full serving of pork
BY JESSICA HUSEMAN

5 New World Order
Elections around the world give a chance for a major change
BY BILLY EASLEY

6 The World Ain't Flat
Oversimplifying the Middle East hurts prospects for peace
BY SARA CLINGAN

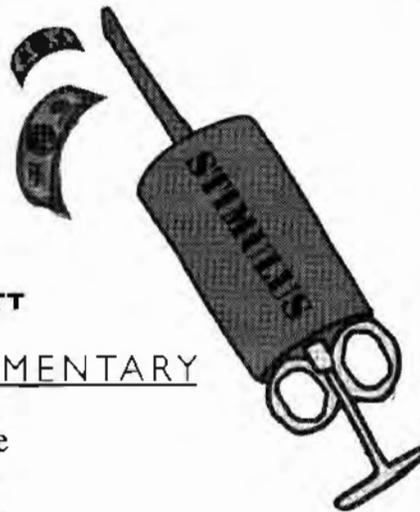
7 Palestine's Plight
A Response to Last Month's "End The Cycle Of Violence"
BY MOHAMED MOHAMED



SPORTS & RECREATION

8 Baseball
Steroids, Spitballs, and Dirty Records
BY ART ZACHARY

Basketball:
Righting Russell's Wrong
BY RICHARD BADGETT



9 The Pepsi Challenge
Stimulus checks or tax cuts
BY MATT STEVENSON

10 Bollywood Nights
Slumdog Millionaire sets a new tone for Indian cinema
BY PRASHANT RAGHAVENDRAN

11 Supreme Injustice
Court rules technicality more important than equality
BY LISSETTE VILLARRUEL AND MEGAN NEWMAN

CAMPUS LIFE

12 Fred Hill
UTD's man in Austin
BY MAC HIRD

14 Team TEAD
How one acronym will improve your campus experience
BY DIANA KAO AND REMSEN JENNINGS

15 Constructing Campus Life
Changes on campus could translate into more than just new buildings
BY LINDSAY BERNSEN

16 A Pox Upon University House
How Waterview increased rent in both deed and name
BY KENNY GRAY

ARTS & LEISURE

18 Twilight ... Ugh
Meyer's novels inappropriate and terrible
BY RYAN HENRY

19 The Menu
This month: iTaco
BY BRADY SPENRATH

PUZZLES & GAMES

20 Puzzles Page

22 The Uranus

Cover design by jordon batura. Uranus cover design by liam skoyles. Content images by richard badgett and scott ungchusri

WOW! *Holy Unicorn, look at that!*

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Maybe not just like that Unicorn, because nothing could be that incredible.

We're your voice. Why not use it? amodestproposal@gmail.com

That's All Folks

America gets a full serving of pork



by jessica huseman
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Seven hundred eighty-seven billion dollars. That is the final figure for the new stimulus bill. Unfortunately, the public has somewhat limited knowledge of the final product. The promise that it would be on the Internet for 48 hours so the public could review it was rejected in favor of putting it on the Internet after it was passed. But now that it is viewable, Americans are left with several questions. The one which most stands out is: Will this plan actually revitalize the comatose economy, or have we just been force-fed the biggest pork-pie in American history?

This bill is the first major test of the Barack Obama Administration. He fervently revved up support for the bill by sending a frightening message of economic collapse, visiting towns like Elkhart, Ind. and Fort Meyers, Fla. whose unemployment rates are easily double that of the national average. He spoke of "catastrophe" and "collapse" in several speeches that told the American people "pass this bill, or you'll end up like Fort Meyers and Elkhart too." I'm surprised he didn't end his last speech with, "BOO!"

So after all of this, Obama and the democrats in Congress are surprised with the lack of support from their Republican counterparts across the aisle. They repeat, "We won in November!" over and over again, hoping to send the message that the American people gave them a mandate to turn things around. However, that doesn't seem to be the case, considering the latest poll from Rasmussen Reports indicates that only 37 percent of Americans actually support the bill.



Pork and bailouts have a symbiotic relationship. Illustration by richard badgett

So maybe Republicans are more in tune with the will of the people on this issue. After all, only three Republicans in the Senate supported the bill, and not one Republican supported it in the House. Despite the incredibly one-sided passage of the stimulus, democrats are convinced that they mounted an open and bipartisan debate on this bill. "Legislation is the art of compromise, consensus building, and that's what we did," said the Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid (D-Nevada).

The fact is that the final, 1000 page bill wasn't even in consideration long enough to have been read, let alone discussed and debated. "No Congress member voting on this 1,000-plus-page bill, now one presidential pen stroke from becoming law, actually read it," said former Republican Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich to a crowd full of concerned GOP members, and he seems to have hit the mark.

When Representative Tom Price (R-Ga.) stood up in a question-and-answer session in the house and asked,

"After having this bill made available to the members of the House after 11 or 12 o'clock last night ... it's the ruling of the Speaker this is to have been considered read even though it is physically impossible for any member to have read this?" The democratic chair responded with a curt, "That is correct." Typically, bills cannot be considered "read" unless they have been available for three calendar days. Yet that measure was waived for this bill, and House Resolution 168 labeled the bill "read" after less than 12 hours.

Sen. Roland Burris (D-Illinois), President Barack Obama's successor in the Senate, seemed to think it was funny that anyone actually expected them to read the entire thing. "I think it's about 800 pages," Burris's press secretary said before chuckling. "We'll do the best we can."

The White House's Web site made available a scanned copy of the bill. Open it up, and you'll find what looks like a marked-up essay written by a high school student. Changes and corrections have been made in the margins, entire sections have been scribbled out, and millions of dollars have been taken away

and allotted to something else by simply scratching out the number, and drawing an arrow to where it should be, a symptom of the over-expedited process.

When you take into consideration what kind of things are in the bill, you really begin to become concerned with the speed at which they passed through Congress. For instance, it provides billions of dollars to create a national health-information technology system. This basically means that all of your medical records will go into a national database, so that the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology can review your treatment. It then states that "Those items, procedures, and interventions that are found to be less effective and in some cases, more expensive, will no longer be prescribed." Considering that the Democrats went on a tirade against the Bush administration's lack of concern for privacy, this seems incredibly hypocritical.

The Democrats still claim the goal of this bill is to produce jobs and swiftly turn the market from bad to good. How will creating a database for every American's confidential medical records create jobs? The bill also funds things like the Smithsonian and the National Endowment for the Arts, neither of which will produce enough jobs to shake a stick at. And on top of that, unless you have a doctorate in environmental research, the huge allotment for renewable energy and global warming research won't help much in the job department either.

There is no doubt that a stimulus plan needs to be passed to help our flagging economy, but is this really the one we want? Do we want to spend almost a trillion dollars on something that our government hasn't even read? I think not. The lack of concern on the part of Congress will no doubt have unintended negative consequences, and our generation will be the one paying for them. The American people are taking this bill very seriously, and it is inexcusable that Congress not do the same. ■

Jessica Huseman is only okay with pork if it comes as a pound of delicious, smoked, apple-wood bacon. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

“ How will creating a database for every American's confidential medical records create jobs? ”

New World Order

Elections around the world give a chance for major change



by billy easley
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Barack Obama's election on Nov. 4 signaled a change on a large number of policy fronts. But, in the arena of foreign policy, change in America is simply not enough to foment progress or inspire constructive international dialogue. One election, in any country, is not enough to break the boundaries that have been built over decades of violence in the Middle East. One election is not enough to disassemble the growing anti-American sentiment in South America. One election brings just one more voice into the fray. However, we don't need another voice to join the cacophony — we need a chorus of new leaders and new voices.

That's why the American public should be fully aware of the outcomes of the numerous elections that have occurred or will be occurring later this year if they want to have a true understanding of what the Obama Administration will be capable of. Concern over President Obama's lack of foreign policy expertise has begun to be mitigated by his appointment of several capable individuals; whether or not you agree with Richard Holbrooke's

diplomatic actions in the Clinton Administration or George Mitchell's views on the Middle East crisis, it's clear that they possess the talent necessary to fulfill President Obama's agenda on the foreign policy front.

Yet the words of skilled diplomats abroad can only be effective if foreign leaders believe their proposals reflect the will of the people they represent. Thus, fair and free elections serve as an effective barometer not only to determine the will of the people, but also to determine what the American government can hope to achieve abroad.

That's why, for example, the Israeli elections this February were of particular importance to those who have been wishing for peace in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that's been broiling for decades. Because of the inefficient manner in which power is appropriated in Israel's parliamentary, we still don't know exactly who will be Israel's Prime Minister after the disgraced Ehud Olmert. If it turns out party talks result in Avigdor Lieberman supporting Benjamin Netanyahu's candidacy more than George Mitchell's support for a two-state solution, or an end to Israeli settlements along Gaza might become more complicated. On the other hand, no matter what the final result of the Israeli elections is there will be only a limited chance that it will better relations with

the Palestinian people, at least initially (both Tzipi Livni and Netanyahu supported the recent Israeli incursion into Gaza), though it will most certainly influence American policy in the region.

Iran's elections, however, could effectively open the door to better foreign relations with a slew of nations. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's devotion to acquiring a nuclear weapon and his inflammatory statements have been, as President Obama characterizes them, "unhelpful" to progress in the Middle East.

America's current state of relations with Iran is a clear example of how little President Obama's election alone will be enough to create a new paradigm in foreign relations. A few weeks into the Obama Presidency, after an initial conciliatory phase, the President of Iran regressed to his usual divisive banter, calling for President Obama to remove troops from the Middle East and reasserting his ability to be an obstacle to stability the Middle East. For someone who isn't even truly in charge of the country, President Ahmadinejad has been quite successful in making Iran a pariah with his incendiary rhetoric.

The good news is that there's a very realistic chance that President Ahmadinejad might lose his post in the next election. Iran is a country with a great deal of troubles; unemployment

and inflation have risen during the last few years, and President Ahmadinejad's government has been susceptible to certain scandals.

The truth is, it's possible that even with a new President at the helm in Iran, there might not be a substantive change in policy (since the president doesn't really drive policy forward in Iran anyway), though the presence of a new leader could at least give the impression of a new, fresh start — it certainly couldn't be any worse than the current situation. I'd say it would be the difference between Pervez Musharraf and President Asif Zardari in Pakistan; there came a point at which Musharraf's credibility was shot beyond repair in Pakistan and America's influence through him was also ruined by proxy. The presence of a new leader certainly hasn't made the situation dramatically better — but at least it signaled some form of change and recognition of the mistakes that Musharraf made.

Venezuela's referendum regarding presidential term limits has the ability to provide the same kind of dramatic signal. It has occurred at a time during which President Hugo Chavez's vulnerabilities have become readily apparent. We no longer hear him deriding America with the same fervor as before (perhaps that's due to the low cost of gas at the moment.) President Chavez is unable to spend his way into popularity. Venezuela's markets have thus been suffering the same kind of shock in oil markets as Russia is, and perhaps this will shock the Venezuelan populace into limiting how much longer he can be in office.

No matter what the results of these elections are, they all will shape America's foreign policy and approach. America does not dictate the amount of progress in foreign relations — the elections abroad are what dictate how successful our ambitions in the foreign policy arena are. But every now and then we have an election that exceeds our expectations — just look at Iraq. ■



Presidents all affect life here in America. Photoillustration by mac hird, original photos from Wikimedia Commons.

*Billy Easley talking about "change?"
We never thought it would happen.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/*

The Earth Ain't Flat

Oversimplifying the Middle East hurts prospects for peace



by sara clingan
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Calling all members of the Flat Earth Society! Kindly ask your leader, Richard Badgett, to stop spewing his fallacies all over *AMP*. They're insulting.

See, Flat Earth Believers, your leader tried to convince the *AMP* readership of all kinds of gobbledegook, ranging from simple inaccuracies – such as that LBJ was the first president who truly grappled with the Palestinian plight (Truman, who recognized Israel a mere 11 minutes after its conception, was) — to the far more critical.

The article “End the Cycle of Violence” in the Feb. 2009 issue begins by discussing the origin of the Three Weeks War. It's actually referred to as the Gaza Massacre or Operatinn Cast Lead, depending on the side. The article explains: “So on Dec. 27, (Hamas) began launching thousands of rockets and mortars into Southern Israel with the stated intent of murdering civilians and making life unbearable for the Zionist dogs.”

Wait ... what?! Are we supposed to believe this nonsense? Hamas didn't fire “thousands of rockets” in the entire year of 2008, let alone since Dec. 27. Yet citing how many Qassam rockets Hamas lobbed is highly misleading, given their pitiful success rate. Since Dec. 27, according to Israeli Defence Force (IDF) figures, three Israeli citizens have died because of Qassam fire.

While any loss of life is upsetting, this number skirts negligibility when one considers the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli aggression — somewhere between 1,134 (according to the IDF) and 1,330 (according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health). If we are to be convinced that “Israel is the hapless victim of Hamas' aggression,” we'll need more than a crudely drawn cartoon. The numbers certainly don't support his claim.

Next stop on the questionable claim

express is that Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people. Wrong-o. The 2006 elections, in which Hamas won control over 60 percent of parliamentary seats, including all available in Ramallah, were widely interpreted as evidence of the group's popularity. A poll taken last month by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre shows Hamas would still win a majority in the West Bank.

Why such popularity? Hamas gained legitimacy in the Palestinian territories because, contrary to the common belief, Hamas does have a political agenda. Hamas provides aid to Palestinians when the Red Cross and the United Nations (UN) are forced out under Israeli gunfire. It builds schools and funds medical supplies. Last year, its Prime Minister offered recognition of Israel's right to exist in an effort to move toward peace.

