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Office of Student Affairs

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Jonathan Coker, *et al.*

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# A Modest Proposal

## Detour de Force

*With the completion of two new buildings, students look toward the bright future of UT Dallas*  
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**Death Panels, Doctors, and Debt**  
Two sides of the health care reform debate  
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ALSO INSIDE  
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Page 7

ALSO INSIDE  
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A look back at the 2008 Supreme Court session  
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From our  
Website

I'm absolutely appalled that you would suggest 9-year-olds should give birth, as though it's not a big deal. Say by some miracle she doesn't die. That doesn't mean she wouldn't suffer serious, permanent health problems. I'd like to know how that 5-year-old's life went. I'm sure it was really awesome. And the fact that a 5-year-old gave birth makes it totally okay for 9-year-olds to give birth, obviously. (Nevermind that Peru probably didn't keep accurate birth records in 1939 and may not have known the girl's exact age.

Catholics have no compassion when it comes to real and suffering human beings, as opposed to just the unborn. As a friend of mine said, "For Catholics, the unborn have all the human sanctity in the world... until they're born. And then who cares." I have zero respect for Catholics who believe like you do...

Not a fan of this article, "The Truth of the Matter" post No. 2

Dear "Not a Fan of this Article"-

I feel that your hatred towards the Catholic Church is simply spurred by a complete and total level of misunderstanding. You are clearly not to blame since most of the non-catholic world believes the same as you do.

I find other religion's practices to be appalling and stupid as well. Why is it ok for Muslims to beat up on women and make them cover their entire bodies? Why is it ok for certain religions in Asia and Africa to completely cut off little girls clitorises so that they won't want to have sex? Its not.

But we don't talk about those things because they aren't PC. But apparently slamming the Catholic Church for its beliefs and cultural (yes, cultural) practices has become old hat and we can do it as much as we want because everyone is used to it.

If you don't believe what you think the Catholic Church believes, awesome. Good for you and your higher level of intelligence, or whatever you claim to have. But don't verbally assault those who do. Its straight up none of your business.

I feel like the Catholic Church is kind of like gay marriage. If you don't like it, DON'T PARTICIPATE IN IT! And the leave those who do the hell alone, their beliefs will never affect you.

Ah Geez, "The Truth of the Matter" post No. 4

It came to my attention this morning that some people were offended by this article as they believed it to be an insult to UTD.

That was not my intention.

My intention was simply to question why a school of UTD's caliber did not have a journalism major, and urge them to consider one since they are in such a perfect position to do so.

If you felt this was a big "FU UTD," as the person who spoke to me this morning did, I apologize. I enjoyed my time at UTD and learned a lot from the classes I took while at there, unfortunately, I decided that I wanted to switch my major to something UTD did not offer.

The reason I wrote this article is because I wanted to, and would have, stayed at UTD if it had a journalism program, and I feel like there are several other people who would attend UTD if it did.

That was all this article was meant to be. Again, I apologize if this article offended you.

PS- I didn't come up with the title. The editors changed it without my knowledge from "A Public Signoff" to "So Long Suckers: UTD's Meager Offerings Drive Away Current and Potential Students" without my knowledge.

Jessica Huseman, "So Long, Snckers" post No. 7

I definitely ran into the same problems as a UTD student who hoped to change majors from Political Science to Communications. It's still tough to explain my degree to anyone, but I've rounded out my resume with high-caliber internships - and now jobs - that don't leave anyone questioning my credentials.

Taking the Interdisciplinary Studies route at UTD is truly a lesson in making lemonade ...

Pam, "So Long, Suckers" post No. 5

It's kind of sad to realize none of the original AMPers are left. AMP has changed quite a lot in five years, but it still stands for all the things it did at the beginning. I <3 AMP.

Kim Allen, "Modest Beginnings" post No. 1

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# A Modest Proposal

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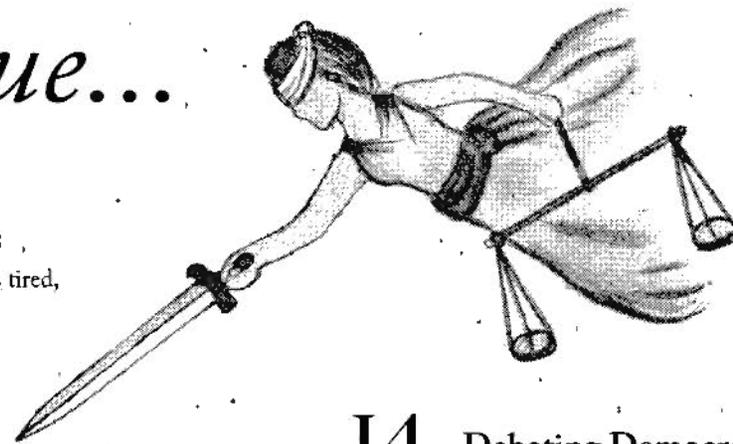
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# Caring for Cast-off Cats

*Comet Cat Coalition takes in UTD's tired, sick, and hungry (cats)*



by shannon bumpas  
shannon.bumpas@gmail.com

You have seen them. We all have — those tiny creatures with glowing eyes, stalking students after evening classes. They skitter along, darting out of sight when they feel threatened. They are ... the comet cats!

As domestic cats run away or are abandoned by their owners, they learn to adjust to their outside environment: They become wild, independent, and highly territorial. There is no rehabilitation for a feral cat. A truly feral cat (a cat born in the wild that does not receive the socialization needed to be domesticated as a kitten) will always be a feral cat. Add a few litters of kittens and you find yourself with a community of cats that can no longer be pets.

College campuses tend to develop feral cat populations because pets run away or their owners abandon them after graduating or when moving. If there is no concerted effort to manage a feral cat population and educate students, that population will just continue to grow.

UTD has a relatively large feral cat population. What this means is that, with or without an organization to assist the cats, the members of the university community will be sharing the campus with these animals. Luckily, there is a program in place that helps ensure the safety of both the human and feline populations while humanely controlling the current population.

In 2007, Facilities Management started a program to care for the cats on campus. They issued a plea for students to get involved in the process. That plea was answered, and the Comet Cat Coalition was born.

The Comet Cat Coalition and the fantastically helpful Facilities Management staff operate a trap-neuter-release program. Because feral cats cannot be rehabilitated, the best way to care for them while continuing to curb their population is to trap them humanely, take them to a



The Coalition's rehabilitated-kitten reunion — another singing-sensation success story. Photoillustration by alex garcia topete

veterinarian to receive medical care, have them neutered, provide care during the recovery process, and then release them back into the community; however, that is not necessarily the best way to deal with newborn kittens and recently abandoned or runaway pets.

The Comet Cat Coalition also provides care for cats and kittens that have the potential to be adopted if they receive socialization. Those that can be removed from the feral colony are often fostered by Coalition members until we can find them permanent homes. Volunteers put in many hours to care for the cats already on campus while taking action to prevent the feral community from growing. However, we members of the Coalition cannot do this alone. We need students to understand the responsibility that comes along with deciding to get a pet.

A pet is more than just a cute, fuzzy creature that can make you happy when you are having a bad day or feeling lonesome. It is a living being that depends upon you to provide for it. Spaying and neutering pets not only helps protect against unwanted litters (thus lowering the number of domestic animals euthanized) but can also diminish the occurrence of behav-

ioral problems, messes, and certain health problems. Microchipping pets can also be beneficial. You can have a small microchip implanted in your pet to provide the identification information so that a merry reunion will be possible if your pet is ever lost. All of those measures ensure the well-being of your pet.

Now entering its third year, the Comet Cat Coalition has seen a lot of changes. Not least among them is a change in officers as the first students to get involved graduate. What this means is that we need you, the caring students of UTD, more than ever. The feral cat population is under more control, but the situation has not been solved.

We would love to have more students volunteering with the organization. It's important to realize that a love of felines is not required. You needn't be a crazy cat lady in order to help the cause. We even have volunteers who are allergic to cats but really feel compelled to help out. Volunteers can assist with providing food and water for the cats, fundraising, organizing food and supply drives, doing inventory, taking photos of the cats on campus for cataloging purposes, and raising awareness and educating pet owners.

In addition to Facilities Management and the dedicated students who make the Comet Cat Coalition function, we would love to have a stronger faculty presence. If you are a faculty member reading *AMP* (students, feel free to point them this way!) who would feel driven to help out, please contact us. We strongly believe that faculty involvement would greatly benefit our cause. It can not only serve to provide continuity to the organization as students come and go and the feral population remains but also to foster stronger ties between professors and students when we all become involved in the campus environment.

The university needs students to be aware of the effects of their decisions when they have a pet, and the feral cats need to be cared for in order to protect both the humans and the animals that call UTD home. If you are interested in helping out, feel free to visit our website [www.comet-cat.com](http://www.comet-cat.com) and submit a volunteer form or e-mail us at [utd.cometcat@gmail.com](mailto:utd.cometcat@gmail.com). ■

*Shannon's next task is to create a coalition to care for UTD's starving, mistreated grad students. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# Raise the Roof

*Construction brings new energy to campus*



by **liz organ**  
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The UTD I see at the beginning of this school year is not the UTD that I first encountered a year ago. Although many of the changes are seemingly cosmetic, a deeper change is brewing beneath the surface — a change that is barely perceptible for now but should become more apparent as time progresses.

For one thing, students are buzzing between classes and buildings, catching up with old friends and making new ones, sharing their nervousness about specific courses with equally apprehensive peers, and creating an air of excitement and camaraderie throughout the campus. There are a few possible explanations for this: (1) the unbearable heat and humidity of the outdoors makes the air conditioning so appealing that students have to be jovial while indoors, (2) the students, once inside a targeted building, are so overjoyed to have found their destination amid the maze of the UTD campus (complicated further by construction) that they cannot help but adapt a positive attitude, or (3) the students are genuinely excited to be at UTD, either for the first time or returning from the summer. I optimistically choose to assume that reason three is the primary cause for the newly renewed energy on campus, though the others should not be overlooked.

As for cosmetic changes, the most obvious of these are the Dining Hall and the freshmen Residence Hall. Although it's not immediately evident, both are subtly influencing the way that current and new students perceive UTD. They each contain significant (but not overwhelming) amounts of green and orange accents on everyday items, establishing a familiar mental association between UTD and its school colors that is akin to benevolent conditioning to encourage having more school spirit. Their design are full of open spaces and meeting areas for students to bond with each other, and both are destined to lead to more casual interactions amongst their inhabitants or visitors.

Unlike the apartments, the Residence Hall, with its entrance lobby and its dorm rooms lined up one right next to the other, is set up so that students will see other students and neighbors daily and have the chance to talk with them, even if only to exchange basic greetings.

The Dining Hall is perhaps an even more effective way to get students to interact with each other—everyone has to eat, and the freshmen are required to buy meal plans. They are bound to cross paths with each other during the specified meal times and also meet some of their older peers since the Dining Hall, unlike the Residence Hall, is open to all students while the Residence Hall is not.

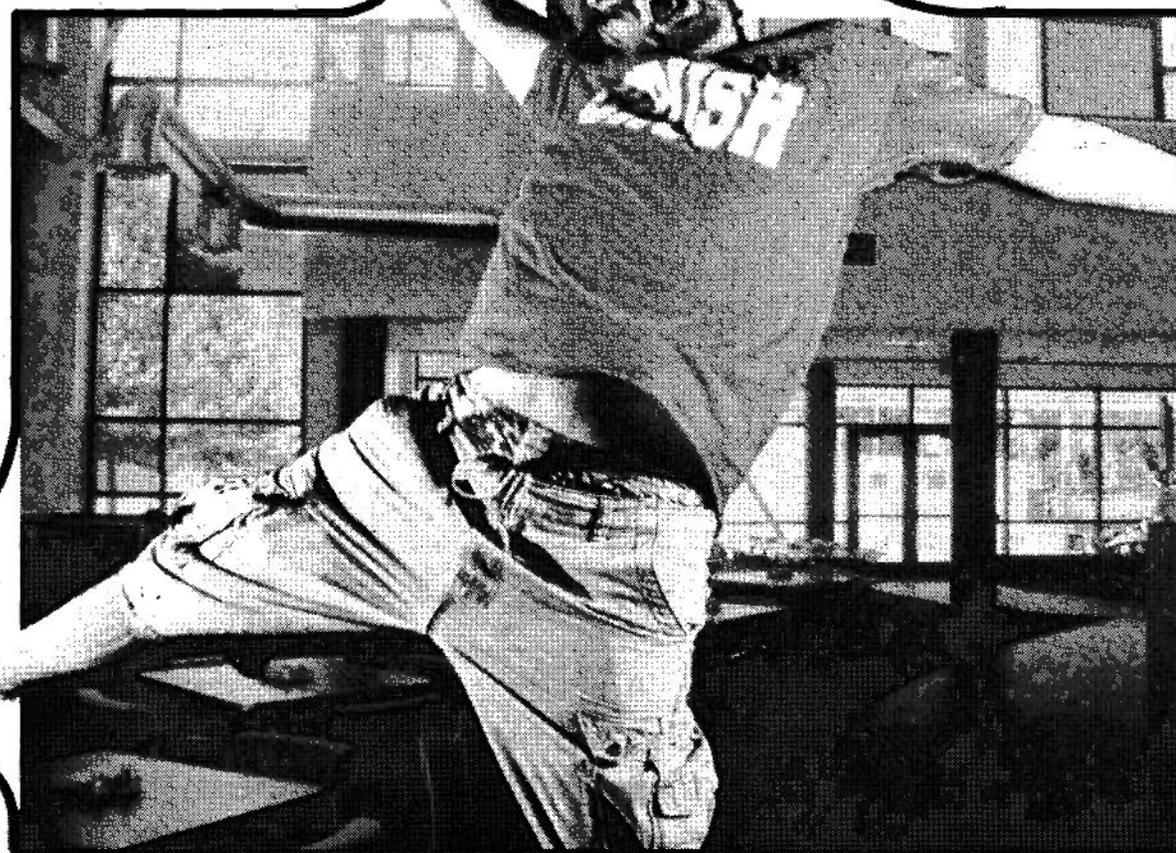
I can sense a shift in the attitudes and the school spirit of the students at UTD. And yes, I think that is in large part due to the increased energy and eagerness of the freshmen class. Even during the orientation sessions over the summer, their excitement about the new collegiate environment was palpable and only became more apparent with their enthusiasm during Convocation, especially through handmade banners and a preponderance of orange and green apparel and accessories. Each freshman I meet, though understandably nervous about fitting into a new environment, also seems ready and willing to change the University.

We have, at least in part, construction to thank for the zeal of the newcomers. Seeing the campus torn to shreds has demonstrated (concretely, albeit rather inconveniently) the ever-changing nature of UTD. As a

fairly young institution, the University often markets its changeability to prospective students, hoping to attract students who want to get involved and make their mark on the University. The current state of the campus does more than just suggest that UTD can change and grow—it acts as visual proof of the University's "growing pains," so to speak.

