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Taylor Brigance, *et al.*

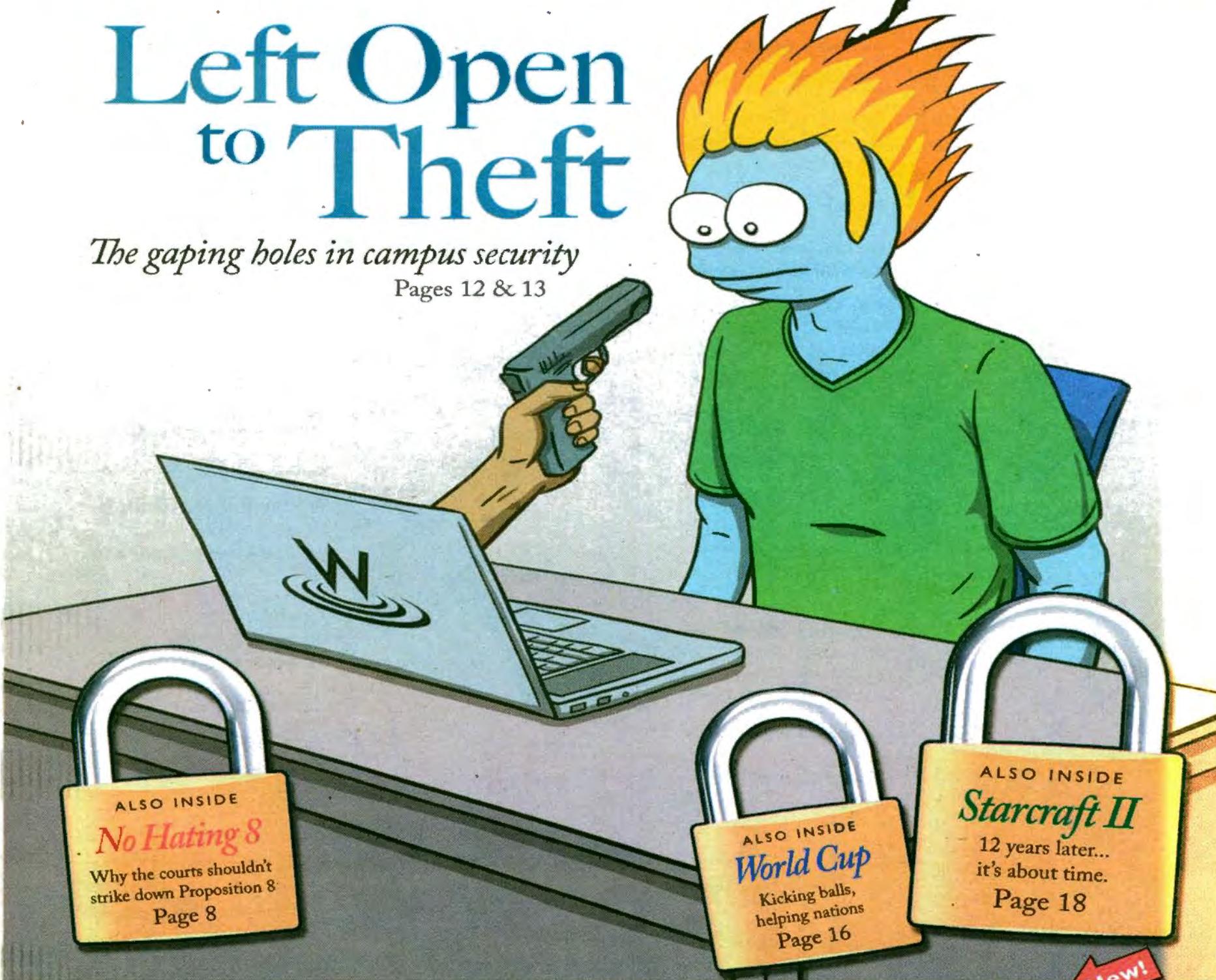
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A Modest Proposal

Left Open to Theft

The gaping holes in campus security

Pages 12 & 13



ALSO INSIDE

No Hating 8

Why the courts shouldn't
strike down Proposition 8

Page 8

ALSO INSIDE

World Cup

Kicking balls,
helping nations

Page 16

ALSO INSIDE

Starcraft II

12 years later...
it's about time.

Page 18

New!

A Modest Proposal

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In This Issue...

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

3 Letters to David

In Memoriam

BY THE SPRING 2010 EDITORS

5 Not Your Parents' WMDs

The increasing threat of biological weapons

BY PRASHANT RAGHAVENDRAN

6 Regulation Station

How regulation could have saved us a world of hurt.

BY ANDREW PREVIC

7 For Whom The Bell Tolls

In keeping with our namesake

BY TAYLOR BRIGANCE

8 Don't H8 on 8

Why throwing out California's Proposition 8 is wrong

BY PHIL HARRIS

9 Missionary Style Only

The Texas GOP pushes to legislate acceptable intercourse

BY ALICE POST

10 Because I Said So

The proliferation of unresearched and unfunded opinion

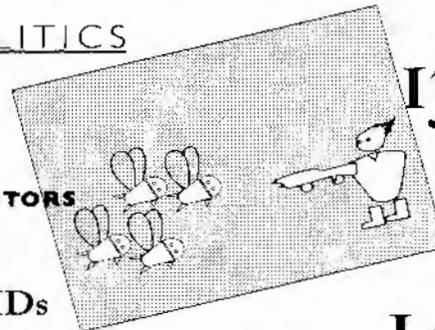
BY TAYLOR BUTTLER

CAMPUS LIFE

11 Comet Camp 2010

It's more exciting than it sounds...no, really

BY KAYLA KLEIN



12 Wireless Authentication

Waterview wireless insecurity renders students vulnerable

BY RICHARD BARTHEL

13 The Armed and the Oblivious

UV residents uninformed about attempted robbery

BY LAUREN SECHRIST

SOCIAL COMMENTARY

14 Rags Behind Riches

Richardson's Socioeconomic Inequalities

BY FINNY PHILIP

15 Needles of Healing

Why alternative medicine is not necessarily voodoo

BY LEWIS CHANG

SPORTS & RECREATION

16 World Cup Pageant

Everyone's watching: so be on your best behavior

BY PRISHA GADDAM

ARTS & LEISURE

17 A Man of Many Minds

DiCaprio's Identity Crises

BY ALEX GARCIA TOPETE

18 The Resolution

This month: StarCraft 2

BY RYAN HENRY

PUZZLES & GAMES

19 Caption Contest!

20 Puzzles

22 The Uranus

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David,

You were one of the kindest and most intellectually honest people I have ever met. You were considerate, and that's praise I reserve for few.

Sometimes you don't realize how close you've gotten to somebody until it is too late. We spent hours making a paper, but we spent just as many hours building a friendship. We turned foosball into a mental match, which after-hours merriment turned into philosophical discussions, and arguments into games. I will always regret not realizing how close we had grown and not telling you what an amazing friend you were.

But David, there is a silver-lining. Your friends, we've learned to appreciate each other. You kept the company of a busy lot, and I am certain we were all guilty of putting work before relationships sometimes. Your passing has reminded us all how much we mean to each other. Thank you for sharing your spark with us.

Jonathan Coker



David,

Your wit and curiosity truly lit up the room: It seems we could hardly go five minutes of conversation without one of your sly jokes and the resultant goofy grin, and the way you tackled even problems and subjects you didn't yet know much about with enthusiasm was inspiring. With that combination of passion and intelligence, it's no wonder you became the most diversely talented editor and even ended up, in just one semester as an editor, teaching the rest of us how to photoshop better. I'm really going to miss you. We editors spent so much time together that I half expect to find you quietly grinning in the room when we talk or hang out. Thanks for all the great times and good memories, especially the Smash Bros. nights and the grammar/language discussions. I'm so glad and so lucky to have been able to have you as a friend.

Kenny Gray

I thought the best way to get to know David was if I would share a typical day with him as a friend. Even after going to class and working together for 8-12 hours putting the paper together, when we had the chance to go home we would still hang out. We would order a Pineapple and Pepperoni pizza and do homework, which is the code word for watching an episode of Firefly, then discussing the general topic of our respective assignments. This would soon diverged into debates on science, religion and every other topic imaginable. Even during intense discussions David was always funny, once stopping a discussion on nuclear power with the words "and that rhymes, so you know we're doing science." Then when it was getting really late, we would actually start the homework. Sleep and repeat the next day. For normal people this sounds like an incredible day, but for David this was normal. Every day he made sure that he did his responsibilities, hung out with his friends, and had fun.

Mac Hird



David,

Where to begin? Your insight, your sense of humor, your blend of kindness and realism, your intense intellectual curiosity... I truly consider myself lucky to call you my friend. Our late night musings about the meaning of life improved many an otherwise boring weeknight, and your efforts to convert me into an Ayn Rand disciple were noble, even though they were unsuccessful. (I still have your copy of *Atlas Shrugged*, by the way.) Our shared interest in electronic music became a bond: I will especially miss your excellent artist recommendations. But most of all, I will just miss *you*. Even living on a completely different continent this semester cannot dull the sense of loss that I have felt. And I know that all the other editors- what's more, all of your friends and family- feel that loss, as well.

Liz Organ

A Memorial Service for David Huddlestun will be held on Friday, Sept. 10th at 1 pm in the Jonsson Performance Hall. A Modest Proposal encourages you to attend and celebrate the life of this amazing man.

From our Website

amp.utdallas.edu

As a former AMP editor, from back in the day when we were still quite literally an "underground" newspaper, I just want to say that Coker has done a great job with the paper. I think the move to having the Student Media Operating Board appoint editors is a bad one, one that will prevent the paper from being the truly independent voice that it has been, but perhaps that was always inevitable. If the administration couldn't silence the dissenters (and so far they haven't), perhaps now they hope to arrange for editors who will. I hope that, despite this move, the paper retains its independent streak, its love for writing about important and controversial campus issues, and its relevance for the UTD student body. And I hope that, occasionally, the paper still sticks it to the man. Students will always need a highly visible advocate for their interests. Yes, AMP has always had its humorous side, but it is vital to campus because it amplifies student voices, because it gives a place for every student with an idea and a decently-written article to make their opinion known. That's what students lacked before AMP existed, and that's what AMP means today.

To the future editors, whoever you will be -- keep fighting the good fight. I hope you don't forget what AMP is, at its core, and what it means to students. I hope you love the paper as much as all the editors in the past have. And I hope that, 25 years from now, AMP will still be at the center of campus life, still publishing the pieces that matter, still taking risks. AMP owes it to the student body to be that paper.

Best of luck to the new editors, and thanks again, Coker,

Kim Allen, "A Modest Farewell" post No. 1

"How can people produce change if they're pessimistic about their own efforts and what the future holds?"

Excellent question! Waco '92 is a perfect example of the crap that goes down when people get too caught up in end-of-the-world doomism, and forget about the here-and-now. If the belief that the world will end soon drives us into being the best we can be (in a macro "Live Like You Were Dying" kind of way), that's awesome, but it's no excuse to revert only to "how can I save my own ass" habits. Those Y2K stockpiles were ridiculous and demonstrated selfishness at its worst.

melissa k, "Apocalypse Now?" post No. 1

I agree with you. Richardson has done a lot to make itself appeal to the business world. It's a city based on networking and entertainment, but not much attention has been paid to some corners of Richardson where kids are working jobs so that their parents can pay the rent. I've been working with a group of Richardson kids for the past year, and many of them live adjacent to beautiful city-sponsored waterfronts and businesses, but they live a tough life. Richardson could do more to help these kids get the education and mentoring they need to become good citizens.

Finny Philip, "Can't See the Humans for the Trees" post No. 1

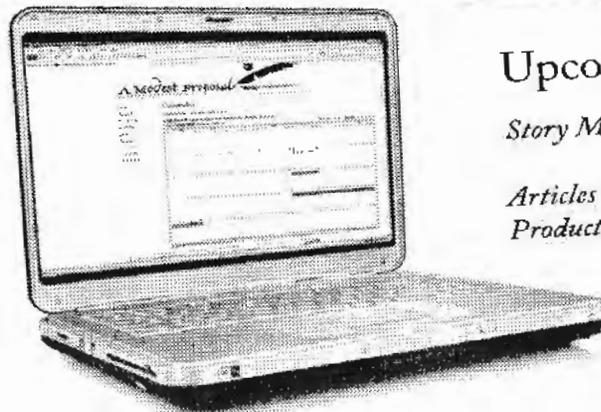
I've been there a few times and every time I have been the youngest person there by about 30 years. Especially breakfasts, everybody around me is ordering the geriatric special. But oh is it amazing comfort food!

melissa k, "The Menu" post No. 1

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.

Please send an email to amodestproposal@gmail.com if you would like to become involved with illustrating, photoshoping, layout design, copy editing, or just being funny.



GO HERE!

Upcoming AMP deadlines:

Story Meetings — Sep. 8, 4:30 pm. MC 3.612
 Sep. 9, 10:00 pm. MC 3.612
 Articles Due — Sep. 16, Midnight.
 Production Weekend — Sep. 24-26. MC 3.612

Calendar of all events available
 at amp.utd.com/calendar

Not Your Parents' WMDs

The increasing threat of biological weapons



by prashant ragavendran
pragavendran@gmail.com

With the Convention of Cluster Munitions having come into force at the end of July, it seems apparent that explosive weapons are still public enemy number one in terms of terrorism and national defense programs—and why not? A quick, fiery destruction leaving prominent debris sends a message. However, during my time in Geneva working under a special treaty, I found there is a much more terrifying specter in our future: biological weapons. The high-profile nuclear weapons and bombs we are most afraid of require precise engineering and clever packaging, while bacteria and viruses can easily be thrown into our food and water supply.

It's the stuff made for movies or television. Evil scientist creates a terrifying strain of some superbug that eats the innards of unsuspecting gatherers 'round the community well. Or, spores of some monstrous bacteria like Anthrax get released into the air vents of a supposedly secret government

building. This may all seem fantastical, but a few potent real examples make it clear that this is a horrific reality.