The article glosses over these measures and instead serves up this: “When Hamas enters a hospital or a school and starts firing rockets into southern Israel, and when Israel responds by turning said hospital or school to glass, it isn't Israel that's killing Palestinian civilians. It's Hamas.” This is akin to saying, “When someone makes me angry, and I respond by sending my defense force (my dog) to pee all over his apartment, it isn't Muppet peeing all over his valued rug. It's him.”

Admittedly, Hamas often uses hospitals or schools as headquarters. This is partly a political tactic, but partly a matter of sheer necessity: In many areas of the Palestinian territories, the hospitals and schools are the only structures left. Less necessary is Israel's targeting of benign structures, including raids on multiple UN schools completely detached from Hamas. The tactics of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) have prompted condemnation from the UN and the Red Cross, the latter of which stated that the Israeli military has “failed to meet its obligation under international humanitarian law.”

There absolutely are grounds for legitimate criticism of certain policies and actions of Hamas, but the notion that Hamas doesn't represent Palestine



The juxtaposition just jumps off the page. Photo courtesy of sara clingan

or serve any place in the region is just wrong, and calling for peace through massacring a democratically elected institution is just ironic. That would only further disenfranchise Palestinians, who are largely robbed of the right to speak for themselves. After all, the Palestinian Authority has no vote in the UN, Arab Israelis (many Palestinian) don't receive the same constitutional protections granted to Jewish Israelis, Palestinians aren't allowed passports, and the media rarely gets a glimpse behind the infamous wall. For all its flaws, Hamas has served as the voice of the voiceless when all other channels of communication have been blocked.

Last summer, I had the opportunity, one unfortunately denied to many, to visit Israel and Palestine. I can hardly convey the difference between them. Palestine is welcoming and bustling, but the effects of the occupation permeate everything. The Palestinian people live in poverty because they are deprived access to fundamental resources and face complicated travel restrictions that make finding employment nearly impossible. They shout not “Death to Israel!” but khalini aish — let me live.

A few people stopped me on the street to ask if I was American, and, if so, could I please take pictures and show them to people, because so few see the real Palestine. The moment my camera turned toward the wall, which Israel built despite international condemnation, an IDF soldier shoved a machine gun in my face because photographing it is not allowed. The experience by no means qualifies me as a foreign policy expert, but I did gain the insight that this issue is too complex to lend itself to such simplistic solutions as dismantling one side.

I wish to be clear. I wholeheartedly support Israel's right to exist in peace and security. This is a defense not of Hamas, but of Palestine, whose people have been systematically disenfranchised, neglected, and abused for the last 60 years. This is an acknowledgment that Israel isn't always the victim. This is a recognition of the 1,300 Palestinian lives taken away in recent weeks. This should be simple to understand, even for you, Flat Earth People. ■

*Flat earth people clearly hate sledding, mountain biking and other non-flat activities.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*

Palestine's Plight



by mohamed mohamed
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In the February 2009 issue of *AMP*, "End The Cycle Of Violence" offered a solution to the problem of brokering peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Interestingly enough, that version of the road map for peace involves the phrases "complete annihilation" and "completely destroying one side." Such a narrow-minded approach to global politics is counterproductive, and the resulting double standards only serve to sustain the cycle of violence.

The article asserts that the "only lasting solution" to peace is the complete destruction of Hamas, a legitimate and democratically elected political entity. This conclusion presents a false dichotomy that is detached from reality and acknowledges only a small fraction of the causes of the violence.

The article would have you believe that there is little rationale behind the armed resistance of Hamas, as if Hamas decided one day to wage war against Israel out of boredom and insanity. This is a narrow view which gives little consideration to the causes of Palestinian resistance.

To begin with, the Palestinian people have been under an illegal and oppressive occupation for more than 60 years now. This means that they are a group of

people with no nation, no citizenship, and therefore no real autonomy.

In America, the idea of individuality is so critical that we have certain "inalienable" rights and protections to help us in the preservation of our autonomy. The fifth amendment of our Constitution protects us from being deprived of "life, liberty, or property" without the due process of law. The Palestinian population has been routinely deprived of all three; Israeli forces imprison individuals without due process, confiscate private land, and unleash disproportionate amounts of death and destruction against the Palestinian masses. Oddly, the denial of these fundamental rights does not seem to be of much concern to many people.

Israel's strategy of collective punishment alone allows Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups to rationalize the continuation of their armed struggle. Since June 2007, Gaza has been under a crippling blockade that has been economically disastrous to all its citizens—civilians and fighters alike. This blockade has resulted in shortages of basic necessities such as food, fuel, and medical supplies. It is undeniable that such circumstances in Dallas would constitute a humanitarian crisis.

As if economic ruin is not punishment enough, Israel also uses its military to use disproportionate amounts of force against Palestinians, resulting in the destruction of infrastructure, homes, and other non-military "collateral damage." Such force is sometimes accompanied with the use of illegal weapons such as white phosphorus

bombs and cluster bombs in an area already packed with civilians.

I am of Palestinian origin, and although I have never visited my native soil, I have still managed to witness firsthand (on numerous occasions) the disturbing aggression of the Israeli military while on vacation in Lebanon.

One summer night in 1999, Israel displayed its idea of a proportionate retaliation in response to Hezbollah guerrilla attacks. Apparently, the actions of a small group of militants seem to justify air strikes against Lebanon's roads, bridges, airport, power plants, and other civilian targets. For an entire week, we were almost completely without electricity. We had no way of flying out of the country because the airport was hit as well. And even if the airport had been operating, we would have had no way of getting to it, because Israel had destroyed the roads and bridges needed to get to Beirut.

Under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, Israel, as an occupying force, is required to protect the civilian population. Not only has Israel failed to do so, but it even seems to show an indifference to the loss of civilian life. The recent Gaza conflict, where more than 800 of the approximately 1,300 Palestinians killed were civilians, is an indicator of this attitude. Of the 14 Israelis killed, only three were civilians.

Despite these ridiculously lopsided figures, the article claims, amazingly, that Hamas is the major aggressor. It claims that Israel can't "sit back and watch as their citizens are terrorized." This is a fair

and reasonable statement, but what is mind-boggling is that the article does not apply the same logic to the Palestinians.

Maybe the author is of the impression that a death toll above 1,300 and billions of dollars in damage are not enough to terrorize Palestinian citizens. Fortunately for Israel, the United Nations definition of terrorism is the act of destroying civilian lives or property "without the expressly chartered permission of a specific government." Therefore, it is merely a result of semantics that Israeli aggression is not labeled as terrorism. After all, the state of Israel was established with the help of campaigns of terror perpetrated by Zionist groups such as the Irgun and Stern gangs.

Ignorance of the injustices being committed leads to a double standard so repulsive that it should be expressly evident the cycle of violence is continuous: a lack of justice on any side will result in lack of peace. In such a historically complex conflict, all the facts and realities must be taken into account when devising solutions.

The article's suggestion of completely wiping out one side is a juvenile strategy only applicable to video games and movies, not in the real world. Failing to condemn violence, whether it is Palestinian rocket fire or Israeli bombing, is failing to provide a fair and comprehensive solution. ■

*They can build a wall around my heart,
but Mohamed can still tunnel under it.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/!*



Illustration by scott unchusri



Steroids, Spitballs, and Dirty Records



by art zachary
art.zachary@gmail.com

Steroid abuse will define the way history regards baseball in the early 21st century. For better or worse, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens are judged alongside "Shoeless" Joe Jackson and Pete Rose on the list of all time baseball pariahs. The most recent shoe to fall does so from the once golden foot of Alex Rodriguez. As the youngest player to reach 500 career home runs, he stands the greatest chance of any active batsman to challenge Bonds' for the all time number. Those among the baseball faithful have long seen A-Rod as the chance to restore asterisk-free veneration to the record that Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron built.

Records in any sport must be viewed against the appropriate historical backdrop to avoid anachronistic platitudes. Cy Young's many career pitching records came entirely during the "dead ball" era — during which time it was not uncommon practice for pitchers to spit, scuff,

gouge, or otherwise alter the surface integrity of the game ball to affect its trajectory in flight. This practice was eventually outlawed before the 1920 season, which consequently was also the first year Babe Ruth played for the Yankees, bat .376, hit 54 homeruns, and began his quest to single-handedly save the game. Viewed in this context, are Cy Young's accomplishments to be thrown out, because he might have gained an unfair advantage utilizing the rules of the game at the time?

Baseball did not enforce mandatory steroid testing in baseball until 2003. Barry Bonds alleged abuse occurred before this time. Yes, steroids have been banned since 1971, but with a no-testing policy, baseball had effectively turned a blind eye to performance enhancement and reaped the profits that dynamic power hitting players have always provided.

Is juicing the same as Cy Young dropping a loogie to weird up the pitch? No. Is Barry Bonds' greatness entirely the product of steroids? No.

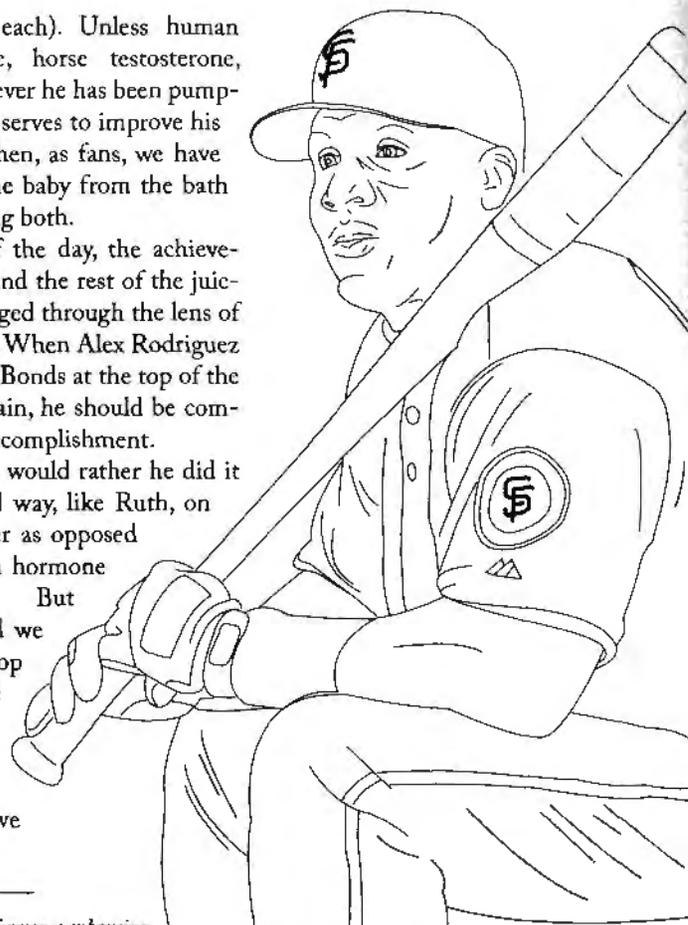
Bonds is 35th on the list of all time strike outs, behind such sluggers as Sammy Sosa and Ken Griffey Jr. (who both have hit over 600 career home runs) as well as Jim Thome and Mickey Mantle

(well over 500 each). Unless human growth hormone, horse testosterone, uranium, or whatever he has been pumping into his veins serves to improve his eye for a pitch, then, as fans, we have to differentiate the baby from the bath water or risk losing both.

At the end of the day, the achievements of Bonds and the rest of the juicers need to be judged through the lens of historical context. When Alex Rodriguez eventually usurps Bonds at the top of the home run mountain, he should be commended for his accomplishment.

Sure, everyone would rather he did it the old fashioned way, like Ruth, on hot dogs and beer as opposed to human growth hormone and BALCO. But times change and we fans need to stop viewing the game from under our rose colored caps or give up all together and live in the past. ■

Art Zachary takes performance enhancing drugs..... IN THE BEDROOM!!!
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



Does Barry really deserve an asterisk?
illustrations by richard badgett

Finals MVP: Righting Russell's Wrong



by richard badgett
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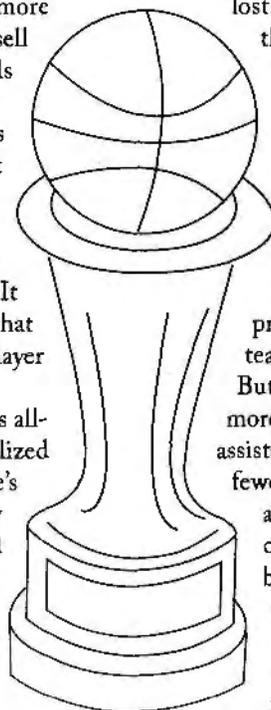
This year at the all-star break, Bill Stern, commissioner of the NBA, announced the award given each year to the MVP of the NBA Finals will be named after 11-time champion Bill Russell. The award was symbolic for

“ There's still something wrong with the way the MVP is determined. ”

a number of reasons but none more important than the fact that Russell himself never actually won a finals MVP.

For his first 10 championships the finals MVP award simply didn't exist yet. But in Russell's 11th and final NBA Finals, Jerry West beat him out, despite Russell's Celtics beating West's Lakers in 7 games. It is the only time in league history that the Finals MVP was awarded to a player on the losing team.

While I'm thrilled that the NBA's all-time greatest player is being immortalized in this way, I can't help but feel there's still something wrong with the way the MVP is determined. Should it go to the most indispensable (valuable) player, the best player, or something else entirely? Was the league wrong to award the MVP to West when his team



lost? We need to change the title of the award from Most Valuable, to most Outstanding Player.

