
Office of Student Affairs

2006-11-01

A Modest Proposal, vol. 3, no. 3

Kimberly Allen, *et al.*

© 2006 *A Modest Proposal*

A Modest Proposal

ENGLAND

P.C. Gone Mad

Religious tolerance vs.
personal freedoms
page 3

RUSSIA

Rushin' Away from Democracy

How Putin's policies
are stripping away
citizens' rights
page 4

AMERICA

Nobody's Talking, Nobody's Listening

As a vital election nears,
the U.S. seems to be deaf,
dumb and blind
page 6

*A series of
critiques on
global leadership*

Politically Incorrect

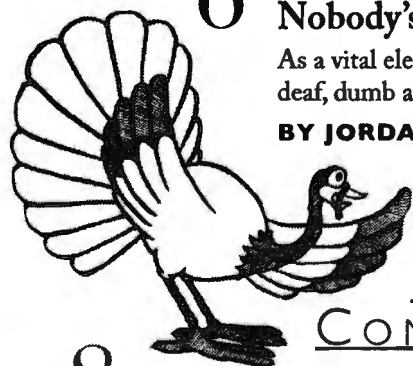
In This Issue...

GLOBAL POLITICS

- 3** Political correctness gone mad
The struggle between religious tolerance and personal freedoms in Great Britain
BY KIM ALLEN

- 4** Rushin' Away from Democracy
How Putin's policies are stripping away citizens' rights
BY BEN DOWER

- 6** Nobody's Talking, Nobody's Listening
As a vital election nears, we seem to be deaf, dumb and blind
BY JORDAN YOUNGBLOOD



SOCIAL COMMENTARY

- 8** Turkey Day Hatches Controversy
BY BEN DOWER

- 9** America the Great
Neoantiamericanism: everybody loves to hate the top dog
BY MARCO MAVROMARAS



- 10** Embrace the Machine
Illogical fear of technology keeps us stuck in the past
BY RICHARD BADGETT

- 11** Get Active, Chump
Our writer expounds on the virtues of peer pressure
BY BRADLEY WALLACE

- 12** Have you seen the Drudge Report?
The changed style of today's media
BY BENEDICT VOIT



ARTS & EVENTS

- 13** The Band Who Loves You
How Wilco gave Fort Worth a shot in the arm
BY JORDAN YOUNGBLOOD

- 14** BoagWorld
The Voice Inside Your Headphones
BY KIM FELDER

- 15** Rock and roll ain't noise pollution
UTD needs to embrace its artistic side
BY TALLY ZUNIGA

CAMPUS LIFE

- 16** Does UTD want me to get pregnant?
Our writer finds the Student Health Center falls short of expectations
BY MO HUGHES

- 17** Good, Clean Fun
Students for Environmental Awareness want your help
BY BITA PAYESTEH

- 18** A Letter from the SG VP
BY FELICITY LENES

- 19** Alpha Male falls behind the pack
BY JONATHAN LANE

PUZZLES & GAMES

- 20** Puzzles Page

- 22** The Uranus
The most trusted news on the planet.

Cover design by Darby Hadley.
Uranus cover design by Luke McKenzie.

A Modest Proposal

Editors

Kimberley Allen
Ben Dower
Jonathan Lane
Jordan Youngblood

Contributors

Richard Badgett
Micheal Donaldson
Austin Edmiston
Kim Felder
Darby Hadley
Lauren Hollis
J Horky
Mo Hughes
Paul Ingram
Felicity Lenes
Luke McKenzie
Marco Mavromaras
Tristan Michael
Bita Payesteh
Benedict Voit
Bradley Wallace
Tally Zuniga

Write to Us

Comments? Suggestions?
Flattery? Fan-mail?
Email amodestproposal@gmail.com today!

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor or writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration, the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System or

A nice alternative...
...to everything else!

Submit an article, and help us keep A Modest Proposal going strong!
We're your voice. Why not use it? amodestproposal@gmail.com / 972-883-5354 office

Political Correctness Gone Mad

The struggle between religious tolerance and personal freedoms in Great Britain



by kimberley allen
kim.allen@student.utdallas.edu

Great Britain is a land of contradictory aims, according to the flurry of stories that are dominating the BBC and other news sources. On the one hand, the nation's government seems to be making great strides towards religious tolerance and freedom of expression. But the same hand that giveth religious freedom also taketh away; in some cases, it also tramples basic freedoms of those nearby in an attempt to promote political correctness.

One case involves a British Airways employee who was fired for wearing an inconspicuous cross necklace. She believes it is her right to express her religion, especially in such a subtle way; the airline says not on company time. Company policy, however, does allow employees to wear religious headdresses despite the fact that these garments are noticeably out of uniform and far less subtle than a tasteful necklace. Enraged Christians are boycotting British Airways and point to a double standard, a willingness to accommodate religious expression for some while simultaneously excluding others. They claim British Airways is afraid of offending customers who are uncomfortable with Christian symbols.

“The importance of individual freedom far outweighs any potential gain from having a comfortable, “integrated” society.”

In a similar vein, just over a year ago Dudley Council in Great Britain banned all pigs in the office after a Muslim citizen complained that they offended his religious sensibilities. Employees in the office were told to cover up calendars, remove all pig toys, and even throw out a Piglet tissue box ensure that Muslims could not be offended.

An even more absurd debate is rising to the surface in Britain. CNN reported that Chris Doyle, director of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, believes it's time for England to “find a new flag” because some Muslims could associate it with the Crusades. His argument is that the red cross on the British flag can be associated with the one worn 800-some-odd years ago by soldiers in the Crusades. Although I doubt the debate will result in the eradication of red crosses the world over, it's an indication of the growing need for clarification in the British legal system on which rights and symbols deserve protection.

Then there's the contentious issue of religious veils in educational settings. One school teacher, Aishah Azmi, refused to take off her veil unless no men were present. On October 16th, the British government's race minister called for her to be “sacked,” while the Muslim Council of Britain said the measure was extreme and accused the government of an “Islamophobic” agenda. Numerous politicians have stated publicly that veils harm equal rights; Tony Blair agreed and said that veils are a “mark of separation” that “make other people from outside the community feel uncomfortable.”

Why, exactly, is that so bad? Political correctness in its finest form is little more than compromise for the sake of sparing others from feeling uncomfortable. Banning veils hardly seems like the solution to “integration” problems; in France, it has done little good for the morale of the Muslim minority there and was likely



Now more than ever, Great Britain must decide which freedoms it is prepared to defend and which religious offenses are not worth avenging. Photo credit: DPM News Agency.

one of many frustrations that led to the Paris riots earlier this year.

While I can appreciate the value of harmony and tolerance, I still find no basis for infringing on the rights of employees to display a Piglet tissue box. I see even less reason to ban veils or crosses, whatever the reasoning.

I believe in the freedom to practice one's own religion. However, the U.S. Constitution does not shelter its citizens from other religions and certainly does not guarantee them protection from ever taking offense to another's beliefs; and other countries should follow suit. For example, when Andres Serrano deeply offended Christians with his photograph of a crucifix submerged in urine, we still did not ban it from display.

Britain's policies instead are erratic, reaching two polar ends of an entire spectrum of options and failing to strike any happy medium. Political correctness is a poor litmus for deciding whose rights are preeminent, as is evidenced by the lack of consistency across these cases.

While unlikely, Britain needs to limit

its own power to decide what its citizens cannot do. Veils don't kill people, and neither do tissue boxes. Hurt feelings and offenses are regrettable but inescapable in society. The fact is, governments have no right to legislate people's lives to that extent. The importance of individual freedom far outweighs any potential gain from having a comfortable, “integrated” society. To value comfort at all costs is to devalue the unique features that define these individuals; it assumes that there is one right way to live—without veils, without crosses, without diversity. We could all blend in as a homogenous mix, or we could all appreciate the difference that you don't eat pork and that I do. It's not necessary for these harmless variances to encroach upon one another.

It's evident that a balance must be struck. At what point should we limit freedom to protect the interests of others? This article can offer no simple solutions, only the realization that political correctness is a poor standard for allocating rights and defining policy. ■

Rushin' Away from Democracy

How Putin's policies are stripping away citizens' rights



by ben dower

kaiser.benjamin@gmail.com

In 2001, President Bush met with Prime Minister Putin of Russia for the first time. Addressing the press, the President said he had received "a sense of [Putin's] soul, a man deeply committed to his country and the best interests of his country." Perhaps Bush forgot that in Europe soul-radars use the metric system, or maybe his European voltage converter

made his results come out funky. In either case, the past five years have consistently illustrated a Russia moving farther and farther away from democratic ideals and closer and closer to imperialism and autocracy.

Back in 1999 Vladimir Putin rose from obscurity to become the scandal-racked Boris Yeltsin's Prime Minister. When Yeltsin resigned at the end of the year, Putin became acting president of Russia. During this time, Putin didn't hesitate to escalate the situation in Chechnya, denouncing the region's attempts at de-

facto self-government and launching yet another invasion of the region to regain Russian authority.

Now I'm no Chechen nationalist. The sheer amount of terrorism and violence emigrating from that region is a huge drain on the sympathy I normally reserve for oppressed ethnic minorities. But Putin's responses to the conflict have been blatantly opportunistic, expanding

the violence with his 1999 invasion and then using the issue in appeals to Russian nationalism and pride.

During the 2000 Russian presidential election, Putin successfully rallied the nation around his banner, achieving an impressive 52% of the vote in a multi-party system. Although Putin's popularity was undoubtedly real, his campaign was filled with numerous dirty tricks: pressuring his opposition to resign, threats to recall government loans to regional administrators unless they voiced their public support of his campaign, and attacking other political parties using state-run media. Throughout the election Putin's campaign centered on Russian nationalism and anti-Chechen sentiments.

Promoting an "us versus them" mentality to garner support is just about the oldest trick in the book—and the most successful. While there's nothing wrong with appealing to national pride per se, when used aggressively such patriotic sentiments can be turned into a powerful weapon. This sort of jingoism is a tool that could be turned against any potential group, from an enemy of the state to an innocent bystander. Whether it's Nazi Germany or ancient Rome, human history is filled with the casualties of demagoguery.



But you don't have to tell Prime Minister Putin about the uses and abuses of belligerent nationalism. During his first term, Putin began centralizing Russia's government, an ongoing theme throughout his reign presidency. Restoring what he referred to as the "power vertical," he appointed seven presidential "plenipotentiary representatives" whose sole role was to coordinate federal activity within Russian provinces. The government also attacked Russia's independent media, arresting the president of the largest newspaper and broadcasting companies.