Within the past 20 years, we have seen terror arise with the Anthrax letters and the poisoning of an Oregon salad bar by a cult of the Indian guru Rajneesh. Even still, the outbreaks have been sparse in comparison to the everyday bombings around the volatile regions of the world.

Manufactured chemicals found in nuclear weapons are portrayed as synthetic entities, foreign to human understanding, and thus very scary. Elements of biology, on the other hand, make us feel we have somewhat more of a fighting chance. It's an issue of bacteria and viruses being part of our organic chain of command, while nuclear science and synthetic chemistry does not reside with natural life. It is introduced for a purpose, instead of evolving into the system. I think the fact that we have prevailed, as a species, over such terrors as the Bubonic Plague, Smallpox and Spanish Influenza, is enough proof to show that the ball is still in our court.

However, biology is getting harder to control. Synthetic Biology and Nanobiotechnology are great subjects to delve into, because these engineer biological units into positive life-improving machines. But now, there's a growing elephant in the room: dual use. This term refers to us finding ways that these benevolent machines could be turned to the dark side and fight the existence of all life on earth.

With more and more methods becoming accessible to the scientific community in regards to genetic and biological engineering, the opportunities for positive and negative use unravel further. Soon, coding gene-splice procedures for prions (disease proteins) will become child's play. In the extreme, a high-schooler could wipe out the agricultural viability of an entire community. Thus, an open market for this information becomes very dangerous.

Even when the threat is becoming so high, biological weapons are not checked by verification regimes like chemical and nuclear weapons are. Verification allows us to watch nations' programs and make sure they are up to code and that malicious weapons are not being stockpiled, created or tested. However, the Biological Weapons Convention is relatively young (drafted in 1972), and is still very much a living document. There were attempts to put into place a similar verification plan like the International Atomic Energy Agency has, but certain countries disagreed, and this was never fully picked up again.

Though there is a solid message of destruction and prohibition of biological weapons as well as cooperation and information sharing within the Convention, there is still no concrete manner to check the actions of countries and private

parties within them. There exist forms which members to the treaty are obliged to fill out, reporting their biological facilities and any programs and legislation dealing with biological weapons and defense. That process, however, is still very vague and many nations have difficulties owning up to this task.

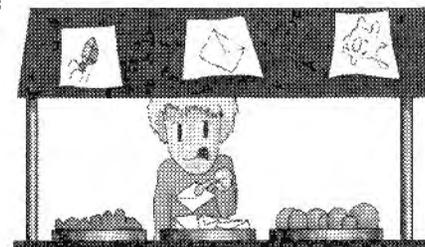
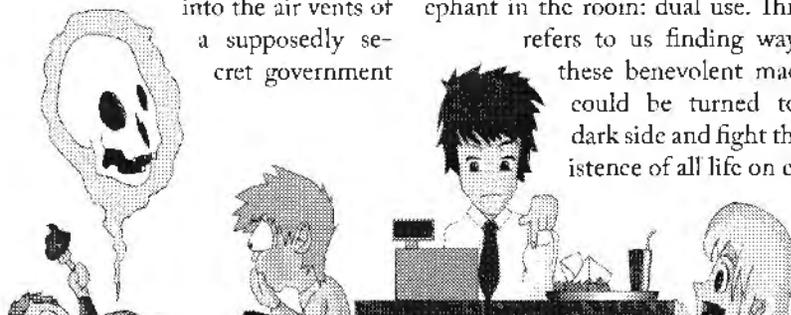
At this time, we are currently losing the race against time with biology. Science is moving incredibly fast, and one would think that the administrative side

“ We are currently losing the race against time with biology. ”

needs to be able to trade punch for punch. At the same time, watchdog policy is tricky when considering ethics. Where does one draw the line between malicious and benevolent use of biology? It's really hard to tell. This is why there have been so many problems with implementing verification on an international scale.

Nevertheless, that does not let us off the hook. We need regional agreements and projects to expose the complications of biological weapons. We need to start to spread awareness and gain information in order to secure this science and still allow its development for good to flourish.

What we have learned in the past few years is that biological weapons have quickly gone from the nobody to the biggest, most annoying bully at school. The bully that's everywhere and in everything, the one that doesn't just wail on you once.



Regulation Station

How regulation could have saved us from a world of hurt



by **andrew previc**
aprevic@student.utdallas.edu

Free market proponents argue that government regulation is inefficient at allocating social goods such as charity, transportation, and safety. In actuality, regulations are wonderful at managing risk. It's true that the free market allows consumers to choose what is produced or what services are provided so that supply matches need, but the market excludes many consequences of production and consumption that are not accounted for in prices. Those consequences that affect the public, such as the effects of faulty planning, are known as externalities. Regulation, whether a restriction on the number of hours an employee can work in one week or an added safety requirement, is a way to manage externalities and ensure that possible catastrophe-producing processes such as oil drilling or banking are not neglected.

In fact, according to market strategist Barry Ritholtz, in his work *Bailout Nation*, our inability to manage risk was a major cause of the financial crisis of 2008. Prior to the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000, banks were required to maintain at least 10% of their capital in reserve. Over the next few years, however, the reserves at many banks fell as low as 2.5%, meaning that the ratio of leveraged to reserve capital at many institutions was 40 to 1. In order to make a quick profit, banks risked stability and ultimately failed to take into account the externality of a financial meltdown, especially one that would require a \$700 billion bailout to keep the country afloat.

British Petroleum and Halliburton's negligence prior to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill are also prime examples of

the dangers of deregulation. By the time engineers were able to cap the well in mid-July, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig had released nearly 4.9 million barrels, or the equivalent of more than 200 million gallons of oil, into the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to the eleven deaths as a result of the initial explosion on April 20, the spill severely disrupted the region's ecosystem and drastically affected the home values and, ultimately, the lives of Gulf Coast residents.

One question on many peoples' minds is, "Could the disaster have been pre-

vented?" Investigations are underway as to why the main shutoff valve, the Blowout Preventer (BOP), failed to seal the well after the initial leak had occurred. Many scientists believe that the primary hardware control mechanism for the BOP was faulty and failed to activate. Critics argue that BP, unlike many other petroleum companies, did not install backup control mechanisms in its rigs which might have been able to activate the BOP remotely. In addition the actual part of the BOP that seals the well

was many times found to be not strong enough to cut through the rig pipes. In many of BP's exploration briefs to the MMS, the company diminished the risks of oil leaks and spills from its offshore wells. BP's underestimation of true risk was probably the reason leak-control technology, such as the BOP, was inspected only once every two weeks and work on the drill did not stop when the initial leaks were discovered on April 20.

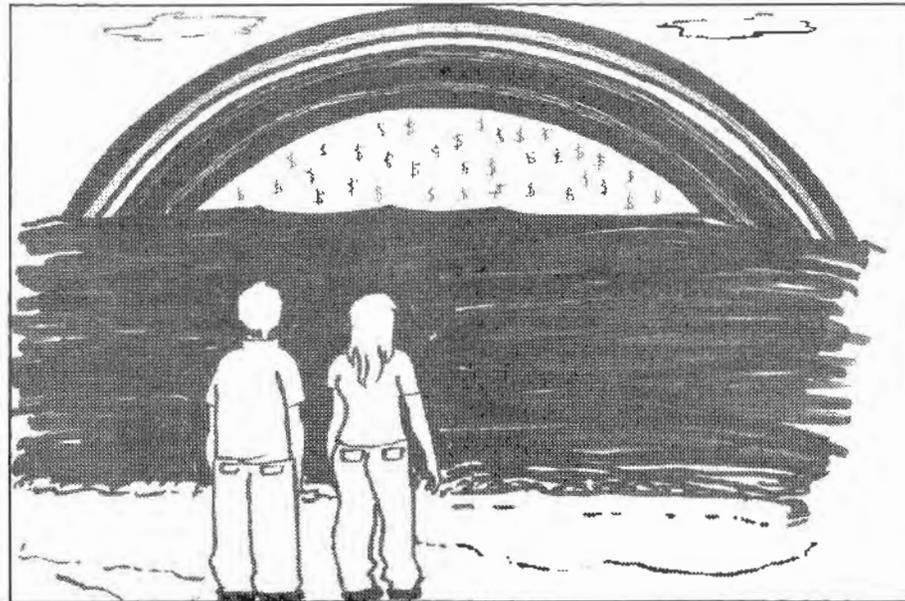
Why weren't more substantial measures taken to prevent the oil spill? According to Florida senator Bill Nelson,

walls as a temporary plug for the device. Why did they not stop and address the problem? Thomas Buzbee, a Houston attorney who represents many oil workers, believes that with overhead costs of more than \$500,000 dollars a day, "there were bonuses for finishing early."

Regulation might have prevented the spill. Prior to the explosion, oil companies in the region had come together to oppose regulations that required stricter safety and environmental standards and more frequent inspections, deeming them as too costly. In fact, the Minerals Management Service (MMS), tasked with regulating offshore drilling, handed much of the control over to the initial companies themselves through a loophole in the National Environmental Policy Act.

But what is to be learned from these recent catastrophes? For one, to still argue that regulation is costly and cumbersome is to make the same mistake as Halliburton, BP, and many bank and investment firm executives. The costs in the long run, whether it is billions of dollars lost in foreclosures, oil, or property values, greatly exceed the initial savings in the short run.

Finally, a re-evaluation of our economic system is in order. This article is not a plea for an end to capitalism, but Americans need to rethink the ways in which less rational aspects of human nature are controlled for. In addition, we need to think of ways to monitor powerful interests intent on cutting corners to make a quick buck. Regulation did not simply fail in both the financial and oil industry, it was voted away. Protecting regulation and regulatory agencies in industries where poorly calculated decisions could result in major losses should be a major goal of preventing large-scale public catastrophes. ■



Just another oil-soaked sunrise. Illustration by rudi garcia

vented?" Investigations are underway as to why the main shutoff valve, the Blowout Preventer (BOP), failed to seal the well after the initial leak had occurred. Many scientists believe that the primary hardware control mechanism for the BOP was faulty and failed to activate. Critics argue that BP, unlike many other petroleum companies, did not install backup control mechanisms in its rigs which might have been able to activate the BOP remotely. In addition the actual part of the BOP that seals the well

"everything that's done by the oil industry is done for profit." The back up mechanisms would have cost BP \$500,000, and at the time probably seemed like an unnecessary cost. The cost-cutting methods used by rig workers following initial leak detection have also been criticized. In the early afternoon of April 20, while Halliburton employees prepared the well to move to another location, pressure tests were conducted that "indicated unseen underground leakage into the well." The workers continued to cement the

*Andrew knows how to prevent a blowout.
Discuss this article at [amputd.com!](http://amputd.com/)*

For Whom The Bell Tolls

A treatise on architectural indiscretion



by taylor brigrance
tbrigrance@gmail.com

Our very civic structure is under assault from the inside. Dangerous and illegal elements are already attempting to use our own freedoms against us and build a triumphant memorial to their victory practically on top of the very hallowed ground where so many brave and good souls were lost. This "cultural icon," as they are touting it, is supposed to "support the community," but if they care so much for the community, then why would they be building such a controversial building at such a controversial location?

No, it is clear:



The similarity is uncanny! They're trying to trick you! Image courtesy of Kelly Doyle

building a Taco Bell near the Alamo is clearly an effort by the Mexicans to commemorate their victory over so many Texan lives.

Let's pick this argument apart—proponents wave these high-in-the-sky concepts like freedom of religion...err... food, freedom of association, and freedom of expression—there are even some quieter rumblings about freedom of contract and property rights, but nobody takes those selfish libertarians seriously anyway. All of

those freedoms were what people fought and died for, and you don't get to enjoy them just because you're citizens, you happen to live here, and aren't connected with the enemy in any way.

Thus the building could be seen as a testament to the freedom and open nature of our democratic institutions—and we don't want that. We want everything associated with the Alamo to be symbolic of our righteous struggle against evil, an endless war against the brown people who speak a funny language and whose religion is only half way like ours. We don't want people to be able to walk the streets of San Antonio and believe that we, as a nation, have started to heal the wounds left from the Battle of the Alamo. Besides, everybody knows the Alamo

is haunted—do we really want a spectral Davy Crockett riding loose around San Antonio beheading every Chihuahua he sees (well, that part may not be that bad) and attacking everybody eating a chalupa? Especially considering how hard he was to kill the first time?

No, it is far better that we not risk the ghostly wrath of our slain forebears and have that Taco Bell moved somewhere more appropriate—like completely out of the country, to be safest. In fact, we

Freedom is just another word for something you can lose at a moment's notice depending upon the fickle and easily inflamed passions of the mob.

should probably just ban all Taco Bells from being built anywhere. Of course, then Pepto-Bismol sales might take a hit, but maybe we can convince KFC to start producing more Double Downs.

So what can we poor citizens do against this shameless act of fast food? Luckily, we still possess the freedom of

association, so we should all get together in a big group with really clever signs and yell things at people. This is a tried-and-true method of political action and has a roughly 99% chance of success.

On the off chance that our ingenious chanting and pithy slogans don't immediately convert everybody to our cause, we can move on to the next step of calling everybody who disagrees with us a bad name. At the moment, I'm thinking Dirty Sanchezes (all the best insulting names have sexual connotations, right?).

Anyway, after we've shouted a bit and called people some names, we can get down

to serious business—lobbying the government to force our beliefs on everybody else. In this case, we should try to make it so that anybody eating Mexican food has to carry the receipt at all times, in order to prove that the food was made in the legal Taco Bells. What qualifies as Mexican food will obviously be left to police discretion—we don't want people to get arrested over nachos, but quesadillas are highly suspicious foodstuffs almost by definition.

Mexican foods that have been sufficiently Americanized will have nothing to fear, however, so Doritos and Tostitos will still be around, and we will of course include exceptions for all of the alcohol-based substances like Coronas and margaritas.