Last year's season MVP was Kobe Bryant, without whom the Lakers would have been a pretty awful basketball team. He was invaluable.

But LeBron James had more points, rebounds, assists, blocks, steals, and fewer turnovers. In virtually every measurable category, LeBron was better, yet Kobe was awarded the MVP.

The problem with rewarding a player for being Valuable

is that there's no good way to reward overall skill. Take last year's Miami Heat. They won just 15 games, and were unquestionably the worst team in the NBA. Ricky Davis, a mediocre player at best, was the only Heat player active in all 82 games, and ranked first or second in nearly all significant individual stats. Clearly a player who led his team in virtually every category should win the MVP, right? Well no, and frankly that's as it should be.

By changing the wording on sports' highest individual honor, leagues and fans can better come to consensus, ensuring the right player wins. There will still be controversy. Even an MOP might have gone to West over Russell, but changing the name better reflects the intent of the award. ■

Richard recorded a career triple double in turnovers, minutes on the bench, and field goals missed.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

The Pepsi Challenge

Stimulus checks or tax cuts?



by **matt stevenson**
matt.r.stevenson@gmail.com

Once again America steps up to take the test. Which do you prefer: the stimulus package or tax cuts? Why should we do either, though? If I am to support an act of public policy, I want to understand why it is needed, what it will fix, and how it will work.

To answer need some background. Keynesian economists believe consumption and investments are proportionally linked. When consumption goes up, companies sell more goods and make more money that they can then invest, leading to still higher consumption. In an ideal Keynesian world, consumption rises, companies profit, and invest the profits. Rinse and repeat. Keynesian economics is dependent on government to continue inflating to keep the good times rolling.

The main weakness of this system is that people can lose faith in the market. When this happens, people save their money instead of spending it. Companies can no longer sell their goods and make profits, without which there can be no investments. Lower profits force companies to pay lower wages. With lower wages people buy even less, leading to an economic death spiral. The only way out is government stepping in and "stimulating" the economy.

A contrasting school, Austrian economics, believes consumption and investments are inversely related. Anyone with money can spend it or save it. Saved money is put in a bank, and become the reserves for a potential loan to someone else. This loan is an investment by the bank into the business of the

borrower. Money saved is money invested.

Inversely, every dollar spent is a dollar that cannot be invested. The business which sold a good first needs to recoup its costs, and only after that is it free to save or spend the profits. When money is saved and invested, claim Austrians, it generates a return.

A person who saves money now can expect higher savings and consumption in the future, while someone who chooses to consume more now will not generate additional wealth. More saving creates more capital for entrepreneurs, who can produce more goods and profits, driving economic growth. The Austrian economic system does not rely on any institutional inflation, it relies only on entrepreneurs to produce goods and develop new technologies.

That's all well and good, but how are these schools applicable now? When there are low savings and high consumption money is not being invested; it is being spent at a rate equal to its generation. The economy cannot grow.

Lowering interest rates is one way to mimic the effects of high savings without additional capital. The power to control the market is as tempting as it is destructive, and politicians find it too expedient to toy with inflation rather than raising taxes. As banks provide this money to entrepreneurs, we see the growth that would normally accompany high savings.

However, there are no real savings to back the investments since the money was just printed. This creates more and more projects which rely on capital which, while nominally growing, is actually shrinking. The increased consumption and decreased growth begin to form a bubble, eventually reaching a point where available resources are overstretched by inflation and investments fail.

At this point, more inflation and spending will only make the problem worse. Inflation encourages new demands on the already over-extended resource pool, while consumption causes the actual resource pool to shrink further. The gap between savings and investments continues to grow. Even if market confidence is regained, a bust is inevitable since there is not enough real capital to fulfill the promises represented by the new money. To fix things, we need to start saving and to let unprofitable businesses fail while the market reaches its equilibrium interest rates.

Only letting businesses fail and no longer inflating the currency enables market stabilization. The level of savings must match the level of investments. I can not say this enough; we need to stop inflating. We cannot afford to prop a failed company, regardless of how large and vital it claims to be or how entitled and victimized Americans feel.

There is nothing at this point that government can do aside from stepping down and letting the market fix itself. More inflation only makes the problem worse. We are left with two options: spend or save. We can save to raise real capital for sound investments. As we save, our level of capital will rise to meet the falling level of investments as businesses decline.

If we instead continue spending, our capital will continue to shrink. This means investments must fall much further to match resources. At present the United States and most of its citizens are in debt. To continue spending would mean our investments would have to fall to match a negative savings rate. Tax cuts would help only if there was a corresponding decrease in government spending, but that simply won't happen, pork is just too popular.

The Federal Reserve, unlike the government, can do something to help. It can raise interest rates despite the unpopularity of this move. Better yet, they can all resign and let the market defuse its own interest rate.

Unfortunately, this will never happen. More than 70 percent of Americans support some stimulus — unsurprising given that such support will likely land a check in their mailbox. Americans feel entitled to that money, thinking, "With the economy failing, the government's job is to hand out money. After all, I have the right to my American lifestyle." Most people are boundlessly greedy, and all democracies eventually loot themselves into poverty.

Promoting democracy as the best form of government is a mark of deep ignorance in today's electorate. Until quite recently, the pure democracy advocated today was despised. It was understood that a pure democracy will always dissolve into mob rule. The "have-nots" of society inevitably outnumber the "haves," and so vote to spread around their wealth.

Those voting for their government entitlements do not take the time to understand the effects of their policies, and the politicians who represent them garner too much support by appearing to help the poor, the sick, the downtrodden, the victims of the country to stop feeding the voters' entitlement.

Democracies are destroyed when legislators realize they can use the public's money to buy votes for themselves. It is hard to say who deserves more guilt, those demanding entitlements or those elected to office validating the demands.

What happened to people's ethics? How did we allow ourselves to replace our republic with mob rule? When did we start valuing entitlement over liberty? My questions and opinion no longer matter though. Obama and the democrats have already set the United States down a cannibalistic path to destruction.

Enjoy your stimulus check.

Matt is a part-time treasure hunter who uncovered a lost text of monetary wisdom bound in the skin of government regulators - The Economist.

Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/!



Obama is puttin' a little extra zip in your pocket. Illustration courtesy of scott unghusri

Bollywood Nights



by prashant raghavendran
praghavendran@gmail.com

Since 1931, Bollywood — India's film industry — cranks out an average of 800 to 900 movies per year. Despite its prolific nature, Bollywood has often been the joke of world cinema because of the melodramatic nature of its films. Many times my friends have cut me off in the middle of an explanation of a Hindi movie to echo this criticism.

However, I feel that this annoying perception can be fixed thanks to the production of Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire*. This film has become popular worldwide because of its perfect blend of the eastern and western worlds. I wholeheartedly believe that this film will shed a more positive light on India's silver screen and even influence the quality of the industry itself.

No matter how wide a spectrum of plot twists and backgrounds, Hindi movies — and Indian movies in general — always travel back to a central love story. Somehow, two seemingly star-crossed lovers journey to each other against amazing odds, usually created by a villainous relative or underworld thug. Often, random interludes of song and dance are introduced into the film not to contribute to the story but merely to relieve tension. This generic plot has been

“ No matter how wide a spectrum of plot twists and backgrounds, Hindi movies — and Indian movies in general — always travel back to a central love story. ”

reproduced with different actors and slight tweaks over and over again. It has been repeated so much that any production that attempts to deviate is dismissed as just another formulaic movie instead of recognized as an innovation.

However, Danny Boyle easily clears this bar with *Slumdog Millionaire* and managed to do it because he was not working within the bounds of Bollywood. Because this is a British film, it can be distributed more easily in the western world, which normally refrains from exposing itself to Indian cinema. With this movie, Danny Boyle not only meshes cultures together but also creates a tribute to Bollywood that gives solid ground to the attitude of paying greater attention to the quality of Indian Cinema.

Despite its British label, this film is almost entirely Indian. It tells a story of two orphan boys who grow up in the slums of the city of Mumbai, surviving on wit against the grimy dons of the underworld and their fatal schemes. In the midst of these trials, Jamal, the central character, falls in love with a fellow orphan, a girl named Latika. He spends the entire movie searching for her despite the danger, with songs of angst and passion playing in the background.

From this structure, it is obvious that Danny Boyle used Bollywood as a heavy reference for his movie. However, he blended this plot with elements that the western industries have come to appreciate. For instance, the film keeps the audience engaged in multiple plots by weaving the story of Jamal's survival with his participation in a game show and strengthening the plots through this parallel construction.

Furthermore, the film shows emotion in a much more acute nature. The violence is much gorier than in Hindi films, and the dialogue rife with imperfect language and expletives unlike the expected poetry of Hindi lyrics. The Bollywood plot is displayed with the western watcher in mind, and thus does the film bridge the fundamental gap between Hollywood and Bollywood.

The cast of this film is a crossover group, with actors stemming from Britain and India. Two of the main ac-



Danny Boyle near India's iconic Taj Mahal. Photo courtesy of Ace Showbiz

tors, Anil Kapoor and Irrfan Khan, are quite famous and have over a decade of acting experience in Bollywood. Before this movie, their roles primarily followed the formulaic male hero or villain and female love interest templates of Bollywood. In *Slumdog Millionaire*, though, Kapoor and Khan appeal to the interests of both western and Indian audiences: They speak in both English and Hindi while portraying emotion that is universally recognized.

The film further bridges the gap between Indian and western film with the inclusion of Dev Patel in the cast. Patel, who plays a central role in the movie, is a star of a well known series in the United Kingdom, and thus appeals to popularity. This cast is both a strong example of how east and west can work together and a testament to the accessibility of the film.

The most promising aspect of *Slumdog Millionaire* is its acclaim in the awards arena. I am excited to see that, despite the language barrier, the movie won major awards such as Best Film and Best Original Score at the Golden Globes, and eight Academy Awards including Best Picture. This makes it apparent that the movie not only transcends boundaries and makes other culture more accessible, but also merits the esteem of

“ The movie not only transcends boundaries and makes other culture more accessible but also merits the esteem of being a truly excellent movie. ”

being a truly excellent movie. The fact that a movie with predominately Hindi dialogue won Best Picture is revolutionary. With *Slumdog Millionaire* as the new example for Hindi films, I believe that the previous template can be broken, and Indian cinema will get much better recognition in the world community. Bollywood has a new role model, and the west has gained insight into Indian cinema. ■

We thank Prashant from taking time off his extremely well choreographed dance-filled life to write this story.
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu!](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

Supreme Injustice

Court rules technicality more important than equality



by lissette villarruel
& megan newman

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mnewma8@gmail.com

Lilly Ledbetter was employed by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company as a supervisor for nearly 20 years. Ledbetter worked primarily in an area manager position and was one of the very few women to hold that position. At the end of her time at Goodyear, Ledbetter, the only female among Goodyear's 16 area managers, received a salary of \$3,727 per month. The 15 other managers took in far higher pay, ranging from \$4,286 all the way to \$5,236 per month (*Lilly Ledbetter, Petitioner v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Inc.*).

So what did Ledbetter do? She filed charges of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), claiming the dramatic difference in salary was due to Goodyear's prejudice based on her gender. After hearing evidence that Ledbetter received raises much

lower than those of men who worked in similar positions despite performing well enough to receive a Top Performance Award, that Ledbetter had little way of knowing about the discrepancy on account of Goodyear confidentiality practices, and that the discrimination accumulated over time until Ledbetter was being paid less than the absolute lowest salary of men in her field, a jury decided to rule in favor of Ledbetter and granted her backpay and damages.

However, Ledbetter's story did not end there. Goodyear appealed the decision, and the Court of Appeals reversed the ruling. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which forbids discrimination based on sex and race in the workplace, requires that discrimination claims be filed within 180 days after the unlawful practice occurred. In spite of all the evidence that Goodyear systematically discriminated against female managers, the Court of Appeals ruled that Ledbetter should have filed the charges annually, each time the company failed to appropriately increase her salary along with the pay of her male coworkers.

There are a multitude

of problems with that ruling, but one of the most egregious is that Goodyear is one of many companies that do not release salary information to its employees. Thus, at any given time, Ledbetter had no way of knowing that her salary was less than those of her male counterparts. Without this information, the company was free to cut costs by increasing female managers' salaries much less than those of male managers, resulting in a huge discrepancy over time.

In fact, Ledbetter did not find out about the pay discrepancy "until a printout listing of salaries appeared on her desk, seven years after her starting salary was set lower than her co-workers' salaries." (*Ledbetter v. Goodyear*). This report arrived years after the cumulative discrimination occurred. Nevertheless, the Appeals Court chose to stand by a technicality and run from guaranteeing one woman's constitutional right to fair pay.

Although Ledbetter appealed this decision, the United States Supreme Court *brilliantly* stood by that technicality. In a highly contested 5-4 ruling, the Court declared Ledbetter should have filed separate charges each time those pay discriminations occurred. Never mind the fact that details about salary among employees is often hidden. Never mind the great discretion employers have when evaluating their employees to determine their pay. And never mind the reality that, as the dissenting justices stated, "pay disparities often occur, as they did in Ledbetter's case, in small increments," so any substantive claim of discrimination could only be proven with substantial differences in pay over a longer period of time (*Ledbetter v. Goodyear*).