The energy from the freshmen will inescapably rub off onto the older classes, although only time will tell how long the effects will last. A more apathetic older generation of students may have to graduate and move on from the school before a complete attitude change is possible. But the University is headed in the right direction, with the ultimate goal of building the student body into the collective and spirited unit that has long been dreamed of but has yet to be realized. ■

*Liz Organ... OMG! Down, Michael down!  
Stay in your frame! Too much spirit!  
Discuss this article at [amp.medialias.edu!](http://amp.medialias.edu/)*



His spirit is so great no one page can contain him! Photoillustration by mac hird



# Rend Unto Caesar

*Taking an unconstitutional phrase out of circulation*



by richard badgett  
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"In God We Trust" does not belong on American currency. The phrase is unavoidably and unconstitutionally a statement of religious endorsement. Most apologists for the phrase rely on some appeal to our history or our heritage as a "Christian Nation" to justify the outrageous display of religiosity; however, "In God We Trust" has no connection to some historical precedent or any link to America's founding. Such arguments are ill-informed, and, further, fail to address the establishment issues associated with the phrase.

Christians were indeed among the founding fathers (as were deists and non-believers), so it is at least partially true that America was founded by Christians. I do not and would not say that religion isn't of historical importance to America; however, the country was founded not as a "Christian Nation" but as an expressly secular nation. The difference between church and state was deeply important to the founders, and the constitution reflects this.

To truly understand the objections to "In God We Trust" we need to establish some background. According to the US Treasury website, the phrase began with a letter written in 1861 by the Reverend M. R. Watkinson to Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase. Fearing that posterity would conclude that America was "a heathen nation" for not acknowledging "Almighty God," Watkinson urged Chase to replace the "goddess of liberty" then on the currency with a new design that would, among other things, include the phrase "GOD, LIBERTY, LAW". The reverend believed that the phrase might "relieve the nation] of the ignominy of heathenism."

As a result, Secretary Chase instructed James Pollock, Director of the Mint, to prepare a motto that stated "in the fewest and tersest words possible" the "national recognition" of the "trust of our people in God." In the process of changing the law to allow

modification of the currency, the phrase became "In God We Trust" and began to be added to certain forms of money.

In light of the inescapably religious motivations guiding the inclusion of "In God We Trust" as well as its relatively late development, we can dispose of the argument for historical deference. The phrase wasn't added to specie because it honored our heritage. Instead, Rev. Watkinson and Secretary Chase concentrated on the future, and, in order to show themselves to be godly and America not to be "a heathen nation," the government passed a law that demanded and demonstrated an establishment of religion inspired by a Christian minister.

I am an atheist. I do not believe in God, but this does not mean I am without beliefs. Being told daily by the government that my beliefs are incompatible with their own is not only offensive — it's disturbing. Most Americans, however, are Christians and don't understand why phrases like "In God We Trust" are so loathsome.

For perspective imagine our currency said "All Praise Be to Allah." Even better, imagine having "There is No God" on our money. Such an outright condemnation of belief is so patently unconstitutional that it's laughable. The phrase doesn't actually say anything negative about the religious — just as "In God We Trust" isn't a clear

“ America is no more a Christian nation than it is a Muslim, a Hindu, or an Atheist one... ”

indictment of non-believers — but the feeling is the same.

Since we can safely reject the argument that the motto forges some link to our history, there remains no evident function for the phrase except to establish religion. It is only because that particular religion seems benign and prevalent that more people don't see it as unconstitutional. A long judicial

"In God We Trust" undeniably to pursue a legitimate secular purpose was added for one reason only — to draw attention to "our" reverence of "Almighty God."

Keeping that



What the hell WAS that pyramid anyway? Photoillustration courtesy of mac hird

tradition establishes that the government must never play favorites when it comes to religion, and "In God We Trust" does just that.

The Supreme Court's Lemon Test is a series of guidelines created to help Congress and the courts make decisions where religion is concerned. Should government action fail any of these three tests, it is unconstitutional: (1) The government's action must have a legitimate secular purpose; (2) The government's action must not have the primary effect of either advancing or inhibiting religion; (3) The government's action must not result in an "excessive government entanglement" with religion.

motto the currency inhibits religious beliefs of atheists. Just "There Is No God" antagonizes Christians. "In God We Trust" antagonizes non-believers. America is no more a Christian nation than it is a Muslim, a Hindu, or an Atheist one. Using "In God We Trust" to assert that needlessly entangles government in religion.

"In God We Trust" is a daily slap in the face to Atheists and other non-Christians. It's time to remove from our currency a phrase that cannot pass even one prong of the Lemon Test and replace it with something all Americans can believe in. I can think of no two ideas more core to our beliefs or more universal to our values than Freedom and Equality. Perhaps we could put that on our currency and take a step towards actually achieving both. ■

Richard Badgett will never reveal the Wu Tang motto.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

# Neutering the Net

*No freedom of content under a framework of censorship*



by art zachary  
artzachary@gmail.com

The Gutenberg Bible is a monument to human ingenuity. It is the convergence of thousands of years of written and spoken word onto nearly 1,300 pages. It is a beautiful dedication to the advancement of knowledge. It is a paradigm shift.

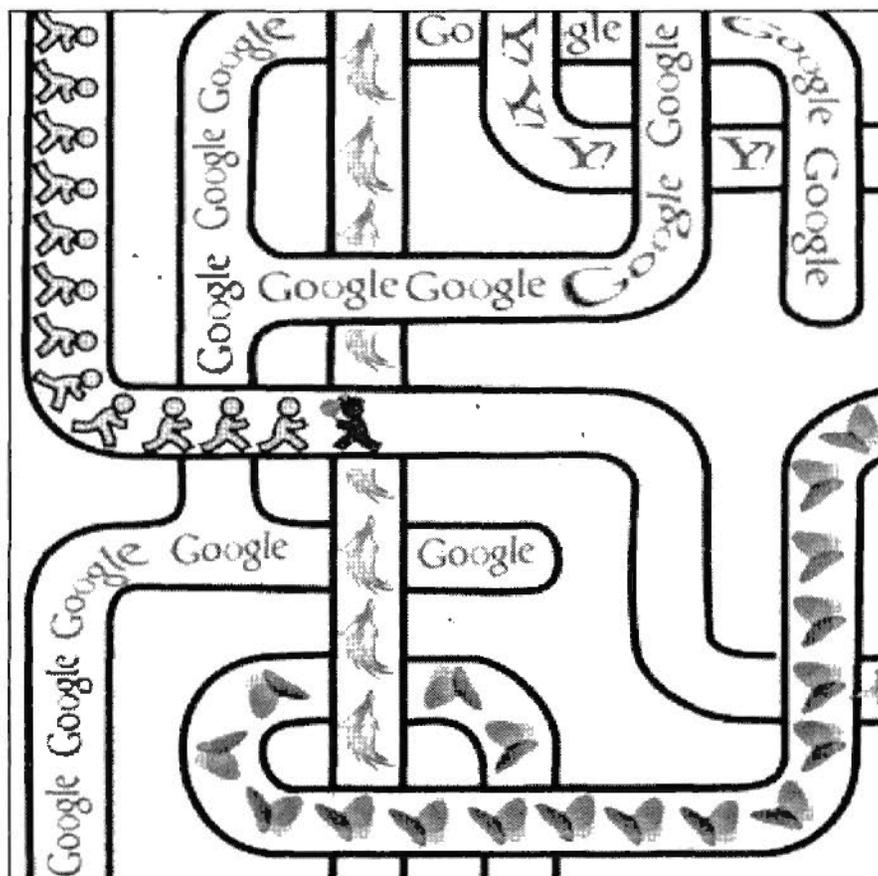
If the Gutenberg Bible represents the first shots fired in the information revolution, the movement towards an open growth and dissemination of information, then the internet is the armistice. The internet represents the victory of free speech over censorship, of free access over restriction, of the free flow of ideas over a controlled and regulated information marketplace.

The internet is an amazingly powerful tool for progress in the modern age. Never before, in the course of human history, have the barriers to communication been rendered so completely antiquated.

The power of the internet to change the way all manner of tasks are approached is unparalleled, from paying bills and reading the newspaper, to factoring hundred-thousand-digit primes and combing the universe for intelligent life.

The internet derives this near-unlimited transformational potential from, (after a great generalization), freedom of content. While great advancements, great art, and great thought originate with some need, desire, or issue, a context in which to satisfy, express, or discuss without restriction is also required. The internet, given its freedom of content, can provide this context.

This freedom is important, and any imposed limits are anathema to progress. For the internet to remain relevant, these restrictions must be minimized. Like its predecessor, the written word, the internet can be restricted by lawmakers and by those who control its means of delivery.



The internet is made of a series of tubes. Illustration courtesy of alex garcia topete

There are numerous examples of state-mandated restriction in places such as Iran, where access to Twitter and Facebook was restricted to limit discussion about the outcome of the recent election, and China, where numerous websites are blocked or limited.

Such overt censorship, while certainly detrimental regardless of its location, comes as no surprise in countries where freedom of speech is not guaranteed. It is easy to rally against obvious abuses of state power, but in the parts of the world where individual liberty is respected, censorship is often a more contentious question.

In Germany for example, the parliament recently enacted a law that blocks

access to a list of websites reportedly involved in the proliferation of child pornography. Whereas it is easy to stake a moral claim against censoring free and open access to political debate in Iran, the question, when framed as a discussion on combating the spread of contemptible material in Germany, is quite different.

The debate becomes more focused, as is often the case when politics are involved, on the nature and goals of censorship rather than on the existence of censorship itself.

In a country that explicitly guarantees freedom of speech, are the means, (the creation of a framework for in-

ternet censorship) justified by the ends (the potential limitation of the dissemination of patently illegal and morally reprehensible material)?

While a near consensus opinion exists on the subjective evaluation of child pornography, there is no way to ensure that such a consensus would exist in other instances of questionable content. With the framework in place to limit access, what is to stop the German government from utilizing the censorship architecture to filter the next, more morally ambiguous impropriety? It is, to say the least, a slippery slope.

Consider, additionally, the effectiveness of such a practice. Opponents of the law have called the implementation (restricting websites specific to a list of offenders) lazy because more proactive measures (contacting service providers to have content removed) are being passed over.

While the government plan merely prevents German citizens from accessing the illegal websites, the content remains on the internet. The effectiveness of the law, from a moral point of view, is minimized, and the potential costs of such a policy become all the more significant.

At the core of this debate is freedom of content. That is the source of the internet's power, but it is also the well from which a seemingly infinite number of abuses spring. If the internet is a digital microcosm of humanity, then for every work of genius, the world will be presented with a failure of character.

The outcome sought by the German plan is noble but misguided and, most importantly, dangerous. Alternative methods for solving the problem of illegal content should be pursued before implementing a framework for internet censorship. Such a framework endangers the future viability of the internet to be a positive force in society. ■

“ The internet derives this near unlimited transformational potential from, after a great generalization, freedom of content. ”

Don't ask Art about his selfish motivations for banning internet censorship. Just think LOLcats meets tub girl. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

# Blinded by the Light

*When celebrities eclipse the world*



by alex garcia topete  
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A couple of months ago, some shocking news came from Los Angeles that saddened the world: Michael Jackson, the music legend, died at age 51 in his eccentric residence, Neverland. In a matter of hours the United States and music lovers all around the world were mourning his demise with a two-week media frenzy honoring, commemorating, and even trivializing the legend. My question is this: During those two weeks, how many of you heard or read about anything besides Michael Jackson? Despite the media freeze-framing on MJ, the world actually kept on turning and producing events that deserved to be broadcast to the American populace — all of which were eclipsed by MJ in the media focus.

Don't get me wrong: Michael Jackson deserved the attention and mourning that followed his death because of all his contributions to music, showbiz, and American culture, regardless of "kiddie" scandals, controversial skin conditions, and Howard Hughes-like eccentricities. Michael Jackson was more than just a singer — he was a gifted artist with an insurmountable capacity to awe and entertain while retaining artistic value. Heck, MJ even made MTV play music videos again. Simply put, he was the "King of Pop", and when royalty passes away, all of the commoners ought to pay their respects.

Yet, having paid my own with the paragraph above, I must say that what the American media and press did in the weeks following MJ's death was unworthy of respectable journalism, for all stations not only over-exploited the subject of MJ's death to the point of trivializing it (for instance, racing each other to the "death chamber" or competing to be the first to show MJ's "ghost") but they also all failed at their main duty: They didn't inform the American public about what

was going on in the rest of the world.

Granted, Americans will always prefer hearing about celebrities instead of actually important news (which explains why *The New York Times'* printed version is floundering while *People* and *Us Weekly* seem solid still). The United States is a country ruled more by charisma than by laws or political ideals. Otherwise, the number of people would vote in the presidential elections would be equal to those that vote in American Idol.

However, America's fandom for celebrities does not excuse journalists who fail at their duty to report all (let me reiterate, ALL) important news from within and without the U.S. It's shameful that even the 24-hour news channels gave massive coverage only to MJ. With all the time they devoted to MJ, even MTV's coverage probably pales in comparison.

Though, one might ask: What news failed to be broadcasted because of MJ? Let's start with news that also came from Hollywood but was omitted.

Hours before MJ's ambulance trip was disclosed, *Charlie's Angels* star Farrah Fawcett lost her battle with cancer in an Los Angeles hospital. While not as prominent as Michael Jackson, Fawcett was an important female icon of the 70's (and of Texas) both because of the hit TV show and because of her renowned humanitarian work. Yes, Angelina Jolie and Bono are not the first celebs to foray into global charity work. The fact that her death was somewhat expected doesn't compensate for the poor coverage she received despite all her achievements. Her life deserved equal praise in the days around her death — not weeks after when she finally had a TV special put together by her celebrity friends.

In the political field, no one benefited (if you can call it that) from MJ's death more than the governor of South Carolina. Right amidst what could have been a major scandal, Gov. Mark Sanford's press-covered acknowledgement of foreign relations with an Argentinean mistress and his neglect of governmental duties on account of the affair went virtually unnoticed. He even got to cling to his governorship because there was not



Not even Jesus could moonwalk on water. Illustration by jeffrey miranda

enough public upheaval about his misbehavior.

News-blindness becomes a scary matter when considering what happened overseas (not *too* overseas if you count Hawaii) that the news failed to report properly. In summary, an entire Tom Clancy-esque story unfolded between North Korea and the United States, with the former aiming long-range nukes at Hawaii, the latter setting up a new anti-air defense system in the island state, and missiles being fired and promptly shot down to conclude Kim Jong-Il's fit. If the British BBC, the French *Le Monde*, and the Associated Press reported the incident, then why the heck did U.S. newscasters overlook it? The only reasons seem to be

either incompetence or sheer negligence — and neither is a desirable answer.

