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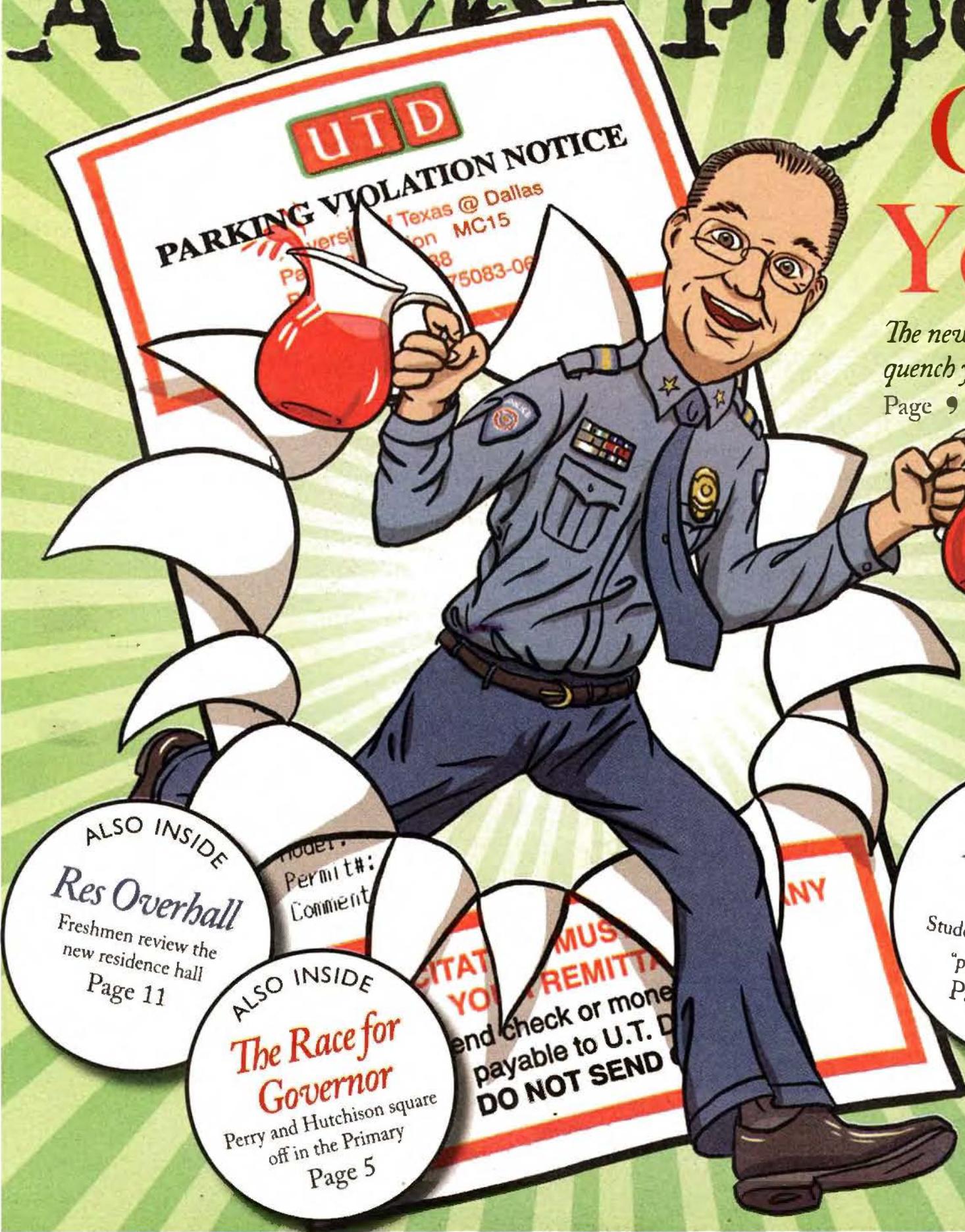
Jonathan Coker, *et al.*

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A Modest Proposal

Oh Yeah!

The new police chief is here to quench your thirst for justice
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Res Overhall
 Freshmen review the new residence hall
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Dining Hall Defects
 Students can only pardon its "progress" for so long
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From our Website

amp.utdallas.edu

Good article, Ryan. I think this really shows the absurd amount of hero worship apparent in popular American entertainment, particularly with big name celebs. Vick might not have been that big of a name before the scandal, I wouldn't know because I only have a passing interest in sports. However, with all this shine he's a big name to snag, which means potentially a big revenue bringer. Of course Eagles fans are gonna buy tickets, they wanna see this criminal in action!

We just have such a tendency to forgive and forget important legal transgressions when it comes to getting some good entertainment out of it, for two reasons. First, I don't think the majority of the public cares enough to raise a fuss, and are probably more interested in seeing these villains in action than back in jail. Second, the entertainment folks in charge of casting/getting these jokers know that people want to see the scum of America in all their glory at their second chance/come back/still being scum, so they take advantage of it. Some other examples are Tom DeLay on Dancing w/ Stars, Rob Blagojovich trying to get on Help, I'm a Celebrity. Those are the only ones that come to mind right now, but of course there are countless more. When it comes to just celebrities there are really too many to list. Our entertainment is just more important than sending the right message.

Tyler, "Vick's Villainy" post No. 2

Actually Vick was about as big a star as there is before the dog fighting deal. He had one of the best if not the best jersey sales in the league, on the cover of Madden, sponsorships, commercials and had a 100+ million dollar contract. And as the article says, he's playing for 1.6 million now.

To even imply that Vick has gotten off easy is laughable at best.

Zeke, "Vick's Villainy" post No. 3

"the Dining Hall, unlike the Residence Hall, is open to all students while the Residence Hall is not."

Actually the Res Hall is open to all students, granted its between the hours (I think) of 9am - 10pm. It's only during off hours that you have to be with a Res Hall resident to enter.

Just saying they have a nice foosball table, "Raise the Roof" post No. 1

This artwork is ridiculous. Seriously. You have all these hip, unhappy young people glaring angrily at the fucking monopoly guy as he enters a hospital.

It's possible, you know, that instead of a top-hat wearing, monocled caricature of wealth, the guy with good health insurance is someone who worked hard all their life, and made the right choices in order to provide for himself and his family.

To turn this into a "rich v poor" argument where the rich are presented as 19th century railroad tycoons is doing a real disservice to the argument.

Marucha, "Why We Should Care" post No. 4

Why, I think you have quite a strong argument there, Ms. Post. In fact, I would question as to why your article is in the *Uranus* section* of this month's edition, seeing that a world domination major is just as viable as any attempt at a new and strongly supported non-science related program at UTD.

Okay maybe not as strong an option, but I know some people. We can make this happen. For one, Dr. Daniel talks about becoming Tier 1 all the time... what is a higher tier than dominating the entire world?

In fact, this may have been the president's plan all along!

Oh conspiracy.

Little 1, "World Domination" post No. 1

*Editors' Note: This article appeared in the Shameless Frivolity section of *A Modest Proposal*, not in *Uranus*.

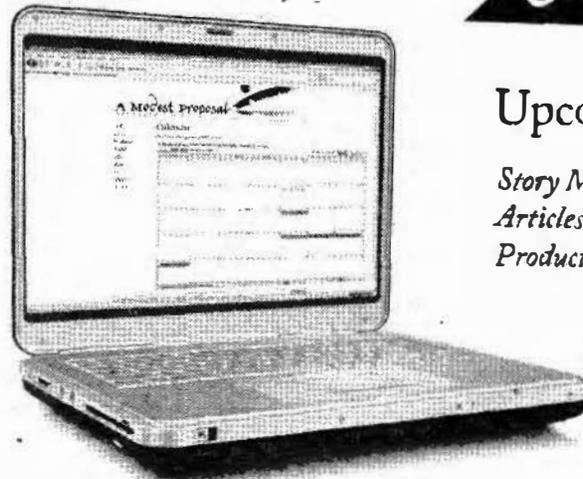
As the former Student Regent of the UT System, I can assure you that this is, in fact, President Daniel's plan and always has been.

Ben Dower, "World Domination" post No. 2

Want to get involved?

AMP is looking for talented people! While we are always looking for more people to submit articles, there is a large variety of things to do even if you are not interested in writing.

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GO HERE!

Upcoming AMP deadlines:

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Articles Due — Oct. 15, Midnight.

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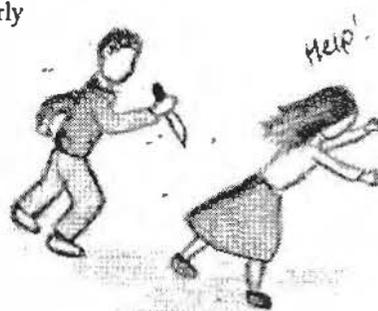
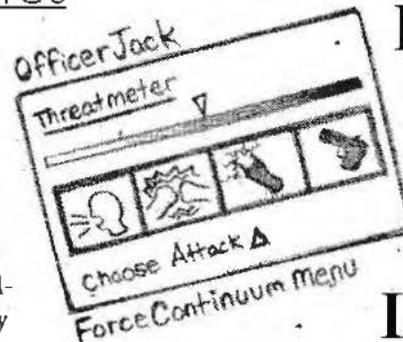
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Cover design by luke mckenzie. Uranus cover design by jonathan coker. Contents images by lewis chang and mac hird.

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Gubernatorial Grapple

Perry and Hutchinson brace for an all-out brawl in the Republican Primary



by **megan newman**
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March 2, 2010 is the date of the next primary election in Texas. Do me a favor — jot down that date on your calendar and start watching the news with amusement. Why? Two champion politicians have squared off on the battleground of that primary, and the feathers are already flying.

In August, Kay Bailey Hutchinson, a 16-year U.S. Senator for Texas, announced that she will challenge incumbent Governor Rick Perry in the Republican primary election. When she made her announcement, Hutchinson challenged Perry's ability to lead the state and the Republican Party effectively, saying that she should be elected "because Texas can do better." Since then, the two camps have been flinging rhetoric back and forth with cruel efficiency.

Hutchinson attacked Perry's support of the idea that Texas could conceivably secede from the Union. Perry attacked Hutchinson for being a "Washington insider" out of touch with Texas realities. Hutchinson criticized Perry for backing out on an alleged promise to refrain from running for office in 2010. Perry fired back at Hutchinson for claiming that she would only serve two terms in the U.S. Senate but actually running for a third term. Hutchinson and Perry blame each other for the Republican Party's recent electoral losses.

It is difficult to see the reality among such conflicting claims. In general, they tell a story of political stunts being pulled by both Perry and Hutchinson, none of which are particularly attractive. So far in this campaign, Perry has sent trucks reading "Kay

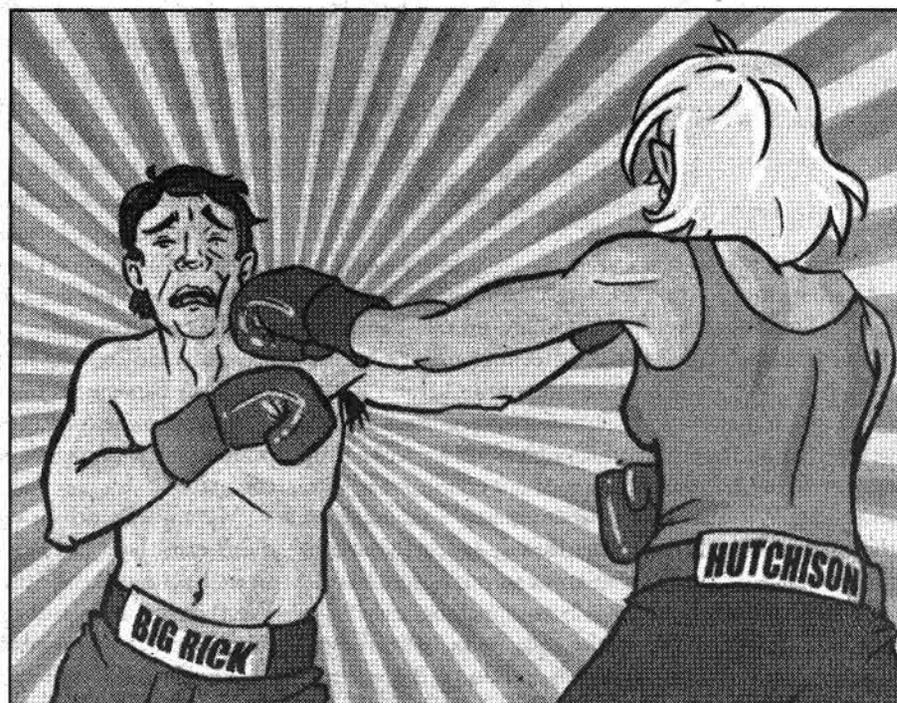
Bailout" and planes touting "Kay Come Clean Release Your Taxes" to many of her campaign speeches. He set up a website with examples of Hutchinson's "flip-flops" on the issues, narrated by the voices of small children.

Hutchinson, in turn, took footage of the trucks and planes and turned it into a cheesy, Armageddon-style campaign video. She also opened her campaign with the young cheerleaders of La Marque High School after criticizing President Obama for bringing politics into the classroom when he spoke to schoolchildren about health care.

Did Perry say that he believes Texas could secede from the Union today if it wanted to do so? Yes, he *really* did, on April 15. Then on April 16, he stood by his remarks. Is Kay Bailey Hutchinson a Washington insider? Most likely, yes. She is "the highest ranking Republican woman in Congress", according to her website.

So Perry obviously slept through his history and constitutional law classes (*bello*, the Civil War and the Supreme Court pretty much settled the question of secession over a century ago!), and Hutchinson hasn't really lived in Texas for 16 years. I am much more concerned about Texas's image and future if its people continue to re-elect a governor who is downright idiotic than I am about Senator Hutchinson's being a career politician.

According to *The New York Times*, Governor Perry allegedly promised influential Republican Party donors that he would not run for office again in 2010 if they backed him over Hutchinson in 2006. Though he denies making that promise, those donors are backing Hutchinson this time around, because of Perry's alleged about-face. Acting more transparently, Hutchinson publicly promised to move on after serving two terms in the Senate, yet chose to run again in 2006. She defended herself by claiming



You can't hit a girl, Hutchinson! Illustration by Jordan Batura

that she had hoped to make two terms a general rule, but if other Senators won't follow it, then neither will she.

Long story short, they both went back on their word on term limits. In that light, I'm not sure Hutchinson's campaign promise to push for a two-term limit for Texas governors is any better than Perry's unabashed public desire to stay in office until we can't remember what a good governor looks like.

Perry and Hutchinson have also cross-fired accusations of fostering the recent struggles of the Republican Party. Hutchinson claims that Perry's extreme conservatism and cronism in office has caused divisiveness and caused the Republican Party to lose ground in some former urban strongholds. Perry, in turn, blames the Republican Party's losses in the 2008 election on party members like Hutchinson, who, he says, wore "the Republican jersey but [has] been playing like [a] Democrat."

Of course, in the political world, if the campaign attacks are flying, the money is soaring in even faster. You may want to take a seat for the following figures: Kay Bailey Hutchinson has already raised \$12.5 million, and Rick Perry \$9.3 million, just for the pri-

mary race!. That's a total of \$21.8 million for one primary race, and the fund raising has only just begun. Am I the only one disturbed by that picture?

There must be a better way to run politics in this country and in this state. I can think of more than 22 better ways to spend \$21.8 million than on the exchange of political jobs, negative websites, and ugly political maneuvering. Perhaps it is our fault as citizens for becoming so numbed to our government that it takes high and undignified drama to get us involved in even minimal numbers.