Vladimir Gusinsky, who built his company from scratch in 1993 and was highly critical of Putin during the 2000 election. Shortly thereafter he was arrested on embezzlement charges. This further solidified Russia's central control over its media. Similarly, Yukos oil, a major Russian oil company, was jeopardized in 2003 when its CEO was arrested for tax evasion. In 2004, the company was forced to sell its main asset which (not surprisingly) ended up in the hands of a state-owned oil company.

Now, I hate money-grubbing, corrupt CEOs as much as the next guy, and it's good that Putin is so effective at destroying business corruption. But why did he choose to fill the void with government corruption of his own? All of these specifically designed moves by the state increased

government centralization and limited criticism of the Putin administration with the now largely state-owned media. The traditional response would have been to bust the corrupt monopoly by breaking up that badboy into several smaller firms. Giving the government control of the media is definitely a step in the wrong direction for free post-Soviet Russia.

Despite these controversial moves, or perhaps because of them, Putin was swept back into office in 2004 with an impressive 70% of the popular vote. Later that year a terrorist attack on a Russian school gave him the excuse he needed to abolish the direct elections for regional governors. Under the new system, governors proposed by Putin are approved by the regional legislatures — yet another step away from direct democracy.

While any one of these moves might not be so bad by itself, the accumulation will definitely damage Russia in the long run. By slowly chiseling away at political freedoms and centralizing his government, Putin is sending Russia back to an age where policy was dictated from Moscow and the idea of individual rights only extended as far as the party was willing to allow.

Many Russians would argue that such direct government authority is necessary to fight government and business corruption. And it's true that many of the provincial governors that Putin replaced were

“History has cheated the Russian people, not of vast empires and world prestige, but rather of the benevolent and open leadership that they so richly deserve.”

dishonest crooks. It might even be true that in the short run, this appointment-style method will lead to stronger leaders and better internal communication. However, the seeds for a far more dangerous, centralized corruption have been sewn. Local corruption can be rooted out over time with election monitoring and a vigorous independent media. National corruption with a plethora of resources and tendrils spreading from one central source is a far more dangerous and uncontrollable beast.

If the last few months foreshadow Russia's future, then it appears to be a dark one indeed. Following the arrest of several Russian officers in the once vassal state of Georgia, Putin has begun an organized move against the entire country. Hundreds of Georgians have been deported from Russia and Russians evacuated from Georgia. Inside Moscow, many Georgians have been arrested, celebrities with Georgian names harassed, Georgian-owned businesses raided and closed, and schools in Moscow asked to provide lists of children with Georgian surnames, most likely to check on the citizenship of their parents.

This all makes perfect sense from the Putin perspective. Anything that can keep the Russian population united strengthening their support of the state is clearly a plus, even if it comes at the expense of the peoples' rights. But, hey, it's not like anyone has died over this, right?

On October 7th, a Russian journalist and vocal critic of the Putin administration was found dead in her apartment, shot in the head. Anna Politkovskaya frequently visited hospitals and refugee camps in Chechnya; she wrote many award-winning books along with articles for the Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*. Her murder sends a very deliberate signal to the remaining independent journalists left in Russia. Although it's highly unlikely that Putin, personally, is responsible for her death, the system he seems intent on creating is ripe for such "accidents." Eventually, in long run, to maintain itself, it will require them.

With all this government centralization,

media censorship, and limited freedoms, why do Putin's approval ratings continue to place him well above the 50% mark?

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Russia's government, economy, and social order were thrown into complete chaos. Numerous nationalities declared their independence: some, like the Ukrainians, successful; others, like in Chechnya, less so. There were attempted coups, impeachments, and military showdowns. On the economic front, Russia began the long, painful march from centralized planning to the free market, weighed down by the Soviet Union's massive debt.

With this background of chaos and uncertainty, it's not surprising that so many Russians are willing to trade a little freedom for stability. In the United States, we too have collectively surrendered many of our rights— in this writer's opinion far too many— in exchange for greater potential security. The appeals that garner support are the same— national greatness and the virtues that make it that way. And unlike in our country, Russia is led by a highly effective and capable leader. With soaring approval rates, Putin is truly a "uniter, not a divider." Under his stewardship, Russia is back on the path to being a great world power again, throwing its weight around in everything from Iran sanctions to the European Union Energy Charter.

The question is whether or not state power is worth the loss of freedoms and the ability to protect those liberties in the future.

If Russia is to become a real democracy, it's going to require more than decisive leadership. History has cheated the Russian people, not of vast empires and world prestige as many a nationalist has proclaimed, but rather of the benevolent and open leadership that they so richly deserve. The only way to obtain it is for the people themselves to hold their leaders to higher standards and keep the process open to the masses. With another election in 2008, it's not too late for Russia to jump back on the path to true democracy. The longer they wait, the more difficult that transition will be. ■



The Russian Eagle latches its claws into Georgia, while staring down the European Union
Illustration by Ben Dower

Nobody's Talking, Nobody's Listening

As a vital election nears, we seem to be deaf, dumb and blind



by jordan youngblood
jry031000@utdallas.edu

This wasn't the article I intended to write.

A few days ago, I walked into the office of one of our government professors with the intent to ask about the upcoming election's ramification to UTD and to our students. I had the high-minded idea to offer up to students a view of the election that would assist in voting and decision-making. After I eagerly offered up my initial comments, expecting a long reply, he looked at me for a moment.

"Who knows?" he said. "Who's talking about anything around here?"

The sad reality of that statement only now truly sinks in. In an election year that many are convinced stands as a turning point in national politics, our status here in Richardson seems to be that of intense apathy.

In a gubernatorial race that could galvanize the Texas political landscape, a governor hand-picked by the President with the lowest approval ratings in recent memory looks to win with barely 34% of the vote.

In a local race where Pete Sessions, who has continually been one of the loudest advocates of President Bush and the Iraqi war, looks to again take one of the most important districts in Texas, discussion is at a virtual standstill compared to the Frost/Sessions battle in 2004.

In the midst of a national bill – the Military Commissions Act, voted for by our own Mr. Sessions – that gives the executive branch of our country powers to declare citizens of his own country



President Bush signs into law the Military Commissions Act.

"unlawful military combatants," torture them to levels nearing the edge of serious physical and mental harm, and deny prisoners the right to habeas corpus, the collective anger of the community amounts to little more than a hill of black-eyed peas.

In a political climate at this university that demands debate and conversation, the best we've been able to offer up is a politician who knows more about cigars than the issues he would assume upon taking office.

Why, in the face of some of the most vital and pressing issues to face a generation in years, have we responded with an overwhelming yawn? Why are we willing to continue with what hasn't worked?

AD NAUSEAM

For one, I can't remember a series of local campaigns that so insulted the intelligence and capabilities of a voting audience than the ones conducted this year. The gubernatorial race is a complete and

utter joke. Name one single ad by any of the candidates that have bothered to address anything of lasting importance that they've truly done.

Incumbent Rick Perry, who'd be the first to argue that Clinton had nothing to do with the economic peaks of the 1990s, now gladly points out he's responsible for 700,000 new jobs in Texas. I wonder if the immigrants willing to work for almost nothing, that he's so adamant about keeping out of the state, have anything to do with that sudden peak in jobs?

His approval rating sits at around 40% – barely two points higher than the President who groomed him and prepared him for this office. Yet, thanks to the complete lack of competition against him, he looks to represent this state for another term.

Democratic challenger Chris Bell possesses the charisma of a boulder and has the political know-how of one as well. Yes, I do think he's the least incompetent of the possible choices. However,

his advisors should keep his cell phone permanently in their possession lest he call another candidate and ask for them to drop out.

In fact – consider this prospect – should Bell pull less than 20% of the vote, which some polls not so very long ago indicated, Democrats would be listed as a minor party on Texas ballots. I don't see that happening, but the fact such a thing could occur should be a rather harsh wake-up call.

I've already hinted at my opinions on Kinky, who, while entertaining, offers little hope of unifying a heavily partisan state on anything but the merits of Willie Nelson albums. Carole Keeton Strayhorn's the biggest joke of them all, putting more advertising time into the fact she has a husband and grandchildren (how novel! How enticing!) than any sort of policy change or actual knowledge she has of Texas politics. One tough grandma, one ill-advised and pointless campaign.

As far as Sessions goes, I don't have much respect for a man whose major press release in the past few months is "DEMOCRATS UNHINGED: THE REAL HOUSE DEMOCRAT AGENDA" and has a section on his website for "favorite recipes" that include Mexican Corn Dip and Easy, Cheesy Lasagna.

According to our university news briefs, Sessions – our representative in Congress here at UTD – has graced our campus with his presence a grand total of zero times since he was campaigning in 2004. Nice to know he's always there for us, particularly in a time of change for UTD.

However, the Democratic party has given absolutely nothing to their candidate, Will Pryor. What was in 2004 the most expensive campaign district in the entire nation during Frost/Sessions now appears to be a lost cause.

GROPING FOR ISSUES

To be fair, everything lately has been overshadowed by the recent events involving Congressman Mark Foley. While many voters have considered the Foley scandal a further reason to distrust the American government, I can't help but look at our fixation on it as an unfortunate diversion from the really dangerous aspect of the Military Commissions Act. Foley only further reinforces our impulse as a nation to focus on personal rather than truly vital political issues.

Who wouldn't among our post-Clin-ton generation simply shake their head and move on at a scandal like Foley? We've been so inundated with swipes and smear campaigns that the admission of a politician doing something (gasp) immoral means exactly jack shit to us.

If anything, I'd say the huge amount of coverage poured into this issue has only served to further remove our generation from these elections rather than galvanize a movement to the polls. What's left to say about what happened? Once you get over the Jay Leno monologue jokes and repeated finger-pointing, what you're left with is simply a man who made a lot of mistakes.

Is what Foley did wrong? Of course. Is his party even more at fault for attempting to cover up and turn a blind eye to his behavior? Can't argue with that. Are any of these things even close

to the importance of a President now having control of realms normally relegated to the judicial branch, not to mention the power to break aspects of the Bill of Rights? I'd say no.

FLOGGING A DEAD CORPUS

So now we come back to the Military Commissions Act. As the act is currently written, the ability to revoke habeas corpus only applies to "alien unlawful enemy combatants" — that is, those who are not citizens of the United States. However, the determination of that status is given to "a competent military tribunal established under the control of the President or Secretary of Defense."