There were definitely more events that went unnoticed, but this article is meant to be a critique of American celebrity worship, not a detailed account of eclipsed news. America's response to Michael Jackson's demise demands the query: If we live in an age in which information is easily and freely available, then why would people increasingly choose to be misinformed? Maybe there isn't a sociological explanation but an optical one — the brightness of the stars turns the whole world blind. ■

*Alex Garcia Topete actually knows the entire Thriller dance. Seriously, ask him to do it. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# Vick's Villainy

*You can't spell 'felon' without NFL*



by ryan henry  
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Two years ago, I never expected to again hear the phrases "Michael Vick" and "NFL quarterback" in the same sentence. When it was discovered that Vick headed and financed a dog-fighting ring, popular opinion was almost leading toward crucifixion. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell prides himself on being a strict disciplinarian. People praised Goodell for suspending Vick for an entire season, but as soon as Vick finished paying his due to society via his jail sentence, Goodell allowed Vick to walk triumphantly back onto the field after only a few apologetic words.

Donté Stallworth, Plaxico Burress, and Michael Vick all committed grievous crimes. Stallworth killed a man while drunk driving, Burress discharged an unlicensed firearm into his own leg while in a club, and Michael Vick owned, financed, and ran a dog-fighting ring out of his home. All three of these heinous crimes were met with year-long suspensions.

Unfortunately, Stallworth and Burress will probably also get their suspensions lifted as soon as their legal problems are resolved. This is unacceptable. Playing in the NFL should be considered a privilege, not a right. Michael Vick deserves a job that he is qualified for, well outside the glamor of the public eye, not a roster spot on the Philadelphia Eagles.

What does it say about the American attention span that we allow these people to continue to be among the most advantaged, even after they commit a felony? The answer: being able to catch a ball means you can get away with pretty much anything.

The NFL needs to take a harsher stance against felons. As it stands, Michael Vick is able to sign a one-year deal with the Philadelphia Eagles worth 1.6 million dollars. That means that a newly released felon will be making 1.6 million

dollars. Take a moment to let that sink in. Why do we allow this to happen? The Philadelphia Eagles held a press conference to announce their signing of Michael Vick, and the people of Philadelphia responded by buying more tickets.

I am all for second chances, but I do not think that Vick deserves a second chance in the NFL — a second chance at freedom, yes, but not a second chance in the NFL. Goodell, please leave mul-

timillionaire miscreants in the music industry where they belong. T.I., 50 Cent, Eminem, and Kevin Federline, I am talking to you.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that a talented athlete has gotten away with a crime. Leonard Little, now with the St. Louis Rams, killed a man while driving under the influence of alcohol. His punishment? An eight-game suspension. Michael Irvin, a Hall of Fame

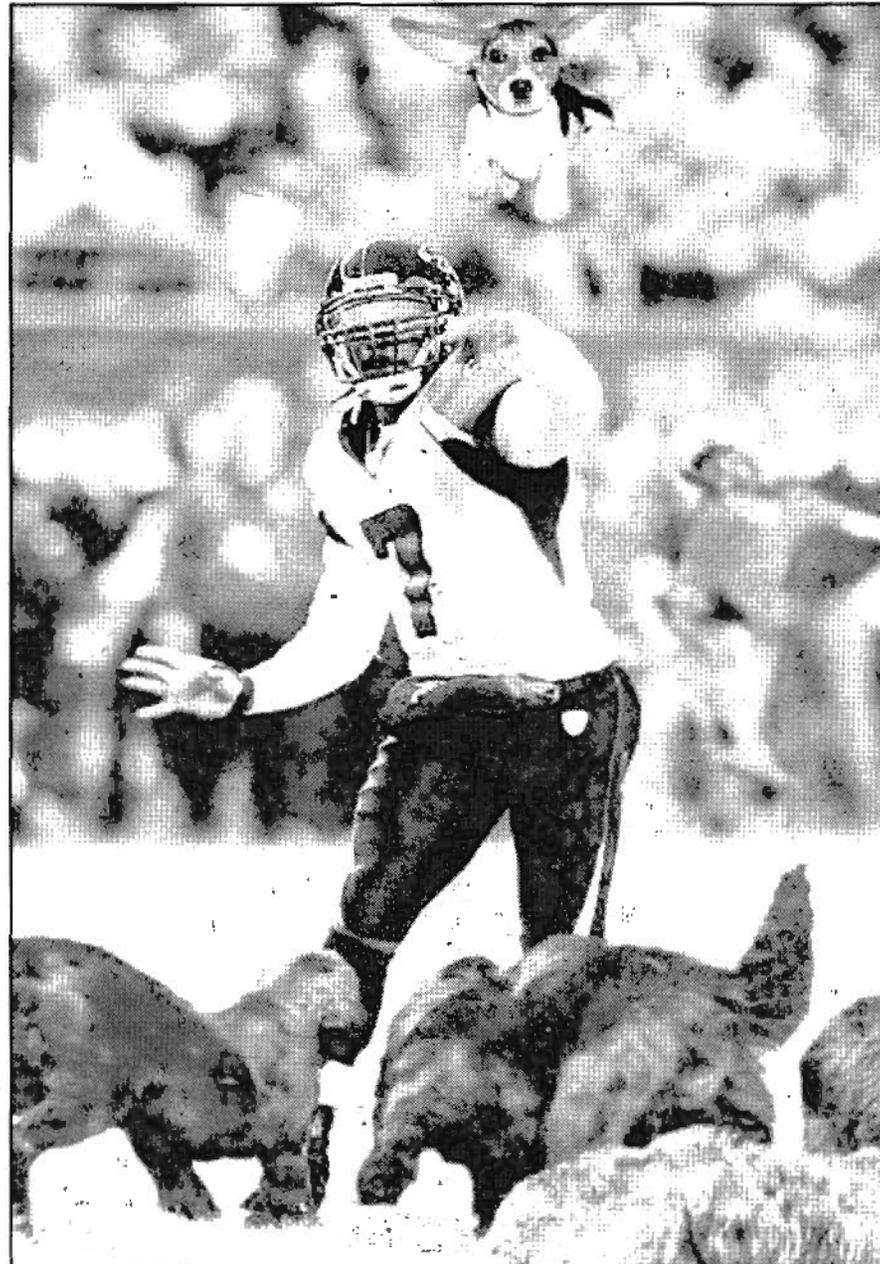
wide receiver formerly of the hometown Cowboys, was arrested in 1996 for cocaine possession. His punishment? A five-game suspension. The NFL has a history of forgiving its talented players, no matter their transgressions.

The fact that any team even considered signing Vick is shameful. This was a chance for the owners to enforce their own morals on their teams by not signing the newly freed felon. When the allegations originally came out, sportscasters were saying that he would never play in the NFL again, but now they talk about how he is a transcendent talent that will reinvigorate the league — if he can keep his nose clean.

However, not all is lost. Vick is still not completely reinstated. He can participate in team practices and activities, but he cannot play in any games until at least Week 6 when Goodell will reconsider him for full reinstatement. Maybe Vick will begin to give back to society and become an upstanding individual, but a more likely scenario is that he eventually relapses and proves everybody who trusted him wrong.

For once though, Eagles fans have gotten it right. The *Philadelphia Daily News* ran headlines "Hide Your Dogs" and "What Are They Thinking?" in response to the announcement. Eagles fans have done a lot wrong in the past (booing Santa Claus, throwing battery-filled snowballs, and booing two-year-old children all come to mind), but their reaction to their beloved team hiring one of the most hated football players in recent memory is spot on.

Bill Smith, founder of an animal rescue foundation based in the Philadelphia suburbs, said, "I'm really shocked that he's coming to Philadelphia. He kept talking about second chances. His dogs didn't have a second chance ... There are a lot of people out there who deserve second chances more than Michael Vick." Let's hope that Vick does the most with the opportunity he has been given. ■



At least he didn't punt it. Photoillustration by alex garcia topete

Ryan Henry has a rap sheet so long not even the Oakland Raiders would want him. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

# Passing Judgment: 2008



by megan newman  
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The 2008 term of the Supreme Court of the United States produced many notable opinions (I say 2008 because each term is labeled by the year in which it began, and the terms run from October through July.) This term, most of the major opinions of the Court were reasonable interpretations of the law that also displayed awareness for the practical consequences of those decisions. Despite a few glitches, the Justices of the Supreme Court should be commended for fixing many problematic interpretations of the lower courts without eroding the foundations of our Constitution.

First, I will discuss a case that you might have read about previously in your friendly neighborhood AMP: *Safford Unified School District v. Savana Redding*. The case involves a young girl who was strip-searched when officials at her school suspected that she was in possession of prescription-strength ibuprofen. Thankfully, the Supremes decided that the officials conducted an unreasonable search in violation of the Fourth Amendment when they forced 13-year-old Savana Redding to shake out her bra and underwear in front of school officials. The Court also verified that searches in schools are constitutional as long as there is "a moderate chance of finding evidence of wrongdoing," which is a far looser standard than that of probable cause required to conduct searches in public.

However, the happy ending may not be as complete as it seems. The Court did not prohibit all strip searches in schools. Rather, they required that school officials take the danger of the prohibited item into account along with the probability that it would actually be revealed by a strip search. Thus, strip searches may still take place or may be foregone altogether if a school fears legal repercussions. According to the dissenting Justice Clarence Thomas, the fear of lawsuits may even create a place for students to hide contraband in public schools. Altogether,

this decision has brought some relief not only to Ms. Redding but also to the endangered rights of students throughout America.

Another influential decision of the 2008 term was *Caperton v. A. T. Massey Coal Co.*, concerning whether judges who have received substantial campaign contributions must recuse themselves from hearing cases in which those contributors are parties. Recusal is a process that judges use frequently to excuse themselves from a case when they believe that they have an interest in one of the parties or the outcome.

In *Caperton*, West Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Brent Benjamin refused to recuse himself from two cases in which he and two of his colleagues on the Supreme Court twice set aside \$50 million jury verdicts against a company whose executive had contributed \$3 million to Chief Justice Benjamin's campaign. The whole affair prompted claims that the chief justice was fostering the appearance of impropriety and spurred debate about the ethical obligations of judges.

The Supreme Court opinion in *Caperton*, written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, states that federal judges must recuse themselves from hearing cases in which there is a "probability of actual bias." That probability, the Court said, exists when judges receive exceedingly large contributions from executives and then allow themselves to rule on cases involving those executives or their companies. Ruling

“ The whole affair prompted claims that the chief justice was fostering the appearance of impropriety ... ”

on such cases violates the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by creating a probability for actual bias, thus jeopardizing the right to a fair trial.

The utilization of recusal by the Supremes (or the Nine, for newbies) has long been an informal tradition among the Justices. However, with the growing phenomenon of elected judges, many refuse to step away from cases involving their campaign contributors. The decision in *Caperton* forces judges in situations like that of Chief Justice Benjamin to do so, yet leaves much room for interpretation by the lower courts.

The Supreme dissenters of *Caperton* claim that the unclear standard of "the probability of bias" will cause confusion and

chaos in the lower courts and is not established within the Constitution. The dissenters try to have their cake and eat it, too: They demand that the majority set a clear standard for the lower courts, but by their definition, any standard would go beyond the wording of the Constitution.

Since the realm of judicial recusal is largely outside the reach of the legislature, it is high time that one Justice told another that ruling on cases involving their biggest political supporters doesn't fly. As for the vagueness of the ruling, perhaps it is best to let the lower courts work out the details for themselves.

The next case on the Wall of Fame for the Supremes' 2008 Season is *Pleasant Grove City v. Summum*. *Summum* deals with a monument of the Ten Commandments that was donated to a public park. A religious group objected to the placement of monument when its request to display its Seven Aphorisms was denied, claiming that it violated the Free Speech Clause of the constitution. They probably advanced the argument on free speech grounds because challenging similar monuments (such as the Ten Commandments monument on the Texas State Capitol grounds) using the Establishment Clause has been unsuccessful in recent precedent.

Regardless, the Court settled the question of whether religious monuments violate free speech by saying that the monument counted as "government speech," and, as such, was not restricted by the Free Speech Clause.

The rather large question of whether this Court thinks that governments can pick and choose which monuments to display in public parks or spaces seems to have been settled by the opinion in *Summum*. For now, the Ten Commandments shall abide in stony silence.

An important but disappointing decision of the 2008 term was that of *Forrest Grove School District v. T.A.* In that case, a student was tested to determine

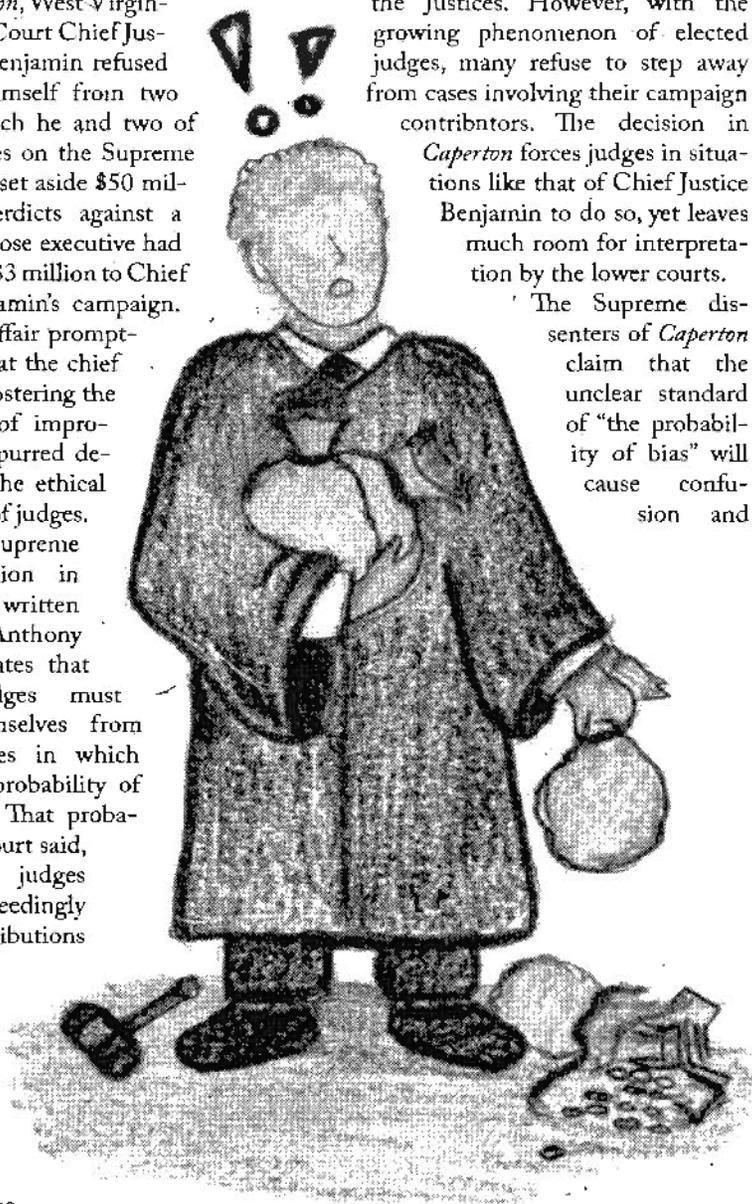


Illustration by lewis chang

# Judicial Year in Review

whether he was eligible for special education at his high school but did not qualify. His parents subsequently enrolled him in a special education program at a private school and sued the public school district to compensate for the tuition of the private school (Under federal disabilities law and Supreme Court precedent, districts can be required to pay for private school tuition for students with disabilities).