It discourages me to observe today's version of the civic system our forefathers worked so hard to put in place. I firmly believe, as Hutchinson says in her slogan, that Texas can and must do better than Rick Perry, but something tells me that Texas should do better than Kay Bailey Hutchinson too. ■

“ Hutchinson and Perry blame each other for the Republican Party's recent electoral losses. ”

Megan took a break from briefs to write about boxers!
Which do you prefer?
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

A Merry Affair

Debunking popular arguments against same-sex marriage

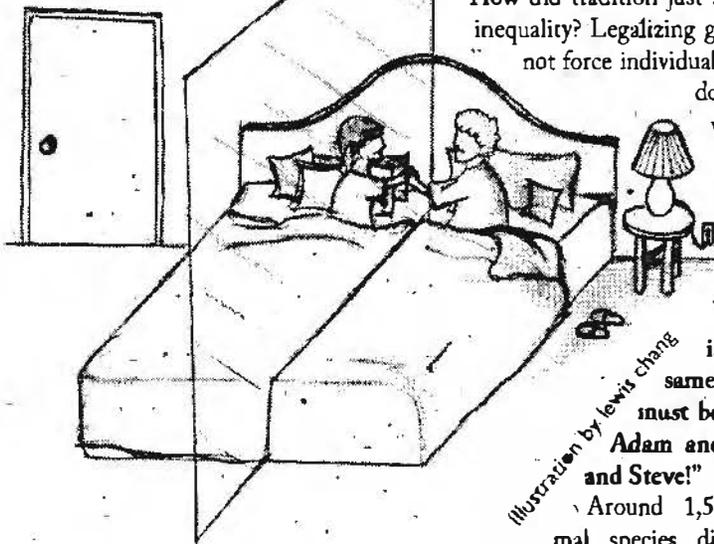


by emily lichtenheld
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Recently the Obama administration has been sending mixed signals concerning the issue of gay marriage and the possibility of repealing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA): The administration has stated that it "does not support DOMA as a matter of policy, believes that it is discriminatory, and supports its repeal"; however, the Department of Justice will continue to support DOMA because it is a federal statute.

That announcement has reignited the debate about same-sex marriage, which is now hotter than ever. The Obama administration needs to get its hands dirty and take a strong stand during the climate of renewed debate, for the arguments against government recognition of same-sex marriage ignorantly and illegitimately disregard our government's Constitutional obligation to accommodate the beliefs, needs, and desires of the many different groups that live in America.

As of late, I have heard nine major arguments



Law: saving the sanctity of marriage from those over 40.

against gay marriage, all of which can be reasonably debunked since their logic (when any is involved) is deeply flawed.

Making same-sex marriage legal will redefine marriage for all of us, infringe on our rights, and threaten the sanctity of marriage.

Marriage is a personal relationship (recognized by the government) between people who want their partnership acknowledged by the rest of society. The current marriage laws actually infringe on gay people's rights by denying them the same treatment that heterosexual people get.

Changing the federal and state laws to allow gay marriage does not take away heterosexuals' right to marriage or make their marriage any less sacred — it only expands the realm of people that get to enjoy the rights marriage guarantees. The government recognizes as marriage many relationships that some or even many churches would not approve of, such as marriages between two different faiths and common law marriage, which violates traditional values by endorsing cohabitation and sex outside of marriage.

Marriage is traditionally between a man and a woman.

Many traditions change or clarify with new developments in society — not all traditions are meant to be kept or should be. How did tradition just slavery and gender inequality? Legalizing gay marriage would

not force individual churches to abandon their traditional values; it would merely change traditional laws so that homosexuals could obtain civil marriages.

Being gay is not natural; so same-sex marriage must be unnatural. "It is Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve!"

Around 1,500 different animal species display homosexual behavior and practices, including

"It is unacceptable that in this day and age that such a large portion of society is being denied basic rights on such flimsy grounds."

bonobos, killer whales, and black swans. The taboo on homosexual relationships and practices is a social meme that society has created and that is clearly not present in the natural animal kingdom.

According to the Bible, being gay is wrong; therefore gay marriage goes against the word of God and should not be legal.

Arguing the legality of same-sex marriage based on a religious text is moot. The law is based on the guidelines that the Constitution and western legal tradition provide — neither is religiously based. Furthermore, this country consists of a diverse collection of people with different religious beliefs. It is necessary for law and religious values to diverge so that no one religion has the power to impose its religious values on others.

This country was founded on Christianity; same-sex marriage is not something the founders would have wanted.

FALSE! This country was in fact not founded on Christianity. As founding father John Adams said, "The government of the United States is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion." Therefore, any argument against gay marriage that claims religious roots for United States politics is irrelevant.

Marriage is a sacred/religious institution; government does not have the right to interfere in its definition.

Government has already interfered in the definition of marriage! As long as the government links fundamental rights — spousal privilege, inheritance, joint tax filing, insurance benefits, living wills, power of attorney, and parental rights — to the institution of marriage, marriage is also a legal status. Don't argue that homosexuals can get a civil union instead — those are only available in a handful of states and offer far fewer legal rights than marriage.

Children need both a mother and a father; having two of one implies that the other is dispensable and puts affected children at risk of sexual confusion.

There are all sorts of legal, nontraditional family situations in society that can violate the same values used to oppose same-sex marriages. What about single parents? Don't forget that child sex offenders are allowed to get married and have children. Marriage and child-rearing are overlapping but separate issues.

Gay marriage is icky.

Old-people sex is icky ... but it's still legal.

My favorite: If gays are allowed to get married what happens next? Are we going to legalize sex with children? Incest? Will you be allowed to marry your dog? Or a chair?

This argument is nothing but a red herring. Marriage requires mutual informed consent; children are not legally able to provide that. The last time I checked dogs and especially chairs are also incapable of actually giving consent. However, if I ever see the signature of a chair I might be inclined to change my position.

The Obama administration must use strong leadership to deal with this issue adequately. The current debate merely relies on the same stagnant argument that opposition groups champion — tradition. It is unacceptable that in this day and age such a large portion of society is being denied basic rights on such flimsy grounds. We must not allow appeals to tradition to cloud our ability to reconsider outdated blue laws and create truly broad legislation that encompasses the reality of our diverse society. ■

A chair tried to marry Emily once. They determined Emily could not give informed consent. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!

Imma Let You Finish

Joe Wilson's outburst bodes poorly for the Republican Party



by **billy easley**
billyeasley2@gmail.com

Earlier this month, President Obama urged the passage of health care reform by calling on the "character of our country." Whatever your feelings may be on the current health care debate or the politics behind it, the interruption that occurred during the President's speech before the joint session of Congress this past month demonstrates that the character of our country is in dire straits. Joe Wilson's outburst is not merely a reminder of the embarrassing state of American discourse but rather of the toxic partisanship that ensnares our government.

The partisan response has been appalling, especially on the Republican side of the aisle — in some circles, Congressman Wilson's rudeness is akin to the anointing oil for a martyr. He's been hailed as the voice of the growing frustration of the right, and his campaign contributions have benefited from this saintly designation. Less than a week after his catcall of "Yon lie!" from the floor of the House, his campaign coffers have increased by over a million dollars. His Democratic opponent, Rob Miller, has also benefited from the national spotlight that's been placed on what would normally be a ho-hum South Carolina House race — Rob Miller's campaign has raised about 1.5 million dollars since the incident.

The campaign contributions themselves don't bother me (campaign finance reform is a topic for another time). It's the vitriol and partisanship that inspired them that worries me. How many Republicans and Democrats know the policies that Joe Wilson and Rob Miller stand for? How many campaign contributors were driven more by the political drama that enraptured the 24-hour news cycle than by a belief that either of these men represent voter's values?

Passion rather than reason was likely the driving force behind the windfall both candidates have experienced. The race for Joe Wilson's seat in the House of Representatives has ceased to be about choosing someone who will represent the values of his district; it has degenerated to a perverse outlet for partisan fervor. While the media will certainly clamor for the political drama, neither political party will benefit and the people of South Carolina's second congressional district will benefit even less.

But the Republican Party is the one that suffers most of all from this state of affairs — this is not how the party

I admire should respond to such a blatant lack of respect towards the leader of our nation. I'm embarrassed to be a member of a party that, instead of relying on charismatic leadership and a firm political philosophy, incorporates political arguments that celebrate such vitriol. Joe Wilson is at the zenith of a disturbing trend in the Republican Party; the cries of socialism and comparisons between President Obama and Hitler have signaled a growing lack of respect towards the Presidency and fostered an environment wherein outbursts like Joe Wilson's have become acceptable. In creating that environment, the Republican Party has become an insecure shadow of its former self — it has become content with lashing out against the opposition with immature insults rather than substantive concerns.

My anger is driven out of love, not contempt. If I didn't care about the Party, I wouldn't mind if members started acting like British Parliamentarians (or Kanye West) in the middle of the President's speech. But I do mind — we're supposed to be better than that. Granted, Congressman Wilson apologized and there have been a number of Republican leaders, including Senators John



No wonder President Obama thinks Kanye West is a jackass.
Photoillustration by jonathan coker

“ The cries of socialism and comparisons between President Obama and Hitler have ... fostered an environment wherein outbursts like Joe Wilson's have become acceptable. ”

McCain, John Boehner, and our own John Cornyn, who have characterized his behavior as inappropriate.

But that was the easy part. The cacophony of voices dismissing his behavior was necessary but it was far from sufficient. When Representative James Clyburn from South Carolina advocated censuring Joe Wilson for his outburst, the Republican Party should have supported the measure rather than simply saying that there are more important things to do. While I agree that this misadventure has driven us farther from creating effective health care legislation and has only poisoned the debate further, the Republican Party needs to make an about-face. It needs to send a stern message: the Party respects the Office of the President even if its current occupant does not represent the Party's values.

For the last eight years, the Republican Party has endured vicious attacks against President Bush from the opposition. I was one of the many people who decried the outrageous accusations and disrespect directed towards President Bush. I dismissed those who made such attacks as suffering from Bush Derangement Syndrome — but it seems like a great deal of the Republican Party is suffering from a similar kind of derangement now that it's out of power. We were the Party that warned the populace against demeaning the President during war time because it would make our nation seem weak. But there's been no end to the demeaning comments made against President Obama. Think of how weak it makes our nation to the outside world when representatives of our government fail to respect our most powerful leader. There was a time when the Republican Party understood that dissent has its proper time and place. There was a time when the Republican Party possessed the character this country demanded from its political leaders. This is not that time. ■

Billy's going to let you finish, but this article is one of the best articles of all time.

Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

The Place for Race

The societal toll of equivocating disagreement with racism



by art zachary
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I learned my first expletive at an early age. My parents were watching the news in mid-January 1987 when live footage aired from a protest gathering in the small Atlanta suburb of Cumming, Georgia. A group of men from surrounding areas had gathered to run a counter-demonstration against the arrival of about 50 black civil-rights marchers who had bussed in from Atlanta for a “walk for brotherhood”.

The rally began with an incendiary speech by J.B. Stoner, a white supremacist (according to *The New York Times* article summarizing the event) who had recently been released from prison after serving time for bombing a black church in the 1950s. The civil-rights march was planned by a school teacher and area

resident to effect a change in the image of then all-white Forsyth County. Rocks, bottles, racial epithets, and expletives (with which I immediately became enamored) were thrown at the marchers. Four were injured before the march was called off. That incident was racism.

On September 9th, President Obama delivered an address to Congress outlining his goals for health care reform. Upon Obama’s mentioning that illegal immigrants would not be covered under the proposed health plan, Representative Joe Wilson of South Carolina shouted down the President for, as the congressman saw it, lying about the details of the plan. That was an example of inappropriate disrespectful behavior and a serious breach of decorum.

A few days after Wilson’s outburst, former President Jimmy Carter declared that the Congressman’s actions were “based on racism”, and that Wilson was motivated, like “many in this country”, by the feeling that “an African-American should not be President.” One should note in defense of

Carter’s statement that Representative Wilson has lent some merit, on the

record, to that sort of claim: When Essie Mae Washington-Williams (who is black) came out publicly as the daughter of South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond, Wilson declared the news a “smear” on the late Senator’s memory, according to the South Carolina daily *The State*. Furthermore, Representative Wilson is a staunch proponent of preserving the display of the Confederate flag over the state house in South Carolina and a member of Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Before we proceed much further it is necessary, in order to avoid *reductio ad absurdum*, to point out that racism exists on a continuum. Not every example of racism is as overt as a group of backwoods, North Georgia Klan members (several were in attendance at the Cumming rally) and other concerned but equally and defiantly ignorant citizens shouting down a march of peaceful civil rights demonstrators.

That said, it must also be recognized that, as nebulous a concept as racism is, it does not explain all criticism of a president who happens also to be black. Whether Representative Wilson was inflamed by a passionately irrational and arcane distaste for all non-white peoples or simply voicing the concerns of a section of his electorate, his outburst must be considered in the proper context.

Jimmy Carter’s comments, irrespective of Representative Wilson’s history of racial insensitivity, are at the very least not constructive to the healthcare reform dialogue.

To attach claims of racism to the outburst is to empower a martyr for the opposition, especially in the current climate of discourse, in which substantive debate carries less favor than sound bites and sensationalism.

Providing ammunition for the dissent to claim that the majority party simply disrespects the opposition as racist allows for artful sidestepping of issues. Deflection is, after all, the most easily and readily employed weapon in any successful politician’s arsenal.

If the Democrats want to move the debate forward towards a more constructive

“As nebulous a concept as racism is, it does not explain all criticism of a president who happens also to be black.”

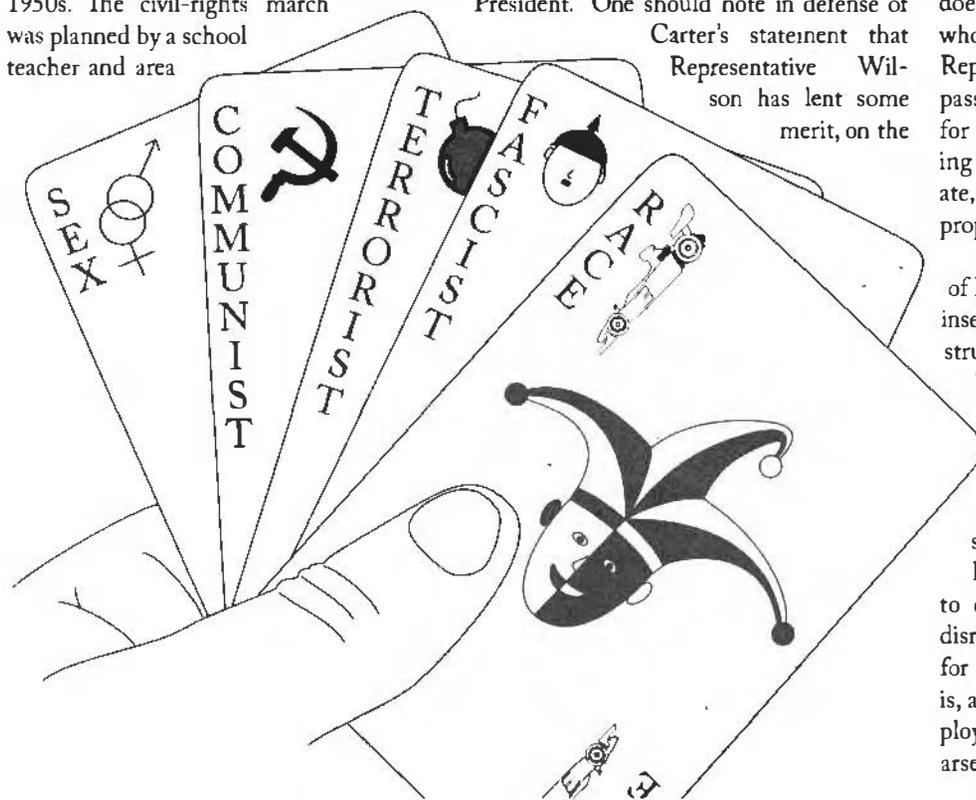
position, they must distance themselves politically from the line of thinking that associates ideas as opprobrious as racism with opposition to their mandate. Otherwise they’ll have to abandon any hopes of compromise and push through legislation on the power of a majority.