In short, the power to hold someone for indefinite periods of time without access to a lawyer or even the knowledge of the grounds on which they are imprisoned resides in the hands of a few, unchecked individuals.

That means that, ultimately, the decision as to who really is an alien sits in the hands of men specifically appointed by Bush or Rumsfeld. Considering that these are the men who initiated an entire war on evidence as spurious as the existence of WMDs in Iraq, do you really think they'll pause at arresting citizens and depriving them of their rights at the slightest threat?

Even worse, what of those who may come after Bush? This act does not merely apply to the current administration. Who can say what might happen in the future, when new leaders expand

“Not only does this act mean the President can now decide the limits of what constitutes torture, this also gives unprecedented power to the executive branch to decide the limits of international treaties and agreements.”

upon and take advantage of the vast powers granted to them through this bill? What will check them?

Wrap your head around this as well. The Commissions Act gives the President "the authority for the United States to interpret the meaning and application of the Geneva Conventions." Not only does this mean the President can now decide the limits of what constitutes torture, this also gives unprecedented power to the executive to decide the limits of international treaties and agreements.

Laid out by the Constitution, that power lies in the judicial branch. For a man who always talks about the importance of "the American way," this is a pretty big step by Bush in stomping all over the document on which our country is based.

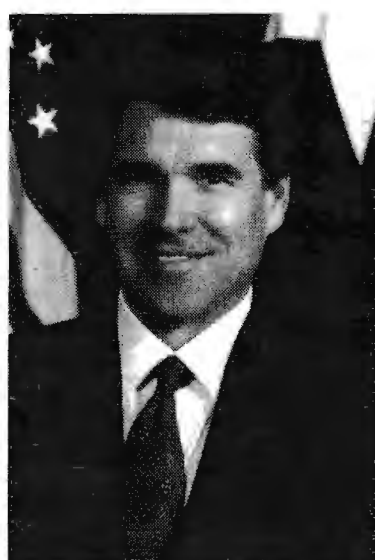
Again: why are we not concerned about this? Well, like most bills, the meaning is buried within layer upon layer of articles and stipulations. After the endless argument over the Patriot Act and other acts of legislation, the basic

reaction to most bills nowadays is "How does this immediately affect me?"

The damage to your liberties isn't immediately apparent. The job you currently have or the house you live in won't change tomorrow due to the act. However, the problem lies down the road, when the powers opened up in this legislation suddenly don't just apply to the "alien." And when "alien" lies in the eye of the beholder, who can really be safe?

You may disagree with my politics. That's great; I certainly don't claim to speak for everyone. What I see as frightening is how few people around here are speaking out — in favor, in rebuttal, in any sort of fashion about the upcoming elections. At a university of 14,000 students, a forum exists for debate. Take advantage of it. Get involved with a campaign, talk to other students, or just inform yourself about the issues.

And no matter what you think, please, please, use your voice this November. The only way that change can take place, in one way or the other, comes through something as simple as a ballot. ■



The four major candidates running for governor, from left: Chris Bell (D), Rick Perry (R), Carole Keeton Strayhorn (I), and Kinky Friedman (I).



Turkey Day hatches controversy



by ben dower

kaiser.benjamin@gmail.com

With the exception of Secretly Gay Ex-Presidents Day, Thanksgiving is undoubtedly the most controversial national holiday. The first American Thanksgiving occurred in 1621 to commemorate the plentiful harvest at Plymouth Colony after a particularly bleak winter. In what started out as a practical joke and ended up the highlight of the night, the local Wampanoag Indians were also invited,

creating a rare spirit of drunken friendship between the Native Americans and the colonists. The holiday was officially proclaimed by George Washington in 1789 but it wasn't until 1863 that President Lincoln, desperate for ways to unite the nation after the miserable failure of Naked Tuesday, declared the last Thursday of November a day of thanksgiving in his lesser known "Thanksgivingburg Address." In 1939, FDR changed the date to the third Thursday in an attempt to lengthen the shopper season and boost the struggling economy. This caused so much controversy that Congress was forced to pass a resolution in 1941 that changed it back to the fourth Thursday once and for all. Some historians theorize that it was

this decision that prompted Japan, having spent all its military funds on third Thursday lobbyists, to attack the American base at Pearl Harbor that December. Other experts claim that the military holiday expansionist theorists doesn't know diddly squat about history, but they remain a highly vocal and uptight minority. In recent decades, Thanksgiving has come under heavy fire for its reconstructionist view of history. Critics charge that the holiday over romanticizes the pilgrims and totally ignores the terrible abuses caused by the European settlers towards the Native Americans. Traditionalists, however, maintain that while these crimes were tragic, the holiday itself celebrates sharing, family, and fellowship, and should not be

turned into a day of mourning for historic misdeeds.

Well, today is the day. In the Thanksgiving of 2006 we will finally settle the great debate over a holiday more divisive than National Flag Burning Day. And who better to argue the issue than those most affected. Yes, it was no easy task to drag these figures up through the mists of time, but thankfully my roommate is a physics major, and so we have with us today one of the original American settlers, an "indian" like only the New World can produce, and that most rarest of birds—the talking turkey here to give its species unique perspective. And so with no further adieu, I turn the floor over to our moderator, Plymouth Rock.

Plymouth Rock:

Turkey: Thank you, Ben, and might I say what a ple—

Pilgrim: I don't know what all the hullabaloo's about.

We came, we saw, we gave thanks. End of story.

Indian: This is exactly the kind of ignorant thinking that makes Thanksgiving bad. The white man raped our land and killed our people for hundreds of years. This holiday is nothing but an organized attempt by the American government to pretend none of it ever happened.

Pilgrim: Nonsense! Nobody's denying that we kicked your—that we went a little overboard. But Thanksgiving is about togetherness, not boring historical details.

Indian: [splutters] "Historic details!?"

Turkey: People, please! You're missing the more important point. Every year millions of innocent turkey are being slaughtered at the altar of this barbaric tradition.

Pilgrim: Hey, we bred them, didn't we?

Turkey: So?

Pilgrim: Without us, you wouldn't exist. We own you.

Plymouth Rock:

Turkey: Oh, now you're just plucking feathers!

Pilgrim: You mean splitting hairs?

Turkey: Whatever. Just because you're indirectly responsible for—

Indian: Hey! Let's stay focused here. Look, when people remember the Nazis, do they focus on the one good Nazi that stayed home and baked cookies, or do they remember the millions and millions of people that were killed?

Pilgrim: That's totally different. Yes, we settlers did terrible things that should never have been allowed

to happen. Nobody's denying that. But Thanksgiving is about family and camaraderie. And if you can't understand that, maybe you should just stay in your casino!

Indian: What are you—

Turkey: Don't you see that you're saying the same thing? You both think the American colonists were out of line. And you both want to promote honesty and friendship in the future. Pilgrim, why don't you take time every Thanksgiving to remember the Native Americans and their sufferings. And Indian, there's nothing wrong with celebrating fellowship and humility. Now, if we could please get back to my—

Pilgrim: I never thought of it that way.

Native American: Me neither. Perhaps we're not so different after all.

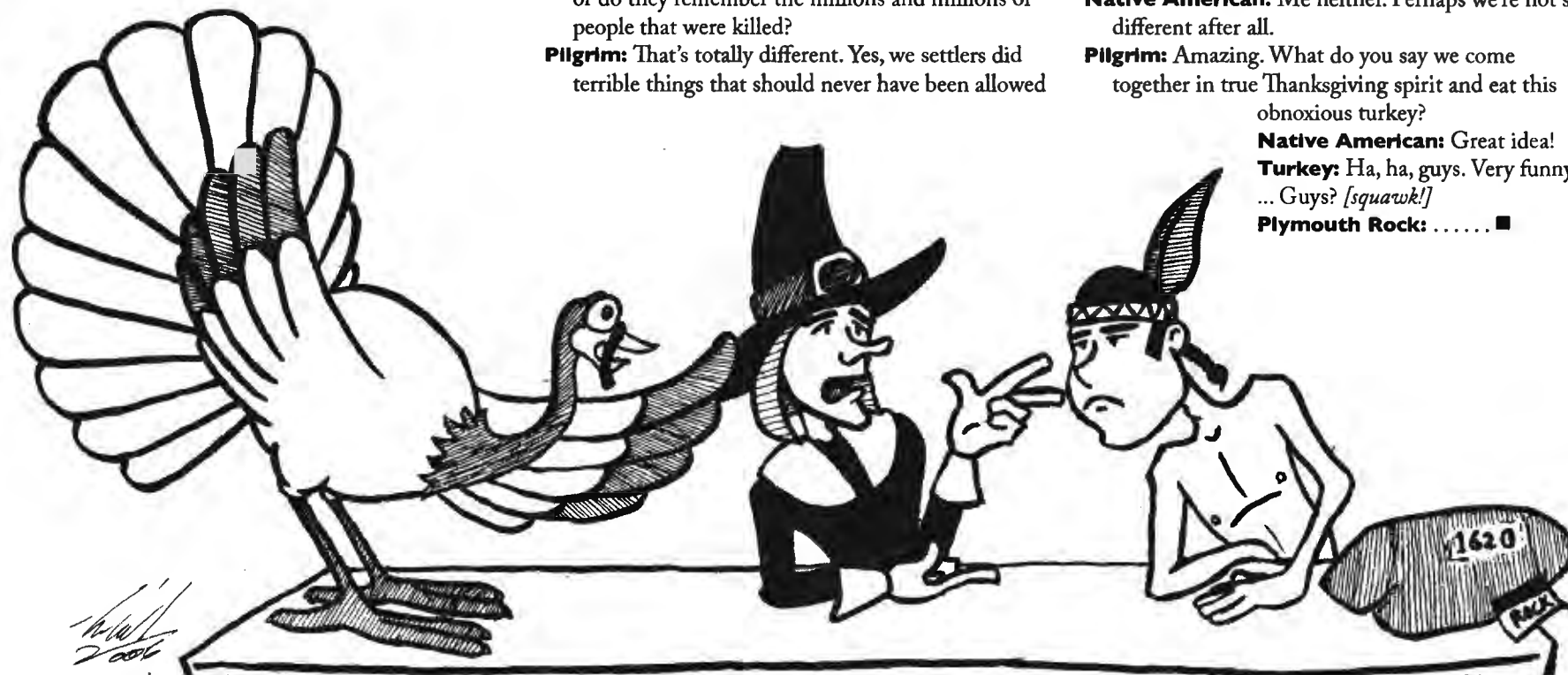
Pilgrim: Amazing. What do you say we come together in true Thanksgiving spirit and eat this obnoxious turkey?