Anyone who knows anything about Justice Ginsburg will not be surprised that she did not agree with her colleagues in the majority. She wrote a scathing, 19-page dissent criticizing the decision, and even more unusual, this normally quiet lady forcefully read her dissent from the bench. In doing so, she called the media's attention to the plight of Ledbetter and the

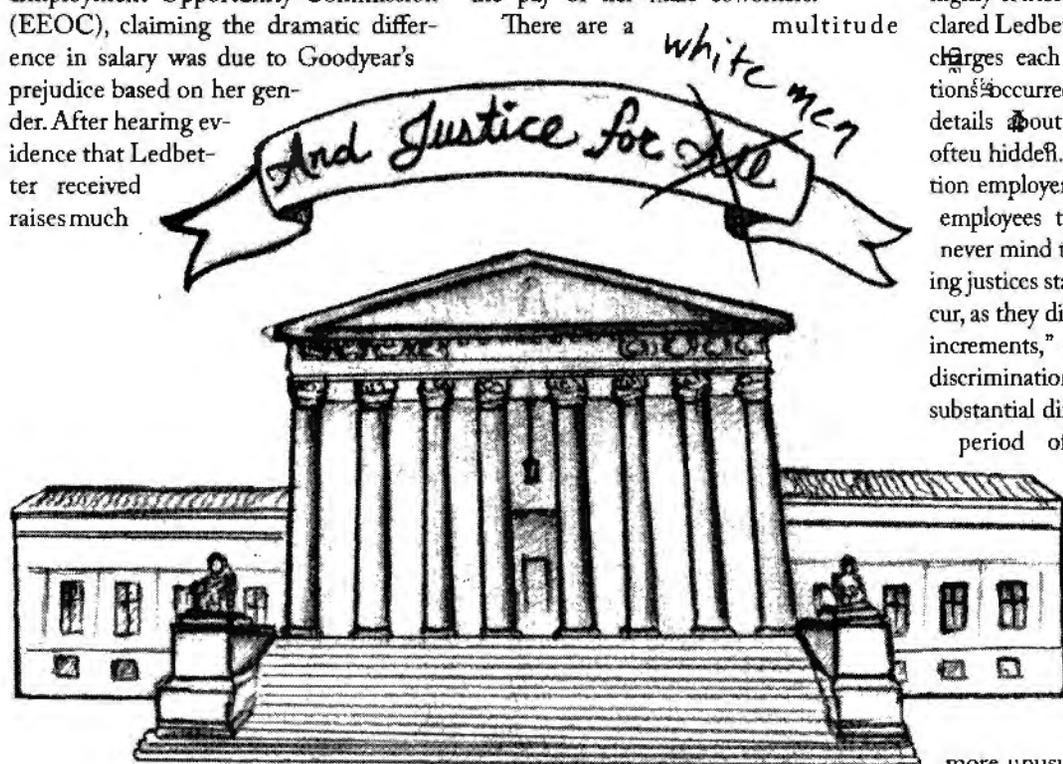
nonsense ruling of the majority, and she challenged Congress to clarify their purpose and fix the Court's error.

She pointed out that the Court relied on ridiculous and outdated precedent in upholding Title VII's 180-day technicality and referenced a slew of more relevant precedent that supports Ledbetter's claim for discrimination. Justice Ginsburg cited case after case where this precedent had been used to allow compensation for incremental discrimination over time, as well as pointing out the foolishness of scrambling to uphold a technicality when the broad purpose of Title VII of the 1991 Civil Rights Act is clearly to counter discrimination. She wrote, "Once again, the ball is in Congress' court ... the Legislature may act to correct this Court's parsimonious reading of Title VII."

Correct it they did. Though it was almost two years in the making, on Jan. 29, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law. The act states that, "the Ledbetter decision undermines those statutory protections by unduly restricting the time period in which victims of discrimination can challenge and recover for discriminatory compensation decisions or other practices, contrary to the intent of Congress." Ouch. Basically, Congress just said to the Supreme Court majority in *Ledbetter*: "What were you thinking? Here, let me spell it out for you: this Act is meant to *prevent gender discrimination!*"

Is this Act enough? Lilly Ledbetter will never see a dime of the salary that she worked so hard to earn all of those years, and countless women still feel the lasting effects of pay discrimination. This act is a major step toward ensuring women and other citizens have a better chance of obtaining some form of redress for any wrongdoing that they might have suffered. In effect, this act was one small step for women, one giant leap for humankind. ■

Lissette and Megan make approximately one third of what the male AMP contributors do. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



Fred Hill:

UTD's Man in Austin



by mac hird
mac.hird@student.utdallas.edu

McDermott, Green, Jonsson. Every UT Dallas student has heard these names and for good reason. Each of them has had a lasting impact on the formation and direction of the university over its relatively short lifespan. There should be another name added to that list: Fred Hill.

Though most students have never heard of him, Hill has had arguably as great an impact on the development of this University as the Founders. He has served as the State Representative for District 112, which includes part of UT Dallas, since 1989. Over the last 20 years, he has authored and sponsored numerous pieces of legislation that benefited Texas, and specifically the Richardson area, before retiring at the end of 2008. Most important to students here, Hill was one of the strongest advocates for UT Dallas in the legislature.

While serving in the Texas Legislature, Hill helped UT Dallas in so many different ways. Asked what legislative accomplishment he is most proud, Hill's answer is his role in authoring the legislation that allowed freshmen and sophomores at UT Dallas. Without the passion of this representative, our school would be a vastly different institution than it is now. No undergraduates means no sports, no Cosmic Film Festival, a fraction of the student

organizations, and, gasp, no *A Modest Proposal*.

In every single fight for funding, Hill led the charge on behalf of UTD. He helped acquire the funding for the Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory (NSERL) building, which was funded out of the State Enterprise Fund. Hill has been instrumental in assisting UTD's recent expansion. He carried the legislation for an increase in student fees, which allowed funding of the DART passes for students, expansion of the athletics program, and the upcoming student services building.

He has been a major part of getting the state to authorize numerous bonds from the state to UT Dallas, and much of the progress happening on campus right now is a direct result of those efforts. The Math Science and Engineering Teaching center (MSET) and new ATEC building are all the work of Hill. Even the new residence hall and dining area are at least partly because of the work that Hill has done for UT Dallas.

I had a chance to sit down with Fred Hill, and talk to him about UTD and his time in the legislature.

Mac Hird (MH): What are UTD's chances of achieving Tier One status this legislative session?

Fred Hill (FH): I think Dr. Daniel is absolutely a perfect president for the University of Texas at Dallas at this time. His engineering background gives him that type of qualification on the academic standpoint for the university, plus the fact that he is such a personable individual, so well respected by everyone. You know, I don't think a lot of people who aren't

involved in higher education understand the importance of the relationship between the president of a university and the state legislature. Dr. Daniel works very hard at that relationship because that translates into money, increased funding and also increases the chances of the university getting the things done that it wants to. Dr. Daniel's agenda right now is to achieve Tier One status for the University of Texas at Dallas, and truthfully that shouldn't be a problem at all. It is very well deserved and I can't think of another school in the state that deserves it more. There is competition from University of Houston and Texas Tech, and Dr. Daniel recognizes that we have to work with the politics of that. What he has done is he has put together a formula that he knows UTD will do well under and probably achieve Tier One status because of that. The other

schools have the opportunity to do the same thing, but UTD is probably in a better status to win. We have attracted a student body which is tremendous in terms of academic standards and extra-curricular activities. People underestimate things we have here, like the chess team and the impact that can have. I always enjoyed being able to stand up on the floor of the House while Texas Tech was talking about beating Texas A&M in football, and I could also point out that we had the chess team that had won the Western Hemisphere. Being said, (achieving Tier One Status) going to be difficult.

MH: How would UT Dallas be affected by the new tuition re-regulation plan? How does the legislature balance affordable education and yet still provide enough funding for a high quality

“ I was one of Tom Craddick's most outspoken supporters for a long time. In fact I helped him get elected the first time, the second time, and even the third time. I am pretty confident that without my support the third time that he would not have been speaker in 2007. But, he made some commitments to me that he would change his style of management, and he didn't follow through on that, so he lost me. ”



Governor William Clements signing the into law permission for UT Dallas to expand to include Fred Hill is farthest on the right. Photo courtesy of the UT Dallas Office of the Provost

tion?

FH: We don't do a good job of it. We have so many problems in this state. Let's start out by saying that Texas ranks 49th out of the 50 states in per capita taxes. That is with some problems. First of all, we have about 2,600 corrections officers in our prisons. We have a tough time building new highways, because all we really have enough money for is maintaining our current roads. We have Medicare/Medicaid that is eating up our budget, because we really don't have enough money to deal with all of these problems. Then you go to issues like public education, and we aren't doing a good job in terms of overall big picture, though we are doing a better job than in years past. When you take into consideration that edge cities in America is somewhere in between Houston and San Antonio, not the border of Mexico, we aren't recognizing the problems associated with that fast enough. Then you have higher education, and the trend from a legislative standpoint has been to shift responsibility from the state to the cities and the students with deregulation of education. I think UTD tuition is running at \$12,000 a year, and you know that's not what it was at private colleges years ago. Here we are, third in the state in terms of research spending, and yet we are still charging our students \$12,000 a year, and that's not the trend. I talked to the chancellor (of the UT system) not too long ago, and he told



The construction of NSERL, one of Fred Hill's most visible contributions to UTD. Photo courtesy of UTD.

me that 40 percent of our students are not paying any tuition at all, which is part of a move to make college more accessible. Then you get to the top 10 percent rule, which keeps a lot of our best students from entering UT Austin. I understand the reason behind it, I understand why it was passed, but it's not good public policy to make admission to a university based on something like that. We have a lot of problems, but we are going to try to solve them.

MH: You were one of Tom Craddick's most outspoken opponents during his tenure as Speaker. How do you feel about him being removed from power this session, and what affects do you think this will have on the House this session?

FH: You have to recognize that I was one of Tom Craddick's most outspoken supporters for a long time. In fact I helped him get elected the first time, the second time, and even the third time. I am pretty confident that without my support the third time that he would not have been speaker in 2007. But he made some commitments to me that he would change his style of management, and he didn't follow through on that, so he lost me. The difference is that under the new speaker, the chairmen will have more power — it is in the committees that bills will either get passed or get killed. This is the way it should be, that's what the system was set up to do. And under Tom Craddick, the system was set up to do what Tom Craddick wanted to do, and he exercised his power to pass legislation that he was in favor of. If he wasn't in favor of it, he would kill it. I think the process will be better under Joe Strauss.

MH: What was the most difficult piece

“ I talked to the chancellor (of the UT system) not too long ago, and he told me that 40 percent of our students are not paying any tuition at all, which is part of a move to make college more accessible. ”

of legislation that you have ever passed, and how did you do it?

FH: Well let me tell you about the most difficult legislation that I ever killed, which was absolutely the worst public policy we could have had in this state. And they are still trying, and I am still there working against them on this. In 2003, there was an effort by the far right wing of the Republican party, people who are truly more libertarian than republican who wanted to restrict the amount of money that local counties and governments can raise on their own. Now the thing that most people don't realize it that local governments don't get money from the state, and that's not typical of most states in this country. We also pass down to them all these mandates, and they only have two ways to do it: property tax and sales tax — which makes it very difficult to do their job. Now there are people in the legislature that want to make it more difficult for them. Tom Craddick was one of them, Gov. Rick Perry was one of them. I was chairman of the committee which dealt with that, and at first I didn't have a strong opinion on the subject. The more I studied it though, the more I realized that this was bad public policy, so I fought it, and I am still fighting it as a matter of fact. The reason I do it is that local governments are the economic

generators of this state— nothing happens unless cities and counties are involved in it. If we restrict them, we won't have a good economy, without a good economy we won't have a good tax base, and without a good tax base we can't support all the things we need to—Higher Ed, Medicare etc. Unfortunately, some of my colleagues don't think past the next election cycle, and I'm worried they aren't thinking about the future of the state of Texas. ■

We have been incredibly fortunate to have a representative such as Hill supporting UT Dallas for the last 20 years. We have high ambitions here, and every time we wanted an improvement for campus, Hill was there to lend us his support. Though we are all grateful for all the help he has given UT Dallas, no amount of thanks would be able to show the legacy Fred Hill has left. We can only hope one day we have a Hill Hall on campus. I would even settle for a Hill clock tower. ■

Mac Hird has a man-crush on Fred Hill, as should all of you.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



of sophomore students.