Ultimately, let us not forget that those brave men and women at the Alamo died to preserve what is every Texan's, nay, every American's God-given rights—to exercise freedom and have Fourthmeal—just so long as you freely choose to do things we agree with and your Fourthmeal is food we approve of. After all, freedom is just another word for something you can lose at a moment's notice depending upon the fickle and easily inflamed passions of the mob.

This issue is more important than anything else that might come up in our discussion—improving the economy, reducing the deficit, the entire Middle East, Lindsay Lohan's rehab, or anything related to Lady Gaga. We must continue to decry the insensitivity of Taco Bell until everyone agrees that we are right and Taco Bell is ding-dong wrong. ■

*Taylor doesn't always drink beer, but when he does he prefers...Lonestar.
Discuss this article at ampund.com!*

Don't H8 on 8

Why throwing out California's Proposition 8 is wrong

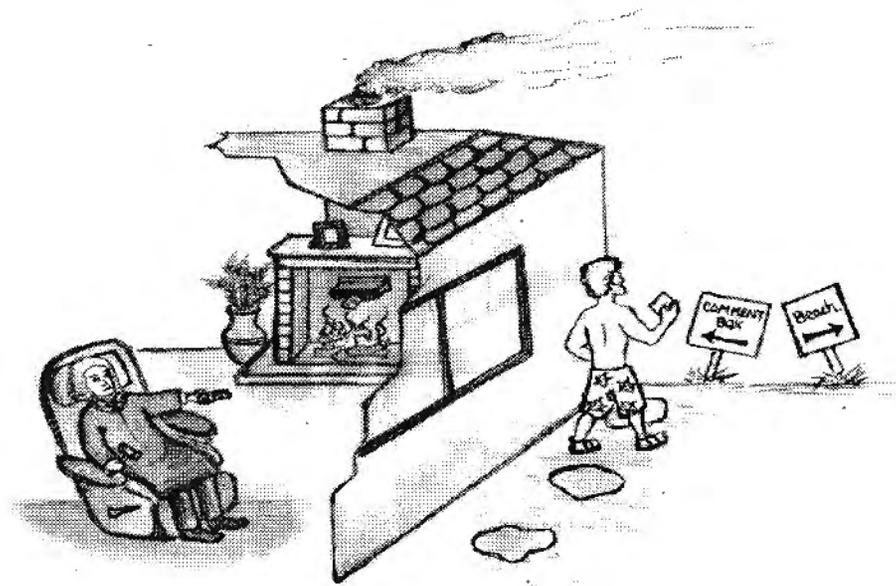


by phil harris
pharris610@gmail.com

Proponents of California's Proposition 8 often bring up the issue of judicial activism in their analysis of Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker's decision to strike down the proposition as unconstitutional. The view of millions of Americans is that months of hard work to pass a protection of an important social institution was simply pushed aside by a judge whose ruling was tantamount to calling 7 million Californians bigots. In Judge Walker's view, deeply held religious convictions aren't good enough for a legislative motivation and therefore, there is no possible governmental interest in Proposition 8.

Now, if you vehemently oppose Proposition 8, as I'm sure many who are reading this do, I can already hear your objections to the idea that voters should have been allowed to decide on a definition of marriage. After all, marriage is somehow a fundamental right (unless the betrothed are blood related, too young, polygamous, or a myriad of other restrictions which seem to have little more governmental interest than morality), and a majority of Californians shouldn't be allowed to hatefully deny so many loving couples a basic right.

Judge Walker wholeheartedly agrees with you. His findings of fact contain multiple examples of his conviction that the central issue of the Proposition 8 debate is whether or not a right has been denied to a group of people. Allow me to provide some examples.



Ha ha ha! You think your vote counts! Illustration by lewis chang

Finding of Fact Number 58 states, "Proposition 8 places the force of law behind stigmas against gays and lesbians, including: gays and lesbians do not have intimate relationships similar to heterosexual couples; gays and lesbians are not as good as heterosexuals; and gay and lesbian relationships do not deserve the full recognition of society."

As far as I can tell, Proposition 8 simply defines in marriage. Now, many people opposed to Proposition 8 seem to have not read the text of the proposition, and assume that it contains line after line detailing the inferiority of homosexuals, denying specific benefits to same-sex couples, and using all kinds of hateful words and expressions I won't repeat here. I'm sorry to burst the propaganda-inflated bubble, but Proposition 8 reads simply,

"Section 1. Title. This measure shall be known and may be cited as the "California Marriage Protection Act."

Section 2. Article I. Section 7.5 is added to the California Constitution, to read:

"Sec. 7.5. Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

At the quickest of glances, this appears to do what human culture and history have done for thousands of years, define marriage as between one man and one woman.

Next, Finding of Fact Number 76 states, "Well-known stereotypes about gay men and lesbians include a belief that gays and lesbians are affluent, self-absorbed, and incapable of forming long-term intimate relationships. Other stereotypes imagine gay men and lesbians as disease vectors or as child molesters who recruit young children into homosexuality..."

Now, I know that when I think about marriage, my mind is most certainly filled with crass and offensive stereotypes of gays and lesbians. Likewise, I'm sure the proponents of Proposition 8 constantly used a term like "disease vectors".

Finding of Fact Number 77 (and my personal favorite) states, "Religious beliefs that gay and lesbian relationships are sinful or inferior to heterosexual relationships harm gays and lesbians." A layman's translation of this particular gem would be that anyone who voted in favor of Proposition 8 for a religious reason has harmed and is by all accounts actively harming gays and lesbians. That is quite the finding! The supporting evidence in the decision affirms this translation, particularly sub point g, which deals with the percentage of people who voted in favor of Proposition 8 who regularly attend church.

These findings should be a cause of concern for the reader: They demonstrate a frightening lack of ability to stay on topic, and the proof that the core issue of Proposition 8 is completely misunderstood and/or ignored. At the center of the debate is the question of whether the people of California should be able to legally define the word marriage. Contrary to Judge Walker's 'finding of fact', Proposition 8 puts the force of law behind the definition of marriage that has existed for almost all of recorded human history.

The issue then is not whether gays and lesbians are being denied a right; it is whether that right exists for it to be denied to them at all. By passing Proposition 8, the voters of California affirmed that there is no such thing as same-sex marriage, because the definition of the word marriage contains no context for two people of the same sex. Judge Walker's decision instead makes the issue a denial of a right which doesn't exist, and then proceeds to use his decision to condemn and marginalize the deeply held convictions of millions of California voters. That is a very great cause for concern. ■

“ These findings should be a cause of concern for the reader: They demonstrate a frightening lack of ability to stay on topic. ”

Phil is vehemently opposed to anyone putting anything in Uranus. Discuss this article at amputd.com!

Missionary Style Only

The Texas GOP pushes to legislate acceptable intercourse



by **alice post**
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Fact: Today it is legal to have consensual sodomy with your partner. Another fact: Texas 2010 GOP platform aims to reverse this situation.

This article could quickly fall into a long discussion about how that would add insult to injury for homosexuals in Texas, especially in light of the previously stated position in the Texas GOP platform to, “support legislation that would make it a felony to issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple and for any civil official to perform a marriage ceremony for such.” A lengthy diatribe could follow about how the 1950’s picture of the family unit may no longer describe what is good for society. An anatomical discussion about sexual pleasure by way of stimulating the prostate gland could follow. However,

the focus shall be less ideological and anatomical and based more on the policy implications of the Texas GOP’s family values platform.

First of all, the Texas GOP’s opposition to sodomy is formulated as follows: “We oppose the legalization of sodomy.” There is no specification of which definition is to be used for “sodomy,” which can cover any oral, anal, or bestial sex act (Surprisingly enough, in California it is currently a misdemeanor offense to have sex with an animal, whereas in Texas it is not an offense of any kind). Under that definition of sodomy, blowjobs could very well be made illegal. For the Texas GOP, definitions usually are reached by trial and error; and the result is what you first assumed it to be. Earlier this year, Texas Republicans passed an amendment that was worded so poorly that it nullified all marriages, heterosexual and otherwise. Republicans, listen closely: Tea Party members may celebrate ignorance but you should know that the actual meaning of words affects the results of a law.

If the above opposition to the legal-

ization of sodomy were written into an actionable law, how would it be enforced? Public sex and nudity are already offenses, so this would imply a more invasive sort of enforcement. A possible witness statement could be, “I was peeking in the window—because I’m secretly in love with my neighbor’s wife—and saw this couple engaging in sodomy.” Encouragement of nosy neighboring should never happen. Perhaps it would only be meant as a method of escalating sentencing for a crime of rape? If so, then why is this particular stance on sodomy included in the subsection entitled “Celebrating the traditional marriage”? Saying that celebrating the traditional marriage entails telling married couples how they can perform intercourse in their place of residence is simply not an enforceable policy.

Now, one aspect of the platform that could be enforced—though no real human being would vote to do so—is that of eliminating pornography in the grand state of Texas. In the xxx section of the GOP platform, two of the three sentences make sense: One enforces existing pornography laws and the other prohibits the sale of unrated videos and video games to minors. The middle sentence makes for an excellent never-gonna-happen sandwich: “We urge more stringent legislation to prohibit all pornography including virtual pornography and operation of sexually-oriented businesses.” First amendment blah, blah, blah (and, guys, you should seriously consider writing a letter to your favorite GOP candidate about this). My theory as to why Texas GOP representatives want to do away with porn follows three possible causes: Their wives are awesome in the sack; they are cheating on their wives; and/or Viagra is one helluva drug.

One authority that has long told couples how they can have sex is religion. Yes, many in the Texas GOP subscribe to a Protestant Christian system of belief and it appears that they got jealous of the Pope and want to lay down religious laws of their own. Why is it that the Pope can

issue edicts based in his belief in God and Christians in the Capitol should not? Because those who follow the Pope accept the same tenets of the same religion, and the enforcement system is one of self-reporting. Public-policy makers do not have such luxuries.

“ First amendment
blah, blah, blah ”

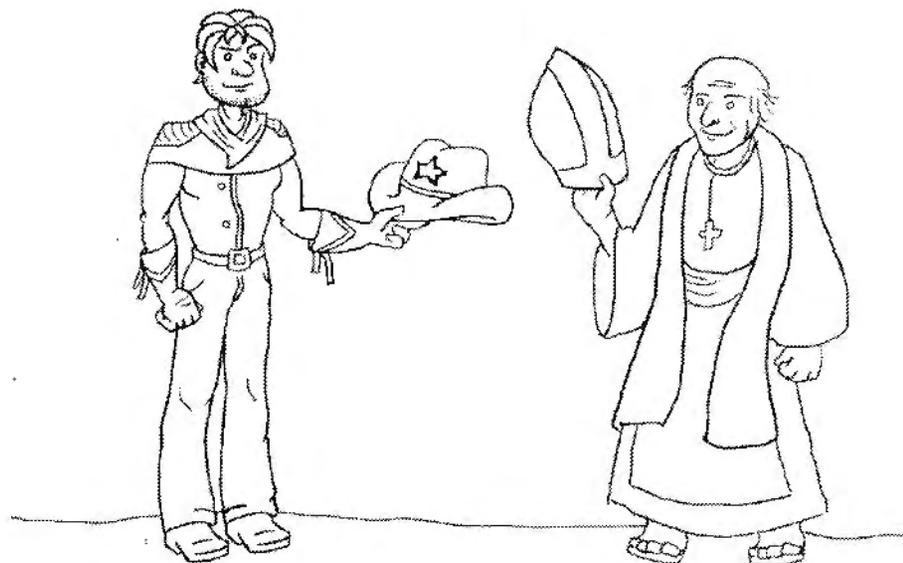
Policy makers have to accept that people have consensual sex in many different ways. They should be grateful that there is an entire porn industry that will never have to be bailed out by the government. They should celebrate the possibility that the demand for unwanted and unabort-ed babies would increase if homosexual couples were given licenses to marry. They should avoid peering through the peepholes of private homes and slapping penalties on the couple trying to spice up their marriage.

Texas, has actually got quite a bit to be thankful for from Republicans and fiscally conservative Democrats. Their business policies and contacts brought manufacturers and jobs. Their low estimates of tax revenues, commitment to fund every policy without public debt, and grit to reduce much needed funding has actually kept this state relatively happy during the economic crisis.

So, not everything the Texas GOP does is horrible. The party should not always be portrayed with the caricature of the rich businessman writing laws simply for his private enterprise. However, it is terribly sad that what a preacher says on Sunday should be written into public law.

Fact: The Texas GOP platform encourages theocracy. ■

*Alice almost put this article in Uranus.
Discuss this article at [amputd.com!](http://amputd.com/)*



Silly Republicans, edicts are for Popes! illustration by megan tan

Because I Said So

The proliferation of unresearched and unfounded opinion



by Taylor Butler
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Of late it seems that people, particularly students, are becoming increasingly less involved in the world of politics. Too often I have met people who are disinterested in the political process, aren't registered to vote, and have no desire to get involved in any way. That is not a good thing. When people don't get involved or hold an interest in how their government is run, things start falling apart. However, as bad as disinterest in politics is, there is something worse—getting involved without doing any research to help form an opinion.

The reigning culture of current politics is “express opinion first; ask questions never”, and it has to end. At Tea Party rallies across the country, people vehemently express their opinions: that Obama isn't an American citizen, that the new healthcare plan will create ‘death panels’ that decide whether a person is too old to receive medical care, that Obama is turning the country into a socialist dictatorship, that gay marriage will rip apart the very fabric of space and time, and countless other things that have no rational evidence supporting them. Despite having done little to nothing to inform their opinions, when faced with evidence that explicitly contradicts them, such people either ignore it or deny it.

Over the last several months, college student Chase Whiteside has gone to several Tea Party protests of the healthcare bill with a video camera asking

those in attendance why they are there, what they are protesting, and what they believe can be done to fix it. He consistently gets responses full of such Tea Party buzz words as “government takeover of healthcare”, “death tax”, and “rationing”. When he simply asks where some of the things they are against can be found in the bill or for specific provisions that they are against, each and every one of them says that they haven't read the bill, they were just told that those things were in it, either by Fox News or other Tea Party members.