Native American: Great idea!

Turkey: Ha, ha, guys. Very funny.

... Guys? [squawk!]

Plymouth Rock: ■



America the Great

Neoantiamericanism: everybody loves to hate the top dog



by marco mavromaras

mxm047000@gmail.com

As a proud Greek citizen living in America, people often ask me what I think about the good ol' U.S. of A. Most will pose the question while assuming the body language of a person bracing for a slap. Others will use a sarcastic tone as if to preemptively agree with me, as they expect me to answer them in a raised tone of voice and a handful of curse words. A few will spread their feet, dig their hands into their pockets and cock their heads to the side, ready to go on the defensive. All will expect me to hate America or at the very least, to disapprove.

But I don't. I tell all of them the same thing: I thank God for every day that He has given me in this country. My amorous opinion of America elicits the same type of surprise that I would expect from them had I just dropped my pants to show an illicit pro-American tattoo.

I have been similarly surprised at the perception that Americans have of their country and national identity. The main criticisms from Americans and foreigners alike are that the U.S. foreign policy is penned by the devil, that all Americans are ignorant and that America has no culture.

The current geopolitical climate aside, it is true that American foreign policy does not have a perfect record. The CIA did, after all, sponsor a military dictatorship in Greece in the 1960's. But as a Greek, I would personally like to thank America for ensuring, twice, that German isn't the national language of Greece and that Communism isn't the national policy. The U.S., and the sons and daughters that she sacrificed, entered both World Wars with honorable intentions.

With the descent of the Iron-Curtain after the Second World War, America was obliged, because of her preeminence, to single-handedly defend and spread democracy and capitalism world-wide, which she did, successfully, at her own (your) expense. In the post Cold War era, it is logistically and pragmatically impossible for America to abdicate her position as 'the' world superpower. This is at the root of the current world climate and its neoantiamericanism.

Still, it is true that a lot of Americans are not particularly well-informed about other countries and the intricacies of their politics, history and culture. This is often pointed out by foreigners living in the U.S. who are themselves well-versed on U.S. issues. This is hardly surprising considering that they have lived in America and have had the opportunity to travel and experience the culture.

Comparing the cultural familiarity of a well-traveled foreigner to the aver-

age American (who did not make the cut for the new season of The Amazing Race) is hardly a litmus test. That said, there are millions of Americans who are *au fait* with the national fabric of many other countries. I would even argue that there is a greater proportion of Americans well familiar with other cultures than the proportion of people in any other country familiar with America.

People even like to say that America has no culture. America may not have as long a history as other countries, but with the history it has had, it has developed plenty of culture, such as Hollywood, rock and roll, Coca-Cola, CNN, hamburgers, the Internet, Oprah Winfrey, Microsoft and Starbucks to name just a few. They may not enjoy the refinement of some of the cultural claims of older countries, but they all appeal to many people in every nation on the planet regardless.

Admitting that all of these are American might leave a bad taste in a non-American's mouth, yet all these familiar icons originated here, and their importance and popularity is unquestionable. Indeed, the trend in most countries in the 'global village' is towards Americanization. So yeah, American culture seems pretty appealing to me, and in that sense, I am not alone.

One of the reasons that I love this country is its guarantee of freedom of speech. Americans are guaranteed the right to criticize themselves. It is abundantly clear that America is not a utopia, and no-one claims that it is. There are things worthy of criticism and issues that need to be addressed, and I believe they are being addressed. However, I have found that many people (Americans and non-Americans) who regularly criticize America are mostly pseudo-intellectuals who like to boost their own self-esteem by separating themselves from mainstream America and then criticizing her.

My point is that the vast majority of Americans are automatically critical of themselves, many blindly so. Having never experienced an alternative, they are quick to rip their country apart for being imperfect. But compare your capitalist democracy to another country that you don't know much about. Even the most appealing countries in the comparison still have other internal issues and fall short. Indeed, the vast majority of other countries wither under the spotlight of comparison. Having seen the alternative, I can say with certainty that the other side is less appealing.

Living abroad makes you appreciate all the aspects of American life that any naturalized citizen takes for granted. The very fact that Americans can say negative things about their country (and remain unharmed) puts them miles ahead of most of the world. So join me this Thanksgiving and, as I have done for the last four years, give thanks for America and everything that makes her great. ■



Embrace the Machine

Why an illogical fear of technology keeps us stuck in the past



by richard badgett

richard.badgett@student.utdallas.edu

I'm sick and tired of other people telling me how sick and tired they are of things. Not a day goes by without some middle-aged guy bemoaning the absence of some banality of his youth, claiming "technology has gone too far."

In that same vein, don't get me started on those who talk about how individualizing entertainment will kill the "valuable American art form" of the movie theater. Like rancid-popcorn reeking, overcrowded theaters that make gut-turning "schlork" sounds as you wade through the quagmire of dried soda and crying babies is a lost love.

I'm sick of this artificial nostalgia and blatant ignorance. I'm sorry, but the world, indeed, is a better place than it was when you were born.

Isaac Asimov, one of the greatest American thinkers of the 20th century, made it his life's work to combat society's stereotypes against technological advancement, which he termed "The Frankenstein Complex." At the time he began writing, science was represented as one of two, and only two, things: robot as servant or robot as menace, with the latter dominating the former in prevalence. Asimov responded to what he saw as an absurd oversimplification of a complex idea and focused his work on the concept of robots more humane than most humans, thus introducing the idea of robot as pathos.

But as he and his philosophy matured, the idea of robot as pathos itself seemed as counterproductive as robot as menace. Readers believed assigning morality to "progress" or "technology" in some blanket way was utterly absurd. Morality is a strictly human construct; it can't exist beyond our applications of it. An industrial machine is no more moral or immoral than a pile of stones.

Furthermore, each gear and sprocket would bear the same moral culpability as the machine itself. So, if I

showed you a spring and said, "This spring came from a tank. Tanks are used to do terrible things, therefore tanks are evil. Thus, this spring is evil," you would laugh in my face. (Hopefully, you would also punch me because people who talk in that dialectic are also evil.) A simple spring cannot be any more evil than an apple pie or violin, and robots are nothing more than what society makes of them.

As a result, Asimov began employing machines as simple industrial devices in his stories, exploring, rather, human interaction and connections to them. In the end, the ideas that Asimov wrestled with concerning artificial intelligence and robots were not to be defined by one person but by the perceptions of the society to whom they were presented.

With this in mind, if you've ever watched 30 minutes of non-public television in one sitting, then you've almost certainly seen a commercial for a sci-fi thriller where some aberration of science becomes evil and

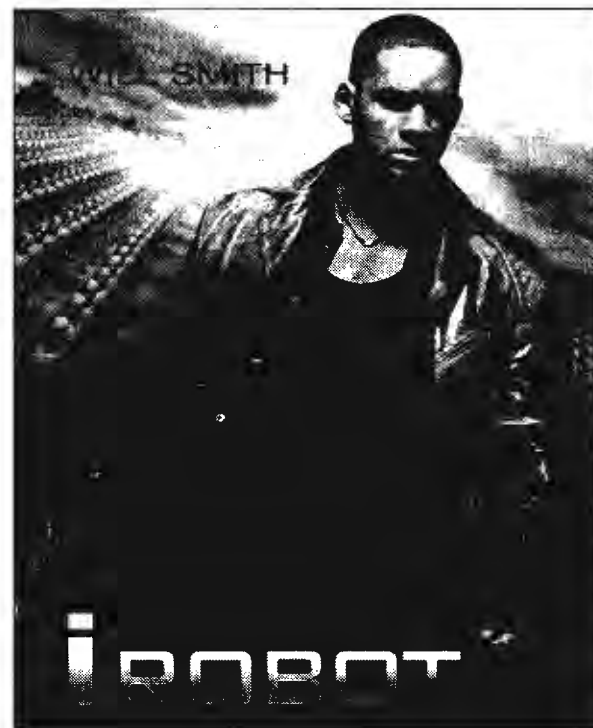
turns on its masters. Usually one of the characters utters something like the phrase "we shouldn't have tried to play God," and everyone accepts this and thinks to themselves "I certainly am glad we live in a society that bans stem cell and human cloning research and stymies all attempts at meaningful artificial intelligence – because if machines, monsters and clone armies ever revolt, that would just be terrible."

We are bombarded by a constant stream of negative ideas concerning science and human progress. We love the idea of putting the same idiots who drive cars in

“We love the idea of putting the same idiots who drive cars in charge of flying ones, but we're all terrified at the prospect of allowing a robot to perform surgery on us.”

charge of flying ones, but we're all terrified at the prospect of allowing a robot to perform surgery on us. Society has skewed the perception of technological advance as being detrimental.

But technology makes life better. Period. And yes, I do include advances in armed warfare. For example, entire multi-volume sets have been published declaring the inseparability and ultimate allegiance of the Renaissance to gunpowder. Though more efficient ways of killing people may *gasp* result in the killing of people efficiently, imagine the alternative. None of the artistic or intellectual accomplishments of that age could have been possible without the requisite advances in mili-



The awful Will Smith version of Asimov's "I, Robot" is an example of our general fear to actually look at technology in an intelligent way, and instead turn it into mindless explosions.

tary technology and their resultant changes in statecraft and state management.

We've been brainwashed by six generations of pervasive, imperceptible, anti-technology propaganda so effective that many of us don't realize it needs combating. People have been convinced that "what made America great" had everything to do with the specific activities we as citizens engaged in rather than the motivations behind them. It was not the opera, theatre or cinema that made us who we are. Each transition between modes brought with it millions bemoaning the great lost art, yet artistic life still survives – indeed, thrives – long after this "fatal blow."

This transition between art forms, the innovation showed as we abandoned ye olde vaudeville houses in favor of wild, new, terrifying art forms like "talkies," is what pushed and pushes America forward. Change is never inherently bad; unwillingness to change, however, is always inherently bad.

So, before you complain about ungrateful kids, or modern trends "going too far," or moral subversion caused by the crazy rock music the kids listen to, stop for a few moments and remember: when you invent the car, expect traffic. ■

Get Active, Chump

Our writer expounds on the virtues of peer pressure. Go on, read it. Chicken?



by brad wallace

hawkeye@student.utdallas.edu

Your mother.

Insulted? Thinking of cookies? Potpourri memories and hugs, perhaps? How about remembering your mom's weapons? That's right, I'm talking about the all-powerful "if Tommy jumped off a bridge, would you jump off too?"