Despite the fact that the student never qualified for or enrolled in special education in his district, the Court ruled that the district must pay his tuition. *Forest Grove* will have gargantuan repercussions for financially strapped school districts already scrambling to fund their own special education and disability programs.

Perhaps the Court should have mandated that the private and public schools agree upon a special education test. Taxpayers are now forced to fund special education for a student who only qualifies for that service under private standards and not public standards.

One of the most media-saturated cases of the 2008 term is *Ricci v. DeStefano, et al*, the infamous case involving a promotion test for New Haven firefighters, in which the Court overturned multiple blunders of the lower courts. Despite the hard-line stance of the media and many of the senators involved in Judge Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation process, the claims in *Ricci* are based on a complicated tug-of-war between two provisions of Title VII, a part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

*Ricci* arose because the city of New Haven, Connecticut developed and administered an exam designed to determine whom to promote among its firefighters. Very few minority firefighters

passed the test, which strongly suggested that there had been discrimination in the examination process. Therefore, the city threw out the exam.

The Justices disagreed with New Haven's actions. In his written opinion, Justice Kennedy stated that *Ricci* involved a conflict between two non-discrimination portions of Title VII, so New Haven would need a "strong basis in evidence" to reject the results of the promotion test. The Court found no strong basis for that rejection. The city could neither support its rejection of the exam results on the

basis of the statistics alone nor argue that it could have administered "an equally valid, less discriminatory alternative" to the test.

With those complicated factors in play, it is easy to see how the two lower courts would have interpreted the case differently. However, I think the Court was correct to rule as it did to prevent cities from throwing out perfectly functional and fair exams without strong evidence that those exams actually foster discrimination.

Finally, the Supreme Season of 2008 included *Arizona v. Johnson* a case that went almost unnoticed by the media. *Johnson* set precedent that clarifies the rights of those involved in a traffic stop.

Mr. Johnson was sitting in the back seat of a car that was legally stopped for a traffic violation in a neighborhood known for gang activity. While one officer addressed the driver, another began

to converse with Mr. Johnson.

During the conversation, the officer became suspicious of Mr. Johnson's behavior and learned that Mr. Johnson was from a town with a well-known his-

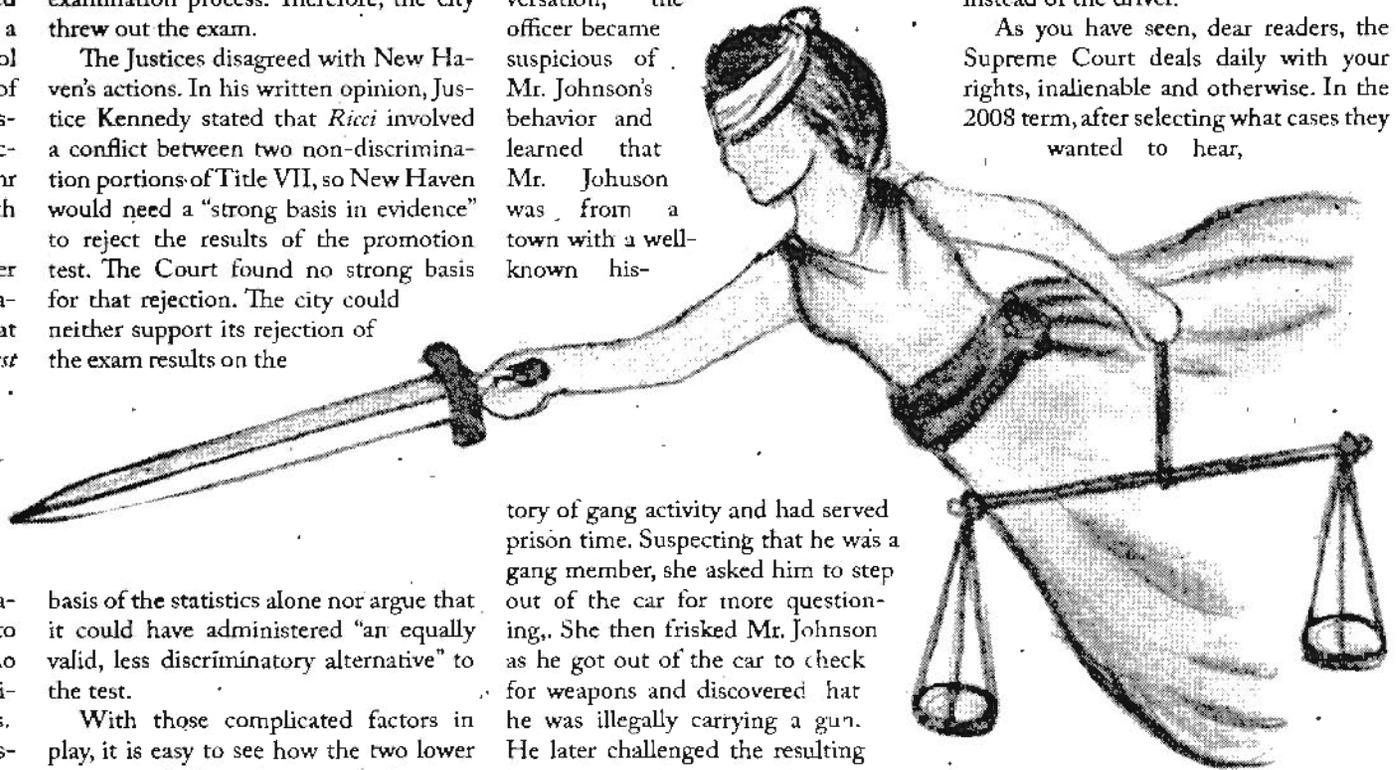
tory of gang activity and had served prison time. Suspecting that he was a gang member, she asked him to step out of the car for more questioning. She then frisked Mr. Johnson as he got out of the car to check for weapons and discovered that he was illegally carrying a gun. He later challenged the resulting illegal possession charge in court, maintaining that the gun had been obtained in an unreasonable search and seizure.

On the question of whether Mr. Johnson was immune from the frisk and seizure because he was a passenger of the car and not the driver, the Court ruled that, since the officer had reason to suspect that Mr. Johnson was armed and dangerous, he could be frisked to ensure the safety of the public and the officer.

The Justices' decision in *Johnson* wisely allows police officers to protect themselves from those they perceive to be armed and dangerous. Otherwise dangerous criminals who violate traffic laws

could use violence to escape from officers simply by arming the passenger(s) instead of the driver.

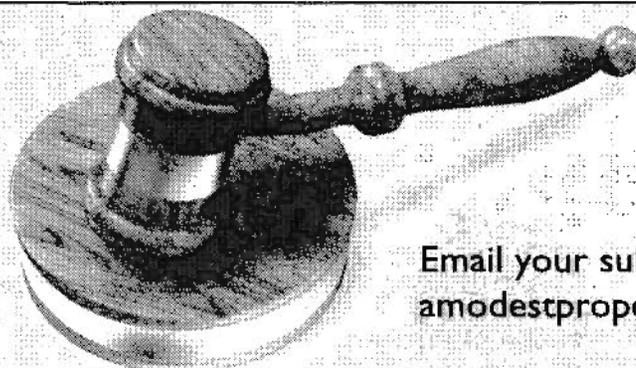
As you have seen, dear readers, the Supreme Court deals daily with your rights, inalienable and otherwise. In the 2008 term, after selecting what cases they wanted to hear,



pulling apart the lengthy legal briefs, badgering the attorneys with questions from the bench, and arguing relentlessly with each other, the Justices extracted reasonable decisions from a morass of complex questions. Except for the blemish of impracticality in *Forest Grove* during their 2008 term the Nine successfully upheld our rights while safeguarding the foundations of the American legal system. ■

*Despite her interest in law,  
Megan Newman's courting days are over!  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*

The verdict is in!  
A Modest Proposal  
is AWESOME!



Email your submission to  
[amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com)

# Why We Should Care



by tyler ratliff  
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Last winter, my dad was diagnosed with a specific, difficult-to-operate-on form of nerve cancer in his arm that could have led to the loss of his limb if it had been malignant. Thankfully, he had some of the best doctors in Houston, who knew exactly which tests and operations they should perform in order to optimize their chances of success. They acted with speed and precision and were able to remove the cancerous mass from my dad's arm entirely, without causing it to spread anywhere else, as far as we know.

The discussion about health care reform over the last few weeks has made me realize how lucky we were: not lucky because we have the best health care system in the world — we don't; and not lucky because the free-market system we do have led to the most efficient and effective regime to provide health care — it hasn't; we were extremely lucky because the health insurance my dad's employer provided him (which they changed the month after his operations because of the exorbitant costs it imposed on their company) supplied the hospital and the doctors with the financial lubricant necessary to make their medical machine run.

America is in dire need of health care reform and has been for several decades. The system we currently have of for-profit insurance firms that provide private and employer-based health care is not only illogical and morally reprehensible but also an unsustainable venture that will bankrupt America and leave those not lucky enough to be able to afford dozens of thousands of dollars in insurance premiums crowding emergency rooms across the country.

The reforms that have been making their way through Congress and garnering

“ America is in dire need of health care reform and has been for several decades. ”

so much national attention lately provide a real opportunity for Americans to take the control of their health care out of the hands of uncaring, profit-driven insurance companies.

One of the largest attacks against government-run health care has been the assertion that the government will operate panels designed to prevent the elderly or direly infirm from receiving treatment so as to avoid burdening a national health system with unjustifiable costs.

Besides distracting from more legitimate concerns over health care, that fraudulent argument obscures the public view of a very sobering and far more frightening fact: private insurers actually practice a similar form of health care discrimination. That is the biggest human issue with health care; largely at their discretion, many insurance providers can and will either drop a client or refuse to pay for a life-saving operation because of a pre-existing condition.

Moreover, many insurers won't even pick up individuals who have proven to need extensive or costly health care, further denying those individuals any real chance at a healthy life. Taking those “money-saving” tactics out of the hands of insurance companies is at the heart of current health care reform, not only because they make the most affected Americans worse off but also because they actually end up costing the insured more.

It seems that opponents of health care reform are very interested in money. Where will the money for this program come from? How much will be cut from Medicare and Medicaid? How much will it cost the average American?

Time and again Obama and Congress Democrats answer that, for most Americans, taxes will not be increased and that the cost of health care will decline even while the 1/6th of America that is uninsured gets coverage. But what is not asked or heard as often is how much our current health care system will continue to weigh ever more heavily on American pocketbooks.

Aside from the increase in cost that health care would naturally face, the discriminatory practices employed by insurers exacerbate this issue greatly. America has a large uninsured population, recently determined to be at least 52 million people. One of the only options available for those people to receive health care is the emergency room. That leaves

those individuals with large medical costs that they often cannot afford, which in turn leaves hospitals with large bills that they cannot pay.

The solution? Simple really: Increase the costs that the insured have to pay in order to compensate. That rise in the cost of health insurance makes it so that fewer people and companies can afford to have health insurance, which creates an even larger pool of uninsured and more unpaid emergency-room costs. Combine that with all the jobs and insurance policies lost over the past year, and it's easy to see the positive feedback loop the insurance companies' profit-seeking creates.

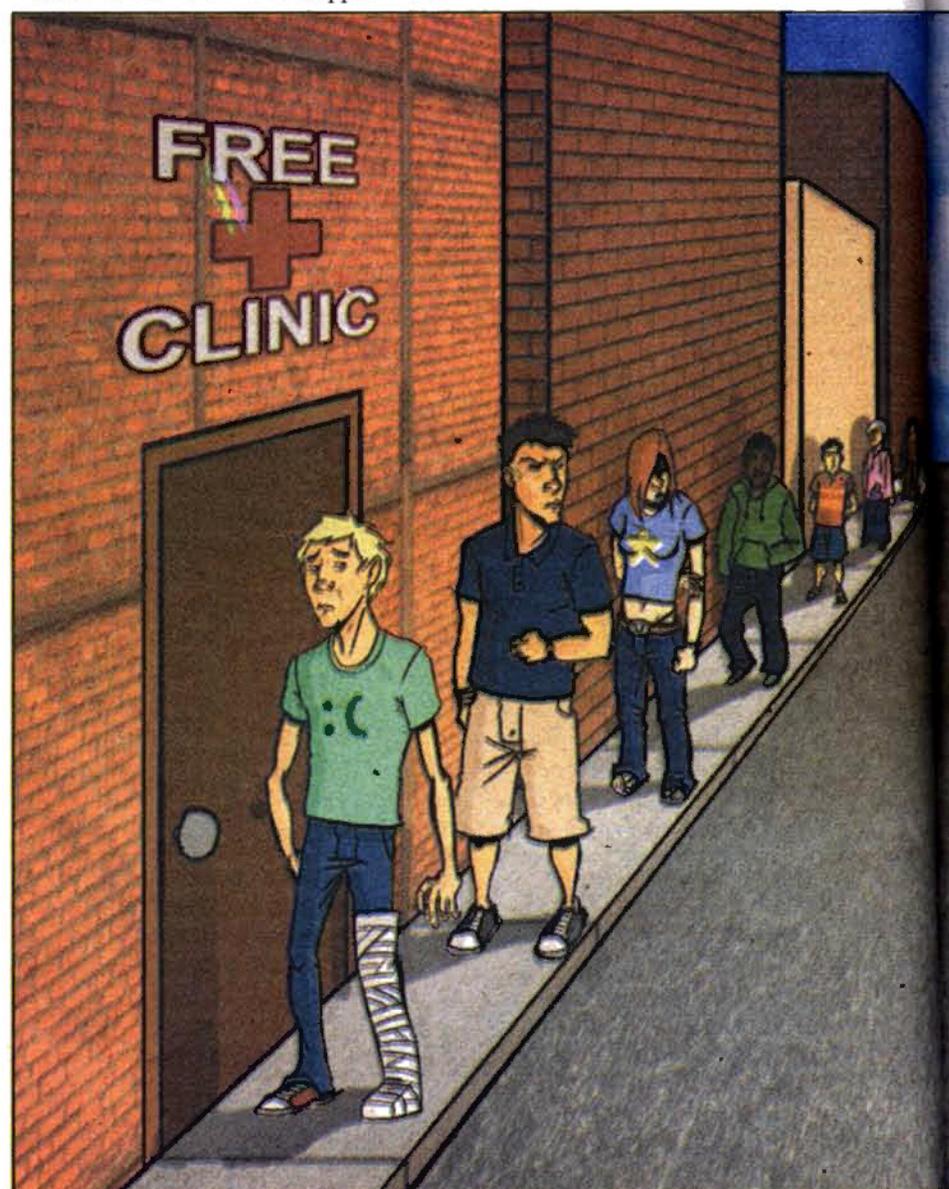
I shared my personal anecdote because I wanted to show what can happen when

American health care actually works for Americans. But that isn't the case for all Americans, and if the health care industry continues its devastating, reckless profiteering, then it won't even continue to be the case for most Americans.