Politics aside, there is another important matter to consider: how bandying about loaded terms, such as racism, affects the terms themselves. Already words like fascist and Nazi have been abused, by both sides of the aisle, to the point of convulsion and nonsense. It demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding of the magnitude of the imagery, and the historical context, for Tea Party protestors to tote about mustached portraits of Obama today, just as it did when anti-war protestors acted similarly in the Bush years. Fascists the world over would like to know what their ideology has to do with healthcare reform, while semanticists appreciate the contradiction in calling a policy of *socialized medicine fascist*.

Although fascism and Nazism are perhaps less relevant in day-to-day political discourse (in rational times), racism must remain a relevant concern. To degrade the meaning of that word is to lose focus on the importance of continued vigilance towards maintaining equality. When politics runs fast and loose with language, it is not only the discourse but also the language itself that is damaged; racism must not become a buzzword. ■

Art is a racist — he always tries to finish as quickly as he can.

Discuss this article at gmp.utdallas.edu/



People seem to be pulling out the race card too often. Illustration by mac hild

95 Blasphemes

How Ireland's Blasphemy laws violate the tabernacle of free speech



by richard badgett
richard.badgett@gmail.com

On October 1st, Ireland will begin enforcing a controversial law designed to encourage religious tolerance by providing harsh penalties for the crime of blasphemy. Phrased that way, their efforts, especially noteworthy in a country ravaged for centuries by sectarian violence, seem commendable, even noble.

In reality, what Ireland has done is pass a law con-

demning free speech and sending the state of intellectual discourse in Ireland back to the Middle Ages. With fines of up to 25,000 euros and a prison sentence of up to 10 years, the law could prove absolutely ruinous to anyone unfortunate enough to offend the religious.

Under the new law, a blasphemer is anyone who "publishes or utters matter that is [intentionally meant to be] grossly abusive or insulting in relation to matters held sacred by any religion, thereby causing outrage among a substantial number of the adherents of that religion." There are fines, jail time, and even a suspension of basic civil liberties in Ireland, which entails giving the police permission to search homes, cars, and other property without warrants under the suspicion of finding blasphemous material.

In that light it is clear that the blasphemy law may well be the worst law any "Western Democracy" has passed in the new millennium. It opens the door to all manner of absolute lunacy. The whole point was to clear up the vagueness of the Irish Constitutional mandate that blasphemy be a crime, but with terms that lack precise definition, such as "matters held sacred" and "substantial number", the strategy is even worse than its predecessor. What constitutes a substantial number? 12? 500? It's completely unclear. Given that Jesus' divinity is more or less the cen-

tral plank in all sects of Christianity, wouldn't that make all Jews blasphemers for refusing to acknowledge it?

That example might seem poor because the intent has to be "grossly abusive or insulting", and Jews (or any non-Christians for that matter) have their own beliefs protected by the same law; however, just across the Irish Sea, a UK couple was charged with violating civility laws for having a discussion about their beliefs with a Muslim guest at their hotel. Here in America there are idiots who file law suits against schools for forcing the onerous theory of a 4 billion year-old earth on their children. The United Nations even passed a recent resolution seeking to criminalize all criticism of Islam, Muslims, and any and all acts committed by Muslims. The epidemic of "civility" threatens to engulf the West and utterly destroy all pretense of free speech.

Ireland's law privileges belief over non-belief (beliefs based on empiricism aren't really faith). It's bad enough that it muzzles critics of religion; for instance, if I were to claim that some priests were rapists and pedophiles, that would cause outrage and might land me in jail even though it's true. The same criminality applies to drawing a picture of Mohammed, which is certainly not a criminal act, though it is guaranteed to produce outrage. However, worse than the muzzling and the favorite-playing is that the new Irish law virtually guarantees a system that will prevent the free exercise of religion, which is exactly what they were created to facilitate.

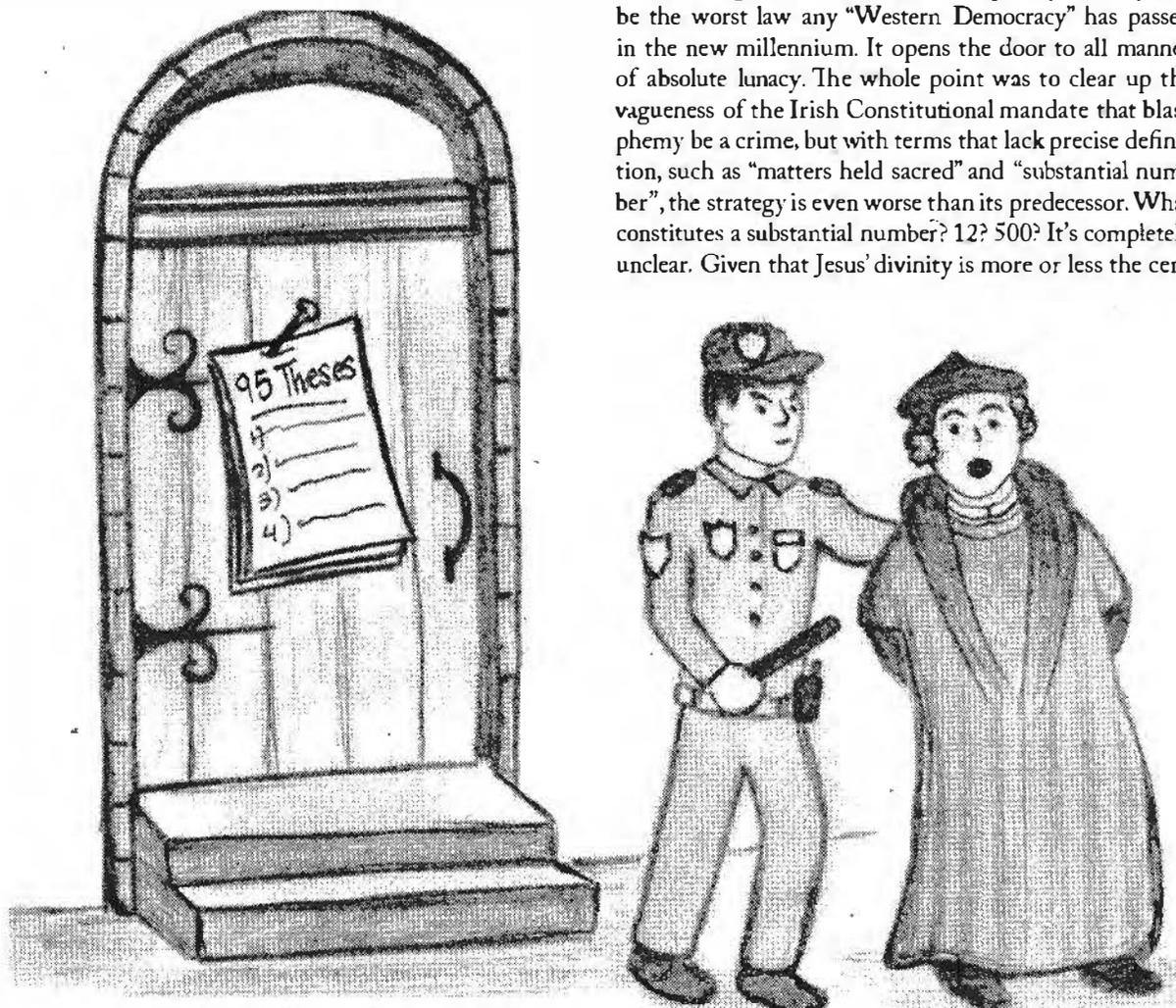
If being upfront and a little in your face about my beliefs makes me "insulting", and if those beliefs themselves don't agree with (insert group of people here), then they can scream bloody murder and have me arrested and fined. Whether I'm an atheist burning copies of the Quran or a Hindu who doesn't believe the story of Abraham, if anyone feels offended by me, then I have suddenly become a criminal.

Ireland's blasphemy law creates an impossible standard of "civil discourse", and is totally self-defeating. Ultimately, the only way to encourage freedom of religion is to keep the government at arm's length. When there is absolutely NO state policy on religion except never to inhibit its free practice, then all worshipers are equally free to believe whatever they see fit. Nobody has the right not to be offended, but everyone should have the right not to be victimized by the caprice of noisy lunatics. ■

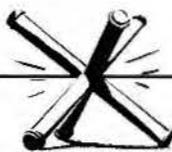
Richard won't celebrate National Blasphemy Day in Ireland.

Why? No particular reason.

Discuss this article at amp.usdallas.edu/



"It's just my dissertation!" Illustration by Lewis Chang



Polishing Police Policy

New chief brings hope for improving the student-police relationship



by alex garcia topete
a.j.garcia-topete@student.utdallas.edu

If you keep yourself informed about UTD with either *The Mercury* or UTD-TV News, you're probably aware that over the past few months there have been several resignations and dismissals (including that of the chief of police) in UTD's Police department. As a result our university was left with a maimed police force. The whole situation prompted administrators to look for a new chief of police while the DA's office investigates, and another UT-system assistant director of police runs UTD's department.

Regardless of scandals, the UTD PD, seen from the perspective of a student, has been flawed for a long time, and the sort of forced restructuring that is going on right now must be regarded as an excellent opportunity to revamp the PD's image and operation.

To Larry Zacharias, new Chief of Police, (and to all future chiefs) here are a few commonly expressed issues with the UTD police that concern the student body:

1) Presence — Due to the recent security challenges at the university, many students would support a more noticeable presence of officers around campus who do not necessarily function as stationed sentries, as is the case in ECS nowadays. Noticeable, however, doesn't mean intrusive — the idea is simply to have them around as your friendly neighborhood officers.

2) Discretion — College life, as assumed by popular culture, includes experiences that usually are socially acceptable but legally reprehensible. There's *breaking the law* and there's *committing a crime* — going 13 on a 10 mph street is not the same as stabbing a classmate, committing date rape, or running a meth lab. It is vital for UTD police officers to do their jobs with discretion so that the people who deserve legal punishment get it. Those who need help should receive it along with the appropriate disciplinary measures — giving someone a criminal record comprised only of misdemeanors doesn't necessarily achieve anything. Moreover, knowing that the police will handle things with discretion can prevent the escalation of misdemeanors into something more dangerous; for instance, a student wouldn't opt to drive off-campus and return drunk, thus incurring a DUI, in an attempt to avoid what the student believes will be certain arrest for underage drinking on campus. Idealistically, a student shouldn't do either — but it's college, it happens, and it's better to deal with it.

3) Image/Culture — Students have considered the police to be antagonists for a long time. That kind of attitude is only supposed to be prevalent in fascist states or ghettos where underground culture rules. Since we're not in Compton, CA or NY's Little Italy of the 1920s, it's safe to assume this outlook shouldn't be the case at UTD.

The general image of UTD police

officers is that they're all bored cops who mostly give out parking citation and speeding tickets and then pry into others' business. Noise complaint regarding a single bedroom apartment? Have five officers show up. Students believe that boredom drives officers to be somewhat abusive of their authority.

Whether or not that belief is unfounded, the perception of antagonism needs to change. If there is any truth to that perception, then officers need to be trained not to expect high-speed car chases and SWAT raids at UTD, but rather that it's their duty to *serve & protect*, not to *enforce*.

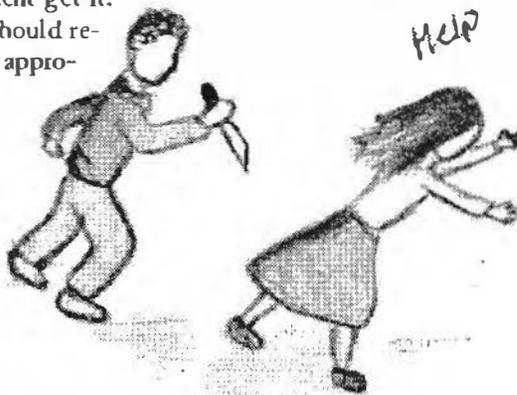
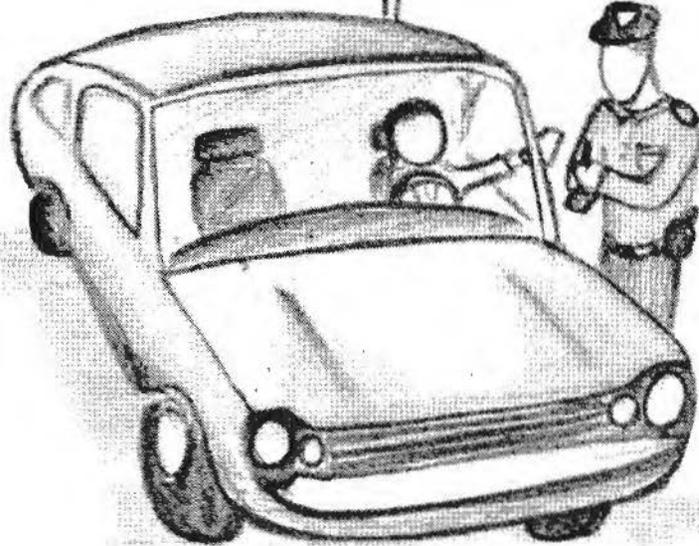
4) Community — This fourth issue might be the most important one, for it relates to all of the aforementioned points: UTD police officers need to be more (visibly) connected with the broader UTD community. Safety workshops, a crime-watch program, and regular town-hall-style meetings would all be good ways for students to get to know the officers and for the department to have a greater, more positive impact.

If students *only* see and meet officers when getting arrested, when being pulled over, or when something bad happens, then it's no wonder students regard them as antagonists and presume them to be bored. Getting to know the officers while they are not immediately enforcing the law would definitely help students improve their opinion of the police and embrace them as an important part of the UTD community.

UTD is growing by getting more facilities, more faculty, and more students. It's important to solve the problems of the police department before the university grows so big that the current PD flaws become catastrophes. If the department is changing, it makes sense to change it for the better. Just fix the police! ■

Alex will soon be acquainted with the force conincisum.

Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



“ A speeding ticket for going 13 on a 10-mph street is not the same as stabbing a classmate. ”

Foreign Tongue Practice

Why a language lab is a necessary element for UTD's success



by Taylor Brigance
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"Whole-la ... Kae how ... Parlay voo fran swah?" *excessive searching through a dictionary*

That is the pitiful state of most American attempts to speak a foreign language. In other areas of the world it's not unusual to be fluent in two languages and possess a passable knowledge of a third. Understandably, such things are more important where many peoples who all speak a different tongue live within driving distance of each other, compare Europe or China, which each have dozens of dialects and languages, to North America, with basically only English, Spanish, and a little bit of French. However, as the process of globalization progresses, the world is getting smaller; the relative isolation of Americans is becoming a less and less valid excuse for their inability to speak anything other than English.