This characterization of ignorance doesn't apply just to far-right conservatives, either: Liberals are just as guilty. Many of those to the left are going around claiming that the new healthcare plan is the be-all and end-all of healthcare plans and will solve everyone's health problems, peace can be achieved instantly by immediately pulling all armed forces out of the middle

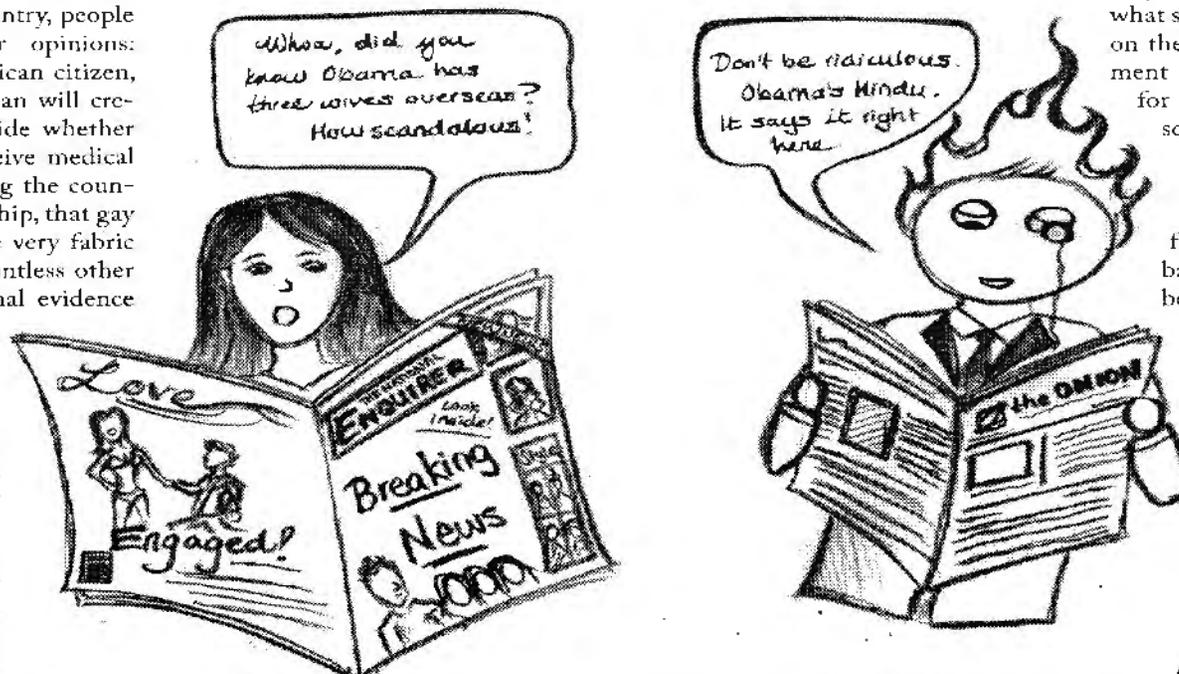
cast, that Obama is an infallible genius who can fix any problem, and that anyone who disagrees with him is either a crazy far-right radical or a racist. Some even believe that the terrorist attacks of 9/11 were an inside job pulled off by George W. Bush to justify invading Iraq. When faced with any of the problems (major or minor) with the healthcare bill, or with problems Obama has been unable to tackle adequately (gay rights, the gulf oil spill, or the Iraq and Afghanistan wars); they resort to the same denial tactics of the right.

In some cases, the baseless accusations of one side can even drive the beliefs of the other. The recent case of Shirley Sherrod is a perfect example. Conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart posted a video edited to make it look like NAACP staffer Shirley Sherrod had made racist comments against a white farmer at a speech during an NAACP benefit. After the video was brought

“ The reigning culture of current politics is “express opinion first; ask questions never”, and it has to end. ”

to the attention of the NAACP, the White House, and Sherrod's employer at the Department of Agriculture, there was a call from the left for her to be fired. Within a day, she resigned from her position at the request of the Secretary of Agriculture. Later, the unedited footage of her speech showed that, in context, the message behind her comments was actually not racist at all and that the farmer in question had become a longtime friend of hers. Even though they had no supporting evidence except what someone else had told them, those on the left—both those in the government and those in the public—called for her firing before doing any research of their own.

This culture of ignorance is a serious problem: When more and more people get their opinions from others without doing any background research, the easier it becomes for anyone to take advantage of the system and manipulate the public into gathering in droves either for or against causes they don't fully understand. Ultimately, people need to understand that they have to research their opinions. ■



Temoc's opinions are far superior, for he views the world through a monocle. Illustration by Lewis Chang

Taylor did zero research for this article, but you believed him anyway. Discuss this article at amputd.com/

Comet Camp 2010

It's more exciting than it sounds...no, really



by kayla klein

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Comet Camp 2010: what an experience. Standing in lines of fellow freshmen, we were all frightened and excited for what the Orientation Team Mentors (OTMs) had in store for us. Together we filed onto the buses and embarked on our first adventure of college.

I believe that I speak for most of our class when I say one of the best parts of Comet Camp was Harlan Cohen and his talk on "The Naked Roommate." Our laughter alone was enough to tell you this guy was good. Somehow he managed to make uncomfortable subjects (like living with a nudist roommate) completely comfortable, something I attribute to his silly guitar songs. Mr. Cohen's introduction was a great way to kick off Comet Camp; he created a chill atmosphere for all to feel at ease, which is impressive considering the potentially uncomfortable topics he had to cover.

One thing that started Comet Camp off on the wrong foot was the t-shirts. No offense to the graphic designer: the actual tux and "class" idea were really cute, but the black and white tux framed against the oh-so-lovely burnt orange t-shirts was not quite a success. Maybe it's just that burnt orange is only flattering if you are at UT Austin, or maybe it is because black, white, and burnt orange do not complement each other. Next year, I think the OTMs should consider choosing a green shirt for the incoming freshmen. Generally

“ Overall, Comet Camp was a success because no matter what we did, we had awesome OTMs. ”

when you see burnt orange you picture UT Austin, and the last thing we want to think about at orientation for UTD is another college. So next year, let's start out with fostering some UTD pride with our more characteristic color for the freshmen shirts. Go green!



Run, Temoc! Run! Illustration by anastasia konstans

While we are still on setting a negative tone, let me comment on the unfortunate scheduling. It is no one's fault that Texas is hot, but it is a fact that must be accounted for. Yes, the tournament games and slime Olympics were tremendous, but their overall effect was hindered by the extreme temperatures. It was too hot to handle so many outside activities. Too many times were freshmen near heat exhaustion. I personally had to walk someone into the air conditioning because they

feared they couldn't make it to a building on their own. It's true that we need to spend some time outside, but once such high temperatures are reached, we should all have been herded inside—safety first.

Back to the positive side, the Galaxy Bash on Monday night completely made up for any ill feelings concerning the shirts or weather. This dance party was completely awesome. Two thumbs way up for the DJ. The music was perfect to dance to, and if you can't dance (like me) it was still well-suited for just jumping around in an almost-dancing motion. The neon theme mixed with a few well-placed black lights also contributed to the fun aura of the room. You can't help but have fun when everyone around you is glowing bright colors.

Nice job OTMs with the theme, because Galaxy Bash was a victory.

The entire purpose of Comet Camp was for freshmen to meet and mingle with their fellow incoming classmates.

Everyone was supposed to meet tons of new faces, and potentially make some great friends. Comet Camp 2010 helped to catalyze all of these interactions. The most effective method the OTMs used was the specific seating arrangements at meal times. We had to sit with people from our major, people from our bus, and once with people who shared the same zodiac sign (I never knew how many personality traits were associated with being Scorpio, but let me assure you that I am now quite the expert thanks to that breakfast). This simple method used to make freshmen meet each other worked very well because it threw lots of people together that had at least one thing in common. Then the uncommon features of each student allowed conversations to foster and friendships to develop.

Overall, Comet Camp was a success because no matter what we did, we had awesome OTMs to radiate energy and get us excited about whatever strange thing was happening. Without them, Comet Camp would have been an epic fail. These older students were not only vital to creating a fun atmosphere around all of the freshmen—they served to put everyone at ease about starting off a new life as a UTD student. So the Class of 2014 thanks all the Orientation Team Mentors for making Comet Camp totally worth it. ■

Beware: Kayla is secretly the Naked Roommate.

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Wireless Inauthentication



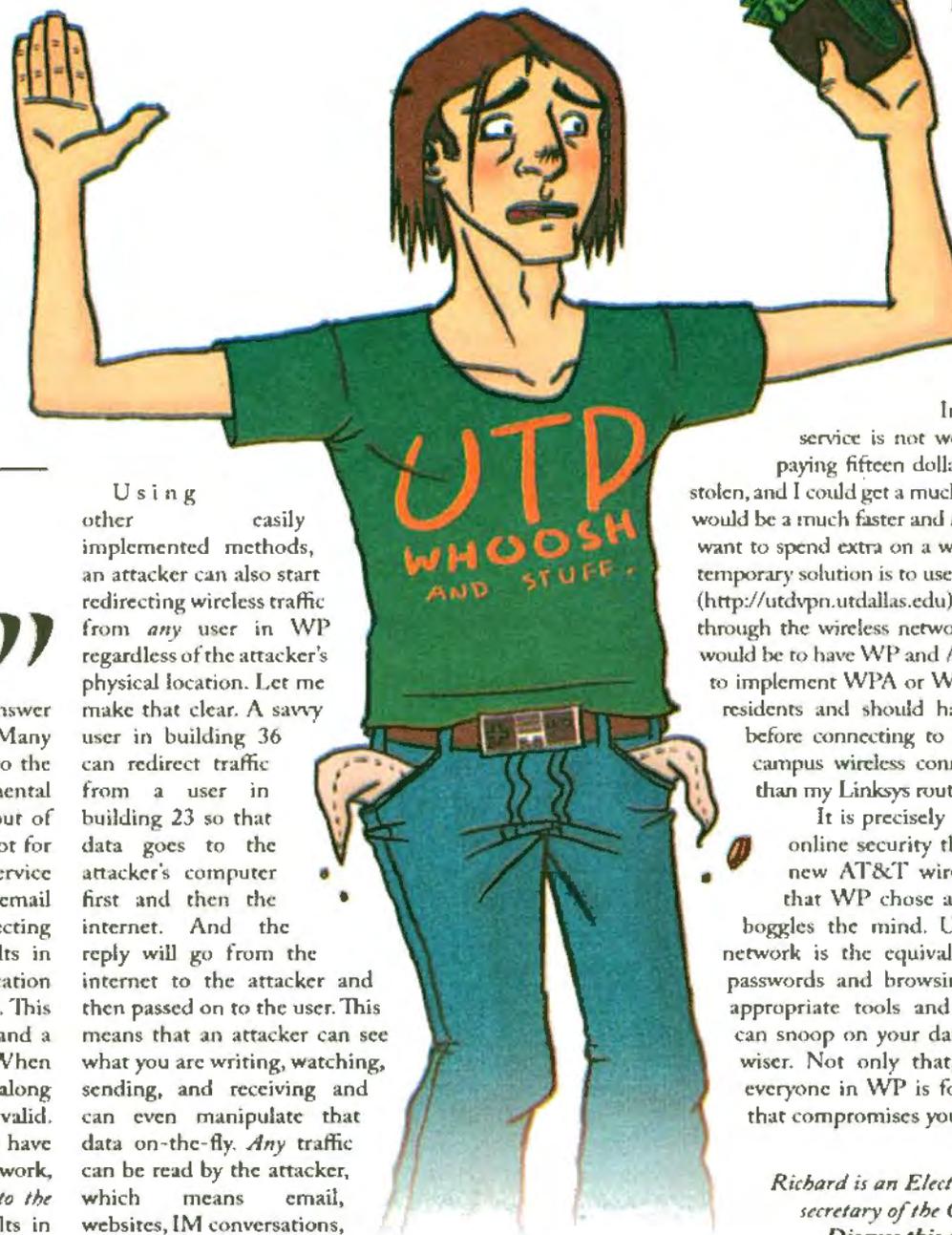
by richard barthel
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At any time today, we are able to access our grades for calculus, our Facebook friends' pictures, our bank account balance, our Gmail account, our credit score, and our Amazon shopping carts. This torrent of knowledge is fetched using a chain of standards and protocols that is shared by all modern computers and that is nearly transparent to the end user. It is taken for granted that our information just flows through pipes to its final destination. The amount of information we have access to is mind-blowing, but the ballet that routers and servers perform to achieve this feat is even more so. When transporting messages as important as your bank statements and personal memos, it matters how the data reaches its destination and, more importantly, who can read it.

“ It's 2010 and my campus wireless connection shouldn't be less secure than my Linksys router. ”

The network “attwifi” is Waterview Park's (WP) answer to the increasing need for fast access to the Internet. Many residents of WP use “attwifi” as their main conduit to the web. However, WP's internet service contains fundamental flaws that allow your personal information to leak out of the series of tubes known as the Internet. A weak spot for WP's AT&T wireless service is the authentication service used to prove that you are you. New residents get an email from WP to set their username and password. Connecting to “attwifi” and attempting to visit a website results in your browser being redirected to AT&T's authentication page where a resident must enter his/her credentials. This information is used to create a session for the user, and a session cookie is stored on the resident's machine. When the resident visits a website, the session cookie is sent along with the request to tell AT&T's server that the user is valid. Since the network is unencrypted, a client does not have to authenticate before connecting to the wireless network, he/she only has to authenticate when connecting to the internet. The combination of these weaknesses results in

a juicy vulnerability for this wireless system. An attacker has to simply connect to the network, steal a copy of this session cookie zipping through the air, and voilà, the attacker now has access to the network *under the resident's account*. Effectively, any actions the attacker carries out will be blamed on the resident whose cookie was stolen.