Team TEAD

How one acronym will improve your campus experience



by **diana kao** and
remsen jennings

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remsen.jennings@gmail.com

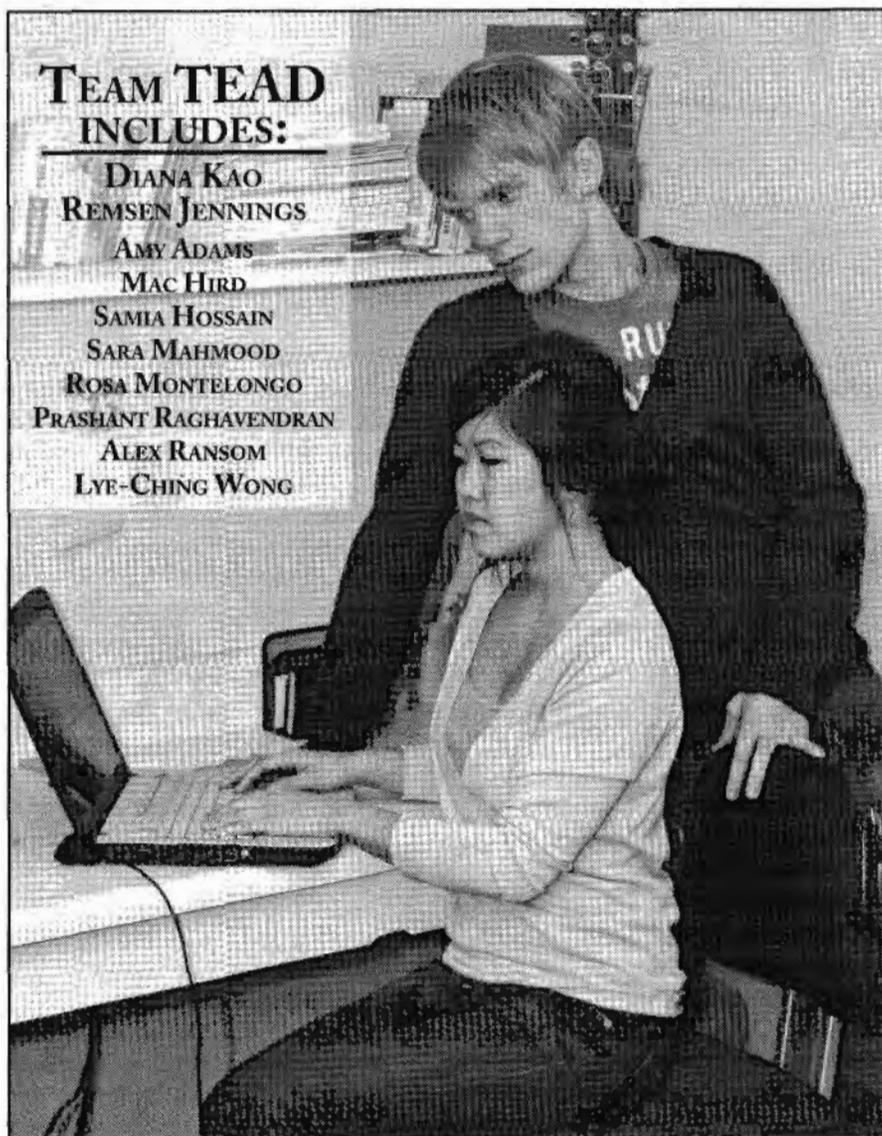
Since recruiting for Student Government (SG) filing which began Feb. 18, we have heard a wide variety of questions. Among the most common are: "What is Student Government?" and "Does it do anything on campus?"

Every time we hear this, there's an immediate urge to sarcastically reply: "No. They don't do anything. SG does not provide free bluebooks and scantrons. SG did not help lower the meal plan prices. SG did not actively seek student's opinions about alcohol in The Pub or safety issues on campus." But we refrain because it's not their fault they don't know. The fault lies with Student Government.

During this spring's SG elections, one ticket plans to mix things up and change the question to, "What didn't SG do this year?" The students on Team TEAD plan to bring Transparency, Experience, Awareness, and Diversity to SG. TEAD recognizes the changing student population and wants to make improvements based on their opinions. Team TEAD will bring you:

TRANSPARENCY:

TEAD plans to improve the accountability of the Senate by taking a proactive approach to providing information. We plan to post the SG meeting minutes within one week after the meeting to keep students regularly informed about the decisions their representatives are making. Students need to know how their student fee money is spent in SG, so we plan to post a monthly expense report on the SG website. We also intend to send invitations to representatives of student organizations encouraging them to attend SG meetings to better follow current campus issues.



As demonstrated by this candid and not at all meticulously posed shot, Remsen and Diana work well together. Photo courtesy of mark lauman

TEAM TEAD INCLUDES:

DIANA KAO
REMSSEN JENNINGS
AMY ADAMS
MAC HIRD
SAMIA HOSSAIN
SARA MAHMOOD
ROSA MONTELONGO
PRASHANT RAGHAVENDRAN
ALEX RANSOM
LYE-CHING WONG

EXPERIENCE:

Diana Kao serves on the SG Executive Committee as the Student Affairs committee chair. As a peer advisor and former orientation team mentor, she works closely with students on a wide variety of issues. In 2008 she was recognized for her dedication to improving the "UT Dallas Experience" as the recipient of the annual "Student Leadership Award for Service to Student Life."

Remsen Jennings currently serves on the SG Executive Committee as treasurer. He is also the president of the Management Honors Program and interacts daily with international students

as a peer advisor. As a student director for Freshman Convocation in both 2008 and 2009, he is particularly focused on the needs of freshmen. He displays his passion for expanding our student body by co-founding a student recruiter program with Enrollment Services.

AWARENESS:

Team TEAD plans to implement a campaign that will raise awareness about SG services and expand their roles in student experiences. We will start a FreshRhet Initiative that will involve senators visiting the Rhet 1101 classes during the fall, providing them with in-

formation about how to get involved on campus. Remsen began this project on his own last fall, and freshmen were very receptive. This will help them find an organization that fits their interests so as to spread the passion that we have for this great university!

Moreover, we plan to create the "Ask a Senator" program which will be a fantastic source of free scantrons, but more importantly, will transform the SG office into campus' central resource center. We plan to create a section on the SG homepage where students can email their questions and contact information, so as to receive prompt assistance with their concerns. Students will also be able to fill out a similar question card in the SG office.

One of the biggest problems with SG is the lack of information in circulation about what we can do for students. Senators must be accessible to the students! We want senators to sponsor school-town-hall meetings so students can voice their concerns and maintain an ongoing relationship with their senators.

DIVERSITY:

Each member of TEAD brings an impressive tray of accomplishments to the table. In addition to having experienced Senators, TEAD includes leaders who will bring fresh perspectives and new ideas to SG. We have commuter students, international students, those who are paying their own way, and those receiving merit or need-based aid from the University.

More than anything, TEAD encourages you to voice your opinions, vote, and start the changes you want to see at UT Dallas!

For more information, please visit our facebook group by searching "Team TEAD" and feel free to email any questions or ideas to teadticket@gmail.com ■

*Diana and Remsen wished more people knew that the word "tead" is actually a synonym for torch.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*

Constructing Campus Life



by lindsay bernsen
lindsay.bernsen@yahoo.com

With the rapid construction obstructing walkways all over campus, the kind of impact all this work is impossible to miss: Flowers. Fountains. Hi-tech gadgetry. A hopefully classy draw to an otherwise bland Dallas landscape, if an inconvenience for now.

Commonly, perhaps entirely, overlooked is the potential for an alteration of campus life beyond just the beautification: weekend participation. The oft-resented weekend ghost-town atmosphere, fostered by a dearth of classes, restaurants, or open stores — as well as the self-sufficiency and isolation of computer-gaming apartment-dwellers — may finally be vanquished.

In conjunction with the decision to build a kitchenette-less Residence Hall, UT Dallas opted to provide an exterior and complementary means of sustenance for the incoming freshmen — a dining hall. Moreover, instead of simply limiting obligatory meal-plans to Residence Hall freshmen, the current policy will be to require meal-plan purchase (though smaller and less expensive) from apartment freshmen too.

At first glance, this appears to have no serious impact beyond denying some students the option to cook for themselves, or, depending on preference, relieving them of that burden as well as the resultant dish washing.

However, continued examination reveals a series of much more promising consequences: The new dining hall, located directly beside the Student Union,



Campus is ripped to shreds. The future of UTD is being born right now. Photo by mark lauman

will have to be open 7 days a week to accommodate the dietary needs of freshmen rooming in the Residence Hall. While some freshmen, those living in Phase VIII for example, may enroll in the flexible “block” plans rather than the plans that designate meals per week, not all will. Most will find themselves eating breakfast (or, sleep prevailing, lunch) in the Dining Hall with their friends on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Occasionally, for variety, they will spend their “dining dollars” on Subway or Chick-fil-a from the Comet Café.

Though the trip won't be long, not everyone will be enthusiastic to trudge immediately back to the Residence Hall from the center of campus — some will

stay and play ping-pong or billiards in the Student Union (though with these amenities already available in the Residence Hall rotunda, the SU may have little allure) or study by the water features or in the library.

Already well-fed and well-situated, these students make an easy target audience for weekend events that could make the Mall an epicenter for student activity — concerts, rallies, fundraisers, impromptu musicals — on what have thus far been its least occupied days. As often as not, students will plan to stay because it will be easy — a quick layover before or after filling their stomachs, and, captivated by the first few notes of a rock ballad, or stanzas of a poem, or lines of

a keynote speech, students who may not have initially thought to attend may stray from walking home and linger.

With students out and about on campus, the UTD Bookstore might even expand its weekend hours. The administration may deem a greater variety of brand-name restaurants on campus lucrative because of the possibility for increased patronage. Better, once organizations like SUAAB and the Student Ambassadors begin to receive funding for daytime weekend events (nighttime weekend events already sometimes occur), they can expand their focus beyond freshmen to the entire student body.

The main university buildings, out of use on the weekend and therefore ignored, could become more than just peripheral scenery; they could become the backdrop for an independent, fun-loving campus.

But for all of my excited speculation, the improvement is still conditional: The students will be there, enticing to any groups looking for attention or participation, but in order to guarantee a more involved campus, those groups must choose to reach out, advertise with regard to, and plan in accordance with newly available time and human capital.

If they fail, the campus may gain more weekend foot traffic by default, but the specter of its hollow activity-less-ness will prevail. If these organizations succeed, they will make the heart of campus, rather than individual residences, the real heart of our campus. This will construct the unifying bond and school spirit that UTD has long sought but sorely missed. ■

Lindsay doesn't like the prospects for the new ATEC building improving campus life, unless Mountain Dew is your thing. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

Be a part of campus life at UTD
Write for A Modest Proposal!!!

amodestproposal@gmail.com — amp.utdallas.edu

(Help us create more interesting house-ads.)

A Pox on University House

How Waterview increased rent in both deed and name



by **kenny gray**

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Waterview has been calling residents in early with "questionnaires" to have them sign for renewal, transfer, or move-out, so by now many of you students have discovered that Waterview for once did not raise your rent. Rather, many of you also know why this little piece of information rings hollow: Waterview implemented a water fee, instituted an internet fee, and foisted the burden of raised rent entirely on the shoulders of the residents of four-bedroom apartments (quads).

These policies are all tactics to increase rent without having to say so. If Waterview had been managing the apartments properly by responsibly allocating rent money toward these things in advance, it would be able to provide renovation, repairs, and upgrades to the wireless network. Waterview should be able to handle water costs, a responsibility that has always been on the leases, without significant rent increase or fees. Waterview should not have to exploit a minority of its residents in order to placate the rest and get students to sign a lease. However, before you start to judge Waterview you should hear its reasons and know the facts.

Waterview's justification consists of the following: the internet fee will pay for a new wireless network; the water fee will encourage conservation, generate money

directly for that expense, and free up funds for maintenance and renovation; and quad rents were raised to "market price". Jonathan Denton, area manager of Waterview Park, provided the details.

The Internet Fee

Denton states that Waterview will charge \$15 per month to cover the cost of equipment, setup, and bandwidth for a much better wireless network. This fee will only pay for the new system, which can't be avoided. As its parts are discontinued, the current network functions only because Waterview received spares after University Village implemented its hardwired-internet deal with Time Warner Cable. To understand why Waterview is in such dire internet straights, we need to go back 2 years.

In the summer of 2007, UTD decided to turn the management of Phases V-IX over to University Village (UV). Before this management split, the Time Warner Cable deal was going to cover all apartments on campus; however, when Waterview lost more than half its residents in the split, it suffered a fatal blow to its bargaining power.

The numbers were then run separately for each company, Denton says, and in the end University Village, with 591 apartments and around 1,450 residents, garnered the low cost of \$23 per month for its renters, while Waterview, with 696 apartments and about 1,250 residents, could only obtain \$33 per month. According to Denton, Waterview found that, in light of its bad reputation from the scathing April 28, 2005 *Dallas Observer* article "The Dorm From Hell"

“Essentially, Waterview raised quad rents to avoid furthering the gap between market price and its own for non-quad floorplans, then hoped to hide behind the term "market price" and use concessions to distract renters from Waterview's lack of market quality.”

Waterview's Rent Increases Over The Past Three Years

Layout Plan	Increase in 2007 (%)	Increase in 2008 (%)	Increase in 2009* (%)	Monthly Rent in 2009*
A1(Single)	10.04	6.15	5.61	\$565
A2(Single)	9.96	5.98	5.13	\$615
A3(Single)	9.92	5.35	4.76	\$660
A4(Single)	10.03	1.82	4.48	\$700
A5(Single)	9.96	2.69	4.14	\$755
A6(Single)	10.03	2.94	4.28	\$730
B1(Double)	10.03	3.59	6.12	\$520
B2(Double)	10.03	3.30	6.00	\$530
B3(Double)	9.83	5.06	5.55	\$570
D3(Quad)	10.03	16.8	24.9	\$456
D4(Quad)	10.03	16.8	24.9	\$456

*2009 Rent adjusted to include \$15 Internet Fee & \$15 Water Fee.

and a series of articles printed in *AMP*, anything more than \$30 makes students get angry and complain.

To avoid stirring up that wrath, Waterview decided to keep searching for the cheapest hardwired-internet deal, but had to turn to another wireless solution for expense purposes. The deal Waterview brokered, run by Student Government (SG) and the Waterview Park Advisory Committee (composed of residents of each phase and two SG members), will cost about \$1.1 million to \$1.2 million and consists of this: Bel Air (whose hardware supplies the city of Minneapolis with internet) will provide the access points and other physical devices, America Fujikura Ltd. will arrange the network and handle maintenance, and Nextlink will provide bandwidth.