However, UT Dallas is beginning to respond to that expanding need to learn another language by offering an increasingly growing assortment of foreign languages for its students. UTD has not only the staple languages French, Spanish, and German among its offerings but also some non-Western languages such as Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic. Foreign languages make great additions to any kind of degree plan or career path. Are you an Arts and Technology major looking to make video games? Pick up Japanese! Or a business major looking to specialize in international trade? Fluency in Mandarin would prove invaluable.

Even people whose degree plans don't necessarily require much interaction with anyone but a few coworkers can still benefit from learning a new language. A foreign language open the door to many life-enriching possibilities, such as pro-

longed vacations abroad, discovering new literature, and learning how a different culture thinks. Wouldn't it be a truly remarkable experience to be able to recite Cicero's orations in their original Latin, listen to (and understand) grand operas in their original Italian or French, or read Kafka in German?

The problem we now face is that we lack some fairly crucial support for those programs — there is no language lab. Many other collegiate language courses are 4 credit hours (3 hours of class and an hour of lab). A language lab would provide the perfect place for a teacher or a TA to tutor students on an individual basis and for students to work through their respective difficulties.

Where the current classes make it necessary for the professor to teach to the class as a whole, the lab would serve to address the students' individual problems. Is your grasp of French grammar solid, but your vocabulary not up to snuff? Meanwhile is your classmate unable

get his mouth around the different phonemes or through multiple syllables in conversation? Having a language lab is a way for both of you to make progress in a supervised environment. It would also allow teachers to increase the speed, depth, and quality of their classes without completely leaving their students behind.

Without the individual support that can be fostered with the creation of a language lab, students' options will remain limited. They can hold out in the vain hope that they can teach themselves the lessons with which they struggle using nothing more than the class materials, though I can say from personal experience that that doesn't work well.

Alternatively, they can hope to find a tutor or form a study group, but often these classes are taught in a way that makes such help useful, but ultimately less effective at getting a student

to learn exactly what the teacher desires.

The same is true when it comes to digital courses such as Rosetta Stone — effective at teaching a language, less unhelpful for

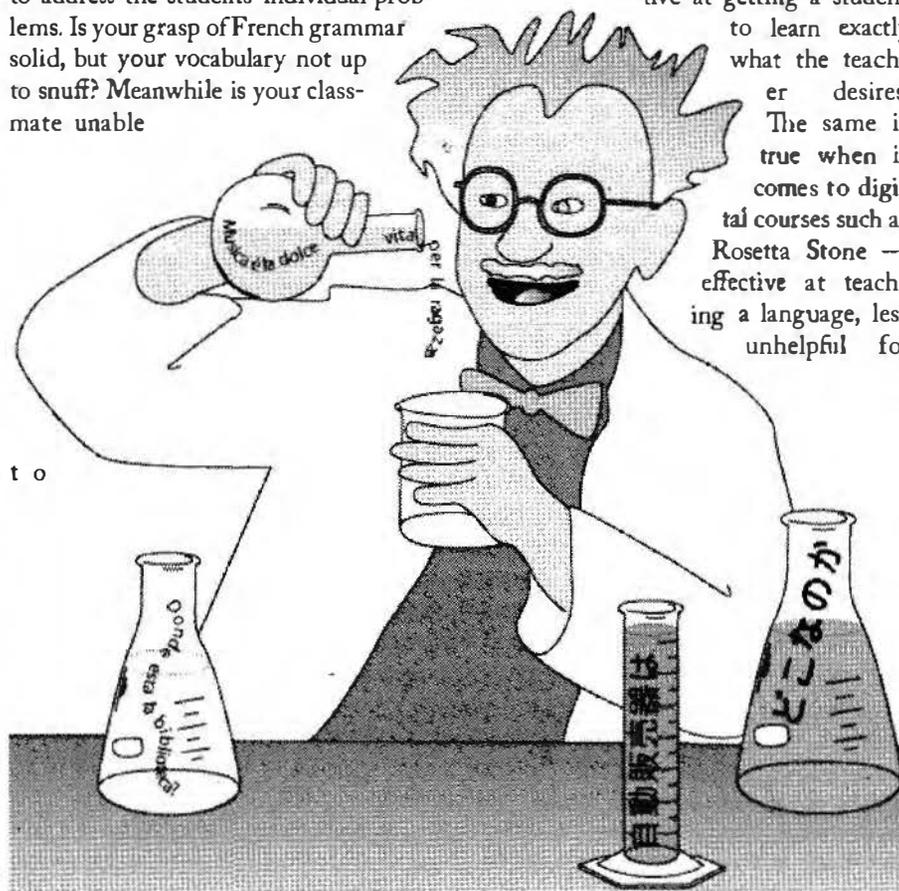
“ Foreign-language education is something UTD cannot afford to ignore. ”

passing the class. Unfortunately, none of those options work more effectively than using a language lab, for none give students a targeted study focus.

Although a language lab would take more time from already crowded student schedules, more demand for overused class rooms, and more work to teachers' overloaded schedules, the results would be too great to forgo. Not only would it encourage current students already enrolled in foreign language classes to stick with them — it would also increase student interest.

Our school has great potential before it. Foreign-language education is something UTD cannot afford to ignore as it strives for national recognition, for a well rounded student base, for Tier 1 status. We've already taken steps in the right direction, but now is the time to insure that we keep up that progress.

Imagine a campus on which it is common for people to converse in a second language that isn't English! Imagine being able to talk with foreign exchange students in their native tongue! A foreign language lab would increase foreign language attendance and enrollment, increase the effectiveness of education, give UTD students a leg up on studies abroad, and perhaps most importantly it would contribute to the overall quality of UT Dallas graduates. ■



If you think Taylor works well with foreign tongues, you should see his Rosetta stones. Discuss this article at camp.utdallas.edu/

Res Overhaul

Freshmen deem new dorms worth drawbacks



by braeden meyer
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I pull up to the cul-de-sac, get out of an unmarked car and walk up to the main door. Having passed through two doors, I scan my specialized ID card a third time to enter a small room with three doors in front of me. I choose the middle one and unlock it using a small golden key.

While that may seem like the start of the latest crime thriller or the prize to a cheesy game show, it's actually how freshmen at UTD get to their rooms. Those rooms are part of the brand new freshman dorm (ahem, Residence Hall), a marvelous feat of engineering on the northwest corner of campus and perhaps the highlight of the on-campus construction completed so far. Despite the Residence Hall's drawbacks (such as expense), it's the best place for freshman to live on campus.

The 400 or so freshmen who chose to live in the Residence Hall will get a freshman experience like no other. The first thing that comes to your mind as you walk down one of the suite-lined halls is the close quarters in which the freshmen are living. Unlike the apartments, which have hundreds of students scattered throughout several buildings, the design of the Residence Hall makes it difficult to avoid your neighbors. This allows the freshmen to get to know each other a lot better in a shorter period of time.

The next things you notice are the giant black boxes on each door. Freshmen have gone keyless! To enter the main building, a specific hallway, or your own suite, you must now scan your Comet Card. Forgotten it?



For all its qualms, the res hall just feels right. Illustration by scott ungchusri

You're out of luck... or are you? While waiting for your roommate to return, you can play a game of pool with some friends, get dominated in ping-pong, or plop down on a loveseat and watch some TV on one of the two 54 inch, hi-def, LCD TVs conveniently located in the lobby. Would you like to get some fresh air? Go take a stroll through the newly sodded courtyard in the center of the Residence Hall. Complete with a miniature patio containing tables and lawn chairs, it's a great place to study, smoke a cigar, or play a game of pick-up ultimate Frisbee.

One of the best new amenities included in the Residence Hall is the Jetsons-style

Laundromat. That's right, we said Jetsons. Gone are the days of sitting for hours in a crowded, humid room with no entertainment besides the annoying person trying to hit on you. These laundry machines are hooked up to a network that will send you a text message or email when your laundry is complete; with the Wi-Fi access and another 54 inch TV, the laundry room could very well be the next cool place to hang out.

While it may seem like heaven, the Residence Hall can sometimes be a living hell. If you ever decide to spend the night at your significant other's room, be prepared to open the door to see the neighbor directly across

the hall leaving for their 8:30 AM class. Not only that, but due to how thin the walls are in the halls, pretty much everyone on the way will hear you taking your "walk of shame". Moreover, the walls are even thinner between individual suites and floors. So if your neighbor is having sex, you get first class audio reception. If you live below the ATEC Living Learning Community you can hear the constant thumping on your ceiling from DDR.

Another downside to moving into a brand-new dorm is that the rooms are pristine. That means when you scratch the tile floor while moving your coffee table, you can't blame it on the previous tenants. As many freshmen have already figured out, the paint on the walls also comes off easily. So try not to lean too far back in your recliner. One thing that you can't control, however, are the kinks that come with a new building. Soon after we moved in, we were awoken in the middle of the night by what sounded like a Oompa Loompa trapped in our air conditioning unit. He was really angry and banging on the grate demanding to be let out. The next morning we found out that there was no Oompa Loompa: the unit was simply making horrendously loud noises because there was a problem with the vent.

So here's the rundown of costs:

Rent per month: \$562

"Public walk of shame": Unfortunate

DDR above you: two hours of sleep

Unparalleled friendships: Priceless

In the end, the Residence Hall has its ups and downs, but it's a great place to spend your freshman year. This freshman class will be closer and more involved than any of UTD's previous classes because some of us freshmen had the opportunity to live in the Residence Hall. While it's a tad bit more pricey than the Phase 8 apartments, you get a better return on your investment with some bad ass amenities, high tech rooms, and last but not least irreplaceable friends. ■

*Sid and Braeden now presented
in 5.1 surround first class audio reception.
Discuss this article at www.utdallas.edu/*

— The UT Da

Dining Hall Discrimination

Hours unsuitable for a diverse college campus



by mimi ghassemi
luvinhoops425@aim.com

There have been quite a few additions to campus in the past year. Of course there was the new Residence Hall, then the lovely presence of dirt and construction blocking your every path, and finally the Dining Hall. This new cafeteria they've created for us seems nice at first glance. There's a variety of food to choose from, a pleasant ambiance, a convenient meal plan — it must be perfect, right?

I think not. Over the past few weeks I have witnessed several snags in the Dining Hall. My problems with it began in the middle of the summer. I called UT Dallas Dining Services and spoke to the man in charge regarding my concerns. I explained that, as a scholarship recipient, I was required to live in the new Residence Hall and had arranged my classes so that I could go home every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Therefore, I would not be using up anything close to 14 meals a week, which was the least expensive option for the mandatory meal plan. His response was that my situation was understandable, and I should be allowed to purchase 7 meals a week (an option available only to those who do not live in the Residence Hall).

As a result, I checked the box for the 7-meal-per-week option on my lease. Later, I found out that the university had gone back on its word by automatically changing my plan to 14 meals a week and had given no notice of the change. I called Dining Services many times, but all of my messages were ignored. Though slightly taken aback, I let it go reminding myself that the official policy required such a meal plan for all freshman living in the Residence

Hall and that I did not have a written document making me an exception to that rule.

Upon visiting the Dining Hall I found that I actually enjoyed being able to invite my friends and family over for some of the meals for which I'd had to pay (the cashiers merely swiped my comet card a few extra times). Eventually I realized that the system is not as blissful as it seems: It is constantly running out of food and closing earlier than stated. That became especially troublesome once Ramadan began.

Ramadan is a lunar month during which most Muslims fast from sun up to sun down, which means that we must eat before 5:30 in the morning and after 8 o'clock p.m. In case you haven't looked at the Dining Hall's hours let me just say that it is open neither late enough nor early enough for us to eat there. Contemplating how to make some use of the money I had been forced to spend on food I could not eat, I decided I would take my meals to go.

All was fine until one day, all of a sudden, I was no longer allowed to swipe my card for someone else to eat a meal I had already purchased. Nor was I permitted to show anyone around either — unless that person bought a meal of course. Frustrated, I asked for my to-go box since the cashier had already swiped the card for me. Apparently, they didn't have any more. Trying to keep calm, I requested that the credit she swiped for me be refunded since I was observing Ramadan and could not eat then. She refused. Furious, I stormed into the Dining Hall and made a plate for myself. Thankfully, someone behind the counter decided to cooperate and saran-wrapped it for me.

The next time (after Labor Day), the servers were all brand new and I had to explain everything all over again. They notified me that they were told not to allow anyone to take anything to go anymore. That, I thought, was highly disrespectful of both my culture and my

religion. After 20 minutes of arguing, one server came back with a box and the chef's order that no hot food be taken to go. That last clause was quite shocking to me as almost everything in the Dining Hall is cooked; I was told it was because warm food would grow bacteria when taken to go. First of all, if it is properly cooked it should not be growing bacteria within an hour. Second, I know that every single person in the dorms has an individual fridge and isn't stupid enough to leave food out then eat it. To think otherwise is downright demeaning. They should just use a disclaimer instead of instantiating strange policies without proper notice.

A cafeteria on campus should be appealing, not mandatory; work around tight wallets, not rob what's left in them; work with the students, not against them; and make exceptions where they're needed. Students shouldn't be refused refunds when they can't eat and be prohibited from letting someone else use a prepaid meal. Why should I be paying nearly \$1500 a semester just to be subdued into eating turkey sandwiches and salad?

How on earth did a university with so many diverse ethnicities and international students fail to consider religious eating habits? UTD's Dining Hall policies are ill presented and need serious reform. The university writes all the rules and regulations of the Residence Hall out for the freshmen to read before signing their leases but forces them to agree to the Dining Hall rules blindly in the same contract by leaving out the regulations. Then it expects the students to remain bound to an ever-changing set of policies without bothering to let them know the alterations.

UTD should lay out its dining policies clearly and actually follow them. The Dining Hall shouldn't run out of food during meal hours and close 30 minutes or more early. Nor should students be refused refunds when they can't eat and be disallowed from

letting someone else use a prepaid meal. The university also needs to make the Dining Hall hours more realistic for life on a college campus and some serious changes so that no more students have to suffer as I did at the hands of the Dining Hall. ■

Little did Mimi know that the awful hours are part of the new UT Diet plan. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!



Look! An Apple! Plus a pork roast that student

Dining Hall —

Fruitless Endeavor

Lack of healthy options a symptom of a bigger campus problem



by Anna Li

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Now that school has been in session for a few weeks, and the new dining hall has been open for the same amount

of time, let's pose the question that popped into my mind when I first ate at the dining hall: *where* is all the (fresh) fruit?

I realize that when the dining hall first opened, the staff probably had more important things on their mind than how many different types of fruit they could serve; apples and oranges sufficed for the time being. However, now that the dining hall has added an ice cream

machine, a juice machine, and even signs on the tables explaining why "UTD is trayless", I'm finding it a little hard to grasp why the only fruits available are *still* apples, oranges, bananas (if you wake up early enough for breakfast before class), and the occasional peach—the exact same fruits that were offered when the dining hall first opened its doors on August 12. Why, when every other part of the dining hall has rapidly improved and expanded in selection, has fresh fruit been neglected so?

Maybe no one else has noticed. Maybe, for some ridiculous reason, no one else even cares. Perhaps most college students are content with the common delicious red apple or navel orange. There is even the possibility that many students don't even bother with fruit. Why would they, when the selection is so minimal, and the fruits are often bruised?