Using other easily implemented methods, an attacker can also start redirecting wireless traffic from *any* user in WP regardless of the attacker's physical location. Let me make that clear. A savvy user in building 36 can redirect traffic from a user in building 23 so that data goes to the attacker's computer first and then the internet. And the reply will go from the internet to the attacker and then passed on to the user. This means that an attacker can see what you are writing, watching, sending, and receiving and can even manipulate that data on-the-fly. *Any* traffic can be read by the attacker, which means email, websites, IM conversations,

and more. Oh, and since traffic can be manipulated by the attacker, you don't even know if the data you are seeing is even legitimate.

Not all wireless has to be this way. In fact, the wireless service the University used to provide to residents of WP was better in terms of security. Even though it was WEP encryption, it offered *some* form of protection to the user. Today's standards are much stronger; cracking a strong WPA2 wireless network can take weeks or even months of nonstop number crunching. In other words, there are better ways of implementing a wireless hotspot.

So now that we know the problem, what is the solution?

In its current state, WP's wireless service is not worth using by itself. I would be paying fifteen dollars a month to have my identity stolen, and I could get a much better deal. A wired connection would be a much faster and more secure solution. If you don't want to spend extra on a wired internet connection, a great temporary solution is to use UTD's Virtual Private Network (<http://utdvpn.utdallas.edu>) to encrypt all your data passing through the wireless network. A more permanent solution would be to have WP and AT&T update their access points to implement WPA or WPA2 encryption to protect their residents and should have their residents authenticate before connecting to the network. It's 2010 and my campus wireless connection shouldn't be less secure than my Linksys router.

It is precisely this notion of your privacy and online security that is at risk when using WP's new AT&T wireless internet service. The fact that WP chose an unencrypted wireless option boggles the mind. Using an unencrypted wireless network is the equivalent of screaming your online passwords and browsing habits out loud. With the appropriate tools and knowhow, a nosy neighbor can snoop on your data and you would be none the wiser. Not only that, but it's quite irritating that everyone in WP is forced to pay for a flaky service that compromises your privacy. ■

Richard is an Electrical Engineering senior and secretary of the Computer Security Group.
Discuss this article at amputd.com!

Open to Theft

The Armed and the Oblivious



by lauren sechrist
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If you were living on campus this past summer, chances are you probably didn't hear about a robbery that occurred in phase seven on the night of June 25th. This is because UTD and University Village both failed to notify students living on campus who were not enrolled in classes, on top of managing to get many of the facts wrong in the process. This huge communication issue led to an even bigger security problem that was an unacceptable mistake by both the University and housing company.

The scenario was this: a student, who had been at an ATM around one in the morning, was followed by three people in a car to the phase seven apartments. Once there, one suspect put a gun to the student's head before taking all his valuables and driving away. Students enrolled in classes for the summer were sent an e-mail from the University the next morning which recounted the events and encouraged the use of caution. However, despite its minimal effort, the University of Texas at Dallas failed to keep all residents on campus safe by leaving those unenrolled in the dark. Though the situation began at a location off campus, the robbery, both the misinformation and lack of communication that ensued, is still very much a concern for the University.

Here's why you didn't hear about the incident: the University failed miserably in their attempts to inform students about the incident. I spoke with Susan Rogers, Vice President of Communications for UTD, and she explained her view of the situation: The reason that not all residents were contacted, according to Rogers, was to protect unenrolled students from having their inboxes filled with [URGENT-STUDENTS] emails. She mentioned that the University assumed that students not enrolled in classes were away from campus and therefore did not monitor their e-mails. Consequently, they were left off of "general" e-mail lists (though I'm not sure why an [URGENT-STUDENTS] e-mail is considered general). I am sure this issue is due to an overreaction from the crack-down on the listserv abuse from last year. She explained that legally they did what was necessary, as laws only require that they inform "enrolled" students of urgent issues. Additionally, Rogers was sure to let me know that those unenrolled students were promptly re-added to the list after the incident this summer.

What Rogers didn't mention, but Waterview Park was more than willing to say was that the initial e-mail, which specifically stated that "the offense took place in a parking lot

of the Waterview Apartments", was wrong. The event actually occurred in the University Village apartments, according to an e-mail from Matt Grief, the Vice President of Student Affairs. Another mistake in the communication from the University. It is worth noting that the University never remedied this error.

After contacting Rogers, Grief, and Waterview Park, I went to University Village and spoke with Chris Coleman, manager of UV. He claimed to have "no recollection" of the incident. This meant one of two things: either Coleman lied directly to me, or the University didn't inform the housing company of an armed robbery on their grounds. If University Village did know, they definitely did not send out an e-mail to residents. If University Village did not know, they should have. Either way, this was yet another issue with communication between the University, housing, and the students.

The communication between UTD and students should be reevaluated. The University needs to decide what

is legitimately urgent. There is a difference between a threat of a gun and the consequence of a power outage, which merely sends a student back home.

In addition, communications from the on-campus housing companies and students should be reconsidered. In cases such as this, the housing companies should send an email to their residents, and the University should also send out an e-mail to all students. In this case, University Village residents should have received two e-mails, but some didn't receive even one.

Possibly most important, however, is that students can not take this misstep by the University or the housing companies lightly. Though no one

was seriously injured from this mistake, safety was an issue, and neither UTD nor the housing companies seemed to take it seriously enough. These entities should be aware that we hold them to higher standards and expect them to conduct themselves accordingly. ■

*Lauren heard it through the grapevine.
Discuss this article at amp.utd.com!*



Illustration by jordon batura



Rags Behind Riches

Richardson's Socioeconomic Inequalities



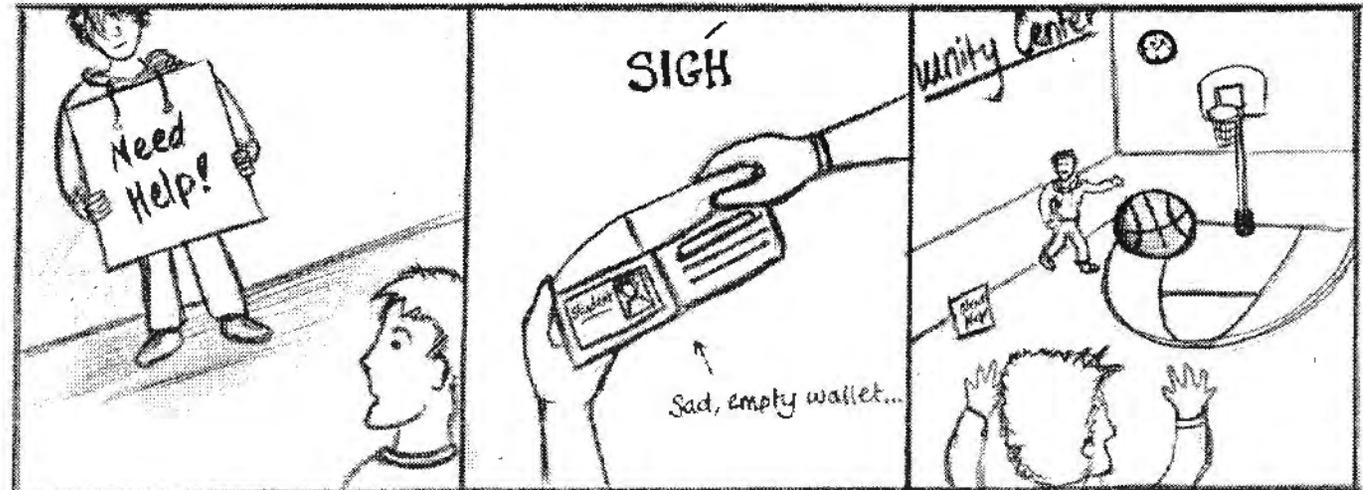
by finny philip
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Richardson is a city for networking and business. It's a city that loves to plant trees and build ostentatious storefronts. Though this makes for a bustling city from 9 am to 5 pm, is it a place that working class families can call home? While attempting to help someone find an apartment in the area, I found that it was hard to find one that wasn't either too expensive or falling apart. There isn't much middle ground in the way of apartments near UTD, or any sort of business for that matter. You can find discount stores, a liquor store, and a few closed shops on one side of Campbell Rd, and Whole Foods and La Madeleine on the other.

This disparity makes me wonder: is the money made in Richardson used to fund projects that bring the community together, or will the money be superficially used on beautification projects? Are Richardson's beautiful storefronts and oak-lined streets covering up much less attractive societal problems?

As I began to talk to a few of the city's younger residents, I gained a unique perspective on this dichotomous city. While Richardson is a beautiful place to live and work in, it isn't Utopia. The city or the citizens of Richardson need to bridge the gap between the businessmen and working class because the community is suffering from the ground up.

For the past year and a half, I have been part of a group that has helped mentor 10 to 15 middle and high school students from the area around J.J. Pearce High School. The kids all come out to LOFT, a church based in a storefront on Arapaho and Custer Rd. Most are from the nearby apartments while others live in houses nearby. While it's not Compton, these kids feel the influence of



College students don't have a lot of money, but they do have time. Illustration by Lewis Chang

drug abuse, broken homes, and the pull of the recession. Some work to support their families, even getting out of school early to do so. Despite all of the things that would keep them away, they consistently come to play a few games of dodgeball, eat free pizza, and engage in increasingly profound discussions about life each week. In the time that my group has spent with these kids, we feel that we have made a meaningful impact in each of their lives. We guide them to be responsible members of our society as they grow up, and they listen to us because they recognize that we are there for them.

Take a look around that neighborhood and you will find a YMCA, a city park, and the Richardson Library. These are all pillars of the community, but if there is no one to run programs here, the kids feel the loss. Likewise, if business owners fail to support these organizations, these facilities will simply go away, as is the case in the City of Dallas where public pools are being shut down to make room for new businesses. Richardson should keep

the money flowing to support community enrichment while citizens and organizations help man the operations. While there will always be plenty of opportunities to plant trees and beautify storefronts later, the kids we don't mentor now are the adults that end up costing the entire community later. Outside the aforementioned neighborhood, there are numerous programs that aim to influence Richardson children. UTD even hosts a few summer camps (Chess Camp is my personal favorite). The point is that there is still work to be done, and there always will be.

Is it all in my head? Are these adolescents unrepresentative of Richardson as a whole?

Is Richardson really a city full of economic opportunities, vibrant communities, and brilliant education? I don't know for sure. I will readily admit that my opinion isn't based on statistical evidence, but personal experience. The perception of a rift between the working and business classes comes from a sense that no one is willing to hear these kids' story. It's funny how a simple fix

won't cut it here. You can't simply allocate more funds to the recreation department and hope that these young peoples' lives will be fixed. You have to get messy.

I think the quickest way for community to be built is by sacrificing something you have for someone else. People respect something as noble as that. The currency of the college student is time. If UTD students were to give an hour a week to helping this city, our school and our community would reap the benefits for years to come.

Are you part of a religious organization? Reach out to the neighborhood around you. Too often our places of worship are empty buildings throughout the week when they could be used to help make life in this community vibrant. Are you plugged into the Office of Student Volunteerism? Richardson isn't a place that Comets should desert in four years without leaving a mark. It really doesn't take much to enrich someone else's life. By dedicating two to three hours a week to these kids, we can teach them a thing or two about life. ■

Finny scoffs at the many poor people that cross his path.

Discuss this article at [amputd.com!](http://amputd.com/)

“ Are Richardson's beautiful storefronts and oak-lined streets covering up much less attractive societal problems? ”

Needles of Healing

Why alternative medicine is not necessarily voodoo



by lewis chang
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Traditional medicine is a term that often evokes images of shamans holding animal bones and chanting around a smoking pot of herbs, village practitioners armed with sharp implements or foul-smelling concoctions, or wizened doctors preparing poultices with various unknown substances. Perhaps my perception of traditional medicine was not quite as vividly characterized, but I admit that I viewed traditional medicinal practices in a relatively negative light prior to a recent trip.

This summer, I traveled to Kunming, Yunnan, China, and spent six weeks learning about traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and how it is integrated into the modern healthcare system there. I would be lying if I said I was skeptical of the efficacy of traditional techniques, but I wanted to see for myself what traditional medicine is and how it's used. Lectures and studies were taught at the Yunnan Provincial Hospital of TCM in Kunming, and the presenters were researchers from acclaimed universities or hospital directors from other hospitals in China, among other distinguished speakers.

My understanding of traditional medicine was primitive at best. It

stemmed from memories of being sick as a child, and being forced to swallow herbal remedies of disgusting and thick fluids of varying colors instead of the more conventional Tylenol or Sudafed; or, other times, where doctor visits were replaced with massage and *bu gua*—a technique involving a salt water solution, a porcelain spoon, and scraping until the blood rushed to the skin's surface and left dark red and purple streaks. My mother was and continues to be a huge proponent of traditional techniques, and I never understood why she would not turn to the 'more reliable' Western medicine treatments.

What I discovered and learned in China was far more advanced and revealing than any grasp I initially had of TCM. I learned about the history of TCM and its roots in Daoism, child and maternal healthcare, AIDS in Yunnan, Chinese healthcare reform, and various other topics before even beginning to cover traditional medicine. Traditional medicine is highly integrated into the culture and beliefs of the people in China, and even though Western medicine is taking root, it is often used in conjunction with TCM. In the way that TCM is considered an alternative treatment in the United States, Western medicine is the alternative medicine in China. I also saw that not only was TCM used to promote and maintain health and well-being, but also to treat more acute conditions.