As powerful as "Because I said so," this end-all, be-all of conversation conclusions left us kids with nothing to do but slam a door in anger. However, as we grow, it is our duty to remember the things that have brought us to where we are now.

It seems that many here on campus did not truly listen to what Mom was saying when she asked about your feelings concerning bridge jumping. She was not testing your sanity but rather your commitment to Tommy. Obviously, if he wants to do something as extreme as jumping off a bridge, then it must mean a lot to him.

As Tommy's best friend, the question is not whether to jump or not; the question is whether you possess the constitution, the depth of faith, to go as far off the edge as needed. What your mother was trying to teach you was the value of peer pressure.

Peer pressure is what binds a society together. It creates change, commits members to one another and gives the masses their power. People seem to only focus on the stereotype that peer pressure leads to broken bones and bulimia. No one ever mentions the use of interventions or how students are less likely to use drugs and alcohol if their friends don't as well. Peer-to-peer persuasion is a good thing, and it's about time we embraced it.

But we are taught to fear it. Conformity is an evil word — everything wrong in society. One must think for one's self at college. The rules here are that you must make your own rules, and if you copy, it's plagiarism. God forbid we follow; résumés don't like followers.



Johnny Knoxville isn't a chump. He's wearing aviators.

Look around campus. What do you see? Trees? Police? Giant red jacks? The point is not many of us would answer "students" to that question. That's a major problem. Everyone's so busy worried about passing their tests that we are failing as a college. Too many of us are so caught up honing our Super Smash Brothers skills that we forget to spend some quality time with what truly matters.

Here on campus we have alcoholics, workaholics, gameaholics and gradeaholics, but each of these obsessions is just a distraction. School is not as important as the scholars.

Never have so many done so little with so few, and the only fix is peer pressure. It's time we all started loving our neighbor by forcing him to come to a Comet game, participate in a SUAAB event and get involved on campus. And you don't have to let the forced activities stay within the borders of a campus. College is not so much about learning a major as it is about learning about one's self.

Before one scoffs off any sporting events because they "aren't his thing," maybe he should try out UL-

timate Frisbee. Just because you've never seen a theater production doesn't mean you can't get involved in the Rat Pack. If you've ever had an opinion in your life, maybe you can try writing for A Modest Proposal. On-campus events are begging for bodies, and its time we feed the need.

But extending one's horizons takes more than just time and courage. It often takes a friend to force you to do it. "Be that friend. Be forced by that friend." This mantra will bring you closer together and take you places at the same time. Do not fear, embrace.

And then pay it forward. If your roommate got you involved in a prank war that left you with soggy socks and frozen boxers, get him back by taking him out for Thai food that might not settle with his stomach. It's a domino effect. If everyone starts moving around campus, change will occur. Just remember, a good friend will bail you out of jail, but a true friend will be sitting there beside you saying, "Man, that was fun!"

So what we need is a revolution, Johnny Knoxville style. While I'm not advocating, say, burning yourself alive, maybe skydiving would do the trick. Maybe you've always wanted to fall at 120 miles per hour but would only go if someone else goes. Everyone has something they would only do if everyone else was doing it.

We are left with two choices. Choice one: forget the fear and go for it. Paint your face, and scream your throat dry at every volleyball game even though no one else does (which, should you attend, you'll find is not true.) Choice two: find a friend, and make sure you're not the only one doing it. No other answers are on the ballot.

So get active, wimp. Guilt trip each other. Ask roommates, friends and strangers to come follow. Do some following of your own as well. Come on, everybody's doing it. Bottom line, you won't be cool unless you create peer pressure too.

And don't forget to call your mother. "Hey mom, it's me. You know all those years you asked me if everyone jumped off a cliff, would I go too? Well, I just wanted to let you know that Tommy just jumped..."

click ■

Write for us, and we won't call you a chump! (Unless you're into that kind of thing!)

Send your articles to amodestproposal@gmail.com

Have you seen the **DRUDGE REPORT?**



by benedict voit

benedict.voit@student.utdallas.edu

The changed style of today's media

Open up a typical webpage covering the news. Humbly in the upper left corner is the name of the carrier. They are determined to make the CNN or the MSNBC or the FOX logo in bold colors so you look at it – but it isn't dominating the screen. The main page has a flow to it. The layout is friendly. Tabs galore allow you to maneuver from section to section to find all the weather or sports or international business news you want. In other words, these websites are typical news sites. But in today's flashy media world, perhaps a typical site gets just that – a typical response.

Now change the page to the Drudge Report (www.drudgereport.com). In large, defining, commanding, black italics is the name. Its message: you sure as heck are going to read this.

The layout is at best an insult to designers everywhere. The flow is atrocious. The three column page can be confusing, and stories are separated by thin grey lines. The only occasional remedy to the endless text is a picture or different color font for the stories that Matt Drudge tells you are important.

This in-your-face media throws it all at the reader, demanding attention. And lo and behold, it works. Like a bad horror flick, it sucks you in, and has you thinking

about it for days on end thereafter. Every time I open a new browser, I see those shining black letters. My homepage is proudly set to the site.

Growing up as a self-proclaimed “news junkie,” Drudge did odd jobs until becoming part of the CBS team. From there he used his insider status to get quick news. His learning of gossip and opinion found space in a news forum. Eventually he built enough support from this forum to create a website, which he unabashedly named the Drudge Report. Since its breaking release of the Monica Lewinsky scandal in 1998, the page's success has skyrocketed.

The influence is now overwhelming. Drudge's releases are no longer just the topic of student banter around campus. Teachers in political classes reference the material too. At least one national political satire group has referenced his name. Watch the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Chances are when Jay starts off with “Now this is a bizarre story...” his lackeys checked the site. And now, while interning in DC for the semester, it no longer surprises me to hear in the office: “Have you seen Drudge?”

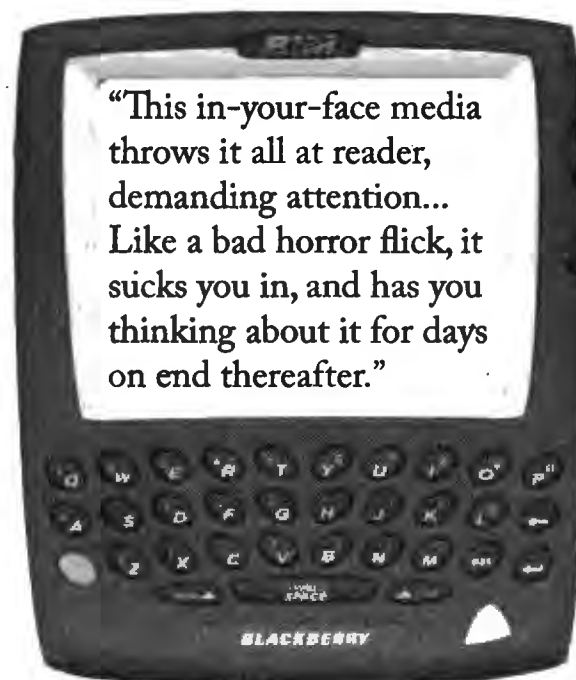
Linked sites to Drudge can expect to get hundreds-of-thousands of hits. Two scholars, Mark Halperin and Josh Harris featured Matt Drudge in their 2006 book *The Way to Win*. In it, they call Drudge “...the Walter Cronkite of his era...” and even go so far as to proclaim that because of his website, he is the man most responsible for helping defeat John Kerry's presidential aspirations in 2004. Drudge made *TIME*'s Top 100 people of the year list in 2006.

What does all of this mean? The stronghold on media is rapidly melting. First and foremost, the method of reporting is drastically altered. Newspaper subscriptions are down all across the country, and no one expects this trend to have an about turn anytime soon. Web-based news is the new wave – and not just from the traditional news sources.

It is easy to see that the Drudge Report has become a media sensation. Brilliantly, Drudge has found a new way to market news. He has combined the happenings, the gossip, the opinion, even the bizarre all into one. In this day and age, those following the news, political hacks, news junkies, even the regular Joe, want their news updated constantly. Just look at the popularity of the Blackberry. In DC, it's a must. Waiting the extra 5 minutes until the meeting is over no longer flies.

Drudge has mastered that art; but he also goes beyond. Scientific studies have proven the long imagined (feared?): today's average attention span is significantly lower than

“This in-your-face media throws it all at reader, demanding attention... Like a bad horror flick, it sucks you in, and has you thinking about it for days on end thereafter.”



that of a generation ago. TV and the internet are undoubtedly the main culprits. But rather than cast blame, Drudge has taken that information and expanded upon it. He puts *all* the news on the one and only page – the front page. All summed up and ready within a click, the reader can digest everything within a few scrolls and a few seconds.

Finally, Drudge does something that truly irritates the traditional media sources. He reports with a conservative leaning. His reporting started nearly 10 years ago, and ever since has been fighting tooth and nail against an entrenched system. The fight has not gone unnoticed; followers have hailed his efforts while critics have lambasted the site as right-wing news. Its political leaning, though, is irrelevant. What is relevant is its rising success; success that demands attention. Drudge's success has reached the crucial point where even those who disagree with its political motivations have found they must at least recognize its stature. They must recognize that the media of today and the future has been greatly changed by this presence.

The Drudge Report is something that takes time to like, and it certainly does not appeal to everyone. But with so many news companies and organizations demanding your time, it sometimes takes that creative, alternative, approach to break through the mold. The Drudge Report is a great success story in that light. Have you seen Drudge? ■



— CONCERT REVIEW —

The Band Who Loves You

How Wilco gave Ft. Worth a much-needed shot in the arm



by jordan youngblood

jordan.youngblood@student.utdallas.edu

"In complete honesty, I'm having a fucking blast up here."

It's sometimes a deadly thing when artists get happy. The last time I saw Wilco, in 2005 at the Austin City Limits festival, Jeff Tweedy was doing his best to convince everyone how pleased he felt about life in general. After all, he wasn't too far removed from a stint in rehab, and at the previous year's festival he hadn't said a damn thing. He spent most of that show staring down the neck of his guitar.

This time, instead of Silent Jeff, he was Good Time Jeff, telling all to enjoy life and to spend every moment like it was your last. It wasn't a surprise that most of the show sucked.

Wilco has always been at their best when exploring the depths of melancholy. Even their most energetic songs deal with themes like abandonment and unrequited love, and Tweedy's voice suits the plaintive material perfectly. They've shifted styles on numerous occasions: the country and folk-influenced sounds of *A.M.* and *Being There*, the orchestrated pop of *Summerteeth*, and most recently the fragmented rock of *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* and *A Ghost is Born*.