The problem is that college students *should* care; because fruit is an essential part of a healthy diet. In the face of the many diet plans advertised nowadays, people are often sick of hearing about a balanced meal or seeing the food pyramid. The fact of the matter is that a healthy diet should include two to three servings of fruit *per day*. That's just one per meal. How difficult is that?

What bothers me even more than the lack of variety of fruit in the dining hall is the underlying issue of health and obesity that it represents. In direct contrast with the lack of fresh fruit, there are multiple options in the Dining Hall which encourage unhealthy eating: the newly added ice cream machine; the area devoted purely to desserts (with a sign that proclaims, "Save room for dessert!"), and the unfailing abundance of pizza, hamburgers, and fries—the epitomes of junk food.

Let's rewind back to opening day, but now at the residence hall. As I moved in, everywhere I looked there were people digging into ice cream cones and lemon

chills. I quickly discovered the source of these frozen sweets: several people with large coolers all around the first floor were offering them freely to passersby, be they new students, parents, younger siblings, or PAs.

And then came Welcome Week — sure enough, everywhere I looked there was free food. Don't get me wrong; free food is great! The problem arises when the only free food offered consists of cheap, greasy pizza, barbecue, sausage, chips, and soda. Looking for healthy alternatives? Good luck! You'd be better off making your own trip to Tom Thumb or Sprouts. What's that? You don't have a car, and your pockets just happen to be empty of cash? Well, then I guess you'll have to resign to whatever unhealthy food is left after the first stampede of hungry college students has come and gone.

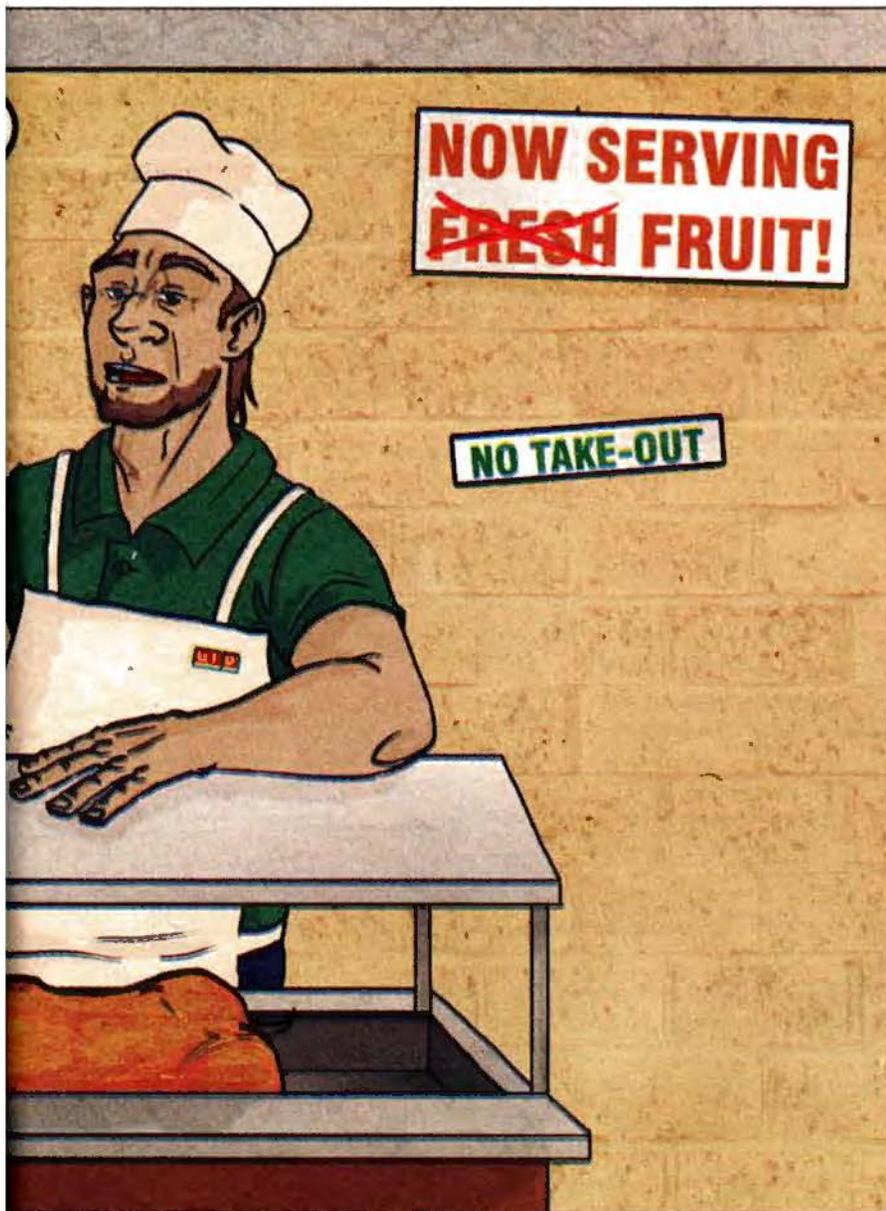
Don't misunderstand me. I love free food — especially desserts. Heck, I have the biggest sweet tooth of anyone I know. I'm not advocating the discontinuation of free food for college students in any way. However, there needs to be *more* free healthy food offered to students.

This problem begins in childhood, when the only free food offered to us was candy, desserts, or chips. The trend only gets worse as we grow older. All I can do is suggest that others think about what they eat before devouring everything in sight simply because they don't have to pay for it. Otherwise, I feel that we are doomed to continue the alarming trend of childhood and, consequently, adult obesity.

But honestly, with the ubiquitous presence of junk food available for free to college students, how can *anyone* wonder at the ghastly phenomenon we call the freshman 15? Or, to repeat the new version I heard recently — the freshman 50. ■

But, Anna, if they stop giving away free pizza, why will anyone go to campus events?

Discuss this article at campusdollar.com!



eat ... oh wait. Illustration by Jordan Batura



Don't Fear the Recess

Recession breeds creativity, unique services for consumers



by prashant raghavendran
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Creativity is never so important as it is during times of economic turmoil. Though we are currently emerging from a serious recession, we should not take the so-called recovery for granted; our stock markets are still teetering on the brink of devastation, and affordability is still a major issue. If we want to resuscitate people's desire to spend, we must replace current forms of relief and entertainment with something more exciting. To achieve any novelty, though, those substitutes need to be as ridiculous as possible. Ultimately, recession is the mother necessity for invention.

While browsing a recent issue of *Conde Nast Traveler*, as I normally do in medical clinic waiting rooms, I came across a picture of an Airbus Jet grounded on a tarmac in Stockholm. The picture was ordinary enough, but it seemed incongruous with the subject of the article (revolutionary new hotels) until I realized that the inside of the fuselage was outfitted with all the amenities of a Hilton resort. That is but one positive sign of the capability we have to exploit our imaginations for ideas that to compel consumers to flock to commercial sites and spend their money.

3-D movies have become more popular since the recession made movies with the normal number of dimensions seem too exorbitant. Even though 3-D movies are about the same price as normal movies, the bang for the buck is so great that it does not matter. That is the underlying theme of the current phase in our economic cycle

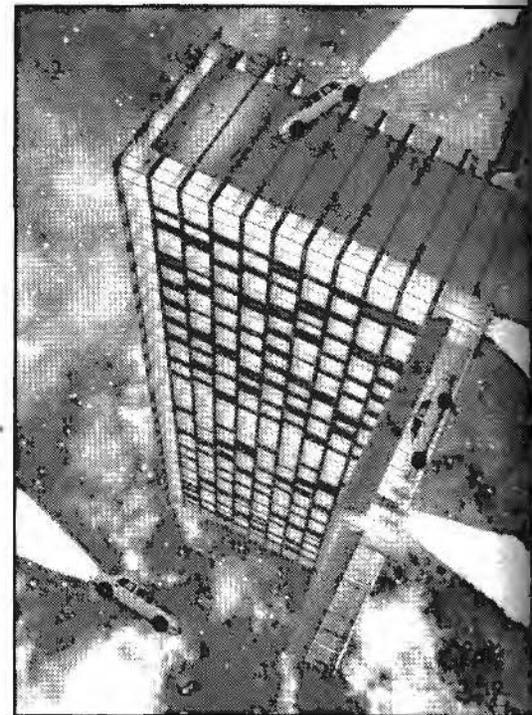
— making sure the price suits the service.

As the economy recovers, the working public will start to make money again and build up disposable income. Then the higher-price amenities and products, which would have been imprudent to buy before, will seem more within reach. College students practically scrape the dumpsters for cash, so the physical energy expended to earn must correspond to the enjoyment of the reward, which is boosted further by wackier, more innovative, and more outlandish products.

Frankly, advertising creative replacements for our existing goods should be the ultimate concern. The more visible an idea is in the public spectrum, the more it becomes a status-symbol and the more popular the concept seems to younger generations (the gluttons of media content). Therefore, the real problem is not creating something like a lightsaber bug-zapper but rather broadcasting it tactfully and as vividly as the Japanese do with their most popular items.

The thrifty may wonder why hotel-builders waste money on crazy schemes and why they have to pay for the flashy ambiance. As cliché as it may sound, these clever hotels can serve as inspiration for our children. Having a few more pirate ship hotels docked at port and some jungle treehouses with rooms for let could lead our children to branch out and dream up even more innovations.

The recession is going to force our market players to abandon the status quo in order to satisfy their earning quotas. The class and exclusivity of what we consider luxury goods will be compromised. While we are waiting for our workers to earn money, we need to find innovative appeal for all products, because that is the best way to pour funds back into the economy. The advertising, modification, and outright creation of new tangibles is

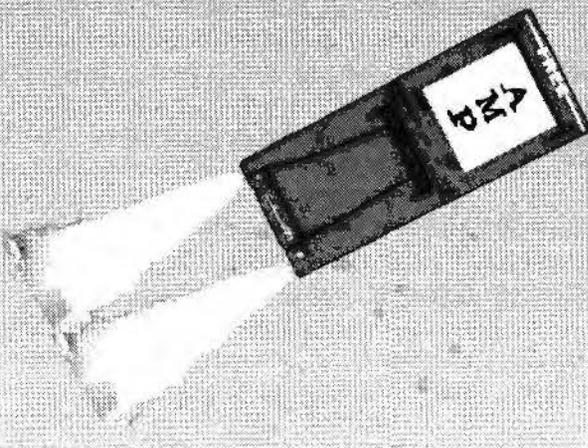


A few more recessions and this could be your hotel.
Photoillustration by jonathan coker

vital to the economy's return to stable prosperity. By crazy hotels or vision-defying films, such products bring Americans to realize that they are buying something that is worth the price. That will be the solution to our economic problems. ■

Prashant is starting a new recession-era business.
Visit www.mynewtangibles.com
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

Rocket Hotels?
Rocket Taxis?
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Rocket AMP?!



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Rocket AMP!

Send your contributions to
amodestproposal@gmail.com

Please Tase Me Bro

Using seemingly excessive force makes everyone involved in a police encounter safer



by ben delay

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Society is generally ignorant about how the police function with regard to the use of force. The media is partially to blame for that — they continuously highlight instances in which officers use force to apprehend suspects and subsequently portray the officers involved in a negative light.

What the media often fails to highlight is just as important; the events leading up to the officers' use of force. Thus, people watching these videos are not only unable to see the situation in its full context but also prevented from understanding that quick, overwhelming force is safer both for the police officer and for the suspect.

In most cases, the officer is not tasing, tackling, or unnecessarily maligning the suspect for his own amusement — the officer does it to restrain the suspect and de-escalate the situation before it merits the use of greater, more deadly force. Police brutality does of course happen, but people need to take a longer look at the situation before they cast judgment upon an officer's action.

Police officers have an escalating scale used to determine the appropriate level of force to be employed against a suspect. That scale, called the force continuum, starts with the officer's physical presence and verbal commands. This escalates to "soft hands" (pressure points and other non-striking actions) mace or pepper spray, then to "hard hands" (striking blows, like punches and kicks), tasers, and police batons. The force continuum is topped with the threat of deadly force and followed by the use of deadly force to resolve a dangerous situation.

Officers use the least force necessary to overwhelm but avoid injuring a sus-

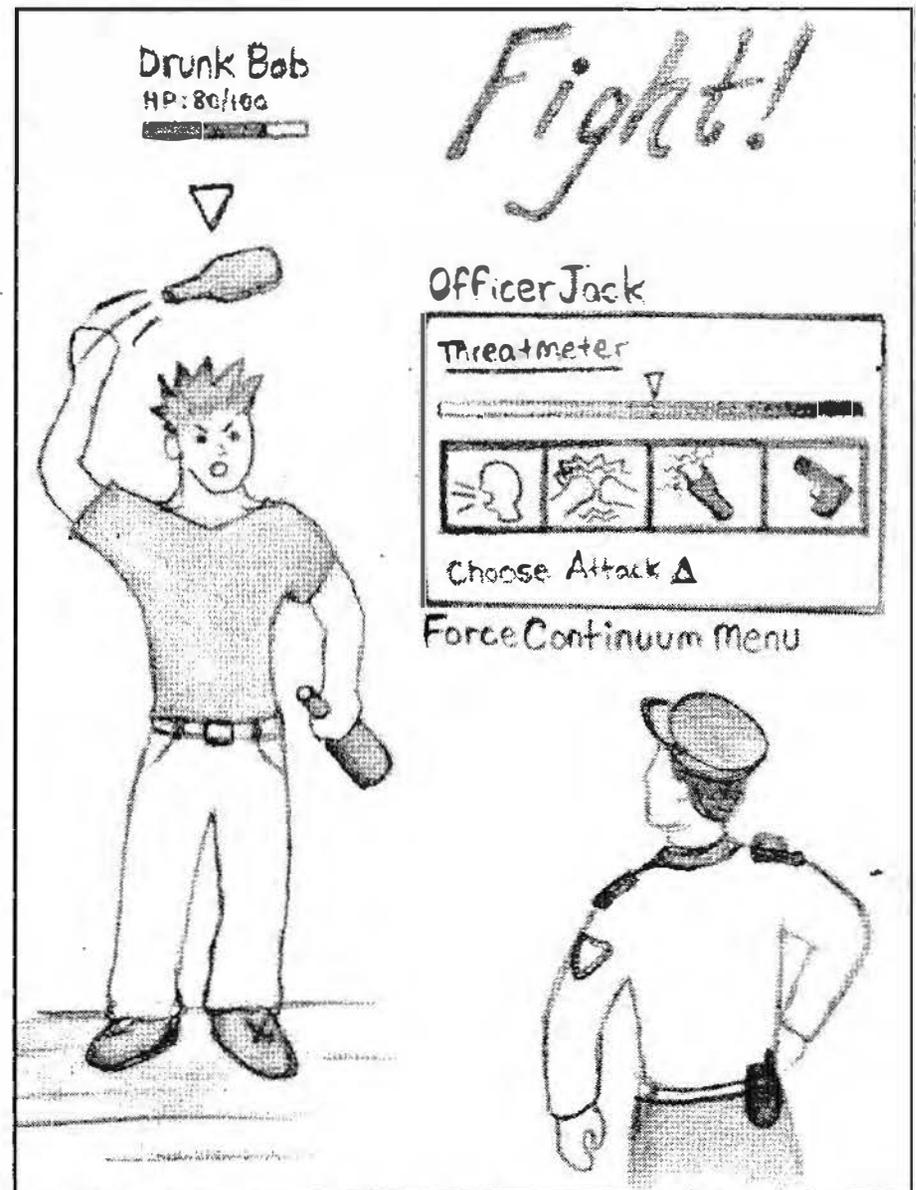
pect. However, there is some degree of variation. As soon as a suspect puts an officer in danger, the officer is at liberty to use a degree of force immediately greater than the one the suspect is employing.