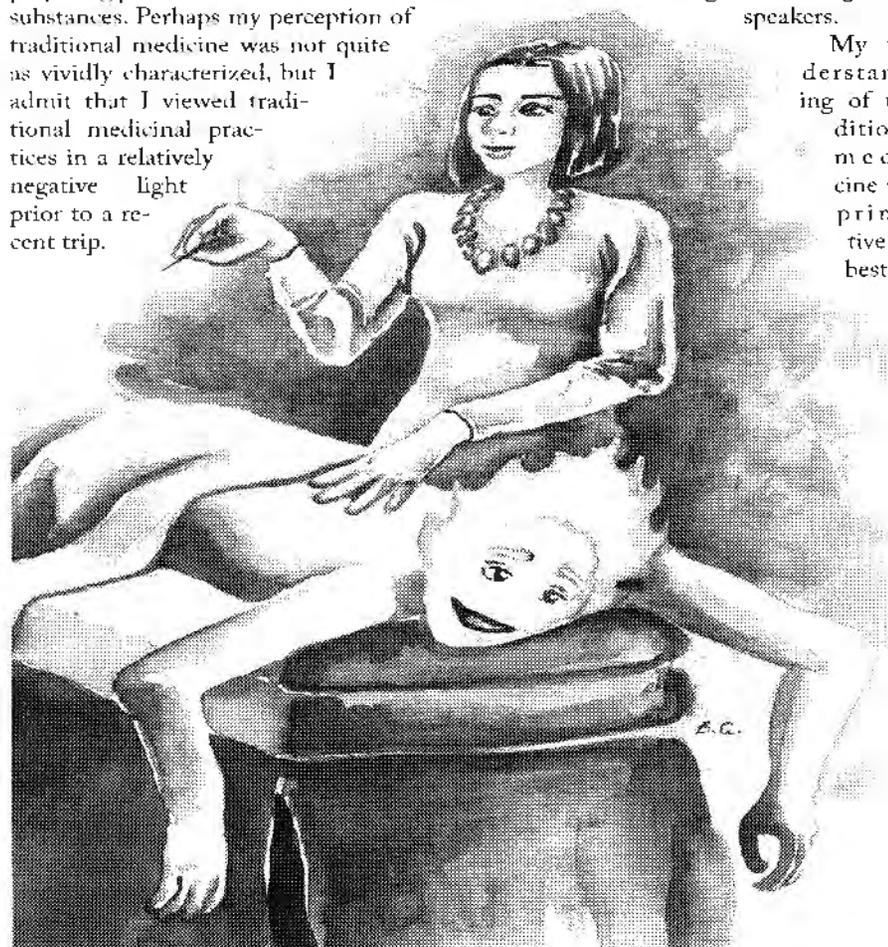
Amongst our own training in cupping, moxibustion, massage, and acupuncture, we had opportunities to shadow doctors in the hospital. Acupuncture coupled with moxibustion—a technique that uses the burning of moxa—was used to treat both facial paralysis and hemiparesis due to strokes or the environment, and I was able to witness how effective it was in treating paralysis. Surprisingly, it can restore 90% function within the span of a few weeks. Shorter recovery time is not uncommon, as a visit to another clinic showed me. The doctor who ran the clinic

specialized in traumatic skin injuries such as burns, accidents, or late-stage diabetes, and used only herbs and acupuncture in his treatment. I saw photo documentation from many of his previous patients who had come to him after Western doctors had told them they needed amputation or more drastic measures, and he was able not only to treat them successfully, but to do so at a fraction of the cost. I asked how long it took, to which he responded, "A very long time." His definition of a 'long time' was only a month.

I did learn about concepts that reinforced the traditional views of TCM, such as health maintenance, prevention, and treatment of chronic illnesses or conditions, but had never really considered that TCM would be effective in anything other than minor health concerns. In the TCM hospital setting, many of the terms with which I was familiar for disease were replaced with vocabulary about Yin and Yang, wind/cold imbalance, and heat excess. However, despite the difference in naming, the doctors were skilled at what they did, and extremely knowledgeable about the illnesses they were treating—most of them had also been trained in Western medicine, and had the ability to choose how they wanted to treat patients.

Being able not only to learn about traditional medicine but also witness it in action was an experience that I will never forget. It provided me with a window into traditional medicine that I would never have seen, allowing me to expand on my primitive foundation, and dispelling some misconceptions in the process. I returned from China with not only a new understanding of traditional Chinese medicine, but also a healthy respect for its repertoire of techniques. ■

*Lewis Chang just wants
an excuse to stick it in you.
Discuss this article at ampud.com!*



Temoc wants to add traditional medicine to the health center illustration by becky aguilar



World Cup Pageant

Everyone's watching: so be on your best behavior



by prisha gaddam
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For one month out of every four years, the world is consumed by World Cup fever. Whether someone may be in the busy, crowded streets of New York City or in a sparsely populated village in East Africa, hardly a day goes by during which one doesn't hear of a nail biting win or a heart-wrenching defeat. While the leaders of the world hail this event to be a global stage upon which to resolve issues ranging from poverty to racism, international athletic companies such as Nike and Adidas spend millions of dollars on commercials starring bevyes of sports stars from the across the globe. As overzealous fans gather around their computers to place bets on teams belonging to countries barely identifiable

on the world map, the host countries race to construct unimaginably stylish stadiums which, in the end, may or may not serve their ultimate purpose.

Instead of using it as an incredibly valuable opportunity to celebrate our commonalities and understand our differences, this grand stage has become little more than advertising space. Only rarely do we realize that the World Cup is a seldom-found occasion during which an individual can honor and respect one's own country in front of the entire world. Unfortunately, there are still multitudes of others who have disgraced their homelands due to their inability to realize the magnitude of their negative behavior.

Although a respectable sports fan can only hope that players view the World Cup as more than just another opportunity to obtain higher bonuses or lucrative advertising campaigns, there are a few athletes in the world who have taken it upon themselves to prove that their ambitions aren't simply monetary.

One such athlete is Didier Drogba. Despite the fact that, on multiple occasions, he was called upon to defend his integrity on the field, when an incredibly opportune moment presented itself for him to improve the political conditions in his country, he took advantage of his status as a star athlete to help his countrymen. As per the United Kingdom's Telegraph News Paper, soon af-

hosted the World Cup in 2006 and understanding the joy Germans felt in their soccer achievements, many people in Germany and around the world began to accept the German flag as a symbol of national pride rather than a Nazi past. It is astonishing to think that just four years of excellent behavior from the German sports audience has earned them their much-deserved right to dis-

“ The way fans and athletes behave during a tournament of such magnitude has the potential to forever change their country and countrymen.”

ter guiding his team to the 2006 World Cup in Germany, Drogba begged the two warring factions in the Ivory Coast to lay down their arms and end the civil war that had been raging for the past five years. Within a week, his bold wish had been granted and he became something of a demi-god to the millions of soccer and political followers the world over. Now, as he gazes down from the numerous giant billboards present on almost every street corner in the Ivory Coast, his countrymen cannot help but consider him a national treasure.

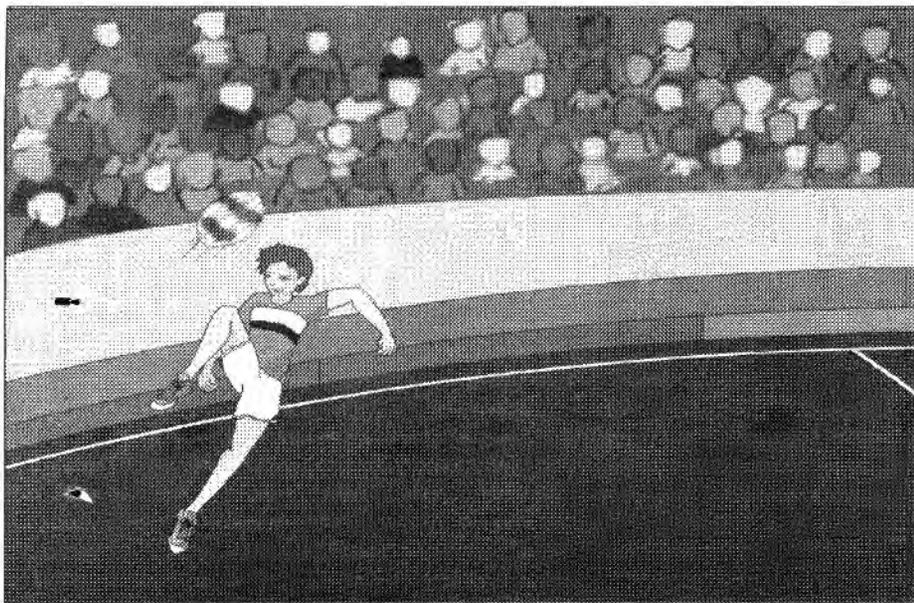
Despite the efforts of an influential athlete, it is often the case that the negative behavior of the fans may reflect poorly on their country. Alternatively, their positive behavior has the potential to significantly improve the way their country is viewed by the people of the world. For instance, prior to the 2006 World Cup, fans of German soccer did not use the German flag as a means of displaying their loyalty to Germany because it was once associated with Nazism, and most people did not think that it should be used as an appropriate representation of pride and joy. However, after experiencing the hospitality of the German fans when Germany

play their loyalty without inhibition.

As there are millions of soccer fans and soccer players of the world who have generated goodwill by taking part in the World Cup, there are many others who have done just the opposite. Although one hesitates to discuss the shocking behavior of the French National Team during the 2010 World Cup, it stands as a prime example of how a group of sportsmen can destroy their global image simply by accusing each other of bad behavior and labeling one's own teammates as traitors. Refusing to unite and represent their country on a world stage has severely damaged the way the world views the French National Team.

Ultimately, the World Cup is a stage larger than any other in the world. The way fans and athletes behave during a tournament of such magnitude has the potential to forever change their country and countrymen. Whether it is a positive or negative change depends solely on the manner in which they appeal to the rest of the world. ■

*Prisha will kick anyone who calls it football.
Discuss this article at [amputd.com!](http://amputd.com/)*



Super spinning soccer ball fire attack GOOOOOOOOO!!!!. illustration by rafael calvo



A Man of Many Minds

DiCaprio's Identity Crises



by alex garcia topete
 aurodestproposal@gmail.com

Leonardo DiCaprio has been one of the biggest movie stars for the past fourteen years or so, as proven by millions of girls and gay men all over the globe with posters and magazine-cut-out collages on their bedroom walls. *Titanic*, that 1997 blockbuster that turned a big modern tragedy into a sappy little romance, was to blame for all that fame. Mainly because of his connection to that movie, I have never been a supporter of Mr. DiCaprio—I just couldn't respect him after making one of the blandest, cheesiest, and corniest performances of the 1990s. Even after he worked with several of my favorite directors starring in films that became part of my pantheon, I still didn't like him. In short, DiCaprio seemed to me as a traditional phony heartthrob first, a marketing lucky-charm second, and an actor last—if at all.

It wasn't until this year, after his participation as both star and producer of two of the most mind-fucking movies of all time— you know the ones I'm talking about: the ones that make you believe one thing, just to debunk it and lie to you again, from beginning to end, but they do it so well that you like it— that an epiphany hit me as hard and fast as the plot twists of said films. Mr. DiCaprio does have tal-

“ Mr. DiCaprio has built, polished, and excelled at his craft by embodying characters with identity issues. ”

ent. Even enough to be respected and to justify both his box-office attraction and the fact that filmmaker legends such as Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg trusted the thespian for their projects. Despite what could be considered a dubitable career decision with *Titanic*, Mr. DiCaprio has built, polished, and excelled at his craft by embodying characters with identity issues.

A simple critical run-through of DiCaprio's filmography helped me confirm that notion.

BEWARE: SPOILERS AHEAD!

The Basketball Diaries (1995)

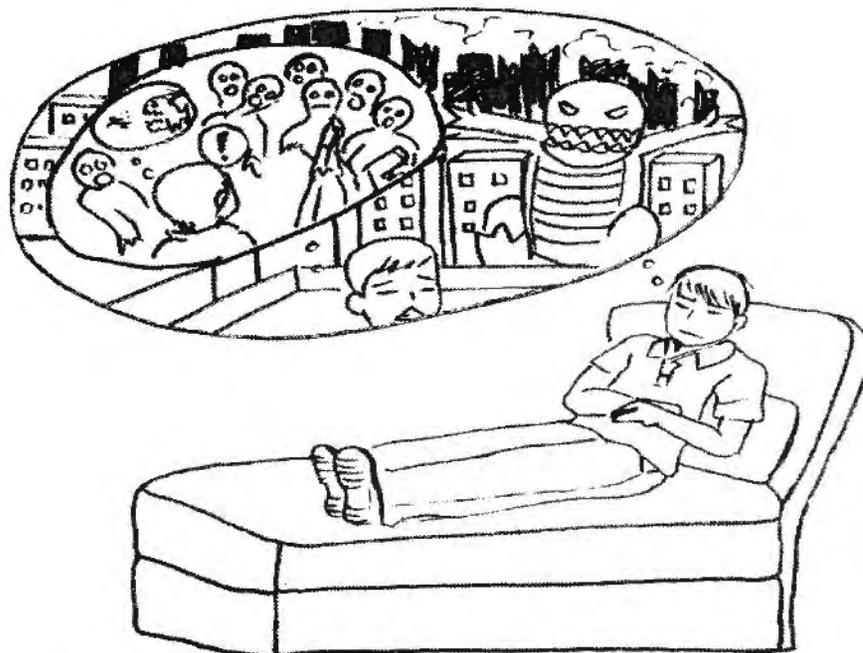
This was the movie that first put DiCaprio on the watch-list of “promising talents” thanks to his performance as Jim Carroll, a teen conflicted with angst, peer pressure, sexual abuse, drugs, and finding his path towards his dream of becoming a basketball star. The movie is still an epitome of dark coming-of-age stories with which most teenagers can identify as they try to figure out what to do with their lives.

The Man In The Iron Mask (1998)

Following *Titanic*, DiCaprio had the opportunity to pull off not one but two roles in this French-themed epic: he was both King Louis XIV and his secretly imprisoned twin brother. Buddy musketeers and feminine period costumes aside, the story puts into question the matter of identity with its point of swapping the evil king for the good twin—who's the one wearing a mask and who's the one “with the heart of a king”?