At the core, however, has been the long line of broken men and confused heroes created by Tweedy, singing about days where "all you touch turns to lead" and meeting a devil made of chrome.

Walking into Will Rodgers Auditorium on October 12, I had to wonder what version of Tweedy would appear on stage. His mother had died only a few days prior to the concert; would the grief keep him from playing effectively? Would he put on a show and try to be the guy I'd seen in Austin last year? Would he prove

up to the \$33 I'd paid to see him?

The show didn't exactly get off to a flying start, as openers The Altered Statesmen appeared to have borne the weight of playing to a mostly-empty auditorium a few too many times. As people trickled into Will Rodgers, the band got more and more bored; their lead singer had the charisma of a lump of coal, finishing his songs to mutter "thank you" and promptly start the next mid-tempo number. I've got all the sympathy in the world for

address the crowd.

"I Am Trying to Break Your Heart" clanged and throbbed like the recorded version, with Tweedy and lead guitarist Nels Cline putting their guitars through huge blankets of distortion and effects; "Handshake Drugs" and new song "Impossible Germany" turned into huge jams, complete with dueling solos and Cline playing so fast that he literally looked in pain. "A Shot in the Arm" roared to life, as Tweedy sang about "something in my

ter if the songs weren't up to par, and the band proved itself more than capable of bringing enough rock to fill the auditorium. New song "Walken" looks to be a future Wilco classic, all hip-shaking guitar and honky-tonk piano while Tweedy cooed, "Honey, I think you're just right." Huge versions of "At Least That's What You Said" and personal favorite "I'm The Man Who Loves You" let Tweedy utterly destroy his guitar, bending and twisting the strings to warp the notes into a fierce cacophony.

Drummer Glenn Kotche laid down the foundation for the guitar heroics with ease, giving the drifting "Via Chicago" a sudden shock by going nuts on his set and taking advantage of his drum solo in "Let's Not Get Carried Away" to show off his jazz influences.

The rest of the band provided more than able support, as Pat Sansone traded places behind a piano and guitar and John Stirratt kept the rhythm on bass and harmony vocals. Organist Mikael Jorgensen, stuck at the back of the stage, still got multiple chances to show off, especially on a stunning rendition of "Poor Places."

Cline, however, proved to be the band's ultimate weapon, perfectly mimicking the violin parts of set highlights "Jesus, Etc." and "Hummingbird" with his guitar while giving the end of "Ashes of American Flags" a solo that literally made some audience members bow at him in complete worship. Sweat flew off his face as he tore up and down the fretboard.

Old stand-by "Kingpin" closed out the band's second encore, with Tweedy declaring that if we shouted along, "you're gonna wake up tomorrow, you're gonna stand in your bathroom and look at yourself... and you'll be more beautiful. Anything you could wish for will come true tomorrow." At the very least, after two full hours of music, what I was wishing for — a damn good rock show from one of America's best bands — came true in spades. ■



Jeff Tweedy of Wilco at Will Rodgers Coliseum on Oct. 12.

opening bands, but you've got to earn the audience's attention. These guys seemed like they could care less if anyone walked away impressed.

However, the moment Wilco walked on stage, the whole place lit up. The venue now stood at full capacity, and a shot of energy went through the crowd as the band walked out. They began with a jaunty version of "Airline to Heaven," an acoustic track from their collaboration *Mermaid Ave.* with Billy Bragg, and from that point tore through 5 more songs before Tweedy even bothered to

veins, bloodier than blood."

As the opening quote reveals, Tweedy did eventually get much more verbose. He was the best of all possible options: Enormous Smart-Ass Tweedy, looking like he was having indeed a fucking blast while insulting every possible audience member he could. His interplay with a security guard and a woman irritating him was priceless: "She flipped you off and you put up with it. You're a good man, sir. Way to show restraint. This guy knows how to rock."

Of course, none of that would mat-

The Voice Inside Your Headphones

File Edit Controls Visualizer Advanced Help

BoagWorld

The Voice Inside Your Headphones

A monthly look into the world of podcasting



by kim felder
kjr054000@utdallas.edu

Coming Next Month

A Frenchman tells America how they rate on an international scale, but in a funny way, so no hurt feelings.



Based in the UK and frontman of the web design company Headscape, Paul Boag can give you an in depth look at how it's done in the world of web design.

You're very aware of the trends in technology and BoagWorld was one the first Web Design podcasts, where was your starting point?

Believe it or not my inspiration was knitting! I was given an iPod just around the time they started to offer podcasts via iTunes. Being the geek I am I immediately looked for a podcast on web design and found none. But what finally pushed me over the edge and made me do my own show was that I found a podcast on knitting! The fact that somebody was doing a show about knitting and yet there was nothing about web design seemed somehow wrong and so I leapt into action.

Has the show brought attention to your design company, Headscape?

That is actually hard to answer. We know for certain that the podcast has won us at least two or three large pieces of work and has been an influencing factor in several others.

Since you're involved in so many projects how easy is it to get overwhelmed by your career?

To be frank I don't deal very well. I work in a very overwhelming industry when you are constantly running to keep up.

Can you rely on your co-workers and family to get your mind off of the stress?

Marcus (my co-host) in particular is a pleasure to work with.

He is so laid back and has to regularly stop me from losing it. It also helps having a family that couldn't care less about web design as they keep dragging me back to reality.

More specifically in regards to web design: are you more of a minimalist or do you prefer the more flashy designs?

Minimalist without a doubt. People don't go to websites anymore to be wowed or even entertained (generally speaking). They go to complete a task or get some nugget of information. The design should facilitate that and not distract.

Since you're based in Brittan, but seem to have a very large American following, do you notice many differences between American websites in contrast to British?

Yes. You could write a book on the differences. It is something I used to regularly battle with when I worked at IBM. The powers that be in IBM would constantly try and impose American design on a UK audience and it never worked very well. American's like to see images of pretty people with perfect smiles and

successful lives. To a UK audience this seems false and patronising. We are a cynical nation and are suspicious of marketing and advertising.

With all your experience, what is that one site that you've worked on that will always have place in your heart?

It might not sound very sexy but the most interesting site I have ever worked on was the National Trust website. They are a huge heritage organisation here in the UK who own enormous parts of our countryside and stately homes. The reason I loved it so much is that they have a photographic library of over 100,000 photos to work with covering some of the most incredible countryside and architecture in the world.

Any other message for a bunch of college kids in Texas?

Don't take up web design. There are too many young whipper-snappers who are far more talented than me knocking around and I don't want any more out there stealing work from me! Of course if you want a serious answer I would have to go with "remember, qualifications are great but as an employer I am as interested in your out-of-school projects as I am in certificates"

To hear Paul Boag go to: <http://www.boagworld.com/podcast.html> or find him in iTunes under 'Technology'. ■



Rock and roll ain't noise pollution

UTD needs to embrace its artistic side to grow as a campus



by tally zuniga

natalia.zuniga@student.utdallas.edu

I came to UT Dallas exactly because of the climate one can find here: the lack of mob-mentality school spirit, the young innovative soul that can be found throughout the programs, the study-centered (for the most part!) student body and the encouraging, brilliant faculty. To me, that is what makes a great college experience: academics.

I'm not at all interested in joining huge sororities or going to keggers every night. I don't know how my parents did it, but in my mind school is strictly studying. I'm not saying I don't regularly go out in Dallas or find myself up in Denton attending their parties and general ruckus, but what's better than coming home to good old silent UTD and get a good night's sleep and a good education?

Then again, it makes you wonder doesn't it? What did we have to give up to attain this level of good living? The other week it hit me.

Searching for adventure, a couple of friends and I drove up to a concert in Denton that was being held at someone's house (well...the house's actual name was House of Tinnitus; apparently they take their show-house parties seriously). I didn't exactly count the amount of people who were there, but with almost no advertising and last-minute word of mouth advice, the place was absolutely packed and the environment was easy-going with a hint of a breeding ground for great fun.

I thought back to Radio UTD's Fall

Showcase that had gone on two days before on our own campus with bands such as the Baptist Generals that are really well known in the area. Even though there were more than two weeks' worth of advertising from the radio station and the bands themselves, I calculated that we only attracted about 2/3 of the people that a simple, quasi-unknown lineup at a random house near UNT's campus pulled in a matter of hours.

At one point in the Radio UTD show,

day before. Actually, when I thought about it, whenever I attend a show in Denton, whether it's a small local or big national act, it's always packed. What do they have that we don't?

The answer is plain and painful. It's no secret that UT Dallas is a huge engineering and computer science school, and that a lot of people would rather stay at their apartments than come out to a school-sponsored show. I know I'm guilty of passing up almost

chance, the art programs at UTD are kind of getting passed by.

Have you been to the Art Barn lately? The light in there is horrible to do any sort of critique, the equipment is old and passed on from other departments, and Arts & Technology is honestly not an art major per se. I must say that every art professor I have ever had has been superb and bursting with excitement over their fields, but how can we expect UTD to reach its full potential

if we are more concerned with a new weight-training facility than actually expanding our music, literature and arts programs?

I guess this feeling of missing something that has been traded for what we have boils down to jealousy.

I'm jealous of colleges that have that side of student population. I'm jealous of college campuses that actually listen and support their radio stations (did you know Radio UTD has been nominated this year for Best Internet Radio Station in the prestigious CMJ College Music Awards? Did you know we even had a Radio UTD?).

I'm jealous of schools that have their art galleries bursting with interest, their musical shows attended not just because it's mandatory for some music classes or theater productions that are full of interested

faces not just because you need to write your RHET1101 paper about something.

I'm jealous of schools whose art classes aren't filled with people who think anime is the art movement of the future, present and past.

I adore UTD and support it with all my heart...but really...could we just not work on growing our artistic side a bit more? I wouldn't trade the UTD environment for the world, but certainly a little noise couldn't hurt things every now and again. ■



Radio UTD has live DJs everyday from noon 'til 2 in the morning. Tally plays from 4 to 6 on Fridays, and our editor Jordan follows right after that. It's an AMP rock block.

lead singer Chris Flemmings had to ask, "How many of you guys attend here, and how many are just friends of ours?" The student turnout for our concert was actually pretty good, but still, it's the moral of the thing.

Then I thought back to when just one guy from the Baptist Generals had played a solo show at a tiny hole-in-the-wall venue called Secret Headquarters in Denton, and how the place had been bursting with people although they had advertised it just the

every opportunity to do anything school-related to do something else. And it's also no secret that UNT has a rather large population of art, music, communications and literature majors.