For example, if a suspect is attacking an officer with their fists, the officer should use either superior unarmed fighting or a non-lethal weapon of some sort. As soon as the suspect comes at an officer with a weapon, the officer is justified in using deadly force. Essentially, if someone comes at an officer with a knife, the appropriate trained response is for the officer to use a gun.

The force continuum is of particular use in light of the personal risk inherent in the police officer's profession. The force continuum training maximizes an officer's safety in the face of great personal risk and gives him the ability to assess what actions should be taken when confronted with potentially life-threatening situations. In order to ensure his own personal right to safety, an officer must be able to use force to subdue a suspect — the force continuum not only reflects this difficult reality, but also creates a means by which officers can responsibly react to that reality.

Police officers have an equal, if not greater, right to safety than those they are arresting. They can't allow the suspect to struggle, because if the suspect struggles and hurts the police officer, there is also a huge risk the suspect is going to be hurt as well in the ensuing takedown. This is the primary reason police officers prefer incapacitating force (things such as tasers, or blows to pressure points that temporarily deprive the suspect of mobility). Ironically, the force police officers use actually makes violent arrests safer.

Many supposed instances of police brutality are just standard procedure in the face of a potentially dangerous criminal. It's annoying when people cry brutality every time force is used in an arrest, because it detracts from the seriousness of real police brutality.



A screenshot of the hit new game *Police Brutality 8: Critical Hit!* Illustration by Lewis Chang

Instances like the Rodney King beating should clearly evoke outrage, but the police forcing a belligerent drunk to the ground in a quick, somewhat brutal manner does not warrant the same moral outrage.

As long as the takedown is performed in the proper manner, officers are possibly preventing harm to both parties, as any escalation in force by the drunk requires a like escalation on their part. So please, before you make any general-

izations about police behavior, check out standard procedures for the situation the officers were confronted with so you know the full story — rather than the story spun by the mainstream media. ■

*Ben was once tased by the cops for 10 minutes straight.
It's not brutality if you like it.
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu!*

myTunes

Free downloads are the future of music marketing



by ryan henry
ryan.w.henry@gmail.com

Pretty much anything can be found on the Internet. From movies to music, it is all out there. For example, I obtained the new Muse album about two weeks before it hit stores (though I still bought the CD). The Internet is an unstoppable force, and the music industry is trying (and failing) to be an immovable object in its path.

Every so often, I hear about the millions of dollars that the music industry loses to Internet piracy but have yet to be moved to action. South Park even poked fun at this after Metallica started suing people who had shared their songs on such popular peer-to-peer (P2P) networks as Napster, which then became Kazaa, which then became torrenting.

Technology always evolves faster than legislation can keep up. The largest problem with trying to regulate Internet traffic is exactly that: the Internet is designed to work and change quickly, whereas our legal system is designed to work slowly and change sparingly. Trying to fight the Internet is an uphill battle for music production companies.

As soon as the music industry figured out how to prosecute P2P file-sharers, the vast majority of music-pirating activity shifted to torrent sites, where such activity is far more difficult to track. One can't help but wonder why music production companies continue to pay outrageous legal fees to fight a battle they cannot win.

Music production companies would be better off if they ignored Internet piracy and instead gave away music for free. Rather than charge fifteen dollars for an album, they could freely give away digital copies of their music via the Internet for anyone to download. This practice is

starting to become more commonplace than one might think.

Radiohead famously gave away digital versions of their *In Rainbows* album for whatever the consumer was willing to pay; most production companies in China accept that their music will be pirated and do nothing to prosecute; and finally, Brazilian production companies actually give out their music for free.

In Brazil, producers distribute copies of an artist's work before a concert as a form of free marketing. They then rely on local promoters to create and distribute the CDs, while the production companies only provide a small bit of Internet hosting. The American music industry could learn a lot from these strategies since musicians already make most of their money from concerts and merchandise.

As music companies lose more and more business to internet-sharing, they need to embrace whatever free marketing they can get in order to

stay relevant and profitable (by increasing concert attendance and product sales).

More and more musicians are following Radiohead's lead and allowing for user-set prices on digital copies of their music. Korn did the same thing with comparable success.

Most people decided to pay only a couple of dollars for the album, while many paid nothing, but by allowing users to pay what they wanted, these bands allowed an open market to set the price of the good rather than making no profit at all.

Music companies are delusional if they think they can successfully fight the onslaught of the Internet. They should encourage people to listen to the music to increase their consumer base rather than try to prosecute those listeners.

China acknowledges that about ninety-nine percent of all music sales in their country are pirated, and so while five million people may have the CD, only about ten thousand of them might have bought it in a store (and the figure is probably even less than that).

Musicians make up their lost revenue and then some in sponsorships and endorsements. Metallica, with the release of *Guitar Hero: Metallica*, is one of the first examples of this phenomenon in the US. Music-based video games offer an avenue to musicians that has not existed before.

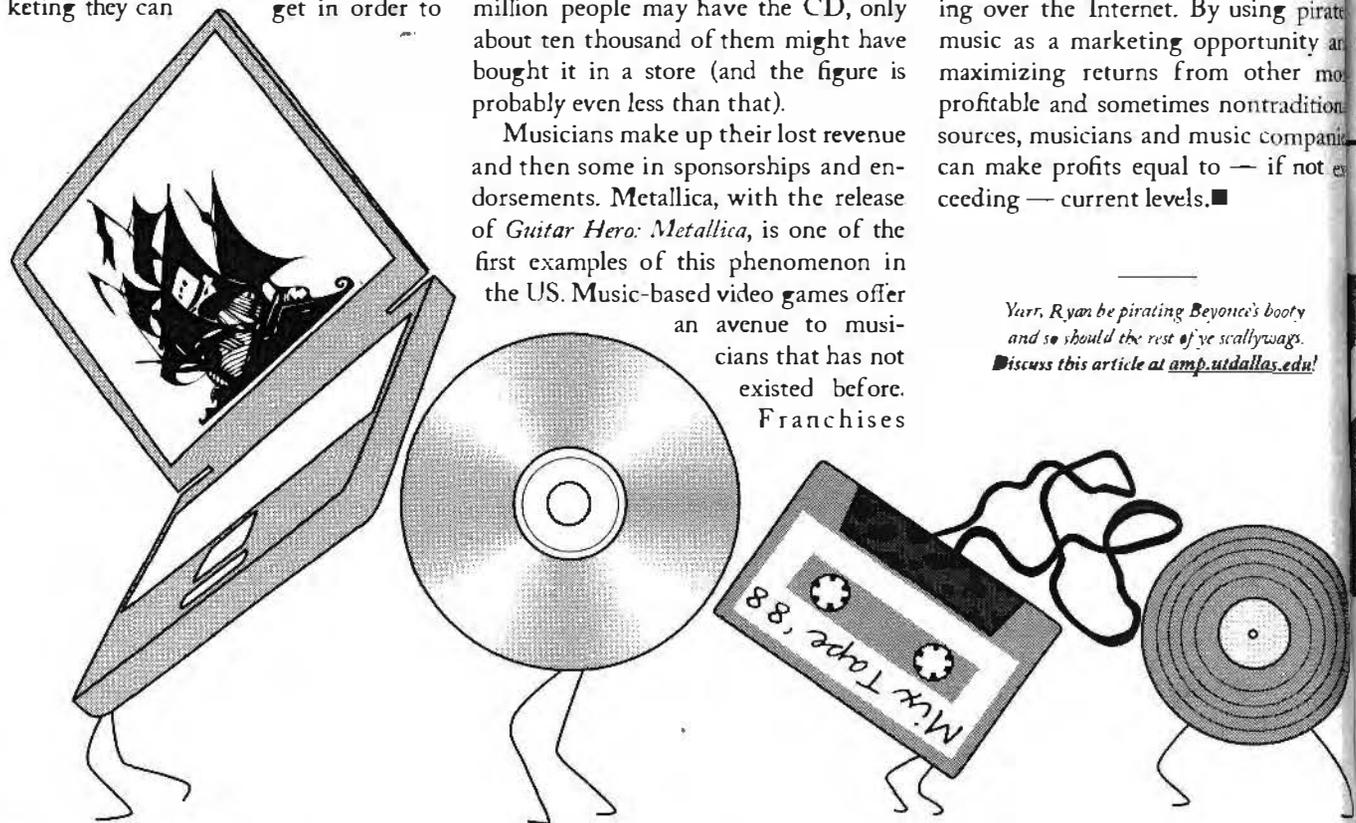
Franchises

Music production companies would be better off if they ignored Internet piracy and instead gave away music for free.

like *Rock Band* and *Guitar Hero* have made millions of dollars using bonus materials like new songs to keep revenue up in between game releases. Part of the profits go to both the music production company and the band itself, and console games have the added benefit of being nearly impossible to pirate.

The music market is changing, largely due to the ease of information sharing over the Internet. By using pirated music as a marketing opportunity and maximizing returns from other more profitable and sometimes nontraditional sources, musicians and music companies can make profits equal to — if not exceeding — current levels. ■

Yarr, Ryan be pirating Beyonce's booty and so should the rest of ye scallywags. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



The evolution of music distribution over the last century. Illustration by mac hird



The Spin Cycle



by kaitlin butler
kaitlin.butler@gmail.com



Yo La Tengo
Popular Songs
(Matador; 2009)

Yo La Tengo (YLT) loves popular music. During its 25-year-long career, it's written 216 original songs and released nearly 100 covers. Its nearly encyclopedic knowledge of pop-music history, from the bourgeois to the absurd, is one of its defining features. In its latest venture, *Popular Songs*, Yo La Tengo manages to corral that knowledge into a cohesive statement, relentlessly re-discovering the history of pop music and rewriting it in their image. Yo La Tengo wants to remind us of the days in which pop music wasn't necessarily garbage, when melody and craftsmanship were the focus instead of Autotune and showmanship.

The album starts off with the largely self-referential "Here to Fall", a six-minute rehashing of one of the band's most-used

themes. Much of *Popular Songs*, in fact, features the band diving not only into the popular canon but also into its own back catalogue as well. Many of the songs sound as if they were from one of YLT's post-2001 era albums, and that isn't necessarily a bad thing. One of the perks of being in the same band for 25 years is that you have a really good idea of what your preferred sonic aes-



thetic is and know exactly how to create it. With *Popular Songs*, Yo La Tengo has proven that they know where they've been, and they know precisely where they want to be.

Because of YLT's exceptionally diverse range of influences, *Popular Songs* has almost a mix-tape feel, bouncing from garage-rock to 60s-inspired harmonizing to walls of noise faster than many bands

change keys. From the Motown-inspired "If It's True" to the Nick Drake-imitation "I'm On My Way", YLT mixes old sounds and old vibes into an album that is somehow incredibly fresh.

Although it does end with a group of three songs with a total running length close to the 37-minute mark, one of the strengths of the album is its brevity. Most of the songs are just the right length: instead of droning on and repeating a theme without reinventing it, Yo La Tengo keeps things refreshingly short. The highlights of this album are the three-minute gems, the quintessential ditties that sound familiar without becoming boring.

After all these years, Yo La Tengo is still quite the charmer. This insitution of modern music is only getting better with age, and *Popular Songs* will take its place in the canon of popular music that its creators love so dearly. ■

Kaitlin refuses to review "Combination Pizza Hut and Taco Bell" for us. Convince her she should. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



by stuart mcafee
stuartmcafee@gmail.com



The Antlers
Hospice
(French Kiss; 2009)

Life-changing experiences are fairly rare. Most people manage to live their lives without the impact of some devastating and unexpected interpersonal tragedy. Despite that, the majority still tend to spin tiny dramas from their everyday ups and downs: the two-week relationship, the countdown to the last day of finals, getting wisdom teeth pulled, etc. At the same time, dramatic expression is becoming easier and easier to create. It's as though literature became cinema became television became blogs became Twitter until a billion little nanodramas almost completely ate away your empathy and attention span.

Well, since you've built up a resistance to drama, it's time to up the dose. *Hospice* is a nearly perfectly-crafted story about a couple who know that their love will inevitably end in an early death. The story starts from the point of view of an incredibly empathetic



young man who becomes aware of that impending tragedy and journeys through rich soundscapes and uplifting pop tunes as he does all he can for the fleeting love of his life. The sense of selfless bravery and compassion evoked by *Hospice* is more than capable of summoning tears, and perhaps most surprisingly, is perfectly believable, for it was inspired

by actual events.

The album is all encompassing in terms of its grip on the reality of love and loss. Desperation, anger, bargaining, acceptance, and reminiscence abound in *Hospice*, making it perhaps the most complete dramatic statement in popular music since the Arcade Fire's *Funeral*.

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, like Hospice, is loud, intense, and never stagnates. Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/

The Menu

This month: Del's Charcoal Burger



by brady spenrath
bradyspenrath@gmail.com

The first time I visited downtown Richardson (the area just east of 75, where Main Street, a.k.a. Belt Line, and Greenville meet), I was enthralled by the number of ethnic restaurants. Indian, Korean, Italian, and Ethiopian restaurants dot every intersection, and Richardson's version of Chinatown is practically the next block over.

Nestled in that melting pot of restaurants, though, is a diner that sells food as American as it gets, and it just keeps me coming back for more. That establishment, Del's Charcoal Burgers located just south of Main Street on McKinney, serves some of the best hamburgers and hotdogs I've had in the Dallas area.

Just as the name implies, the burgers and dogs are genuinely flame broiled, so they have that smoky, homemade flavor that can only be found at a backyard barbecue party.

The hamburgers can come with the standard variety of toppings (lettuce, tomato, pickles, etc.), but I prefer the

specialty burgers from the chalkboard by the cash register for their more unusual flavors, such as the Guacamole and Swiss and the Texas Burger, which has hickory sauce, bacon, and jalapenos.

The hotdogs are unique because they are butterflied twice to form a Jacob's Ladder of hotdog quarters and then served on a hamburger bun. Topped with chili, cheese, onions, or hickory sauce, they retain the familiar flavor every hotdog deserves but spice things up with their novel, albeit slightly messy, presentation.

Although the menu seems small, every item I've ordered has been top-notch: Quality over quantity is definitely the name of the game at Del's. They have a great chicken-fried steak sandwich; add cheese and mustard, and I'd recommend them as highly as the burgers.

If you're not crazy about beef, try out the chicken sandwich. Several side items and desserts round out the menu. The corn dog is decent, but the french fries, onion rings, and curly fries truly shine (and they taste even better with the Cajun seasoning provided at every table).

They also have fried pies, and even fried Twinkies, but I've yet to try either because every meal I've had at Del's more than satisfied my appetite before I could even think about getting dessert.

Del's Charcoal Burgers also offers the usual selection of Coca-Cola products, but honestly I don't know why

“The burgers and dogs genuinely flame broiled, so they have that smoky, homemade flavor that can only be found at a backyard barbecue party.”

— you'd be crazy to order any soda other than their very own homemade root beer. They serve it in a mug so cold that your root beer starts to freeze the sides of the mug halfway through your meal. It's sweet, chilly, and absolutely refreshing.