The Beach (2000)

A twenty-something traveling through Thailand (DiCaprio, of course) becomes obsessed with a secret island with a beach paradise. His quest not only leads him to finding that beach but also to confronting his fears and finding a meaning for his life. Danny Boyle, the director, made this film the trippiest trip of the Y2K, a flop that couldn't be saved even by a shirtless DiCaprio.



It's a trap...within a trap...within ANOTHER trap! Illustration by rudi garcia

Gangs Of New York (2002)

The first of several DiCaprio-Scorsese collaborations for which DiCaprio would also serve as producer. The movie deals with identity twofold: that of a nation built by immigrants, and that of an Irish descendent (played by DiCaprio) who has to hide his roots in order to blend in and exact revenge for his dead father.

Catch Me If You Can (2002)

A “fun” Spielberg film among a streak of historical dramas, this movie allowed DiCaprio to play Frank Abagnale Jr., a guy who could forge entire identities for himself (from pilot to doctor to lawyer) as easily as he could forge checks.

The Departed (2006)

Undercover cops in the mob, undercover gangsters within the police, friends trusting foes, and foes killing friends—this other DiCaprio-Scorsese movie has almost as many plot twists based on mistaken identities and deception as it has F-bombs in its dialogue.

Shutter Island (2010)

You need to watch it. Repeatedly. I

cannot even begin to explain it—it's that good of a mind-fuck (and performance) by the DiCaprio-Scorsese team.

Inception (2010)

A movie about dreams within dreams within dreams, where memories, ideas, and projections about a person can merge together. DiCaprio's character Cobb messes with other people's minds as much as he messes his own up trying to recover the life he once had.

Ultimately, the identity-crisis theme has given DiCaprio's performances uncanny relevance to everyone born after 1985—who am I in a world of overpopulation, global warming, financial meltdowns, and internet-based alter egos? The conflict is already there, inside our heads. DiCaprio, like Cobb, has simply been the mindfucker with the talent to represent and turn a malady of a generation into a cinematic delight—and for that, *Titanic* can be forgiven. ■

Alex has some really disturbing dreams.
 Discuss this article at [amputd.com!](http://amputd.com/)

The Resolution



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

StarCraft 2

StarCraft 2 feels like *StarCraft*. You are still mining minerals and gathering vespene gas with SCVs, Probes, and Drones. Despite it being extraordinarily similar, *StarCraft 2* still feels like a new game. The biggest change is in the campaign. In *StarCraft* (and its expansion *Brood War*), Blizzard released all three sides of the campaign in one game. This time, we only get the Terran side of things, as Jim Raynor and his Raynor's Raiders fight against the dictator Aegartus Mengsk and the Queen of Blades.

The decision to release only one-third of the campaign does not mean that Blizzard has skimped on the single player experience. There are 25 missions (26 if you can find the secret mission) that take you all over the galaxy and gradually introduce you to a variety of new units,

and reunite you with mainstays from the first game. The campaign itself has elements of a role-playing game as you can level up units and abilities that suit your playing style, leading to a unique campaign experience on a second (or even a third) play through.

Improving from the original *StarCraft*, you no longer interact with disembodied heads that are reading from a heads up display and going through rehearsed dialogue. Instead, Blizzard has fleshed out the world of *StarCraft* by allowing you to watch newscasts by Danny Vermillion (a newscaster based off of Will Ferrell's *Anchorman*), hire mercenaries, and even play a coin-operated arcade game based on an old Blizzard game (they put a game in your game so you could game while you game). Despite this being a sequel, Blizzard does not rest on its laurels assuming that you have an encyclopedic knowledge of the original *StarCraft*; it includes plenty of opportunity to catch up, but a passing knowledge of the original campaign will allow you to catch a lot more of the references.

Despite the vast improvement of the

single player experience, the real appeal of *StarCraft 2* is the multiplayer game. Whether "2 Gate opening" and "Speedling Rush" are part of your vernacular or mindless gibberish, the multiplayer options are still accessible to you.

that can run it on Ultra you will not be disappointed. If your system lacks the uber high-end capabilities, the game still looks good, but you will be envious of your friend who gets to run it with HD graphics on Ultra. Unfortunately, *Star-*

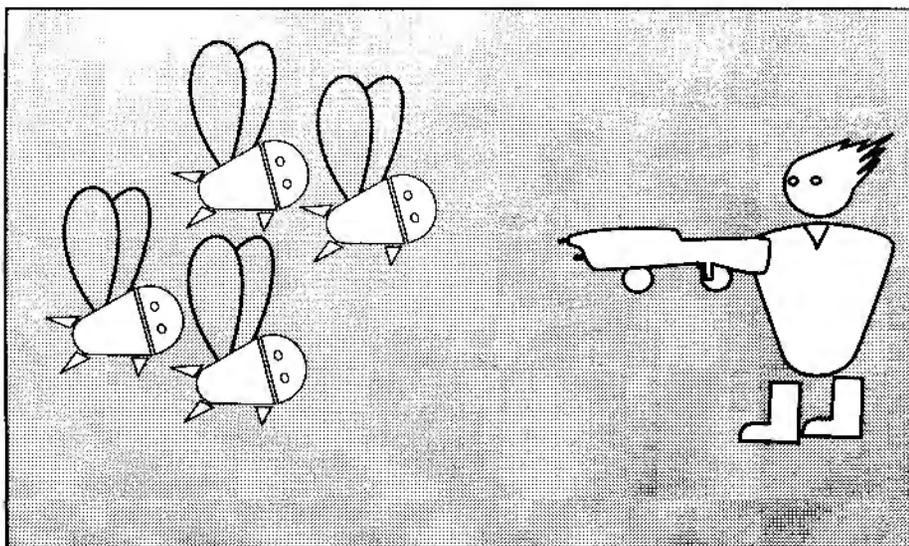
“ Did I mention *StarCraft 2* has rocket packs? Everything is better with rocket packs. ”

Blizzard has implemented a series of challenges that teach you how to utilize the three armies to their fullest potential, how to micromanage your units, and how to use many of the newer units. Essentially, these challenges function as a multiplayer tutorial. Once you have cut your teeth playing against a remarkably intelligent computer opponent and decide that you are ready to play against humans, Blizzard provides 50 free practice games that ease you into the human versus human experience and segue into your 5 placement matches. *StarCraft 2* multiplayer features a ladder system that ensures you are playing against similarly skilled opponents; as you get better, so will your competition.

There is far more to consider in multiplayer than in its predecessor, as everything is incredibly balanced. Each army feels unique and requires different strategies. The new addition to multiplayer is the importance of the high ground, which allows you to pick off enemy units while they cannot see you. Along with this come ground units that are able to jump over terrain that would be otherwise impassable to ordinary ground units. For example, there may be nothing more frustrating than seeing a group of Reapers jump up and take out all of your SCVs/Probes/Drones. (Did I mention that *StarCraft 2* features rocket packs? Everything is better with rocket packs).

From a technical perspective, this game is gorgeous. If you have a system

Craft 2 exhibits Blizzard's disgust with dual video cards, so you may have to disable SLI or Crossfire in order to get the best performance, but it is a small price to pay for a game as solid as this. One of my favorite effects is the animation that happens when biological units get disintegrated by a Battlecruiser's lasers. Overall, *StarCraft 2* is way more than just a graphical improvement over the original. It shows that these past 12 years Blizzard was working on how to create a game that was worthy of wearing the *StarCraft* brand. *StarCraft 2* is a finely-tuned game no matter your preference of either single player or multiplayer. RTS fans had been waiting for a sequel to one of the most iconic games of the 1990s—and Blizzard delivered. ■



Time for Temoc marine to fry himself up some Zerglin'. Illustration by taylor buttler



Ryan requires more vespene gas.
Discuss this article at [amputd.com!](http://amputd.com/)



Caption Contest

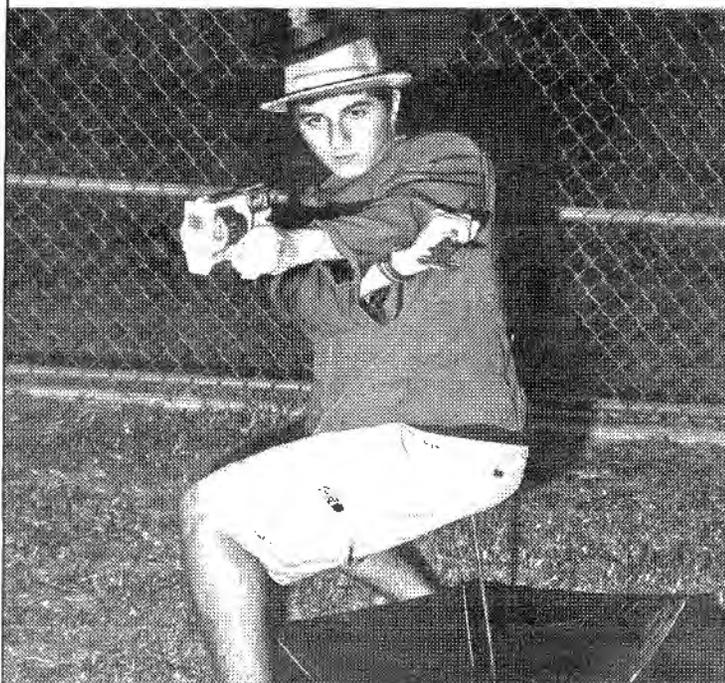
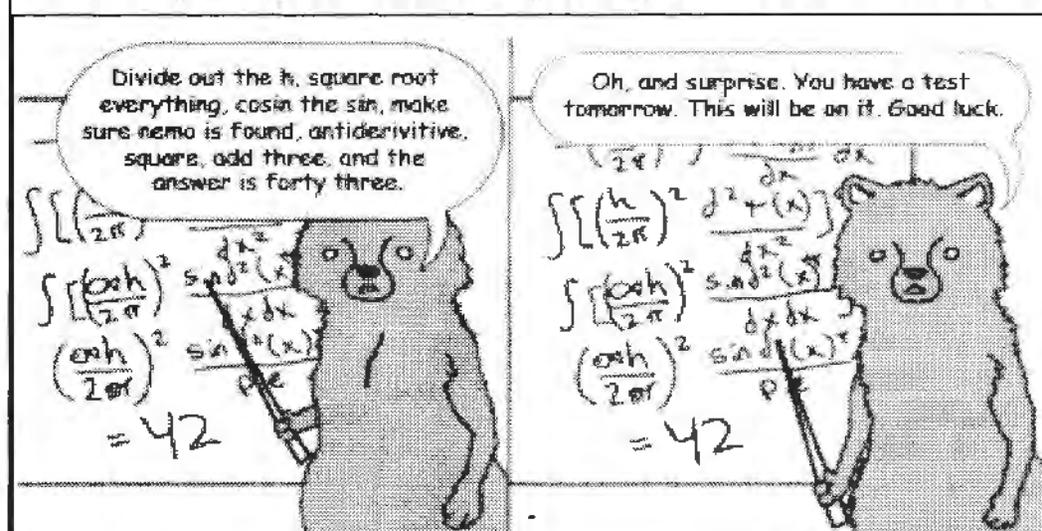


Photo by mark lauman

Sample Caption:

Maybe this belongs in Uranus?

Comic Corner: Mixed Reactions



Comic by Kelly Doyle

Summer Caption Contest



Photoillustration by mac hird, jonathan coker, and richard badgett

Winning caption by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad: "One cannot impede scientific progress." Ok, he broke a few caption contest rules. Hopefully those oompa loompas will keep him in line.

Convocation Photo Contest!

Gee whiz, Convocation was fun! AMP ran its second annual Caption Contest Photo Contest to great success. Our contestants had a selection of props and costume pieces to dress up in and create the zaniest picture they possibly could. Many thanks to all the people who stopped by our booth; the photos were all hilarious.

Also, a billion points to Mark Lauman for helping us out with his amazing photography skills! Thanks bud!

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 — 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!