According to Denton no TV package is included since nine of the 10 members of the Advisory Committee said video was not that important. The network can easily be upgraded in the future — up to 2 Gigabits per second.

I commend Waterview for finding a deal equivalent to UV's with Time Warner (3 Mbps standard and 10 Mbps guaranteed for \$10 more a month), but here's

something else to consider. Waterview has 1,156 residents right now but had more in the past. If we use \$400 per month as the average rent per resident (quite generous since the average for 2006 rent is \$498, assuming equal weight for floorplan) and pretend that Waterview only leases for 10 months of the year, we find Waterview rakes in \$4.6 million. Even though there must be large expenses involved across the apartment complex, there should still have been enough money to set aside each year for future network upgrades.

The Water Fee

Denton assures the students that, although this is not written in the lease, this fee would be capped at \$15, which, Waterview wouldn't have done if there were no internet fee. The amount isn't specified in the lease because Waterview hasn't chosen a specific method for calculating the charge. Denton said Waterview will probably distribute the cost among residents in the following manner. Start with the total water/trash/sewer bill. First, subtract the cost of water the sprinklers use and the cost of trash hauls. Then, in agreement with state rules, deduct 5 percent to account for

common-area usage (pools, clubhouses, the Phase I laundry center and Waterview's office). Next, divide by the total number of residents to obtain the average usage cost per resident. Finally, choose a percentage of that amount to charge for the fee.

For a sample calculation, let's use February's total bill for 17 trash hauls and 4.92 million gallons of water, \$41,041. After removing the cost of the trash hauls, \$4,350, and the cost of the 622 thousand gallons of water used by the sprinklers (which can easily double in summer months), \$2,205, we have \$34,486. Subtracting 5 percent yields \$32,762. Dividing by the number of residents (1,156) gives \$28.34 per resident. If we choose 50 for the percentage, the water fee is \$14.17.

For those who wonder why Waterview is charging a fee for something that has always been included in rent in the lease agreement, Denton provides this explanation: Because of the way Waterview's management deal is set up, all rent money is divided in portions of revenue for specific purposes, including a "rainy day" fund in case of disasters and substantial damage to the property. A fee bypasses all that.

Even disregarding the danger of this poor planning, the water fee is illegitimate. Waterview should already be able to pay its water bills, especially now that it has fewer residents and sprinklers. It should also be able to pay its maintenance costs and other expenditures. Why else has it been charging the students rent?

Waterview simply decided to change the subject to conservation and arrange the fee so that total new charges would not exceed \$30, that all-powerful complaint number. This cap belies Waterview's

claim of encouraging conservation. A \$15 fee, though variable, won't encourage conservation because using less water won't necessarily translate into substantial cost benefits for students (remember the percentage charge). If Waterview wants a more effective way to control costs, it should lower rent by \$30 (near the average per-resident water cost) and have no fee cap (or a high one). That's conservation that helps students save money.

Waterview's superficial concern for conservation is further betrayed by its lack of a concerted effort or plan to reduce its own water usage. It doesn't have any automatic way to tell whether a sprinkler has broken. It placed freeze/rain sensors, but they're ineffective since the sprinklers run when it's raining, when it's freezing, and when the ground is already wet and muddy. Waterview needs to keep everything well-watered to prevent the ground from shifting under the apartment buildings, but that doesn't excuse overwatering when it's too wet.

The Quad Rent Increase

Waterview set the quad rent for 2009 at \$426, up \$61 from the official 2008 rent of \$365. Don't forget that quad leasers still pay the additional \$30 of fees. What could possibly explain this?

Denton stated that even after the fees, Waterview needs to increase rent. In support he cited the budget's being put together while gas prices were still high, saying increases in oil prices affected the costs the oil-based products Waterview uses (plastics, vinyl, and others) and the cost of appliances and other resources delivered by truck.

Denton emphasized that Waterview

“According to Denton... anything more than \$30 makes students get angry and complain.”

kept rent the same for 80 percent of the property. He reiterated that Waterview is a non-profit (Waterview is NOT a non-profit. It manages the apartments FOR a non-profit) and that he has been seeking to improve the property and provide more services to the students since he was hired in 2006.

He explained that quad rent was raised to bring the quads to "market price." To elaborate on what he meant by market, he stated that Waterview looked at University Village and knew that quite a few UTD students live at off-campus communities such as the Marquee at Waterview, McCallum, Mandalay, AMLI on Frankford, and even the expensive Post East Side. Waterview then set its quad rent \$26 below UV's.

Denton said this is the first year Waterview offered concessions, in other words account credit to those who renewed early. Waterview gave \$250 concessions and slightly lower rent to quad leasers who renewed early back in November and December. It extended the deadline and lowered the concession to \$200 at the beginning of this semester. Denton explained that the effect of these concessions was to lower, on average over a 10-month lease, the monthly rent of those who renewed by \$23.

Denton neglects to mention that this is effectively a \$91 rent increase. He didn't point out that UV's rent already includes TV/internet and electricity, so it's actually more expensive to live in Waterview's quads than in UV's. Also, new leasers receive no concession. All inexcusable. UV's quads are newer, nicer, and have better appliances and a better kitchen. There should be no premium for the lowest rent. Quad renter's should not have to pay more money for less space than residents of one and two bedroom apartments have.

How strange that Denton mentions the market, since there are few to no four-bedroom apartments outside of Waterview and UV. If you research the apartment complexes mentioned as part of the "market," you'll see that each either offers apartments for less money or offers bigger ones (except for Post East Side, a luxury complex). Internet searches will also reveal complexes nearby that offer better deals than Waterview. By using fees, Waterview keeps official rent low

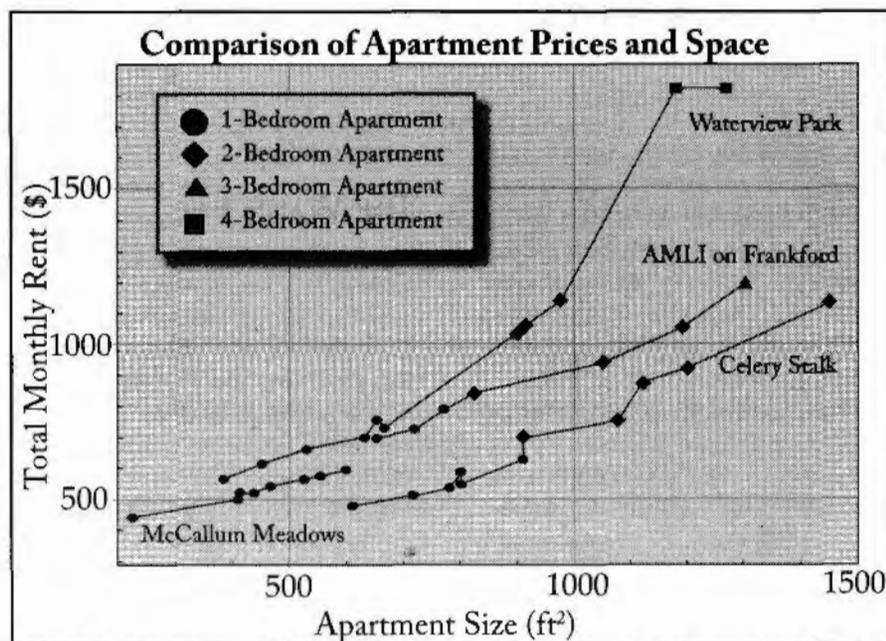
artificially and makes the gap between the prices of other apartments on the market and Waterview's look less had in comparison.

Essentially, Waterview raised quad rents to avoid furthering the gap between market price and its own for non-quad floorplans, then hoped to hide behind the term market price and use concessions to distract renters from Waterview's lack of market quality. The concessions and early renewal deals were particularly underhanded because they employed false scarcity and false reciprocity to force students to choose without proper time to look at the situation and find other apartment options.

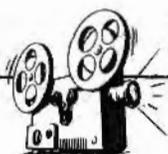
This is not to say that Waterview is all bad. Waterview takes its management, renovation, and maintenance roles more seriously than before. When Waterview still managed all apartments on campus, it relied on only 5 people for maintenance, according to Denton. Now, despite managing far fewer buildings, it has a maintenance staff of 7 people, and Waterview's renewal rate (47 percent for quads and 49 percent overall, up 10 percent from last year) reflects this. Denton says Waterview also plans to repaint the outsides of Phases I, II, and III and to renovate all the clubhouses to create nicer common areas.

As nice as that sounds, it doesn't excuse Waterview's poor financial management. Instead of pursuing policies that would distribute costs fairly over time and keep rent decently low, Waterview hid behind the curtain of conservation and market competition. Waterview could have achieved the same net revenue increase from quad rent increases by raising everyone's rent by \$11.70. Waterview could have lowered everyone's rent by \$30 before applying the water and internet fees to create a more effective solution. Instead, Waterview got greedy and sacrificed its residents' check books to afford projects to make Phases I-IV look nice on the outside. Waterview has once again failed to act in the interests and needs of the students. Why must we repeat the past? ■

Kenny Gray rented this second page for free.
Too bad he can't live in it.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



Apartment Prices courtesy of Waterview, dallas.cities4rent.com & dallas.apartmentfinder.com



Twilight ... Ugh

Meyer's novels inappropriate, terrible

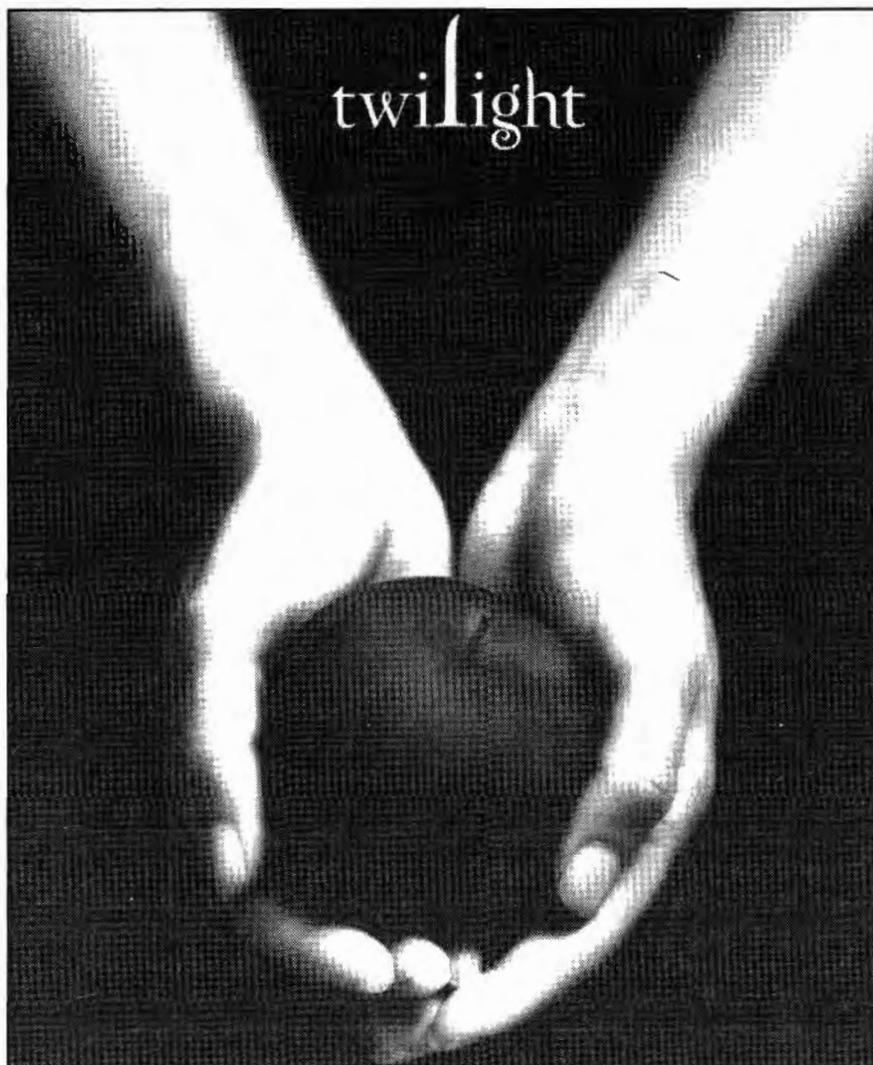


by ryan henry
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SPOILER ALERT! These novels are not suitable for children. Also, they're putrid.

For those of you who don't know, the *Twilight* saga is a series of novels written by Stephanie Meyer about Bella, a clutzy, generic-looking brunette, and Edward, a "vegetarian" vampire (so-called because he feeds only on animal blood).

The novels center on their relationship, which is built on some absolutely terrifying principles. First, Edward exhibits creepy, stalker-ish behavior and is rewarded for it not by a restraining order, but rather with Bella's obsessive need to always be nearby. Second, this obsessive need is actually called love. According to Myers, when two people feel this kind of gripping codependency, they are meant to be together forever. Lastly, despite the fact that the main character is a young woman, she (along with the rest of woman-kind in this novel) is completely unable to achieve any measure of success without some kind



One bad apple can ruin the bunch ... Image courtesy of hachettebookgroup.com

“ This book is targeted at preteen girls, an audience that has probably never been in a relationship. ... A generation of preteens is being taught to embrace deviant behavior and gender stereotypes of female powerlessness. ”

of guiding male presence.

For instance, in the first book, *Twilight*, Bella is beset by thugs. Before anything of consequence happens, Edward sweeps in and rescues her. Initially, this sounds like a sweet gesture. After all, he comes across as the knight in shining armor. However, shortly thereafter, the reader learns that Edward has started following Bella wherever she goes without her knowing it.