So in my opinion, the thing we had to give up at UTD to have tranquility is a real, tangible, group of artistic people interested in art, music, and, well, literature. I suppose I could say that we're missing out on sports, too, but while Student Government seems to be giving their all for sports to get their

Does UTD want me to get *pregnant*?

Our writer finds the Student Health Center falls short of expectations



by mo hughes

maureen.hughes@student.utdallas.edu

Ordinarily, I wouldn't expect my university to encourage the spread of accidental pregnancies and diseases. Much to my surprise, however, my adventures to obtain a free condom have been less than fruitful.

One of the best things about college is that the condoms are free. College students, with the mix of unparalleled personal freedom, the loneliness of independent living and the raging hormones that peak at our age, are slightly more promiscuous in their sexual adventures.

As a guard against the two big 'oops's that can occur during the "physical act of love" — STDs and pregnancy — many colleges supply free condoms in bathrooms, health centers and dorm hallways, increasing availability and reducing fears about using birth control. Students are much more likely to use condoms in "emergency situations"

“ In this day and age, it is naïve to assume that students will not have sex, and lots of it.... The lack of sufficient birth control on campus is irresponsible and unrealistic. ”

when they are readily available rather than when they have to go buy them at the closest Wal-Mart or gas station.

At UTD, however, I discovered something horrific when I went to the Student Health Center to get condoms. I wish I could say that I was stocking up for a lucky break later that day, but instead, I was questing for these prophylactics to tape to my roommate's bedroom door in the shape of a heart in response to a series of ongoing pranks in my apartment.

Upon asking for my deserved share of jimmy hats, I was met with smiles and a handful of brightly colored LifeStyles. Unfortunately, I did not have enough for the delightful prank so I went back to the Student Health center again.

However, when I got there, I was cut off cold turkey and left with a shocked expression on my face, wallowing in unhappiness. Apparently, it is the UT Dallas' Student Health Center's policy to only give students one set of condoms (about four) per semester.

Personally, I am quite offended at this idea. In this day and age, it is naïve to assume that students will not have sex — and lots of it. College is a time in a young person's life where hormonal swings, coupled with (at the very least) the culture shock of a new environment and the experience of living on one's own, can give students new opportunities, emotions and a throbbing sexual drive.

Moreover, while it is true that if unlimited condoms were made available some individuals might take more than their fair share, there are plenty of abstinent students (or at least, students uninterested in UTD condoms) to make up



It's rather ironic that a university whose mascot resembles a flaming sperm would, in fact, be deficient in protecting against his fellow brothers. Image courtesy of Ben Dower.

for the extra indulgence.

Therefore, a policy of "each according to his need" makes perfect sense. While it might be true that some abuses might occur — maybe some freshmen rediscover the hilarity that is the condom water balloon fight — in the long run it's a better policy for everyone.

The lack of sufficient birth control on this campus is irresponsible and unrealistic. Offering unlimited free condoms would encourage their use and aid in the prevention of the huge potential prob-

lems that accompany sex. Students at UTD would benefit from an increase in condom availability because of the sexual security it affords and the problems it prevents.

I do agree that it is a couple's responsibility to engage in safe sex, but it is UTD's responsibility to modernize itself like its other collegiate counterparts.

If this change does occur, I have but one request: people, don't follow my example, and be responsible with your condoms. ■

Good, Clean Fun

Students for Environmental Awareness want your help



by bita payesteh
beets83@msn.com

According to the Environmental Defense Fund, Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial fleet of airplanes every 3 months. The California Department of Conservation reminds us that, if we recycled all of the newspapers printed in the US on a typical Sunday, we would save 550,000 trees. Totaled over the course of a year it'd save over 26 million trees! Just think about that for a minute.

Students for Environmental Awareness (SEA) was founded in the fall of 2005 by just a handful of students who wanted to make a difference. As the only environmental group on campus, we grew quickly and began distributing information on environmental issues to bring them to the surface for UTD's students to see. SEA has been found on many occasions working with major environmental organizations in Dallas, such as PATH and the DFW Green Alliance.

SEA has a comprehensive plan for the upcoming school year about how to improve UTD's campus. Our main goal for 2006-2007 is to start an extensive campus recycling program. Recycling should be an important part of our duty as citizens of the world and can benefit each of us. For example, the energy saved in recycling steel is equivalent to the electrical power used by 18 million homes every year. This amount of energy would be enough to supply the residents of Los Angeles for eight years.



The members of SEA want your assistance in making UTD a cleaner, healthier place to live and learn. Photo courtesy of Bita Payesteh.

Technically, UTD already has a recycling program. There is one recycling bin under the main stairs in the Student Union designated for paper, you can recycle ink cartridges at the library, and there are a few bins for aluminum cans and corrugated cardboard as well. Unfortunately, these bins are placed in such obscure locations that I've not found one yet.

Last semester, SEA spent a lot of time researching, talking to different people, and figuring out a plan that would allow for UTD to engage in a full-scale recycling program. We hope that it can really fall into place this year.

To begin, we plan to have recycling bins in many of the buildings on cam-

pus to provide convenient access for students to recycle. These bins will be used to recycle mostly paper and aluminum cans so you won't be forced to send your soda cans and old notes to a landfill. We're also hoping to get recycling bins placed next to the dumpsters in the Waterview Apartments so that students can recycle whenever they take out their trash.

The EPA has shown promising figures that should motivate us each to continue (or start) recycling. One year of recycling diverts about 72 million tons of material away from landfills and helps the global climate; in 1996, efforts to recycle solid wastes prevented the release of 33 million tons of carbon into the air (approximately the amount

emitted by 25 million cars each year).

SEA has many other areas where it would like to become active to make UTD a more environmentally friendly university. Some areas include water and energy conservation, and education on recycling and the environment. Many afternoons you can find our booth inside the Student Union, recruiting new members and giving out information on our recycling program and the environment in general. SEA will also be celebrating Texas Recycles Day, Wednesday, November 15th, so look for signs around campus about our big event!

So please, help us out. Next time you spot a piece of trash on the ground, pick it up. When you manage to spot one of the hidden recycling bins (or one of our new shiny ones) throw your can in it. In fact, when you're done reading this paper, throw it in too. Turn out the lights when you leave the room, even if electricity is free to you in Phase 8, somewhere it costs another squirrel its home in a quest for fuel.

Turn off your faucets when you're not using them, and help us convince Waterview that land plants will grow much better if we don't submerge them in a foot of water each evening. Every little thing you do here and now will help protect and improve the environment in the years to come, so get out there and start making UTD and the world a cleaner, greener place to live! ■

Interested in joining in our efforts? SEA meetings are held every other Tuesday, at 10 PM in the Gemini Room (SU 2.504). An e-mail to SEAatUTD@gmail.com will get you on our mailing list to receive reminders before our meetings and events!

A Letter from the SG VP



by felicity lenes
felicity.lenes@student.utdallas.edu

My fellow Comets,

I'm excited about the changes we're seeing at UTD. A few weeks ago, you decided to support our student athletes by providing them with a budget that will allow them to continue to grow after 2008. You voted overwhelmingly to establish a shuttle service on campus and in the surrounding area. You decided to provide annual DART passes to all UTD students.

Enterprising students have tapped in to the Alumni fund and built you a disc golf course and a community garden.

Groundbreaking research is occurring on campus, the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics has a new dean, and we've had our most successful Homecoming ever.

Student Government wants to be a resource and avenue to support the student body in this change and growth.

I want to invite each of you to come by the SG office and visit with Basheer and me.

We can't make a phone call to the police station to get a parking ticket dismissed, but we can give you information on the appeals process.

We can't petronally kill all the roaches in your apartment, but we can direct you

to Matt Grief, the University's liaison to Waterview.

We can't take your exams for you, but we can provide you with a scan-tron and blue book.

We also have available two attorneys for student use -- both a general attorney and an immigration attorney. You can make appointments for both by calling 972-883-6717.

You're also always welcome at our Senate Meetings, which occur on alternating Thursdays. They're very informative, as we are able to share information from projects and events university-wide.

We want to help.

My job is to be there for you, and I love it.

It's awesome when someone comes in and we get to talk about the broken dishwasher in their apartment, or how to start a student organization or the great leisure books section in the McDermott Library.

One recurring theme of the problems shared by many students is Waterview Park Apartments. There are resources at the University to help approach these problems. I would encourage anyone with unresolved issues to contact Matt Grief at matthew.grief@utdallas.edu or 972-883-6232. His job is to facilitate your interactions with the Waterview staff. Our

tuition and fees pay his salary -- so please get your money's worth! Your problems can't be dealt with if we don't know about them.

Another wonderful resource is our Dean of Students, Donna Rogers. Dean Rogers works tirelessly to make sure we have a safe, spirited and active environment surrounding our academic priorities.

If you would like to start a new organization on campus, a great place to visit is the Center for Student Involvement. Located in the Student Union just down the hall from the Pub, the CSI has office supplies and other resources for students.

I know there are many other questions and concerns you might be personally facing, and that's where Student Government comes in -- we want to know, and we want to help. As I said before, we won't always be able to do something concrete, but we are delighted to inform you as to what avenues you should pursue to solve your issues.

My office is easy to find -- across from the Galaxy Rooms in the Student Union. Come visit, or call 972-883-2285 to set up a time to talk. If you'd rather email, I promise I'll respond to anything you send to felicity.lenes@student.utdallas.edu.

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

Felicity

Kappa Alpha Theta Presents:

Rock the C.A.S.A.

Battle of the Bands

Thursday 11.9.2006

8pm - 12am

CN 1.112

\$5 presale \$7 @door

supporting Court Appointed Special Advocates of collin county

— PLAY REVIEW —

Alpha Male falls behind the pack



by jonathan lane
jwl033000@utdallas.edu

For one of my classes, I was given the task of attending the UTD production of *Alpha Male*, a futuristic tale written and directed by faculty member Thomas Riccio. Because I enjoy theater, and frequent UTD shows anyway, I thought that the assignment would be one of the most painless things I've ever had to do for a class.

Unfortunately, the play was excruciating.

That's not to say that it was a bad production of the show. After all, the set was interesting, the use of video worked moderately well and the acting was excellent. However, the problem was not with the general production of the play, but with the play itself.

Alpha Male is about a group of people, referred to as "clients," who are kept in an isolated institution as part of a study. Scientists use drugs to control the moods, thoughts, actions and desires of the clients, making the clients not much more than mindless drones.