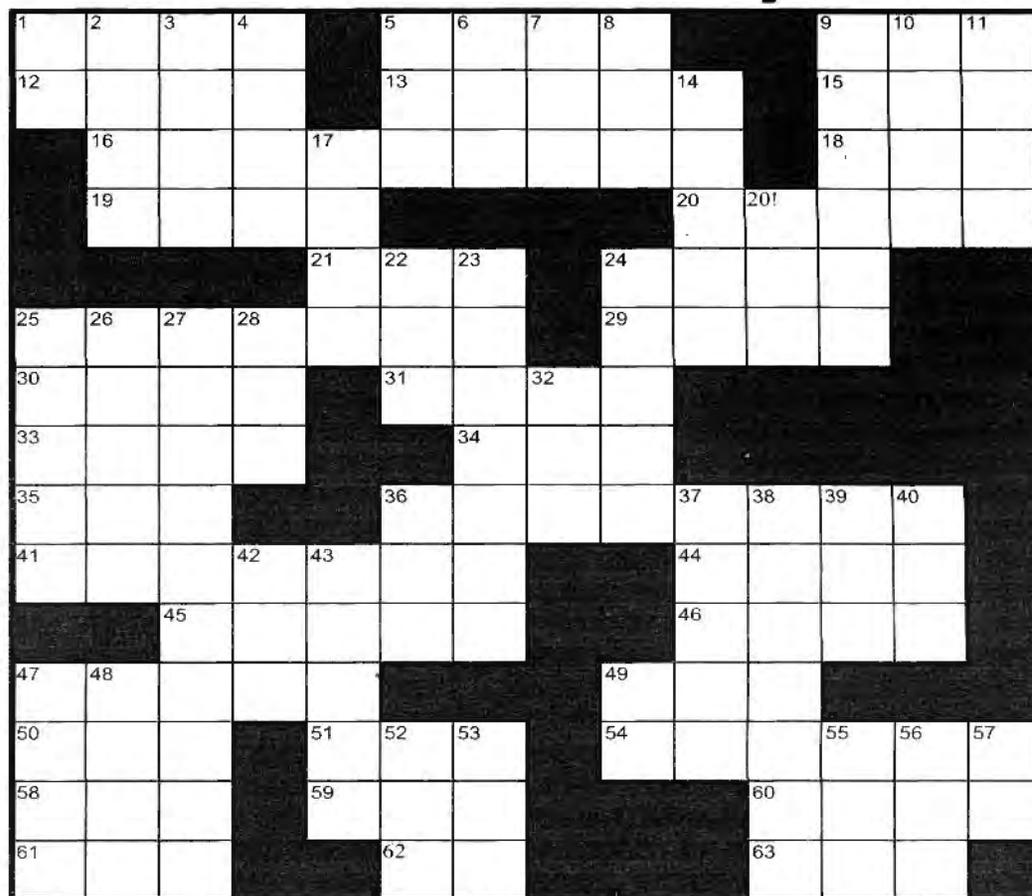
Questions, comments, and concerns should be sent to amodestproposal@gmail.com.



by christina wolfe & chelsea wolfe

christina.wolfe@student.utdallas.edu
& ilavthebassoon@aim.com

Labor Day



Across

1. Also
5. Not entirely closed
9. Train compartment
12. Ain't
13. Beverly Hills Drive
15. Miner's desire
16. Skill
18. ID No.
19. Ace
20. UTD Mascot
- 20!. Scariest month of the year
21. Visit
24. Tex-mex favorite
25. Built
29. UTD School, with Humanities
30. Sting
31. Hauls
33. Some MLB Stats
34. Go in front of, in a line
35. Cherry or Ruby
36. Stag
41. Common musical tuplet
44. Apiece
45. offense
46. A singer's melody
47. Disarray
49. Place for ashes
50. Long. partner
51. Cash dispenser
54. Creeps
58. Had
59. "_____ doesn't even go here!"
60. Raced
61. Oui or Ja
62. Could be higher or Special
63. Pins knocked down in a strike

Down

1. Greek letter
2. Pre-law dread
3. Control-Z

4. Could be a father or sister
5. UTD Barn
6. Bon Jovi
7. Refreshing summer drink
8. Some e-mails
9. Some mags
10. Bottom
11. One rock musical
14. The Grouch or de la Hoya
17. Hey, you!
22. Flotsam or Jetsam
23. Goal of UTD professor
24. try
25. Siskel's partner
26. Less common
27. Rids entirely
28. Home to Victor Newman and Prof. Charles Eppe
32. Feeling or Reaction
36. GOP opponent
37. Goal of UTD student
38. Sincere
39. Comp. or Poli.
40. UTD CS Professor
42. Arn counterpart
43. Leslie and Kudrow
47. Type of tennis court
48. Form of harassment (with mail)
49. Opposite of them
52. Title part
53. School some UTD grads attend
55. Mimic
56. Barbie's boyfriend
57. Card type

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

amputd.com

Summer
Answers



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

Difficulty: 9AM Class



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

Difficulty: Rhet 1101



Sudoku Puzzles

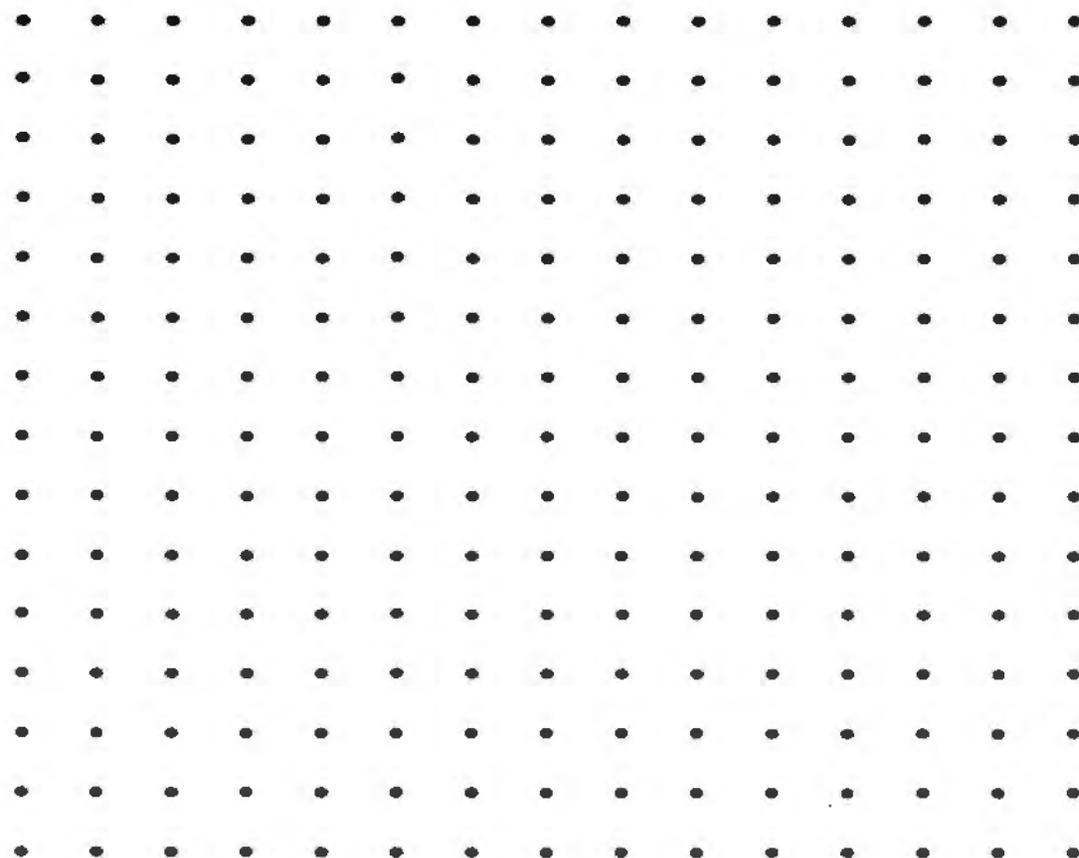
AMP is not responsible for GPA loss due to obsessive puzzle solving; AMP takes credit for increased GPA due to obsessive puzzle solving.

Discuss these puzzles at amputd.com!

Capture

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

Difficulty: Why didn't I study?

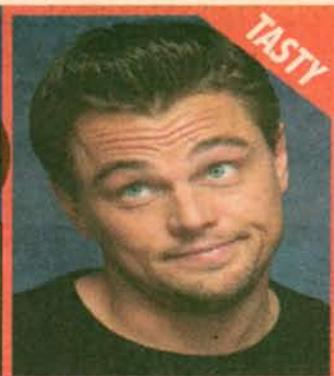


Capture is a two player game where the players take turns connecting dots that are horizontally or vertically adjacent. If a player completes a square by connecting two dots then they capture that square, putting their initial in the captured square. You must draw another line after making a capture. 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.

REIGN OF TERROR IT BEGINS!!!

"All Leo DiCaprio films,
all the time!"

"I second that
motion!"



THE MOST
TRUSTED NEWS
ON THE PLANET

URANUS

'DR. DANIEL, TEAR DOWN THESE WALLS'

- Walls: "Just what do you think you're doing, Dave?"
- Hasslehoff: "Come with me if you want to live!"
- Are they concrete? ARE THEY WOOD!?!

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Step Two



LOL

Bacon to Pancake ratio causes confusion, grief

IHOP (AMP) - An enraged and confused Canadian was seen today at the local IHOP- the source of his ire was his apparent inability to properly compute the bacon to pancake exchange rate.

"You don't understand!" he exclaimed, "I just want as many pancakes as you can bring me! I've had enough bacon to last a life time!"

Breakfast foods have had a freely floating exchange rate ever since the dissolution of the Aunt Jemimah Butterscotch Accords back in the 70s. This has led to the creation of the most delicious arbitrage ever.

Students Panicked By Bomb Walls on Campus

RICHARDSON (AMP) - New students to campus were greeted by the ominous sight of what appeared to be digital bomb timers on stark concrete walls near the Student Union.

Students screamed "Oh God, the bomb walls, they're gonna explode!" as they fled to the newly installed multimillion dollar bomb shelter in the Founders basement.

Those waiting in the perpetually unmoving line at the Financial Aid office refused to budge. "I've been trying to get a refund for my parking ticket since Fall of '98. I hope the bomb takes out a few people in front of me in line," said Willimina Cashburger McWaitsalot.

The explosion is expected to be completed in Spring 2012, weather permitting.

Enzyte Unveils New Confidence Booster

SAN FRANCISCO (AMP) - In one of the most highly anticipated product releases of the year, Enzyte, makers of various dong boosters, have announced an addition to their line of johnson swelling materials; The Convenient Lie.

Whereas Enzyte's other products claim to engorge one's manhood to a state of intimidating tumescence, The Convenient Lie is a budget alternative which doesn't actually swell a man's protuberance, but simply *misreports the true size of the male member.*

Whereas traditional rulers measure distance in inches or centimeters, The Convenient Lie simply has the number 10 written on it in random intervals.

A spokesman from Enzyte announced that sales of The Convenient Lie have been off the charts and described the profit line on his graph as being "at least 10 inches long."



Note: Image more or less completely unrelated.

by D'Brickashaw Cunningham
Pundit Watcher Extraordinaire

CAPE CANAVERAL (AMP) - Glenn Beck, king of News Corp. madmen, acclaimed for championing ignorance and co-opting the civil rights movement to decry invented evils, will attempt to one up himself on the 45th anniversary of the moon landing.

According to Beck, several "space buses" will ferry him, an extensive staff, support team, and a faithful audience of Real Americans™ to a patriotic meeting on the moon's surface. The Rally, "America's Moon - Lover of Freedom", will be open to everyone except the Commies currently on the international space station.

"What we're doing here is reminding America of its God-fearing, witch-burning, snipe-hunting roots," Beck said through violent sobs, "because, God help me, I just love this country so much."

The rally started as a fever dream, hatched in the remotest bowels of Beck's terrifying mind. After the success of the August rally on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Beck realized that his relevance hinged on bigger and bolder stages upon which to deliver his manic vitriol.

In a surprise announcement, liberal public policy advocates, MoveOn.org, have dedicated

their financial support to the Beck rally.

"After Beck's Washington rally, we really began to see the light," MoveOn co-chair Wes Boyd said, "We understand that we really do not have the choice not to fund Mr. Beck 100% in his endeavor."

Due to Beck's personal misgivings about science and scientists, none will be involved in organizing the logistics of the affair.

Approached for comment, physicist Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson explained the widespread liberal support for Beck's rally. "So... Glenn Beck wants to build a 10 ton steel death trap full of explosives, that will convey him screaming into the cold vacuum of space, without the help of modern science? Is it my birthday?"

Also appearing at Beck's rally will be demagogue and awful shrew Sarah Palin. "This rally is about taking science back from the scientists," the former governor explained.

Although Beck will be a leading voice at the rally, he, in fact, will not be the headlined speaker. That honor belongs to none other than The Man on the Moon.

"Who better?" Beck demanded. "This man has been watching over America since her founding, and, heck, even before then. He know us better than we know ourselves." ■



just the bear necessities

by Connor Mcsaggysocks
Ursine Intoxication Expert

CANADA (AMP) - Earlier this summer, a marijuana growing operation in British Columbia was found to be guarded by a large pack of docile black bears. Additionally, several otherspecies of wildlife were discovered inhabiting the buildings.

The animals explained to the officers who discovered them that weed actually has the opposite effect for wildlife than it does for humans.

"Our intelligence actually increases as we consume marijuana," explained Tyrone X. Blackbear, who introduced himself as 'a sort of executive officer of the week' to the mounties that discovered the compound. "We have come to treasure this newfound reasoning ability, and the communication skills that come with it, so we have set up this semi-autonomous anarcho-syndicalist commune in order to ensure the continued production and equal distribution of the drug to all who wish to partake."

A pig was found to be writing a scathing critique

of the capitalist system, a racoon was meditating to achieve higher consciousness, while the bears primarily dedicated themselves to various artistic endeavors like sculpting, painting, and free-flow rap.

The moose population, however, seemed perfectly content to giggle at reruns of The Golden Girls while arguing about Pink Floyd and snacking on Cheetos. "Yea," said Tyrone, "we aren't quite sure what the deal is there."

When the mounties pointed out that the commune seemed to heavily favor bears over all other species native to the area, the bears responded that while all animals were equal, some animals were more equal than others.

The required intake of the drug to maintain intelligence is far beyond what humans can tolerate. The mounties on the scene were soon getting contact high and their insatiable munchies quickly drove them to whatever the Canadian equivalent of Whataburger is. ■

Plucky Band of Newbie Editors Attempt to Make Paper

RICHARDSON (AMP) - Despite their total lack of experience, - extreme incompetence, and general inability to string words together, a plucky band of new editors has successfully put together a new edition of A Modest Proposal, the parasitic growth attached to Uranus.

The four new editors struggled bravely with writing, editing, illustrating, and laying out the paper, all without having a clue as to what they were doing. The poor fools spent hours on seemingly easy and straight-forward tasks, all to the amusing disdain of onlookers, library goers, and a host of imaginary contributors.

"They somehow managed to make their server explode through only the unfortunate combination of two sharpies, a blueberry muffin, and a foosball", said Tom Peeperson. "I'm still not quite sure how they did that."

The editors were so inept at getting anything done on time that they actually broke the space-time continuum, and managed to make deadline *by taking the long way around*.

The harrowing experience of their first foray into editorship has left scars on all of them- Lewis Chang still bursts into tears at the sight of crayons, Taylor Brigance hasn't stopped swearing, and Taylor Buttler is only just now getting out of his coma. The steely, mile long stare that Alice Post has developed strikes fear in the hearts of all who see it.

The University has put together an elite team of psychiatrists armed with tranquilizers and straight jackets in case the mentally unsound editors escape the protective confines of their now padded office. ■