We need health care reform. We need a strong public option with strong regulation of the private sector to keep private insurers in check — not because it's the right thing to do but because, without it, we just won't be able to afford to be healthy. ■

*Tyler is going to keep frowning until you give him his lollipop. Lollipop, lollipop, mmm lolli lollipop. Lollipop. POP. Bah dum bum bum.*

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



OH MY GOD! That mummy man is trying to get free health care! Cast him aside! Illustration by jo

## re Debate —

## Read It And Weep



by billy easley  
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"Read the bill!" is my favorite of the chants that have erupted during the current health care debate, mostly because it's one of the few chants with substance behind it. Why wouldn't the members of Congress read a bill that will shape health care in our nation for generations? That's a good question. But as the health care debate grew more toxic and the nation more polarized, I started to ask myself a different ques-

tion, one focused not on the Congressional members but rather on the bill's protestors: Have any of them actually read the legislation that they so despise?

So I started reading the bill, H.R. 3200 or America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 — all 1,018 pages of it. First of all, there are no death panels. Trust me: I'm saying this as a Republican who would love for this legislation to take a more moderate turn, but infecting the debate with hyperbole and intellectual dishonesty is not my preferred means of achieving that goal.

It's also an unnecessary and extreme tactic. Doug Elmendorf, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in the course of his testimony before Congress made it clear that the reform measures

included in the current health care legislation won't reduce the rising cost of health care. According to Elmendorf, the legislation will not counterbalance the rise in federal health costs caused by its insurance coverage proposals; in fact, our deficit will dramatically increase along with the rising costs of health care. A CBO report issued on July 26th estimated a cost of \$1.042 trillion for the proposals with possible revenues bringing that figure down to \$239 billion, but these estimates are the projected costs only for the period between 2010 and 2019 and "do not represent a complete cost estimate for the legislation."

The bill is inefficient and ineffective. The irresponsible Democrats in both Congress and the White House continue to ratchet their rhetoric of urgency despite those damning revelations. Even the Obama administration's official statements demonstrate their arrogance: As Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel put it, we mustn't let "a good crisis to go to waste." To that end, Democrats wanted to push health care reform through before the August recess, robbing constituents of their ability to voice their opposition effectively.

Clearly the prevailing legislative philosophy of the Obama Administration is to support initiatives and then push them through with alarming speed before they can be vetted by the opposition. The American Reinvestment Act and the atrocious Cap-and-Trade legislation are clear examples of that philosophy at work. Luckily, the third time wasn't the charm for the Obama Administration.

Despite my condemnation, I admit that the content of the legislation doesn't mirror a "Socialist Manifesto" as many Americans seem to believe. In fact, there are some aspects worthy of applause from both sides of the aisle.

For one, the bill disallows the insurance companies' exclusion of customers based on pre-existing medical conditions, a practice that keeps health care access out of the hands of those who need it most. The states also seem to be able to form their own health care initiatives under the umbrella of the public option sponsored by the federal government — at least the states would have some involvement in the process. Also, according to a CBO estimate, the number of employers who would stop providing health care insurance for their employees and only point them toward the public option is very low.

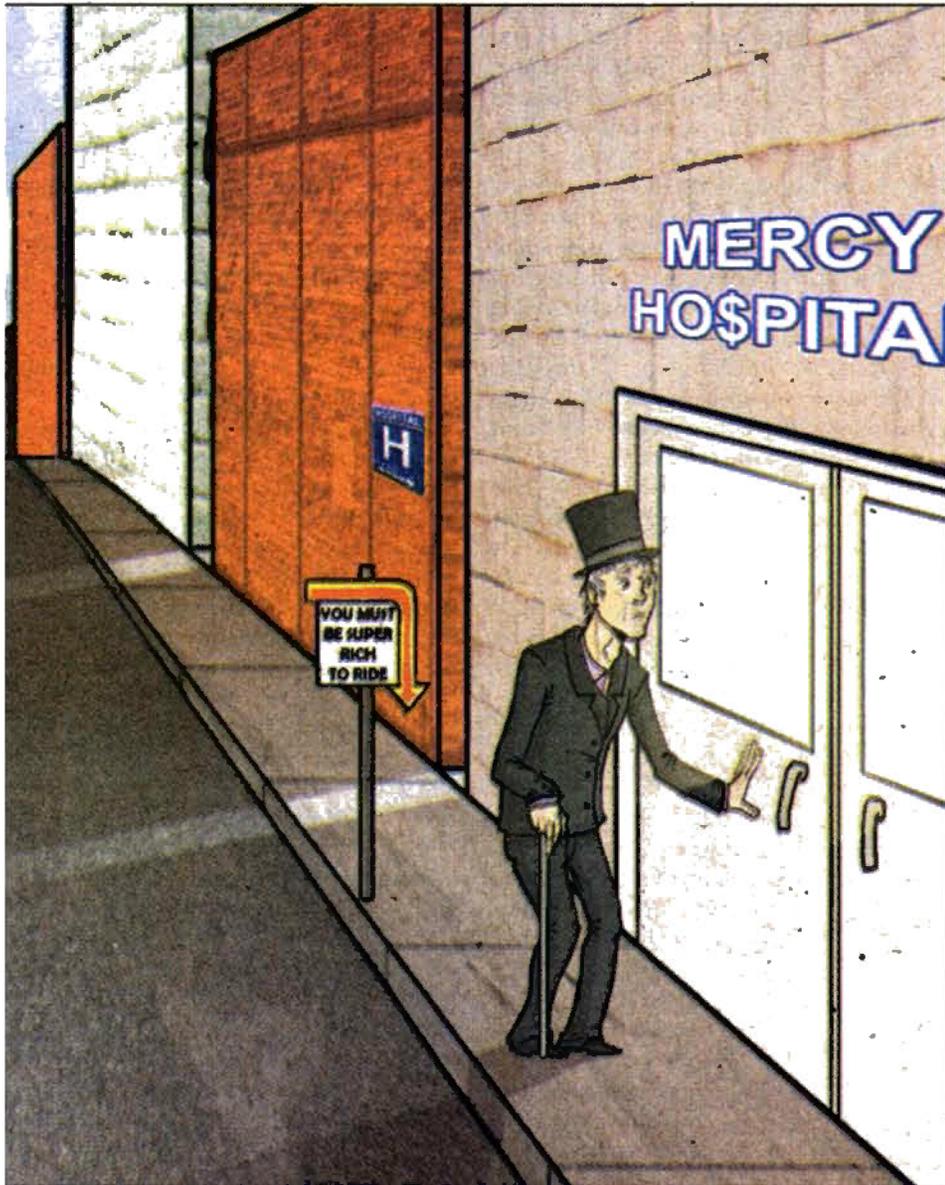
“ This bill is far from a shining example of democracy. ”

But for the most part, this bill is far from a shining example of democracy. It is still a massive government intervention into a public sector. The Democrats have two typical justifications for this intervention.

First, they point to the fact that we already have government health insurance (Medicare) without examining its current unsustainability and its ballooning role in our deficit. Medicare is a program on the verge of bankruptcy. In essence, the Democrats are proposing that we solve our problems by enlarging them and by expanding government intervention in ways that will not offset the growing cost of health care.

Second, the Democrats utilize the "politics of fear" that they so despised during the Bush Administration — or as President Obama prefers to call it, the "fierce urgency of now;" if we don't take care of health care immediately, before the end of the year, then we will have forever missed our opportunity to fix the system. Representative Brian Bilbray of the Oversight and Reform Committee dismisses that claim — these policies won't be fully implemented until 2013, so why the rush to finish the legislation before the August recess?

My opposition to this legislation should not be construed as proof of ignorance of the need for health care reform. I am not part of that nebulous group of people President Obama refers to as "those who would do nothing," nor am I someone who has no compassion for the uninsured citizens in this country. I want health care reform, but I will not burden the next generation with an unconscionable debt for a dysfunctional system. That doesn't make me un-American (as Nancy Pelosi believes) or a "hatemonger" (as Harry Reid believes); it means that I'm a part of the loyal opposition — an opposition that favors fiscal responsibility and understands the obligation we have to give future-generation Americans a country that's better, and healthier, than the one we were given. ■



Billy is currently working with doctors to overcome his candy addiction. Stop eating all the AirHeads, Billy! Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

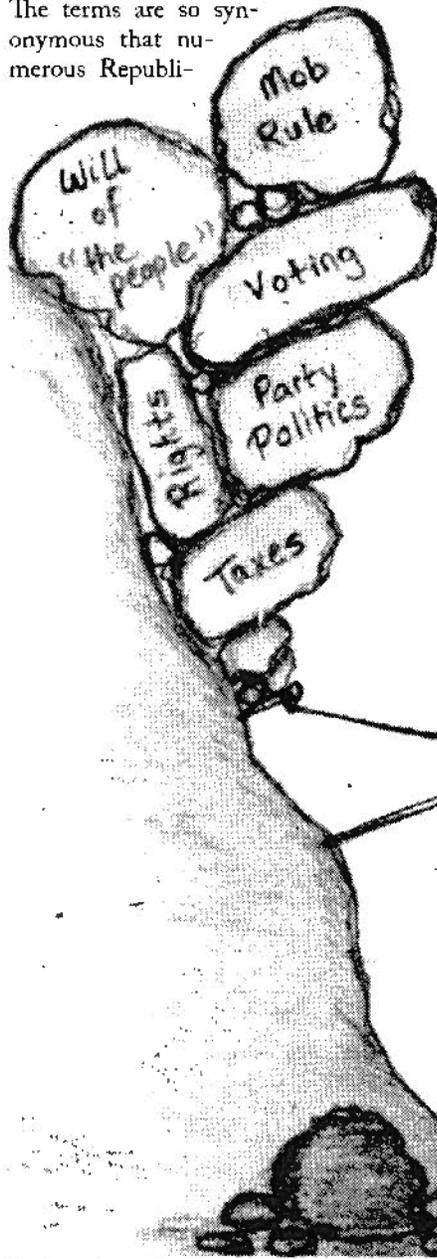
# Debating Democracy

*Is democracy all it's really cracked up to be?*



by **ezekiel anglim**  
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Today, there is no word in political discourse that is held in higher esteem than *democracy*. To describe an institution as democratic is to, in effect, call it *good*. The terms are so synonymous that numerous Republi-



Don't pull that handle — unless you think you can handle it. Illustration courtesy of Lewis Chang

crat Party". Many political observers have placed the pure democratic society at the apogee of modern civilization. But is democracy superior to every other form of government?

Any tyrant of the past would envy the power of modern states to tax, regulate, inspect, and control their populations, which are now more submissive than at any point in Western history. Individuals often assume the ever-increasing intervention of the state to be a function of the complexity of modern life, or they believe that our present situation is a step in the culmination of inevitable historical events on the road to Progress. The mechanism animating this evolution of the state's role in society, however, seems unduly neglected.

Certain beliefs have a determining influence on the type and capacity of the state that exists in a democratic regime. Foundational among these are that, by forming a social contract managed through a legislature, the people check and authorize the power of the state. Assuming that sovereignty is derived consensually from "the people" has the implication of fusing the state and the nation into one entity, making the "will of the people" the will of the state.

Unfortunately, rather than checking the power of the State, this theory is used to justify whatever the state wishes to do. Institutions such as constitutions, supreme courts and parliamentary bodies were initially designed to curb state power, but over time have come to act as stamps of legitimacy for the state's

decrees. Wrapped in the people's will, the state perverts the original intention of deriving sovereignty from the people, and as the actuator of the collective, it now exercises powers it otherwise could not.

Tyranny is laid bare under monarchy: "I rule and you are ruled." Subjects took note of the violent nature of their monarch's rule and were far less tolerant of his shenanigans. This is at odds with the standard narrative supporting democracy, but the old kings of Europe could not fathom the power of modern states. Taxation was very limited and not accepted on a permanent basis until the Hundred Years' War in the 14th and 15th centuries. The American colonies rebelled and fought the British monarchy over relatively minuscule taxation.

However, within two decades, Americans were enduring far greater taxation, as well as the Alien and Sedition Acts, with little to no resistance. Conscription was not a viable option to the state before the democratizing force of the French Revolution rattled Europe to the core. The rabble would have taken the king's head long before he got close to siphoning off 50% of their incomes.

Since the people supposedly rule themselves in a democracy, any type of tyranny would be a tyranny of the people, by the people. It is considerably easier to enact government policies if your subjects believe *they* are in control rather than a tyrant handing down arbitrary edicts.

Democracy, for the modern state apparatus, was a necessary evolution in its conquest of society, as older theories of legitimacy would not allow for the degree of domination that government sought. The populous was thus elevated from subjects to citizens and sold the illusion that they were the state and ruled themselves.

Some may raise objections against this characterization of democracy as simply an aspersion, citing the fact that

people can vote for the candidate of their choice. However, when choosing a candidate, many people become frustrated with the lack of diverse options. For instance, if you oppose war and abortion, for whom should you vote?

Additionally, voting is not sufficient to establish consent; the state will still exist whether you vote or not. Simply granting someone the chance to choose their ruler (that is, if their candidate wins) does not justify another ruling over them in the first place.

Moreover, elected officials in democracies do not possess the incentives to create responsible or even sane policies. If someone handed you the keys to a house and said "Here, use this house for the next 2 years, with no responsibility for its condition when you leave," it would be safe to assume that you may not treat that house as if you own it.

Democracy dominates modern politics. It informs policy decisions, legitimates the state and is the backdrop to all political discussion. Nations fight wars on its behalf and schools instruct children to revere it.

Yet, for such a sacred province, society sanctions democracy with disturbingly little examination. An assumption of the superiority of democracy creates intellectual complacency and results in a nearly religious belief in democracy. It is troubling that our entire political superstructure rests exclusively on childhood socialization and that the rigor of justifications for democracy's preeminence can be fairly described as lacking.