If that were his only weirdness, I might be able to ignore it. It's creepy, sure, but potentially a little sweet. Who hasn't been love sick? However, Edward doesn't just safeguard Bella from roving bands of ne'er-do-wells, he also watches her at night ... while she sleeps ... from inside her room. When I read this, I was dumbfounded. How could anyone be alright with this behavior? Bella, however, is not only okay

with this, she sees it as endearing.

The targeted readership of this series is preteen and young teen girls. Let me repeat that. This book is targeted at preteen girls, an audience that has probably never been in a relationship. The worrisome aspect of this is that there is a generation of preteens that are being taught to embrace deviant behavior and gender stereotypes of female powerlessness.

The most troubling aspect of Edward and Bella's obsessive relationship is Stephanie Meyer's assertion that this is what love is supposed to be. She paints their relationship as something to be admired, not maligned. And if the books are disturbing in their encouragement of creepy, anti-social weirdness, the movie is even worse.

The movie portrays Bella as being initially indignant with Edward's paternal-

ism, then suddenly finding that she cannot be without him. *Twilight* idealizes every negative aspect of love. Stephanie Meyer allows her characters to fall into dependent relationships and holds these relationships as models for young girls. She has created a world where Bella's sole purpose in life is to be with Edward. She does not exist without reference to him. Her subjugated, male-defined existence is essentially the role of the 1800s woman, not something that should be idealized today.

Stephanie Meyer completely ignores the role of the modern woman. Bella has no friends, outside of the Cullens (Edward and his extended family), has no hobbies (except for cooking and pining after Edward when he is not around), and usually offers no insight with the sole exception of how Edward's eyes are smoldering or how his body seems like it was sculpted. Meyer has written a bestselling book, with a young woman as a main character and then turned it into a movie deal with a woman director. And what message comes across both in print and on the silver screen? That the role of a woman is to stand beside her boy as he does all of the work, so she can be ready to do the cooking, cleaning, and baby-making. What is it about this message that has appealed to so many people, young women especially?

Beyond the fact that Meyer's dialogue is stilted, her descriptions uninspiring, and the plot nearly nonexistent, I personally find it surprising that a book with such arcane views on women has managed to find its way all the way up to #1 on the New York Times best-seller list. To further compound the matter, many of *Twilight's* readers use the series as escapism. While this is fine for some of the older readers, when younger and younger readers escape to a world where one gender is treated as being superior to another, people will generally view that as some form of ideal. I have heard plenty of people espousing that they enjoy escaping to the world that Stephanie Meyer has created. I just hope that they realize exactly how flawed that world really is. ■

Ryan Henry is an excellent role-model
for budding young women.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

The Menu

This Month: an innovative, hot-dog serving taco joint



by brady spenrath
bradychan7@student.utdallas.edu

Sometimes great things arrive in the weirdest packages. Such is the case at iTacos, a new café on Coit Road at the Promenade Shopping Center (the two-story shopping center between Arapaho and Belt Line). The food is best described as Tex-Mex, but it's really unlike any Tex-Mex you've had before. Nothing about the menu offers a shred of Mexican authenticity, but this is part of iTacos' unique package. And, authenticity was never intended to be the draw here, either. What the iTacos package does offer is food that looks a little weird, tastes good, and comes at a reasonable price.

Let me start with their namesake dish, the iTacos. They start out as pretty standard taquitos — ground beef tightly rolled in corn tortillas then deep-fried. Fans of the frozen taquitos you can buy at Wal-Mart and Sam's should already have a good idea of what to expect.

But iTacos would not serve them to you in such a familiar way. Before handing them over, the iTacos are placed in a basket half-full of a special tomato sauce and covered with slices of cheese and cilantro.

After that description, you have every right to be skeptical, but I swear they are surprisingly addictive. Because the iTacos are homemade and freshly fried, they are crispier and more satisfying than their frozen brethren. The tomato sauce, which is more like a slightly spicy soup, just adds more flavor, and is well complemented by the cheese and cilantro.

Those with more refined tastes may cringe at a restaurant substituting pre-sliced, processed cheese for the real thing, and your parents and physician will cringe at iTacos' blatant disregard for healthiness or nutrition. But, at \$2.49 for a "boat" of three iTacos packed with such novel and bold flavor, your health and dignity may be worth it.

The iTacos (the food) are exemplary of most of iTacos' (the restaurant) menu —



iTacos is on Coit between Arapaho and Beltline. If you can't find it, smell for the pasteurized cheese product. Photo by brady spenrath

unique presentations of otherwise familiar foods. The Flour Dog, for instance, is essentially a hot dog, only it is topped with cheese, salsa verde (green chili salsa), onions, and wrapped in a tortilla. I'm a pretty big fan of hot dogs when I need a quick lunch between classes. I had never thought of this presentation before, but I'm glad iTacos came up with it. At \$1.59, it's easy to buy two Flour Dogs plus a side to make a meal.

Breaking away from the rest of the pseudo-Tex-Mex options, but rounding out their hot dog selection, iTacos also offers ... bratwurst. None-too Tex-Mex, I'll admit, but like the other fare, iTacos' brats have a unique presentation, accompanied not with relish, but an entire pickle spear, and chopped onions.

Admittedly, the rest of the menu gets a little more normal. The Cheezy Chicken is chicken breast topped with shredded cheese, crunchy tortilla strips, and ranchero sauce, on a bed of rice. It's not bad at all, and neither is the Tortilla Soup. With all of these flavors, it's surprisingly complex and satisfying for \$2.99. For those who are turned off from the lack of healthy options, the Garden Salad, which is a fair salad of lettuce, tomato, crunchy tortilla strips, and cheese, topped off with grilled chicken, isn't a terrible option.

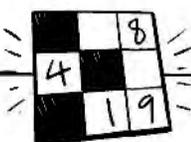
Don't expect a freshly cut, hand tossed salad of course, but it's decent enough and fairly large for \$4.99.

Those entrees round out iTacos' menu. iTacos only makes six different entrees in total, but each one is really well done, especially when you consider the low prices. None of the entrees are really a complete meal by themselves, though, so you can also get Casa Beans or Spanish rice for 99¢ or waffle fries (better with the hot dogs than the Tex-Mex, I assume) for \$1.49. Add a drink, and you have a meal for around \$5. This is really what iTacos amounts to. If you like cheap food in a fast food environment, then iTacos is a great deal.

The restaurant itself is still new, clean, and modern inside, with a flat-screen TV on the wall and a bright, positive vibe. Every time I've been there, I've been greeted and waited on by the owner himself, which makes ordering and eating a more personal experience than the comparable experience at Taco Bell or Taco Bueno. Plus, it's not too far from campus, so it's easy to go, eat some food, and get back to campus in less than an hour. The convenience plus the prices make iTacos a great choice for a stressful college schedule and a stretched college budget.

iTacos is not for everyone. You'll either fall in love with its flavor and value at first bite or be turned off by the unhealthiness and cheap ingredients. But I suggest giving it a try if you like fast food Tex-Mex or hot dogs at all, since that's what you'll get. Yeah, I guess at times it can feel a bit like eating at a football stadium concession stand, but we all secretly crave that cheesy, meat-sauce soaked flavor. You're getting a fair deal, so there's no reason not to take the plunge at least once; it's not like your wallet has to take a plunge as well. It's a very unique fast food, pseudo-Tex-Mex, semi-homemade, slightly spicy, green-and-red-sauced, hip, and modern experience that just feels right during the current economic recession. I'll reiterate — some will never get over this weird package. But those who can open the package will find a great surprise inside. After you separate the cheese binding your iTacos, and pull one out of the red sauce with a fork, that is. ■

*Brady personally eats his iTacos while dreaming about owning an iPhone, cursing the iPod, iMac, and iTunes, and being quite frightened that Apple also makes things called iWork and iLife.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*



Across

1. Freshwater dogfish genus
5. UTD is home to a few of these, also a boxed candy.
9. Must have cut unicorn in line for Noah's ark
14. Purina competitor
15. Assoc. of Public Works Officials
16. I try to ____ using random obscure acronyms like 15 across ... really I do
17. Movie with Jason Statham. No not *Transporter 3* or *Crank: High Voltage...* the more ridiculous one
19. Main name in networking
20. To shun or avoid
21. Opposite of light dungarees
23. Animal food
25. Tiny Dickens character
26. Shiny and conductive
30. Most agreeable
35. Obama idol
36. Wachowski Brothers fastest box-office dive
38. Gift reception question
41. Populous Canada prov.
42. Is it ____ that this doesn't mean like an iron?
43. Richard Gere stars in this 2008 romantic comedy
46. Letter required for grad. school applications
47. Going to a Halloween party _ ____ Karenina (2wds.)
48. Ultrasound?
51. Ball
53. ____ of passage
54. Steeply sloped
59. Common cheer (2 wds.)
63. Given a hand
64. Lead in 2008's unspeakably awful "*The Love Guru*"
66. Icy cold house
67. Prayer conclusion
68. ____ mater
69. African-American character on South Park
70. E-mail folder
71. Kansas Society Sanctioning Totally made up acronyms made to finish crosswords because the writer wants sleep

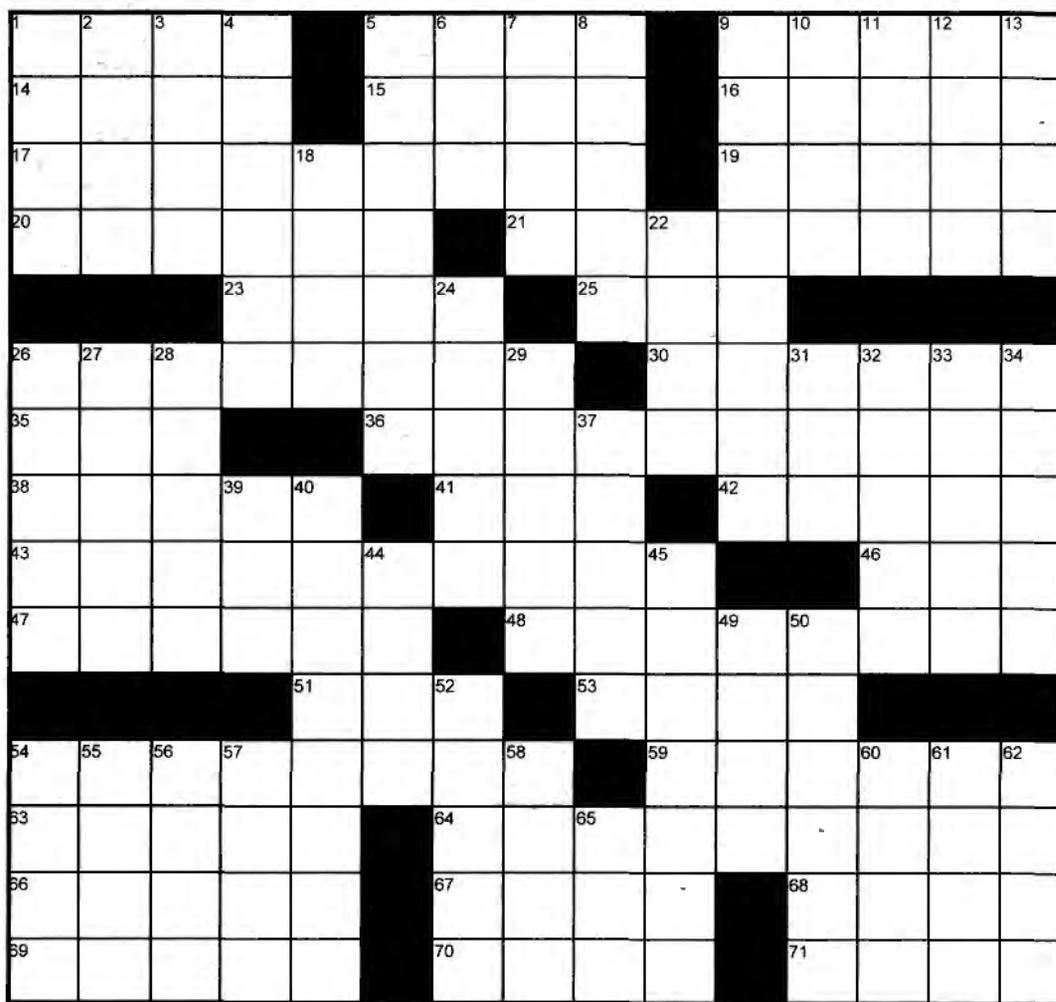


by alex palmer
alexp@utdallas.edu

Down

1. Helper
2. West, Whitman et. al.
3. Apple's all-in-one line
4. Respiratory ailment
5. Unicorn/whale love children
6. Green gov. agency
7. Bought to be burn (Abbr.)
8. Opposite of silica gel packet warning (2 wds.)
9. These characters got no Oscar nods for their porno
10. Knievel Sr.
11. Audio system company
12. Meal when you want 2000 of something
13. Fusses
18. Human:Halt::Dog:____
22. Fruit and cheese part
24. Leave extra for (2 wds.)
26. Organized crime group
27. Dark black colors
28. ____ Firma
29. Pennies
31. Common vehicle
32. School (French)
33. Mister (Spanish)
34. Give it a go (2 wds.)
37. Old light travel theory
39. First day of wk.
40. Hulk / Fight Club actor
44. Old people's club
45. Urgent
49. One of an element
50. "____ me have my ____ Bak back": 90s child (2wds.)
52. Spaces between ends of nave arcades and apses
54. Look over
55. Type of lily
56. Horseshoe nub
57. Sunburn cure
58. Roosevelt's coin
60. Flotsam and Jetsam on The Little Mermaid
61. 60 Down lack these
62. Test taken pre-medical school (Not MCAT)
65. Barbie's beau