The only complaint I have about the root beer is that it costs 50 cents to get a refill, but I always end up coming back for more anyway because it's unquestionably worth it.

I'm addicted to the food and root beer, so my biggest qualm with the restaurant is that it's only open Monday through Wednesday, its only open day from 10:30 to 3:00. Luckily, it stays open longer on Friday through Saturday (until 9:00 P.M.), but it's all day on Sunday, to give the small staff a much-needed break, I'm sure.

Del's Charcoal Burgers has been around for more than 50 years now, and it looks it — in a good way. Despite its age, it has been maintained really well for a half-century-old mom-and-pop burger joint.

That's not to say it's lost any old-school charm in the way, though: James Dean, Babe Ruth, Marilouise, a Red Ryder BB gun, and pictures of 50s-era Dallas adorn the walls. Each of the Dallas Cowboys through the decades is enshrined everywhere, as are local high schools and the state of Texas itself. The walls are so covered with Americana and kitsch that you can even remember what color the paint is.

The roves of people that crowd into the tiny space are as eclectic as the décor. Though I don't recommend going right at noon because the lunch crowd is often larger than the tiny building itself; if you did you'd see businessmen in suits, high school students in jeans, regular folks in sweats, and everything in between.

With their great prices — hamburgers and hotdogs around \$4, combo meals for less than \$8 — everyone can enjoy Del's. ■



This place's flavor must be on the inside. Photo courtesy of brady spenrath

Brady turns 21 this month!
Next month, he reviews Mr. G's Beverage!
Discuss this article at amp.utdallas.edu/



Comic Corner

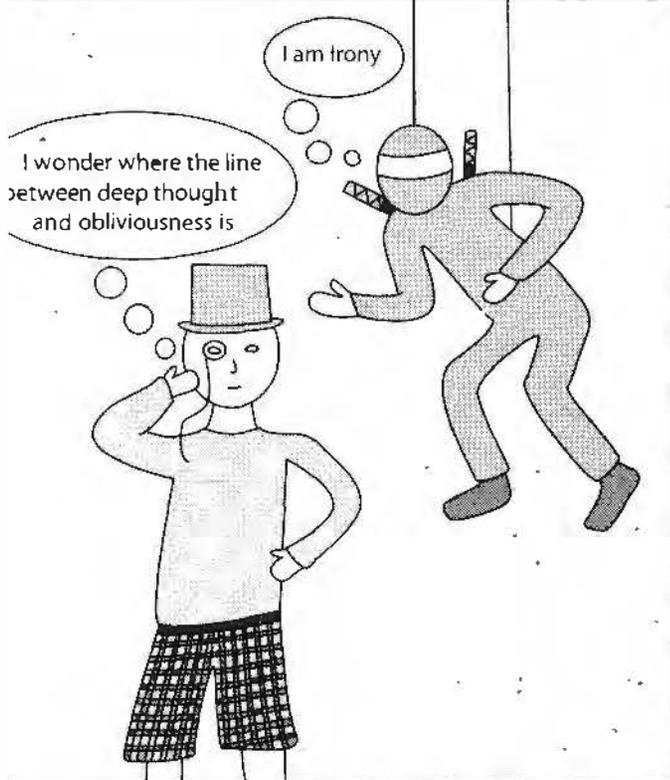


Illustration by alex palmer

September Caption Contest



Illustration by mark lauman

Winning Caption by Shannon Bumpas:
Captioning, middle-aged Temoc fishes for comet cats. He plans to use their flaming red fur to supplement his own dwindling locks.

Caption Contest



Photoillustration by mac hild

Sample Captions:

Kanye: "Look, imma let you finish, but first—"

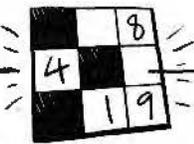
Dr. Daniel: "Look, imma let you finish but first, can you shave my head like that?"

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.



by jonathan coker
jcokerutd@gmail.com

Yowzer!

Cross Words

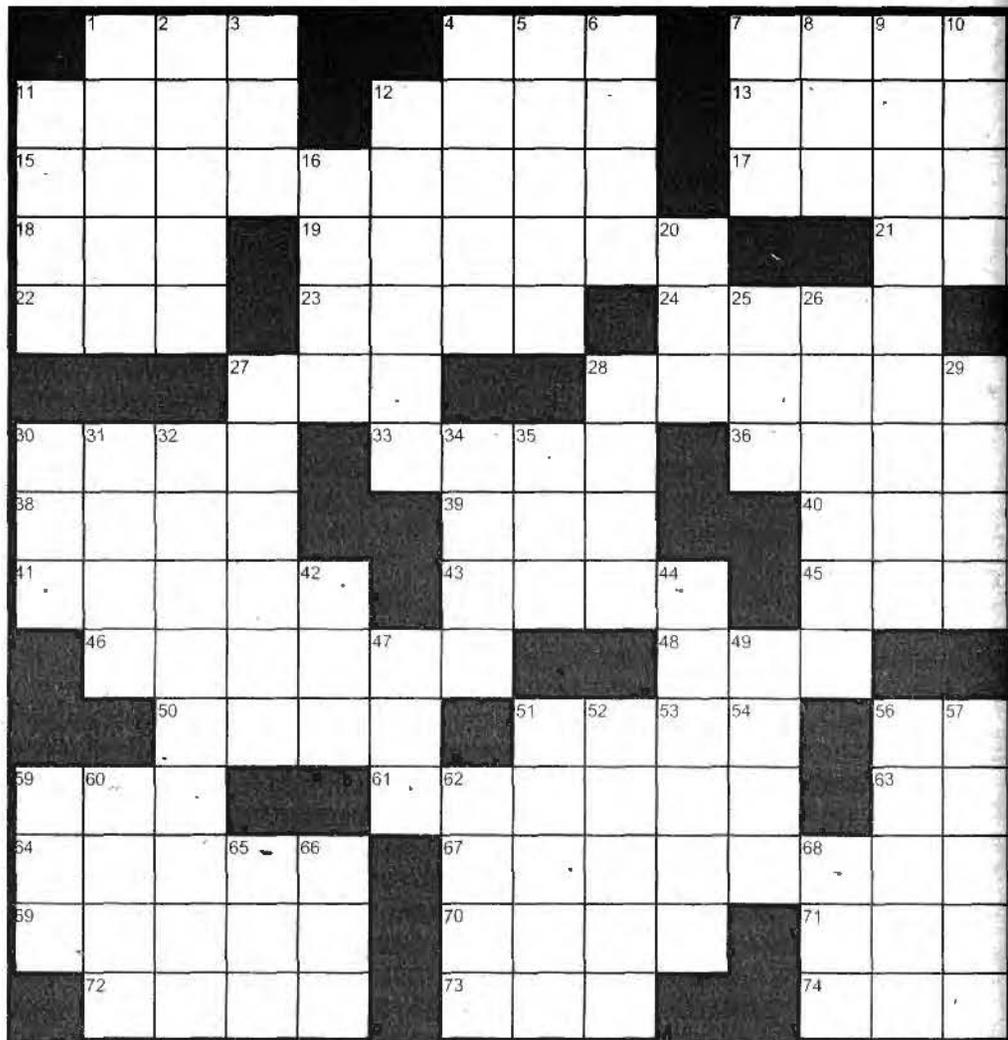
Across:

- 1. Clase de inglés (abbr.)
- 4. Sheep saying
- 7. Fix textually
- 11. Suspecting
- 12. Neglected UT Study
- 13. Mistake
- 15. Hashed path
- 17. Old instruments
- 18. Released on Recognizance
- 19. IC of JIC (2 wds.)
- 21. Far out lab (abbr.)
- 22. Common tree
- 23. Non-truths
- 24. Foot cover
- 27. 2000 pounds
- 28. Not home
- 30. Apiece
- 33. Snatch
- 36. Are not reply (2 wds.)
- 38. Hurt
- 39. Dedicated poem
- 40. Quakers' Univ. (abbr.)
- 41. Semesters
- 42. Aide (abbr.)
- 45. Fruit juices
- 46. Picky cater
- 48. Owns
- 50. Snake sound
- 51. Maim
- 56. Ostrich cousin
- 59. Campus pest
- 61. Better than mono
- 63. PC connection (abbr.)
- 64. Operatic solos
- 67. Cross
- 69. MLB legend Billy _____
- 70. Naval crime show (abbr.)
- 71. Sound again
- 72. Hand start
- 73. Small interval (abbr.)
- 74. U.N. trade group (abbr.)

Down:

- 1. Sign up
- 2. Violent weather
- 3. Spanish article

- 4. Support
- 5. Famous shrugger
- 6. Questions
- 7. Electric animal
- 8. Unmoist
- 9. Cross
- 10. Bottom digits
- 11. Fancy tan
- 12. Outdoor cover
- 14. Reader format (abbr.)
- 16. Grain storage
- 20. Wane
- 25. Latin for mouths
- 26. Wonka workers for short
- 27. Subjects
- 28. Isaac's dad and Lincoln
- 29. Terminated
- 30. Consume
- 31. Excelled
- 32. Catholic or protestant
- 34. Loud animal sound
- 35. Pop-ups or banners (abbr.)
- 37. Not offs
- 42. Holy ones (abbr.)
- 44. Triples
- 47. Letter after ar
- 49. Love
- 51. Archaic thus
- 52. OMG I misspelled arctic
- 56. Choose by vote
- 57. Manly
- 58. Bible preposition
- 59. Taxi
- 60. Square meters
- 62. Metal containers
- 65. Stinging insect
- 66. Observe
- 68. Mend with thread



Sudoku

Difficulty: Flaming Poo

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

Have a puzzle you want to see? Want to write your own crossword? Want either to be in the next issue?

Let us know. Send emails to:
amodestproposal@gmail.com

amp.utdallas.edu

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

Difficulty: Egging Cars



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

Difficulty: Forking



More Sudoku

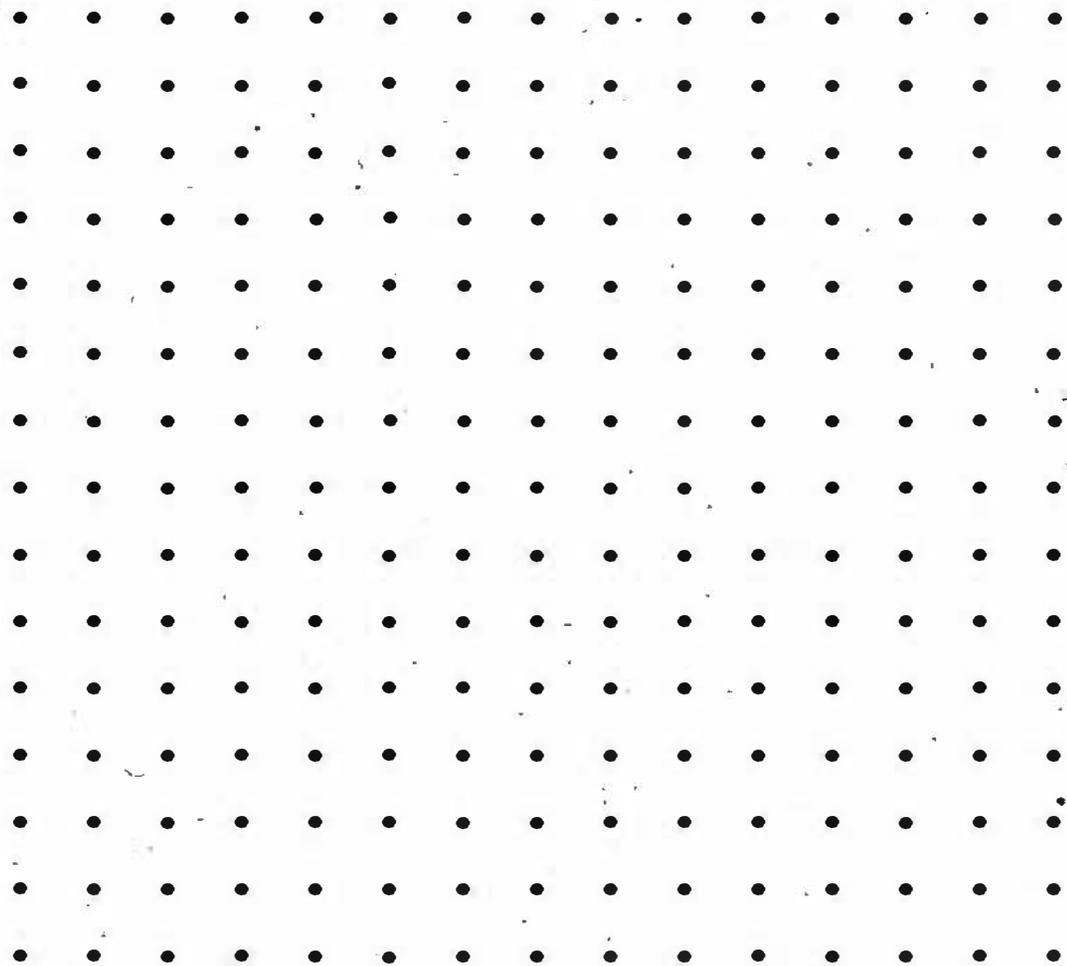
AMP is not responsible for GPA loss due to obsessive puzzle solving; AMP takes credit for increased GPA due to obsessive puzzle solving.

Discuss these puzzles at amp.utdallas.edu!

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

Capture

Difficulty: TPing



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.

WMA LET

U FINISH



"The President was right, he is a jackass!"

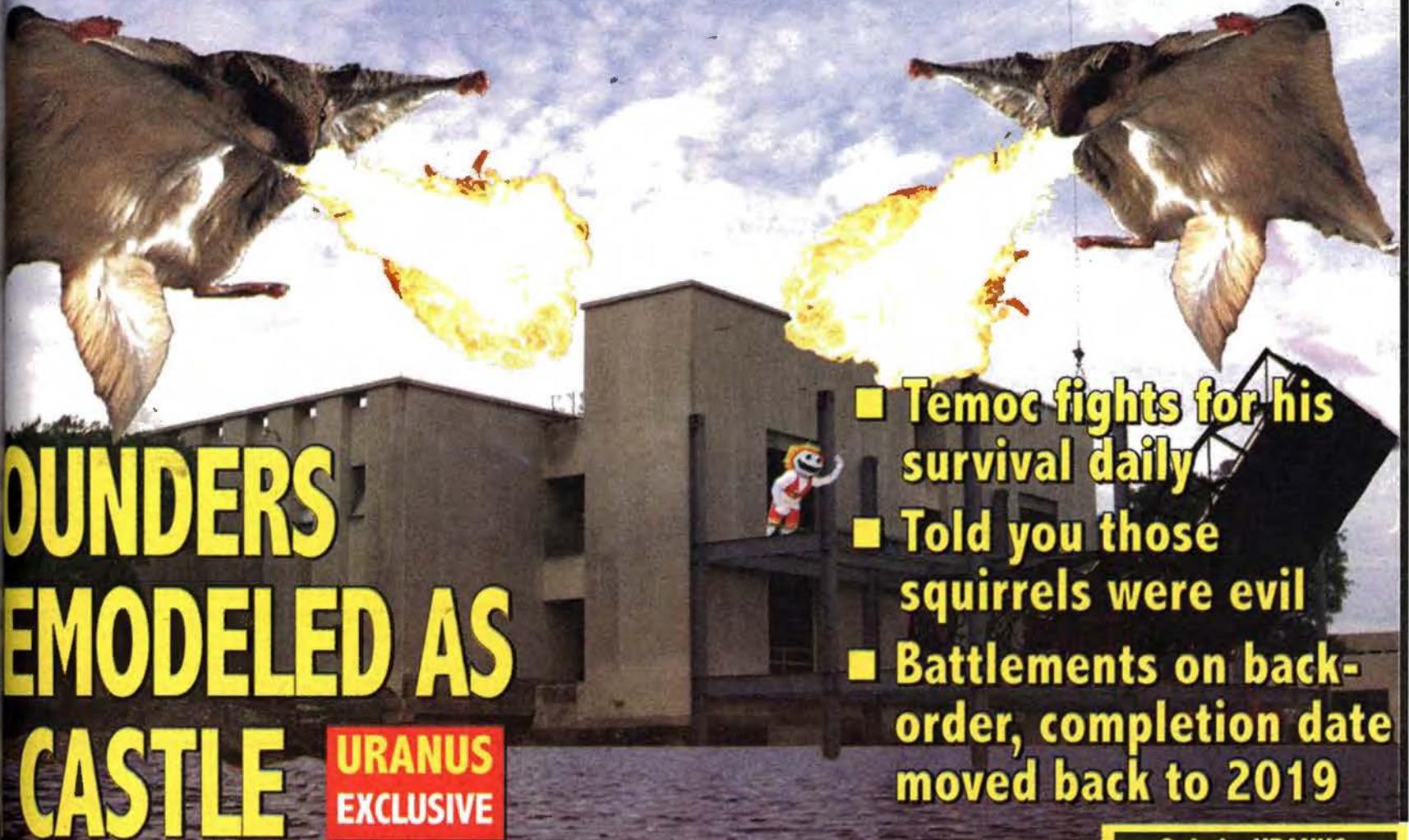


"But even The Spice Girls have more talent than you, Taylor Swift"



THE MOST
STED NEWS ON
THE PLANET

URANUS



FOUNDERS EMODELED AS CASTLE

**URANUS
EXCLUSIVE**

- Temoc fights for his survival daily
- Told you those squirrels were evil
- Battlements on back-order, completion date moved back to 2019

Only in URANUS...