If democracy is to be the focus and end goal of politics, it seems prudent enough to have a discourse in support of such a determination. If armies fight, revolutions upturn society and reforms are to be pursued in democracy's name, emotional appeals and unsupported conflation of freedom and ballot casting should not be considered sufficient argumentation. The deification of majority rule requires less faith in democratic mysticism and more reason. ■

*Bush is already drawing up plans to invade Zeke's house and force democracy down his throat. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# Ten Years in the Joint

*Why the criminalization of marijuana is just a puff of smoke*



by **andrew previc**  
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It is difficult for politicians to make decisions to preserve the rights of individuals while supporting standards of conduct that the majority of individuals in society deem appropriate. The lawmakers who face making revisions to U.S. cannabis policy are a perfect illustration of those conflicting values they need to revise the U.S. cannabis policy and must draft new legislation that both limits the \$113 billion a year underground industry and prevents the perception of a government and society impartial towards drug use.

Decriminalizing marijuana would allow the government to reduce penalties for cannabis use by introducing policies and licensing requirements to regulate it. Decriminalizing would also avoid the larger debate of individual liberties and government interference because it can be viewed objectively as a way to redirect funds initially intended to prosecute marijuana users, towards treatment and prevention programs.

My support for the decriminalization of marijuana does not stem from a strong belief in individual rights and privacies. I support government involvement in the lives of individuals if the action is well-planned and practical. However, the current Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) policy of punishing marijuana users is an example of impractical government interference and, as such, a policy that needs to end.

According to policy analyst John Gettman, the DEA spends more than \$10 billion tracking down buyers and sellers of a drug that has yet to lead to well documented cases of overdose, under-the-influence manslaughter, or domestic abuse. Moreover, Gettman believes that our government also foregoes billions of dollars in tax revenue by forcing the cannabis trade to remain underground. Nevertheless, many opponents who believe in the legislation of morality feel that government involvement earns its economic value by protecting society as a whole from the loss of motivation and ambition induced by marijuana use.

This policy, however, has shown to be ineffective and at times opposite to its original intent. Even with large spending on confiscation and containment programs, it is estimated that more than fifty million Americans (close to one-sixth the U.S. population) use or grow marijuana. By examining the drug policies of other nations, we can determine that the belief that decriminalization would cause an even greater percentage of Americans to use marijuana is false. For example, TIME reports that in the



Marijuana: "Well at least they didn't taser me!"  
Illustration by scott unghusri

Netherlands, where marijuana use is legal, only 20% of the population has experimented with marijuana versus 42% of the population in America.

Those individuals truly concerned with reducing the use of marijuana in society should realize that preventative instruction and treatment, not jail-time, would allow individuals to either break addictive habits or not engage in them in the first place. A reduced drug enforcement policy as a result of decriminalization would free funds to be used for treatment that could be provided to individuals who were trying to stop using marijuana or were at risk of advancing to hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

But ineffective government involvement, such as the policy discussed, does more than just consume funds that could be used for treatment and prevention; it creates forces in society that jeopardize the safety of many citizens. Government stifling of any trade only serves to drive the trade underground and lead to increased organized crime. A clear example of this was the prohibition of alcohol in the 1920s and 30s that allowed crime leaders such as Al Capone to gain influence and power based on their ability to provide the outlawed commodity.

The idea that individuals will stop engaging in an action or behavior because the government outlaws it is false. Removing excessive punishments for an action and ultimately legalizing the action has been shown in

many cases to reduce the dangers or harm associated with it. In Nevada, for example, the legalization of prostitution has diminished pimp control and given freedom back to the women to work and earn a living. In a similar manner, reducing penalties for possession of marijuana may allow more openness among users to acknowledge and share their concerns with others and thus control their habit or seek treatment if necessary.

Decriminalization would end lascivious spending on current marijuana control policy and at the same time provide improved treatment and prevention programs to those currently abusing the drug. In addition, the reduced government interference would largely bring the trade from the underground and into the public sphere. This improved "openness" regarding marijuana trade and use would make it easier for the government to monitor the drug in society as well as encourage the individual user to come forward and seek treatment if he or she believes their drug use is a problem. ■

*Andrew's interest in hydroponics extends only to tomatoes and cucumbers. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*



# The Spin Cycle



by kaitlin butler  
kaitlin.butler@gmail.com



Dirty Projectors  
**Bitte Orca**  
(Domino; 2009)

Dynamic? Random? Solipsistic? Schizophrenic? All of those words can be applied to the albums in the Dirty Projectors' oeuvre, but the adjective that comes to mind when listening to their latest effort is *different*. While *Bitte Orca* still retains the essential elements that have made Dirty Projectors one of the most distinctive bands touring today, their seventh album is perhaps best described as ... restrained.

That, of course, is entirely relative: No fan of modern country music or radio-friendly "adult alternative" would listen past the first song without getting frustrated at the vocals, which seem to wander about the song nonsensically, or at the time shifts, which mess with the audience's expectations. Careful listeners,

though, will be rewarded with one of the more exciting, albeit challenging, albums of the year.

Dave Longstreth, the Yale dropout/musical mastermind behind Dirty Projectors, claims that the music in this al-



bum has a certain colorful feel to it, and that the songs can be related to the ways colors interact.

That description is particularly useful for trying to interpret the album; at times, the lyrics and melodies flow together so well that you stop trying to make sense of them. A certain mellifluous and melodious aura pervades the album, and the songs relate together in a sonic, not necessarily lyrical, way. Thus, *Bitte Orca* has given itself permission to be non-

sensical. The very title of the album is, Longstreth admits, decidedly nonliteral in meaning - he just liked the way the words sounded together.

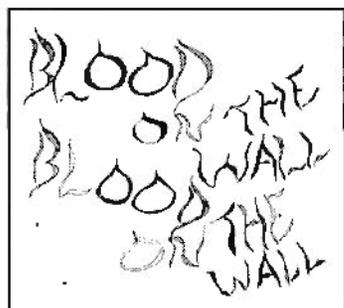
The orchestration is layered and polyphonic (just as you'd expect from a musician who nearly graduated with a degree in classical composition). However, unlike many of its compatriots, Dirty Projectors considers the human voice to be another instrument, going beyond its mere lyrical capacity. That innovative approach leads to some of the best moments on the album, as in the groove-ridden "Stillness in the Move" or interjection-laden "Cannibal Resource".

Although this album is more restrained than previous works (no blast of random audio scuzz here!), it is still, quintessentially, a sonic experiment. In the case of Mr. Longstreth and the Projectors, though, it is the most accessible experiment to date. ■

Kaitlin Butler is her own sonic experiment.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!



by stuart mcafee  
stuartmcafee@gmail.com



Blood on the Wall  
**Awesomer**  
(Social Registry; 2005)

If Blood on the Wall's sophomore album were merely awesome, they would have told you up front. They would have put it right on the spine — they're straightforward people. Instead, it's a more than just awesome barrage of the catchiest late 80s-era garage/alternative this side of the Pixies' *Doolittle*. They're just being honest.

You're understandably skeptical. Since the heyday of G.I. Joe and Barbie people have been trying to force-feed you things they claimed were awesome, much to your disappointment when you discovered they don't actually fight or accessorize on their own.

So, what makes this album so awe-

some? Well, remember when your mom told you in the 6th grade that cool kids don't worry about seeming cool? Blood on the Wall is those cool kids. In *Awesomer* they're playing the music they love because they love it and know you'll love it too — not that they're trying to impress you or anything.



To say that they're a little late to the 80s rock game would be perfectly fair, but who the hell cares? They obviously don't, and look how cool they are. "Mary Susan" is essentially a Pixies song, and Courtney Shanks' deadpan is one of the sexiest things in modern rock. It's refreshing to come back to the basics

once in a while, which no one in this decade has done more masterfully than this band has. From the instant winner "Stoner Jam" to the final track and only slow song "Going to Heaven," *Awesomer* never relents — its 31 minutes should be played at maximum volume for full effect.

But any band can be loud and intense. What makes this album great is that it never stagnates. For a three-person band with bass, drums, and guitar, they cover an incredible amount of ground in a short time without losing the listener. It's exciting on first listen but diverse enough to stay rewarding at lengths that would easily have crushed an album less awesome. ■

Stuart should be played  
at maximum volume for full effect.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!

# The Menu

*This month: the UTD Dining Hall*



by brady spenrath  
bradyspenrath@gmail.com

This month, I'm deviating from my usual pattern of reviewing a restaurant off campus to be the first to write an opinion about the Dining Hall, the newest convenient dining option for UTD's students.

I understand I'm not informing you of anything new — if you're the type to pick up an issue of *AMP* or visit its website in the first place, I'd bet my left kidney you've already heard all about the Dining Hall. But in case you're still on the fence about spending the time and money to try it out, I've laid out my honest opinion here for you.

The Dining Hall has the potential to change campus. Now before you turn the page on what seems to be a shameless plug for the latest campus project, notice my qualifier: the Dining Hall has *potential*. It's not perfect (yet), but it is exciting, inviting, and, indeed, full of tasty food.

I admit I was taken aback at first sight by how well the hall blends elements of UTD's soul while still managing to look modern. Smooth curves, high ceilings, attractive steel and glass trim, and just the right amount of green and orange fuse to create a design of which you can be proud.

The circular buffet area invites you to walk around the perimeter examining what each station is offering but also gives you the space and freedom to skip around to any station. The spacious and airy sitting area, reminiscent of such fashionable eateries as Sweet Tomatoes and Café Express, encourages conversation without looking or feeling anything like a cafeteria.

The food is delightfully uncafeteria-like as well. I came from a small high school where Sloppy Joe filling on a tortilla (a Sloppy José?) qualified as a meal. So to be honest, the idea of a dining hall on campus never really appealed to me.

However, the Dining Hall is completely different. There's pizza cooking in a wood-burning brick oven right behind the counter, you can watch the chefs fry chicken, and several dishes are even made to order.

The lunch and dinner offerings include a stir-fry station where you choose the ingredients and sauce, a sandwich bar, a vegetarian/vegan station, American home style meals, pasta, a salad bar, soups, soft serve, fresh fruit, pastries, pies, cookies, and sodas.

I can recommend the pizza, stir fry, pasta, and, although I'm an adamant meat eater, even the grilled veggies. I can't recommend everything, but only because I haven't tried it yet. The food is satisfying, and I was full long before I could try it all.

During breakfast the spread isn't as wide, but it's still better than any breakfast I've had at college. The waffle bar offers DIY waffle irons, pastries, breads, and bagels as well as a wide variety of toppings, including several cream cheese schmears, fruit compotes, and, of course, butter and syrup. Cereal and milk, fruit, and a few hot choices such as bacon or sausage are also available, but the big draw is the made-to-order omelets. With so many ingredients to choose from, the seasoned eggs and gooey cheese make for a breakfast as good as any restaurant's.

“...the Dining Hall has *potential*. It's not perfect (yet), but it is exciting, inviting, and, indeed, full of tasty food.”

As you can tell, I am proud of the atmosphere and the food at the Dining Hall. Serving a rotating choice of foods in a buffet-like setting has forever changed dining on campus. Also if the Dining Hall catches on, it and the Residence Hall could push the spirit and attitude surrounding campus in an entirely new direction. Students' eating in the hall day after day will create new student habits and encourages friendships, conversations, and possibly even traditions.



The new Dining Hall, in all its resplendent glory. Photo courtesy of liz organ

Actually, I should say the Dining Hall has the potential to do all that. Food is a powerful motivator, but there is much room for improvement.

As many before me have pointed out (see *The Mercury's* editorial) the Dining Hall's hours are inconvenient, to say the least. Closing at 8 PM on weekdays and 7 PM on weekends is inconvenient for those

times annoying, a diner actually has to arrive much earlier — even 45 minutes earlier for breakfast.

Some students will also find the prices disagreeable. Since I am a restaurant and frozen food junkie, a meal plan is not a viable option for me, so I'm considering the individual meal prices. While I find them fair for an all-you-can-eat meal, with \$6.50 at breakfast, \$7.50 at lunch, and \$8.50 at dinner (Golden Corral's now charge around \$11, not including your drink), I can understand why students shy away from both the daunting total of a meal plan, and a \$7.50 lunch — it's not something most college students can afford regularly.

My opinions aside, many financial and business factors determine both the hours of operation and the prices. Whether students will accept both will be interesting to see. I, for one, will definitely be enjoying the delicious food, but only every once in a while, as I do with all my favorite restaurants. ■

with late classes. Even worse, those times are approximate: the food distribution actually ends before closing time, and the switch from breakfast to lunch occurs before the posted time of 10:30 AM.

One night, I arrived at 7:47 PM, assuming that, as I would at a restaurant, I had 13 minutes to grab food, only to be told it was being put away. Once I arrived at breakfast by 10:00 to find the breakfast meats already gone. My omelet was prepared only because of a kind kitchen staffer. So not only are the posted

*Next month, Brady will review the Comet Café in case you're on the fence about trying Subway or Chick-fil-A. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)*

# World Domination

*Finding your inner overlord three credit hours at a time*



by **alice post**  
post.alice@yahoo.com

Imagine this: an email with the subject "New Undergraduate Degree" arrives to the inbox of every UTD student. Exactly 93% of the students delete the message, 2% take a sip of coffee and then delete it, and the remaining 5% of mostly Undeclared majors open and read it: "UT Dallas now proudly offers a bachelor's of science in *World Domination*."

Ok, UTD wouldn't be quite so obvious (clearly that would alert the CIA and the FBI) but just keep imagining.

To dominate the world, an individual or entity must control every major sector of society in every country, which requires an understanding of how each sector operates. At the undergraduate level, a preliminary study of how to manipulate each sector would be a totally viable degree.

UT Dallas is perfectly poised to implement it. Let's analyze the possibilities of the degree sector by sector: security, technology, health, economics, religion, and education.

Security includes both the threats to each state from foreign invaders and those from domestic elements. Such classes as Terrorism, War and Peace, and Criminology would cover at least the basics, but no world ruler in the making could make effective use of security without knowledge of psychology and sociology.

Fortunately, with UTD's strong Behavioral and Brain Sciences school, the intro courses to psychology and sociology would flesh the security curriculum out nicely. The overarching themes would be the role of se-



Now all we need is sharks with laser beams. Photoillustration by alex garcia topete

curity and its influences upon the economy, health, and public opinion.

Technology, especially during the era of hyper-globalization, encompasses telecommunications, satellites, computers, transportation, and even mind-control devices. If there is calculus for people who never meant to be mathematicians, surely the school can create courses in engineering, math, physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, neuroscience, and robotics for those who don't want to become uber-engineers.

Higher-level classes would incorporate interdisciplinary communication control and technological problem-solving. Remember: this major must focus on creating an omnibus expert, not having specialty in six plus fields, which would necessitate a lifetime of study — and leave the student unable to go and actually dominate the world.

The health sector could be revamped for immense good by a benevolent phi-

losopher-king who understands how to use every available option. Thus, classes in nutrition, anatomy, and psychology would be the basis to comprehend the intricacies of people's welfare.