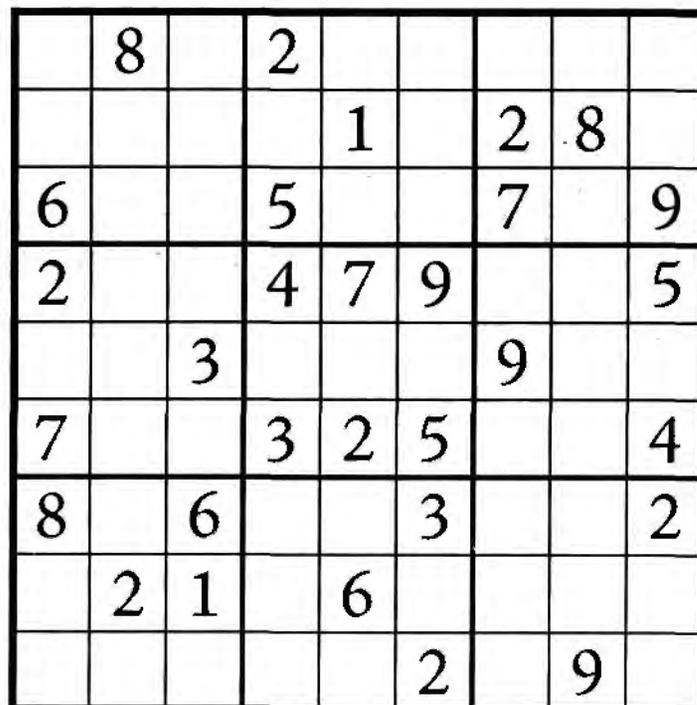
OSCARLESS



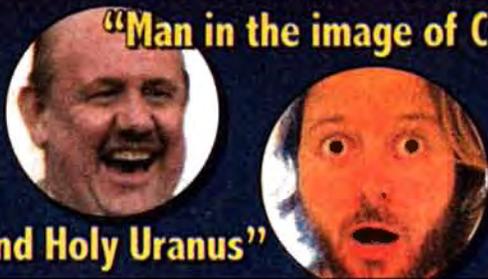
Have any cross words or miffed sentences for us? Send them to amodestproposal@gmail.com
While you're at it, visit <http://amp.utdallas.edu> and post on the forums.

Yowza! Sudoku

Difficulty:
Irish Whiskey



SECOND COMING TEMOC OUR LORD



"Comet, Sun, and Holy Uranus"



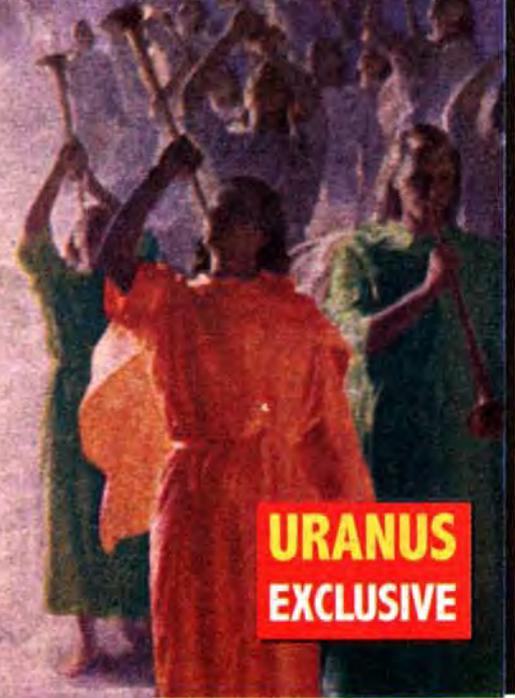
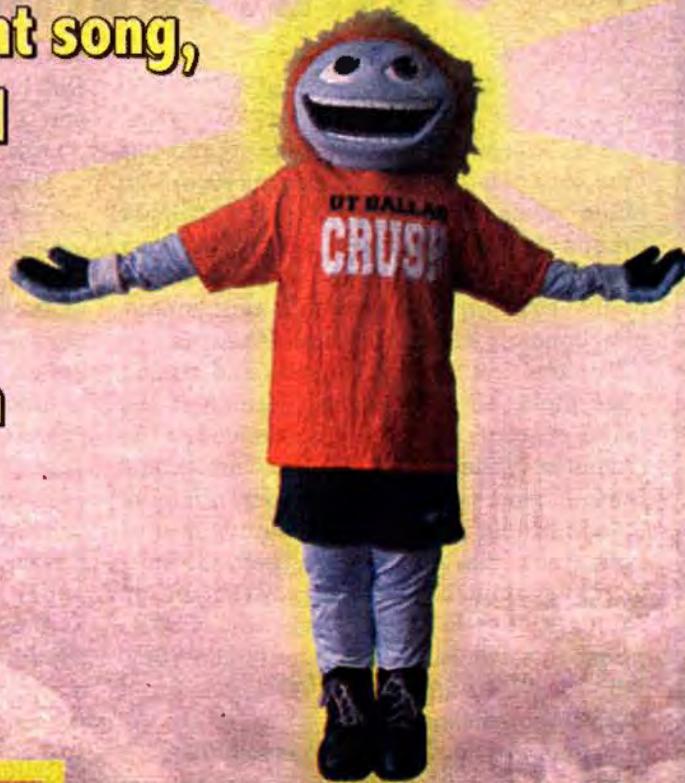
"Let this Ramen be my body,
this Franzia my blood"

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- Angels sing fight song,
still sounds bad
- Sins forgiven,
rent doubled
- Temoc walks on
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Madonna Tests Positive for Steroids

"Too Much Juice From A-Rod"

Submarine Hits Satellite



NORAD: "Fuck."

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A MODEST PROPOSAL

amodestproposal@gmail.com

Japanese Administration Turns to Alcohol to Spur Population Growth

TOKYO (AMP) — The aging population of Japan has spurred several national efforts to nudge couples in to doing the no-pants-dance.

The Japanese Finance Minister showed up at the G8 adhering to the new national protocol for alcohol consumption. Every Japanese male is now required to be belligerently drunk for a minimum of 12 hours a day.

"With a bender that long, some bad decisions just have to get made," said Prime Minister Taro Aso. Plans are also in the works to replace all radio broadcasts with the sweet, sweet music of Barry White.

Kanpai!!

Waldo Found!!!

Child Support Still Unpaid

GENERIC CROWDED AREA (AMP) — After a decades long search, Waldo Hanford was found and detained at a crowded candy-cane history museum in New Jersey. The con-man and master camouflage artist was wanted for nearly \$3 million in back child support for 37 children across five continents.

"His many travels, smooth nature, and impeccable dress sense gave him ample opportunity to sow his seed," said arresting officer Townsend Brixton. "He may have eluded authorities for the last 21 years, but he'll never elude the responsibility for those children he sired."

Waldo narrowly avoided more charges after the was accused of missing his arraignment hearing. He claimed he attended but went unspotted.

Scrooge McDuck Defends Bailout Request

BEL AIR (AMP) — Scrooge McDuck stood before Congress today to defend his personal bailout proposal.

"Do you goons know how unsatisfying it is to dive into a pool half full of gold coins? Why, I can practically see the bottom in the shallow end," protested McDuck in a nearly incomprehensible, quacking rage.

McDuck has submitted a formal request for nearly a trilliondy-jilliondy dollars with itemizations for 600,000 gold doubloons, a fleet of platinum helicopters, three matching children's shirts and caps, and a Hummer.

Congress is expected to vote on the unread trilliondy-jilliondy dollar proposal tomorrow before taking an eight week vacation in the South of France.

Bracketology 1301:



How to pick the upcoming NCAA tournament

by Vick Ditale
Chief Bracketologist

DALLAS (AMP) — Every year around this time, tens of millions of Americans enter into office pools, friendly bets, and Facebook groups to see who can most accurately determine the outcome of the NCAA men's Division 1 basketball tournament, affectionately known as March Madness.

For the first round, I recommend basing your picks on what would happen if the teams' mascots started giving each other the business. While a No. 1 seeded Connecticut Huskies may look good on paper, if they're up against the Alaska State Iditarods, you've gotta pick the upset. As a general rule, terrifying animals are a safe pick (Pittsburgh Panthers, Baylor Bears) as are schools whose mascot is a well-armed man (USC Trojans, Westboro Baptist College Strict Constitutionalists).

Teams with herbivorous mascots (like the Texas Longhorns, or UCSB Banana Slugs) should probably only be chosen when confronting less threatening animals.

Under no circumstances should you pick Stanford. Their mascot is a tree. Unless they draw the Waxahachie Community College Piles of Dirt, you absolutely must not pick Stanford.

Mythical or imaginary mascots can complicate things, and great care should be given in determining their efficacy. The Middle Tennessee State Pegasi would probably still be panther fodder, but Wichita State Wheat Golems (no, for real, their mascot

is an anthropomorphic pile of grain) might well lose to a large herbivore. As with animal and human mascots, though, nothing can possibly lose to a tree. Do not pick Stanford.

There is a little known numerological cipher for determining your second round picks with near perfect accuracy. First, establish whether the penultimate letter of the name of the school in question is a consonant or a vowel. If it is a consonant, assign said school a weighted initial value of pi times the school's seed ranking; if a vowel, calculate the exponential of one times the school's seed ranking.

Next divide both consonant and vowel values by the number of Gutenberg bibles remaining in existence (vellum not paper, obviously). Round both numbers to the nearest tenth and input each into separate iterations of Euler's iterative method evaluated on the error function. If the final value converges, input this into a spreadsheet. Perform this calculation on all 64 teams then sort in ascending order.

The remaining rounds are chosen via more subjective metrics. Teams which reach the Sweet Sixteen should be selected by Ouija and/or spirit medium consultation, while your Elite 8 picks should be determined by ranking the propensity for violent outbursts, of each team's head coach (i.e. Bob Knight = trump card).

While the Final Four is almost always determined via comparison of each team's height to weight ratio, the only pick that really matters always happens last. The only way to pick the NCAA champions: dice. ■

Inter-Dimensional Martial Arts Tournament to Determine Coleman's Replacement



Dean Coleman has been known to send bolts of lighting at students with dipping GPAs and is a mean river rafter.

by **D'Brickashaw Cunningham**
Martial Arts Correspondent

Infamous Dean of Undergraduate Education Dr. Michael Coleman has announced his imminent retirement. This announcement has set countless prophecies in motion.

According to an arcane section of the Texas State Constitution, the only way to appoint a new Dean is to invite combatants from several different dimensions to a massive tournament. The last man (or creature) standing will be appointed to Coleman's position.

The tournament will consist of a series of fights, the winner of which will advance until nobody remains.

There will be no prohibitions on weapons. Combatants may bring knives, swords, guns, blasts of energy, as well as weird snakey things that come out of their arms and grab some

dude in the chest and are totally cheap.

The only rule is that competitors must occupy the same lateral space for the entirety of their fight, much like a fencing match. Moving in more than 2 dimensions is strictly prohibited.

The winner of the tournament will have to face Coleman himself in a no-holds-barred fight. Anyone strong enough to reach the Dean will undoubtedly be powerful, and their combat may well shake the very pillars of Heaven. Ultimately, Coleman will have to unleash his limitless power and ascend to a higher plane of existence.

When all is said and done, the university will have a new undergraduate dean. He/she/it may be a benevolent overlord or a vicious 4-armed soul-stealing menace, but the only thing we know for sure is that Coleman will be missed.

All humor aside, we'll miss you Dean Coleman. Thanks for everything. ■

"Up Yours" -Airport Security

TSA screeners uncover
 bombs, colorectal cancer.

SOMEWHERE (AMP) - Tulsa International Airport was this weekend's test bed for the Transportation Security Administration's new rectal assessment machine or RAM.

"The response is mastadonic," said head of the TSA, Anna Lenus. "The examination takes a little longer than a metal detector, but filling this security hole is entirely worth it."

The state of the art device works by quickly and forcefully inserting camera probes into the mouth and rectum of airline passengers. TSA agents claim that coming at the digestive tract from both sides cuts the exam time in half, and with both openings full, it becomes more difficult for terrorists to expel contraband.

"We even heat the probes so they slide through a little better," Lenus reported.

Passengers have the option of skipping the exam machine, but they will then be required to go through an alternate screening. The screening includes a five day long detention in a holding cell and the force feeding of laxatives, as well as a frisking by dozens of rhesus monkeys wearing tiny rubber gloves ineffectually waving tiny metal detecting wands.

"As inconvenient as the detention process was, the monkeys were almost adorable enough to make up for it," explained a profiled minority arbitrarily subjected to increased security. "I think next time, though, I'll just get the regular procedure."

Asked to justify the invasiveness of the new procedures, a TSA spokesperson responded "We (The TSA) can't risk letting terrorists hide explosives in their ... well, you know. I mean ... however messy a normal suicide bomb is, imagine one already covered in poo. It violates everything this country stands for."

But this penetrating test isn't the only new step the TSA is taking to keep travelers safe. Newly implemented security measures include the complete removal of all body hair, the sedation of all passengers while on board the aircraft, and a pre-flight multi-choice questionnaire.

"We're particularly excited about the questionnaire. With questions like, 'Do you hate America? Approximately how much C-4 would you need to take down a 747? And did you pack your own bags?' we think we'll be able to screen out most terrorists," Lenus said. ■