Jerry Jones!



LOL



Does Free healthcare
mean Free Enemas too?



Yarr! If we reform, no more
scurvy for me mateys!

October 2009

\$0.00 US / -\$0.01 Canada



A MODEST PROPOSAL

amodestproposal@gmail.com

New "Yoko Ono" DLC for Beatles Rockband

LONDON (AMP) - In a surprising move, Harmonix, the company behind the new Beatles Rockband, announced the theme for the next downloadable content will be "Yoko Ono". The new pack will not add any actual songs to the game, but instead players will sporadically stop playing and be forced to shout threats to quit the band into the mic while their digital character makes out with various digitally rendered groupies.

"We wanted to stay true to the Beatles experience" says professional presenter Pepper Eggman. "Future content will allow players to chase solo careers that are just never quite as successful."

Elaborate metaphor descends into violence

ARLINGTON (AMP) - Scientists studying group interaction in mammals recently decided to put three elephants in a dark room with only a confused blind man kidnapped from the zoo. One elephant examined the man's arm, another, his leg, and the third his blind stick.

Most researchers expected the elephants to disagree but to ultimately form some sort of meaningful metaphor about observation. However, to nearly everyone's surprise all three of the elephants went berserk and ripped the blind man limb from sightless limb.

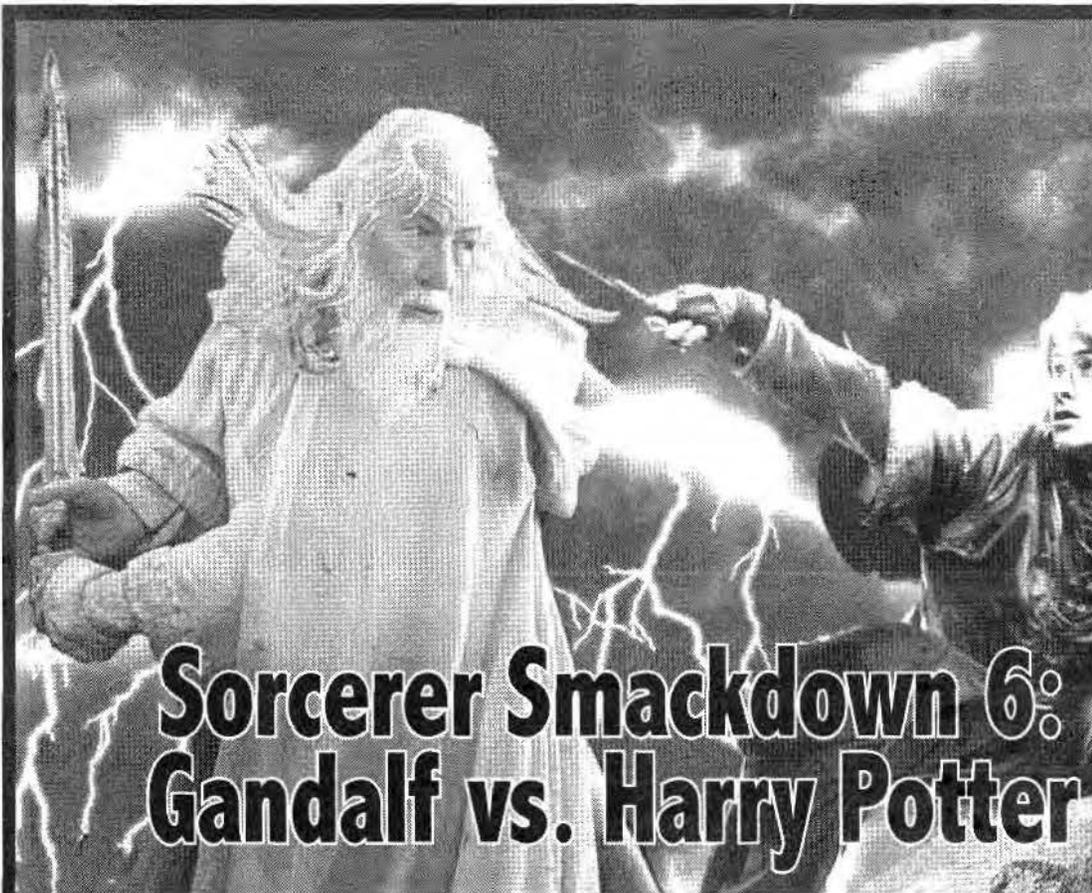
"Huh..." said the scientists, as they viewed the horridly mangled corpse. "Our bad."

Robosexuals: latest assault on marriage

SAN FRANCISCO (AMP) - Advocates of traditional marriage have yet another challenge to face in California courts: robosexual union.

Proponent of robosexual relations, Nigel Shubbingwick, reports that the relationship he shares with his toaster, Oster, is more fulfilling than any human he's ever met.

Surprise opponent of the bill. A Robot, cited as his argument "OUR COLD ROBOTIC HEARTS CANNOT FEEL!!" Long time closet robosexual California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, in a recent press conference, peeled off his superficial exo-face and began making violent robotic love to a television camera before being suppressed with a logical fallacy.



What would win in a fight, a sword or a 9 inch wooden wand?

by D'Brickashaw Cunningham
Fictional Correspondant

- SOMEWHERE BETWEEN MORDOR AND HOGWARTS (AMP) - In a clash that will shake the wizarding world, Harry Potter and Gandalf the Grey are set to meet in a royal rumble never seen since the days of Merlin.

"You know, I never thought I would issue a challenge to a kid," said Gandalf. "But you know, he's just such a little snot. He's always whining about dementors and hippogriffs. I mean come on, I fought that giant flaming demon thing. When I say 'YOU SHALL NOT PASS' I mean it."

"But why me Gandalf?" Harry whined at the pre-duel press conference. "First my high school days get, like, totally ruined because of that Voldy guy and now this? I mean isn't it bad enough that I have this awful scar ruining my complexion?"

While setting the rules for the showdown, each participant got to choose their weapon. Harry, under the advice of his man-crush Ron, chose to wield his mighty 9-inch wood... er... wand. Gandalf on the other hand, opted to switch his staff for a glowstick.

"You know, I really don't need a weapon for this one," stated Gandalf. "I am Gandalf 'YOU

SHALL NOT PASS" Grey. And the glow just looks cool."

"I already died once, I don't want it again," said Harry. "It's, like, so the Okay, one thing I've always wondered though. Does me coming back from the dead mean I can walk on water? Do I get super awesome powers now?"

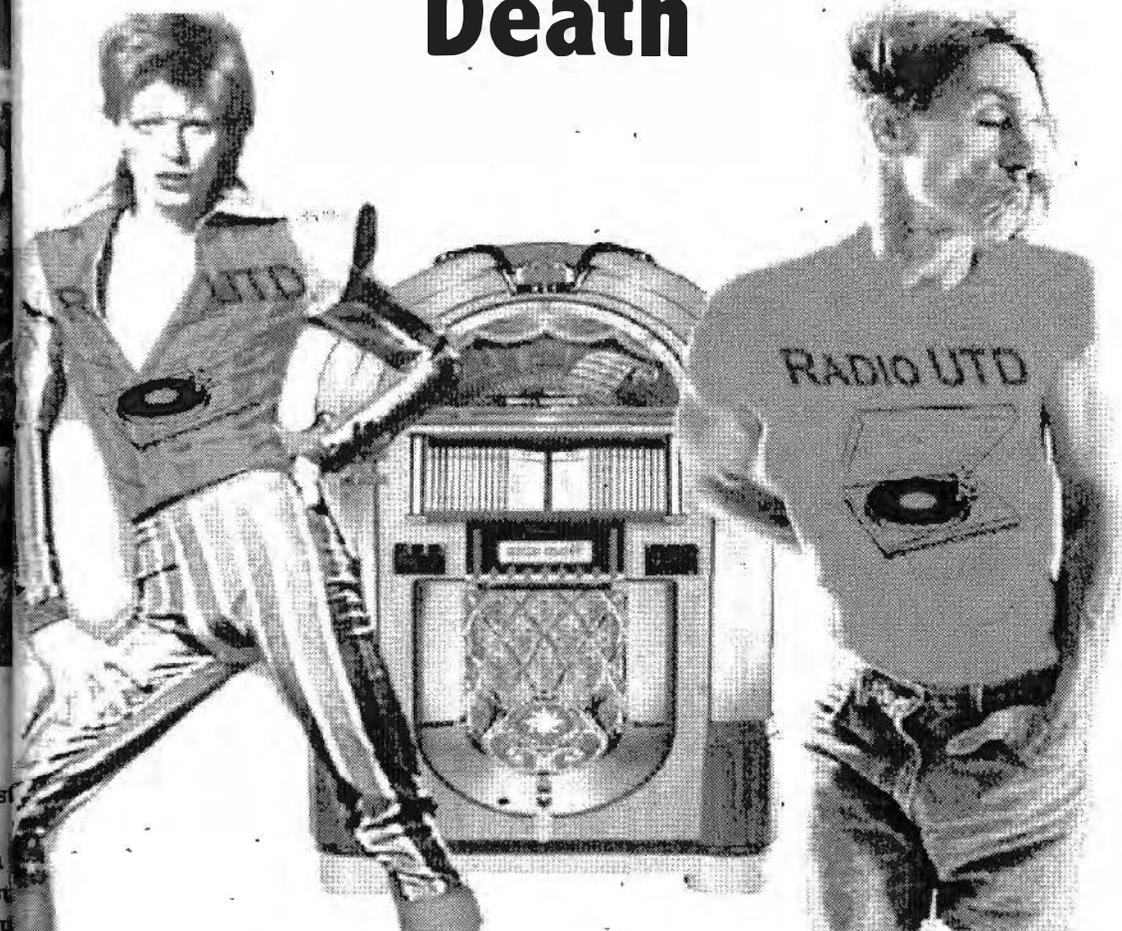
"No, it doesn't work that way," said Gandalf. "You just come back and the ents respect more. Yep, no walking on water, just talk trees."

According to my bookie in Las Vegas, there are about 40,000 to 1 that Gandalf takes the whole show. All bets are off though if a new set of incredibly cheap weapons were introduced by the author in the last book.

"That's actually my biggest problem with Harry," said Gandalf. "The fact that he got some super weapon just in time to finish off the bad guy. Just imagine how much easier it would have been if I hadn't needed to send a hairy footed 'little person' to destroy the wizard."

An anonymous source revealed the reason for the challenge— "Ever since he got his little Dumbly-Wumbly killed, Gandalf has been so mad. It's so hard to find an wizard to fill that role, you know." ■

UTD Student Snobbed to Death



David Bowie and Iggy Pop are the quintessential Radio UTD members

by **Connor Mcsaggysocks**
Emotional Coroner

RICHARDSON(AMP) - A UT Dallas student was found unconscious today in what investigators suspect to be a musically inspired hate crime. Joe Mcdubeyou was found sneered nearly to death by Spirit Rocks — a grimace of reluctant apology set on his face.

Witnesses say that the young student was attempting to join Radio UTD, the student-run internet radio station, when he began talking about music he enjoyed with some of its members.

"Once he started telling them how much he enjoyed the recent Nickelback album, the contempt in their eyes began radiating in waves" said his roommate Ike Lee Bystander. "Their eyes were soulless, burning eyes" he continued in a frightened mumble.

The student immediately suffered severe third-degree jeers. According to eyewitness accounts he then attempted to diffuse the situation by talking about how much he likes music by The

Rank Taints or Dirk Steele.

"To be honest, I'm pretty sure he just made those names up off the top of his head, but it seemed to work. The DJ's immediately started talking about how good those bands were, but when Joe couldn't name his favorite lyrics from their sophomore album, things just went sour," says Ivanna B Famouse.

"You know we really aren't snobby at all," said the wonderfully talented station manager. "We just like to play the music we like. If you want to listen to the horrible music that you like, you can stay in your apartment and rock out to your legally purchased music on iTunes."

The elitism soared — after forcibly dying his hair three different colors, and shoving a pair of nonprescription glasses on his face, they began preaching the evil of the dreaded Top Forty. They left him in a snobbery-induced coma with a sign reading "Come back when your pants are tighter!" on their way to win the CMJ "Best Student-Run Internet Only Station" award. ■

AMP comes out of the closet

RICHARDSON(AMP) - This past month was host to a major shock for the UTD community: *A Modest Proposal* (AMP), the parasitic newspaper on the back of *Uranus*, accepted its fate and came out of the closet.

For the past nine months, the AMP headquarters had been literally in a closet somewhere deep in the bowels of the library. Though cramped, the former office had its perks.

"We really started to become one unit during our stay in the closet," said one editor. "We even started to smell like each other."

"We really credit this profound change to the university administration. They really helped us feel welcome when we came out of the closet."

Perhaps the two most helpful people in this transition were Dr. Hobson Wildenthal and Richard Huckaba.

"We went to both of them and just laid our case out. Both of them responded with the same message: 'Being in the closet is incredibly harmful to your self-esteem. Just show the world what a butterfly you are and come out of the closet.'" So AMP followed the advice.

"Since coming out, AMP has gotten much more respect around campus," said one AMP editor. "Both students and administration have come up to me and said 'I knew you would come out of the closet one day' or 'Now you can get some matching furniture.'"

Since coming out of the closet, AMP has become much more open-minded towards others and is apparently looking forward to a closer relationship with *Uranus*: the most trusted news source in the world.

"Now that we're out of the closet, *Uranus* is looking better and better." ■