A course about comparative health delivery systems and country case studies with efficiency ratings would provide a world ruler with a practical guide to keeping the world physically fit and thereby maintaining control, since health measures of society are widely recognized as symptoms for problems in other sectors.

The economic sector would be difficult to summarize, for the role of resources in both security and technology is a part of the economic realm, but basic concepts in economics, business, and international trade would suffice. Economic theory, as the recent crisis has taught, tends to collide with economic reality anyway.

Moreover, understanding financial capital and trade, or even the concept of money in each society (e.g. credit vs. cash) would

greatly aid in fixing the economic issues around the globe. A finance concentration on the other hand, would satisfy those with money-grubbing aspirations.

The blasphemous college student is always eager to lump religion and education together when the topic of societal control arises. However, since educational systems have been around for quite a while and are vastly different than religions, the distinction stays.

The easiest way to eliminate the need for complex education systems would be the knowledge-uploader from *The Matrix* — but until a minion of the global ruler invents it, education will have to remain. As with the study of the health sector, a basic comparison of the different types educational methods and philosophies would suffice, covering not only the institutional aspects of school systems but also the actual development and execution of the learning experience in an almost-Pavlovian manner.

Religion is a different matter entirely. Though both religion and education have psychological and sociological components, religion is much more complex. Unless a class about starting your own religion were concocted, the best approach to study this sector would be to analyze its impact upon markets, technology, and all the other sectors — it's all a matter of what people believe.

World domination is plausible, especially with a broad understanding of human behavior, society, and everything these entail. Not only is it possible — it can be taught. If UT Dallas boasts that it's educating the leaders of tomorrow, then why not make it a degree? That would give even a better chance of educating THE leader of tomorrow. ■

*Alice Post just wanted to take a class in guile and subterfuge.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu!](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)*

Think you're funnier  
than Mike Myers?

You certainly are!



Do you think you're  
actually funny?

Write for AMP!

Send your opinions,  
original artwork, and  
tasty first-born children to  
[amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com)

# Caption Contest



Photo by mark lauman

Sample Caption:

**Comet Fan:** "I am wearing a clown nose and caught a fish."

**Off-Frame:** "That is a cat."

**Comet Fan:** "Oh my stars and garters, how embarrassing."

# Summer Caption Contest



Illustration by richard badgett

Winning Caption by David Hinojos:

**Chief:** "Damn kid that movie was torture. Geez! What next? Are you going to rape, pillage and force me out of my land?"

**Kid:** (awkward silence)

# TO EARTH MOON OR COMET

BY DUKWILAN KIM  
VOL. 2 ISS. 1



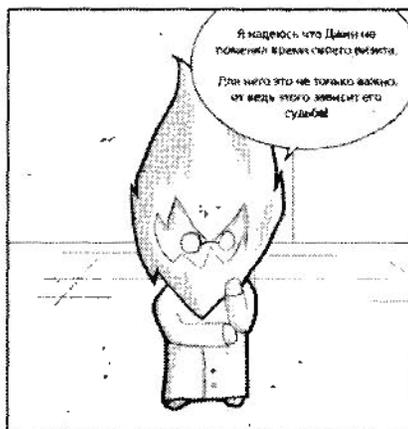
И тут комета  
приземлилась. Я надеюсь  
что Дани успел на неё  
во время



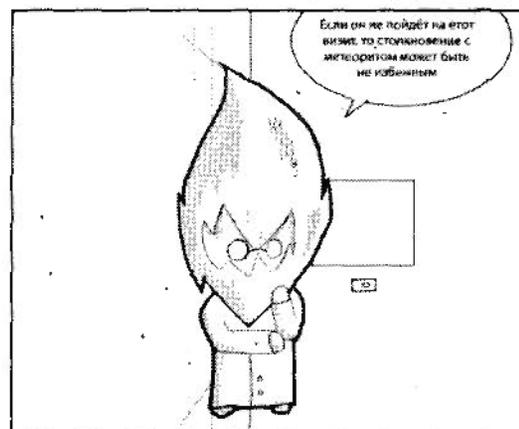
THE COMET HAS  
LANDED ALREADY?  
WHERE?

Это возле магазина SU.  
Нам надо  
поторопиться!!

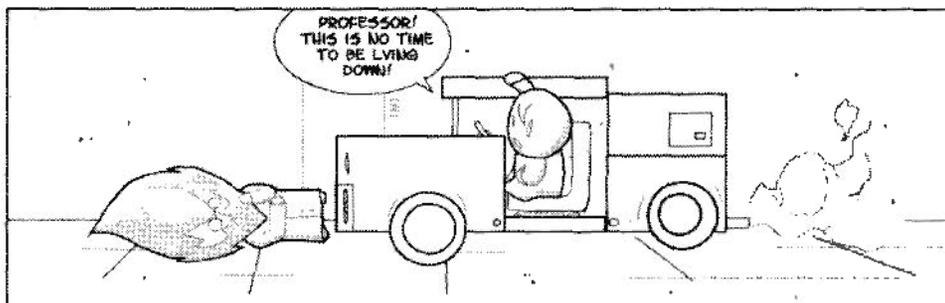
RIGHT, I'LL GET  
THE CAR!



Я надеюсь, что Дани не  
попался в плен светлого рыцаря.  
Для него это не только важно,  
но ведь этого зовут его  
судьбой!



Если он не пойдёт на этот  
визит, то столкновение с  
интерпретатором может быть  
необязательным



PROFESSOR!  
THIS IS NO TIME  
TO BE LYING  
DOWN!

AUTHOR'S NOTE: FIND A RUSSIAN FRIEND FOR SPOILERS!

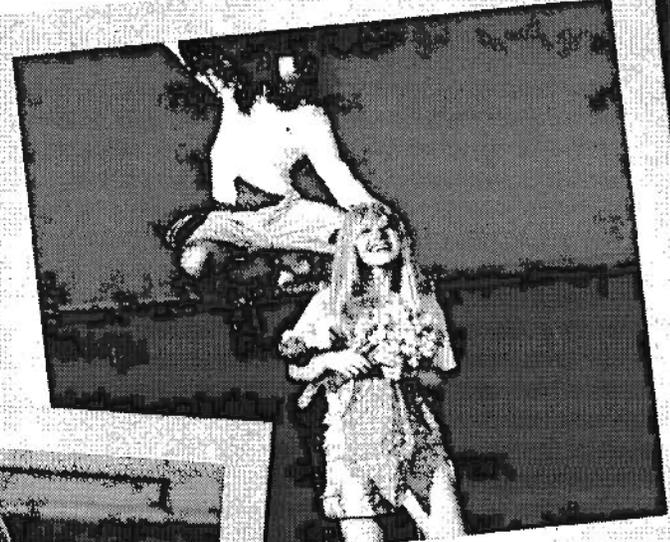
# Caption Contest Rules

Post your captions as comments on the website AND email them with your name to amodestproposal@gmail.com. The editors will select the best one at the end of the month to be the winning caption. The winning caption and some runners up will be published in next month's issue of AMP! The writer of the winning caption shall receive a free AMP T-shirt and a free dinner at Tasty Egg Roll — editors' treat!

Anyone may submit a caption, but only a current student of the University of Texas at Dallas will win. Captions MUST have been submitted to amodestproposal@gmail.com: No caption that hasn't been emailed to AMP will be considered for the contest. So what are you waiting for? Get those creative juices flowing and get to work!

Questions, comments, and concerns should be sent to amodestproposal@gmail.com.

# Caption Contest Photo ... Contest?



Thanks to all those who stopped by our booth at the Convocation Carnival and participated in *AMP's* Be the Caption Contest Photo Contest. Students, faculty, and even police officers all participated by dressing up in random articles of clothing and trying to create the funniest pose which was to be printed as the Caption Contest in this month's issue. While you can see the winner on page 19, here are some of the runner-ups. Check out every photo from convocation at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu).

Also, one million *AMP* thanks to Mark Lauman for rendering unto us his awesome photography skills for the evening.

# Sudoku

Difficulty: Classroom Building



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

Difficulty: Dining Hall



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

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

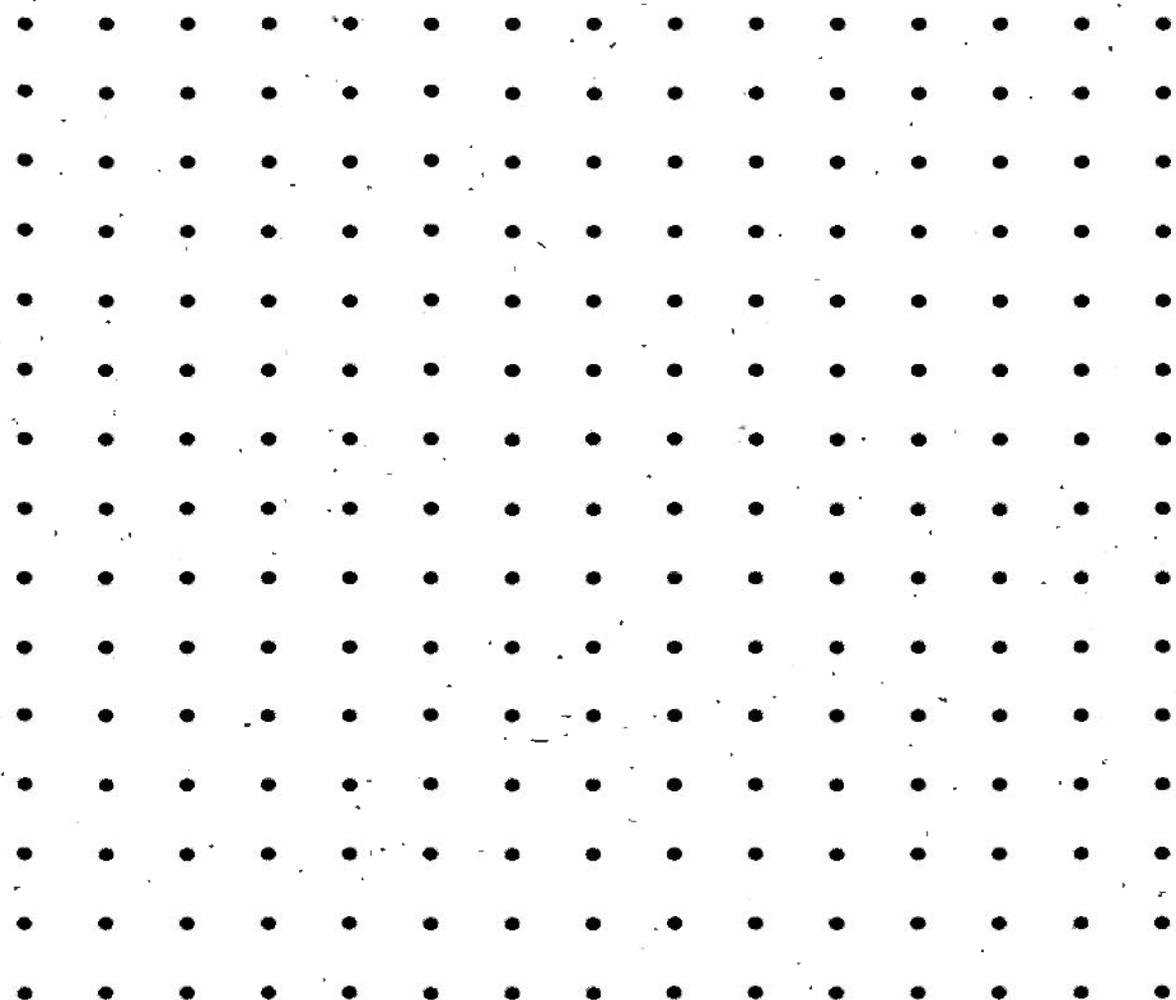
Difficulty: Campus Beautification



# Capture

Answers to the Summer  
2009 CrossWordSearch

F	A	E	R	C	H	L	R	C	S	T	I	Y	O	E
A	I	F	S	E	M	N	I	O	A	B	P	R	Y	E
T	J	H	A	C	C	I	C	M	T	L	A	S	R	H
R	U	P	A	A	B	N	D	E	A	F	P	M	R	U
H	T	S	O	L	O	R	E	T	H	G	E	E	C	M
U	N	Y	K	C	E	A	E	I	E	H	R	C	D	A
N	E	C	E	U	T	X	H	U	C	R	R	H	E	N
C	S	H	S	L	I	L	A	C	R	S	M	A	E	I
S	N	O	R	U	L	W	I	M	R	T	A	N	T	T
E	V	L	M	S	J	N	L	A	S	O	P	I	N	I
R	S	O	T	E	A	R	I	P	T	M	C	C	B	E
T	E	G	E	G	D	E	T	M	U	I	R	S	S	S
H	W	Y	R	Z	R	A	D	B	D	C	E	O	E	N
J	E	O	N	O	C	E	B	Y	Y	A	H	G	D	M
O	E	Y	W	G	H	C	E	T	U	T	E	D	H	L



Capture is a two player game where the players take turns connecting dots that are horizontally or vertically adjacent. If a player completes a square by connecting two dots then they capture that square, putting their initial in the captured square. You must draw another line after making a capture. A player may, thus, make a large number of captures in a single turn. After the last capture he must still connect two dots. The person who captures the most squares wins.

AMP is not responsible for GPA loss due to obsessive puzzle solving;  
AMP takes credit for increased GPA due to obsessive puzzle solving.  
Discuss these puzzles at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

# COMBINATION PIZZA HUT AND TACO BELL

"I'm at the Pizza Hut!"



"I'm at the Taco Bell!"

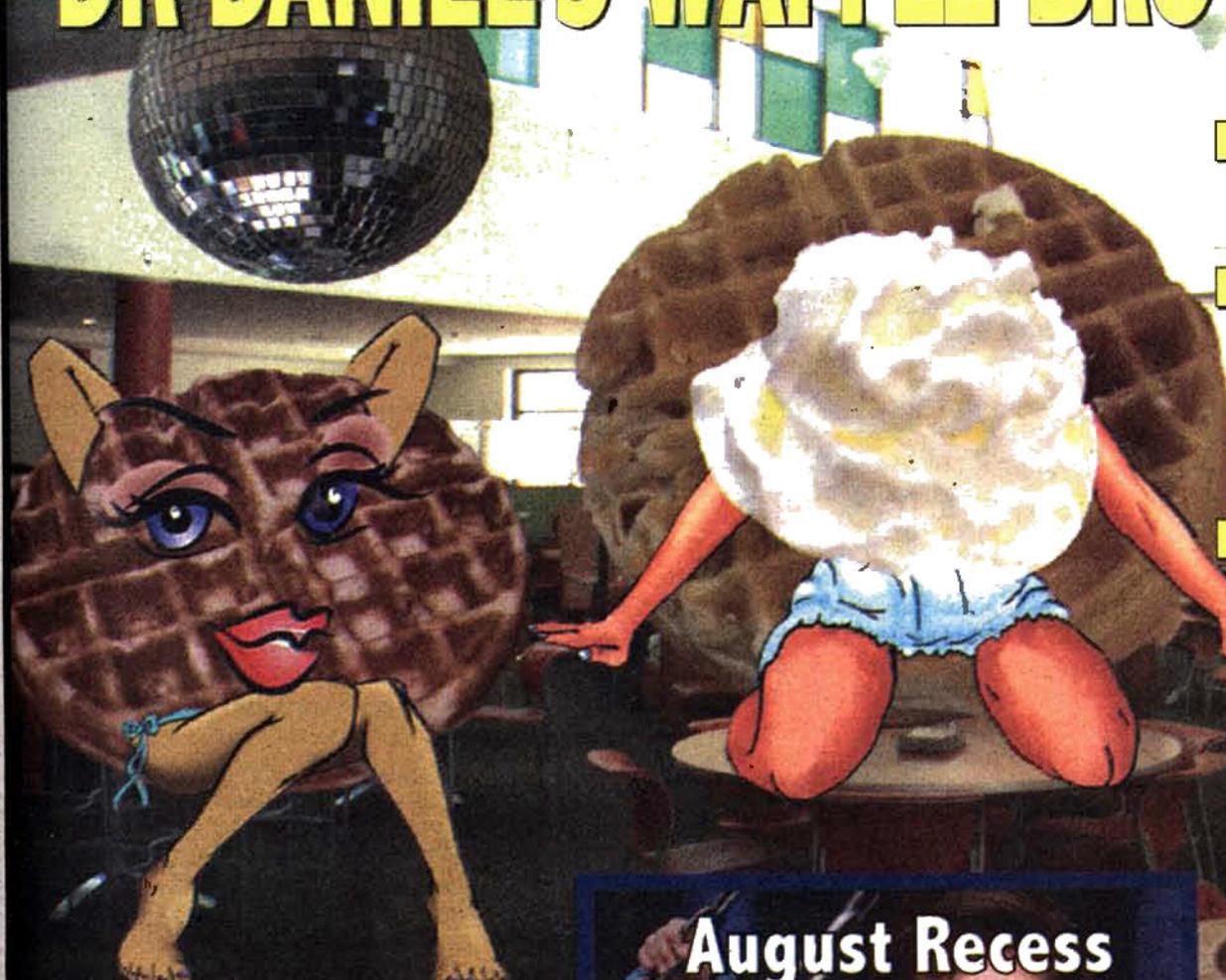


THE MOST  
TRUSTED NEWS  
ON THE PLANET

# URANUS

## DR DANIEL'S WAFFLE BROTHEL

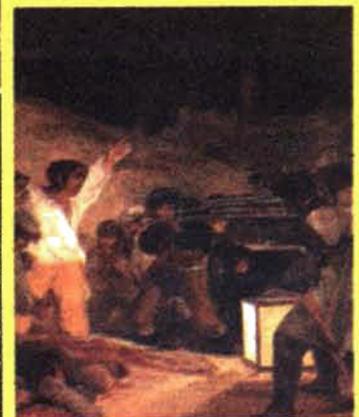
URANUS  
EXCLUSIVE



- It's a Bed and Breakfast thing
- Daniel taps Madame Jemimah to run new establishment
- Plans to open falafel brothel for more international flavor

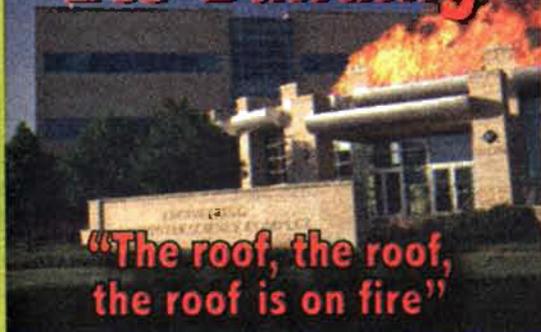
Only in URANUS...

Death Panels



LOL

### ECS Building



"The roof, the roof,  
the roof is on fire"

### August Recess



Wheeeeeeeeeee!

September 2009

\$0.00 US / -\$0.01 Canada



A MODEST PROPOSAL

amodestproposal@gmail.com

## Spirited UT Dallas Student Invades A Modest Proposal

ATLANTA (AMP) - Citing extreme spirit and overwhelming energy, a wide-grinned jumping student with flailing arms managed to be photographed in an unprecedented number of the pages of *A Modest Proposal* pages, a trash rag printed at UTD that parasitically exists on the otherside of *Uranus*, UTD's premiere news organization.

"I dunno," the student remarked, "it seems I must be everywhere. I just really like jumping, being places, and UT Dallas. I mean, they're all awesome things."

Although reports are still coming in, it appears that the anonymous student may be in *A Modest Proposal* as many as eight times.

When asked to comment, the UTD Police stated, "We will not stand for all this spirit on campus. We must go back to the good old days of dreary students and falsified gas records."

## Pixar Announces New Film

BAY AREA (AMP) - Building off the unlikely popularity of the curmudgeonly star of their latest film *Up*, Pixar held a press conference earlier this week to announce their next offering: *Catcher In The Rye*.

Said Pixar exec Frank Templeton, "We're really trying to explore the depths of how connected an audience can be to a deeply misanthropic character. The crotchety old fart in *Up* was edgy, but Holden Caulfield's unyielding hatred for all humanity is really going to allow us to push the envelope."

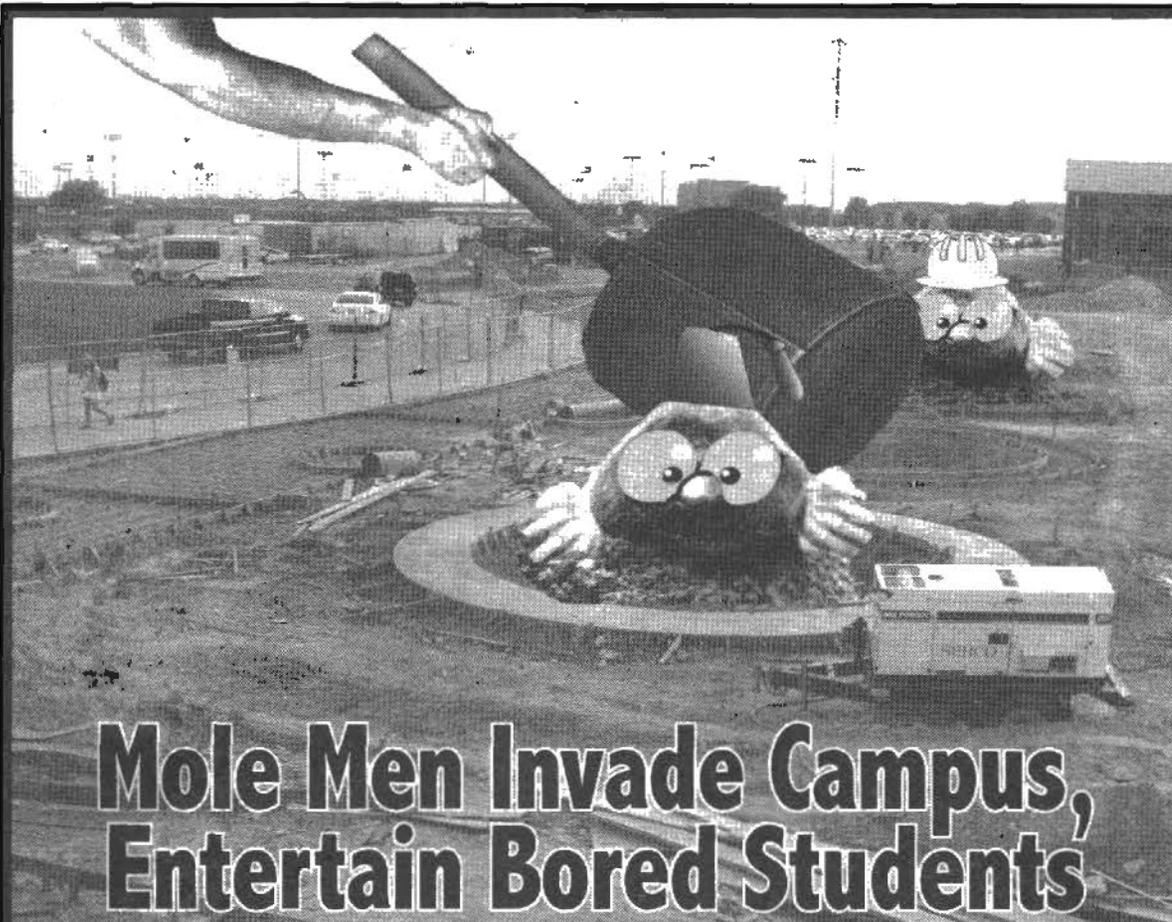
Though not yet greenlighted, plans are also in the works for a delightful family romp documenting the life and adventures of Joseph Stalin and Charles Manson.

## UTD Announces Finalists for Vacant Position

RICHARDSON (AMP) -With the release of a list of potential candidates, the UTD police department is one step closer to having a new police chief following months of temporary leadership.

Finalists include LeVar Burton, Dick Cheney, Tina Fey, your grandmother, that one lady at Wal-Mart who is actually pretty decent as sacking your groceries, Elmo, one of but not both of the Olsen twins, Franz Ferdinand (the man, not the band) and Corporal Deathstorm.

All of the finalists keep impeccable records of their gas.



# Mole Men Invade Campus, Entertain Bored Students

God tests the prototype of the new whack-a-mole game being built near the roundabout behind the School of Management.

by John Edwards  
Really-Old-Movie Buff

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT (AMP) - Reports have been coming in from business majors, commuter students, and circle enthusiasts that giant strange creatures have been periodically popping out of the planters behind the School of Management. The planters are supposedly a part of the campus beautification project, but eyewitnesses say no one has seen trees, flowers, fountains, or even grass in the area in months.

An anonymous employee of UTD Facilities Management revealed that the root cause of the incident occurred long ago: "It all started with campus construction, you know. We figured it'd be a good time to take the asbestos out of the Founders buildings, but we had no idea what else we'd find there."

"Construction workers began to go missing in the recesses of the Founders basement. At first we thought it was just some rabid AMP editors trapped in the building at the inception of the project. However, we had to investigate before all those missing persons became a scandal."

Facilities Management's initial response to those rodents was one that they take towards all pests on campus: kill them all. Despite their best efforts, all attempts were thwarted spectacularly when Superman swooped in to

save the precious mole-men, much as he did during the 1951 film entitled *Superman and the Mole Men*.

"Eventually we just gave up," said Kensington Steele, head of the Office of Extermination Affairs. "You know you can only shoot an alien superhero so many times in the eye before it gets pretty boring. Our biggest challenge was finding something for them to contribute to the university."

"Everyone here at UTD has to earn their keep. No one is here for free... except for over 50 percent of the students."

An ad hoc committee was formed to try to come to a solution of the mole-men freeloaders. Every eager beaver freshman was consulted, and it was decided that the mascot would be changed to Nam-Elom the Mole Man. But then nothing actually happened.

Instead, the committee decided to make campus more of an interactive learning environment. While reading a proposal for putting a giant chessboard on campus, a committee member had a sudden stroke of genius — "Wack-A-Mole!" he exclaimed.

"But not just any Wack-A-Mole. Giant Wack-A-Mole! Everything is bigger in Texas."

The hours, however, much like the Dining Hall, are incredibly inconvenient, and no one can lift the mallet. ■

# Waffle Brothel: Ready to Serve



The new Waffle Brothel will be always open and ready for business!

by **D'Brickashaw Cunningham**  
Waffle and Pastry Connoisseur

RICHARDSON (AMP) - In a move described by a haggard-looking UTD "public-relations" liaison as "a delicious combination of breakfast and sex education," UTD President Dr. David Daniels unveiled the newest addition to student services: The Waffle Brothel.

In a recent phone interview, Dr. Daniel attempted to clarify the purpose of the new institution. "It's like the waffle bar, you dig? But instead of, you know, eating the waffles, you totally —" at which point the conversation became unintelligible commotion. When asked how he came up with the idea, Dr. Daniel responded, "So I was watching these *American Pie* movies and reading a food review. The review said the only thing people like more than warm apple pie is warm syrupy waffles covered in whipped cream. I just decided to give the students what they want."

Reaction among the students has been fairly positive, with the common opinion that Dr. Daniel is in tune with student needs and desires.

One student who was on the fence about the issue had this to say: "I don't know how I feel about it. I wouldn't ever use it — there are so many options I could never pick — but I like that we have such a forward-thinking university president. I mean, first an ambitious

plan to change the university, now this!"

UT Dallas police have requested an aggressive targeted ad campaign for the ECS building in the hope that providing an outlet for sexual frustration will decrease the recent spree of unwanted groping.

Rhet 1101 instructors have embraced the suggestion. "Freshman year is a time of growth and new experiences," said Professor Judith Clementine. "It's always so hard to get the engineering students to socialize, take risks, and explore relationships with real people."

The newly appointed proprietor of UTD's waffle house of ill repute, Madame Jamima, has promised to provide students with the best servicing in the business. "I've hired some of the finest Belgian waffles and transferred some veteran waffles from my establishment in Amsterdam. The students will especially enjoy the grand opening. The entertainment is going to be the real Lady Marmalade."

It is unclear how the Richardson community will react to the latest addition to the university, though several angry small business owners have already initiated a petition to shut things down. Ms. Buttorsworth, owner of a local IHOPP (International House of Pancake Prostitutes), said, "My pancakes have been serving the UTD community for years. If we can't get it shut down, we'll just have to drive out the competition." ■

## Cheney Misunderstands UTD's "Jail and Bail"

Dozens of students  
detained in Guantanamo

SOMEWHERE (AMP) - The office of Student Affairs was surprised to learn that a Welcome Week event designed to raise money for academic scholarships had been crashed by Homeland Security agents.

Phyllis Ramsey, head of the sting, explained: "We had reliable information from a secret anonymous tip from Dick Cheney... Damn it! I wasn't supposed to tell you that. Better cancel my hunting trip now.

"We intercepted some very suspicious paperwork which indicated we needed to take immediate action.

"I mean 'caffeine trafficking', that is some dangerous stuff. 'Wearing too much orange and green', we all know orange is only one shade away from pinko commie red.

"Worst of all was those charged with the crime of 'conspiracy to join Amnesty International.' They want to treat terrorists with dignity, which is just un-American."

In an ironic twist of fate, all those arrested were taken to the newly vacated Guantanamo Bay detainment facility.

"We initially considered keeping them in Classroom Building West, but the conditions there are just inhumane. Not even we would do that to someone," stated Ramsey.

Over 120 students and faculty were arrested by Homeland security. Bill Clinton is currently on route to negotiate their release and clear the matter up.

"Boy do we have egg on our face. Who knew it was all a gag. It was an unknown unknown" commented Ramsey. ■