Because the characters very rarely act like themselves, it becomes incredibly hard to relate to the characters or even have emotions about the characters. In the outset of the play, I thought that the story might be about how the newest couple at the institution would react differently to the program with one of them becoming fully immersed in it while the other is reluctant to participate to the same extent. After all, that is basically how the play started.

However, although those themes occasionally reappeared during the course of the play, that sort of idea was never fleshed out enough to make it interesting. Because those characters, and in fact all of the characters, never really behave like

real people, it is nearly impossible to care about their fate.

Given that, it is clear that sympathy for the characters is not really what Riccio was trying to create in his play. Instead, he was trying to create a sort of discomfort in the audience in an attempt to make the audience think about the ethical and social issues that the play brought up. By

it is obvious that he is speaking about the current state of affairs in today's world. At a different point, another character launches into a repetitive monologue about how, through plastic surgery, she has become so beautiful and appealing that all men want to sleep with her and that she is proud of the way that she is objectified.

what they were doing to the people. She panics and kills the other scientist. I was slightly intrigued. After all, it seemed like this would lead to some interesting developments that would radically affect the lives of the other characters.

The very next scene, unfortunately, shattered my intrigue as the scientist went right back to acting the way she had previously and the rest of the characters continued to act in yet another new and confusing fashion. When she was killed in that scene, effectively ending the show, I was utterly apathetic. The end of the show had all the living characters on stage yelling at the audience, asking them if they were expecting a happy ending. The ending was so ineffective that when the lights went off, the audience didn't realize that it was time to clap.

To me, the play was a failure in almost every way I could consider it. If the purpose of the play to be entertaining, it was not. If the purpose of the play was to be a social/political commentary designed to make the audience think about their own lives, it didn't work. The main thing that the play made me think was that UTD can do better.

It is clear from this show, and others, that we do have talented students around that can carry a play and the directors to train them. And, although not spectacular, we have decent facilities for a play to be performed at. A major fault of the plays that are performed here is that they are often too experimental and "out there" to be entertaining.

Although there can be a place for theater such as that at UTD, there is nothing wrong with occasionally putting on a play that is designed to be entertaining and nothing more. I, like many other people that I know, came from a high school that was able to put on wonderfully entertaining productions of shows using far less talent. If more shows of that ilk were performed here, I believe that people could love and appreciate the theater department rather than view it as an afterthought. ■

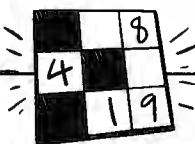


using techniques of alienation, particularly having the characters speak directly to the audience, he tries to bring the audience's attention from exactly what is going on in the story to their own thoughts.

This tactic has proven to be effective in other shows, but in this one, it just doesn't work. When one character is telling the audience that they aren't terrorists because the way that they scare people is in the name of something good,

The only problem is, rather than examining my views on things of that ilk, I really just wanted the characters to stop talking in hopes something interesting could actually take place.

Towards the end of the play, I became encouraged, as there was a brief moment of character development that made me at least begin to care for one of the characters. In the scene, one of the two scientists began to have hesitations as to



The Caption Contest Returns!

Attention all students:

After last month's initial success, *A Modest Proposal* is running another caption contest! Any student or faculty member can enter, and the winners will have their entries published in the following issue of the paper.

And as always, we will be giving away a complimentary *AMP* t-shirt to the person who turns in the very best submission.

To enter your submission, simply write a caption you think fits the picture. Then email it to amodestproposal@gmail.com along with your name and UTD email address (for verification purposes.)

The deadline for submissions will be November 20th, and multiple submissions are acceptable.

So give it a think or two, and give us those ideas!

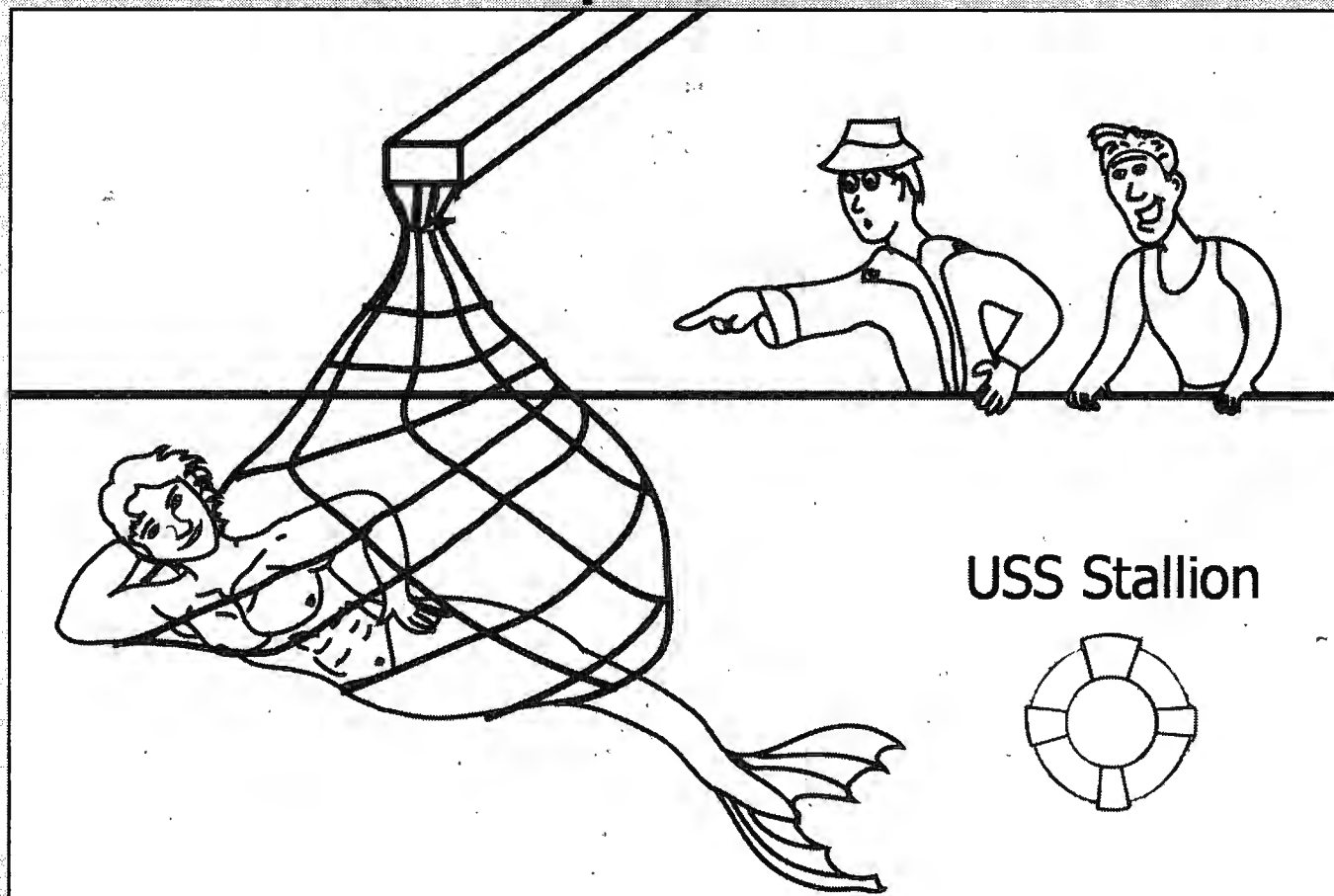
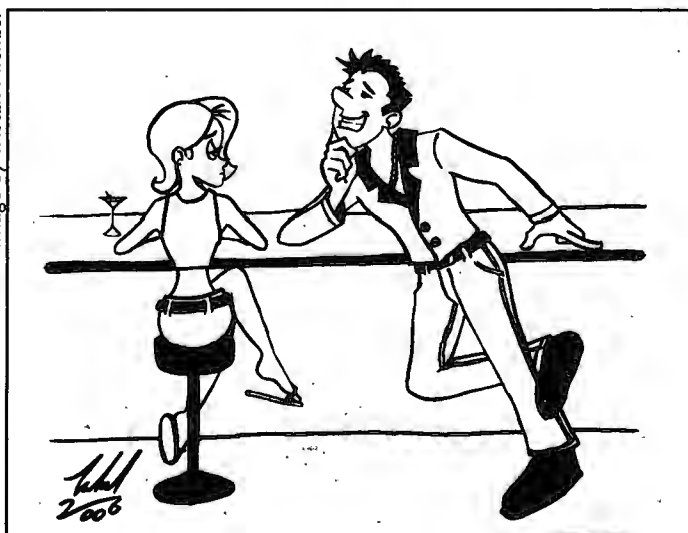


Image by Ben Dower

Image by Tristan Michael



Word-Morphs

Instructions: Transform one word into another by changing one letter at a time. Every change must form a word, and once a letter is changed, it may not be changed again.

Example: OF → AN OF to ON to AN

- | | | |
|----|---------|-----------|
| 1. | RAP | → SUM |
| 2. | READ | → TOLL |
| 3. | TOMBS | → CIVET |
| 4. | CHINOS | → BLACKY |
| 5. | PASTOPS | → BUTLERY |

Last Month's Caption Contest Winners!

#1: "If you turn me down now, I will become more drunk than you can possibly imagine."

- christopher krailo

#2: "If I were an enzyme, I'd want to be DNA-helicase so that I could unzip your genes."

- george graham

#3: "I did your mom."

- jonathan lane

Want to see more puzzles?

If there is another type of puzzle that you wish we offered, please send us an email to amodestproposal@gmail.com and tell us what you'd like to see. We're always looking for new ways to allow you to take a break from the routine and to engage your mind.

One sexy crossword!

ACROSS

- 1 Resounding noise
- 5 Lonely seaweed?
- 9 The Iliad and Odyssey?
- 14 _____ little guy
- 15 Distant suffix
- 16 Some Japanese bars
- 17 Hospital workers
- 19 Beg
- 20 Nursing cert.
- 21 Art holders
- 23 Camera part
- 24 Multi-headed beasts
- 26 Certain trees
- 28 Available for business
- 30 Type of dungarees
- 31 Not MLA or Chicago
- 34 Mushroom
- 36 Coitus
- 38 If I'm one of these, why don't you kill me
- 40 Like cookie dough
- 42 Hug kiss hug
- 44 Texas Hold 'Em, e.g.
- 45 Lather, _____, Repeat
- 46 MS Office File type
- 48 High-speed connection
- 49 Lonely old parents' condition (abbr)
- 50 What 38 can't get
- 53 You can get cut one of these
- 55 Surprised exclamation
- 56 Austin Power's nemesis, pre-degree
- 60 Former Iranian leader
- 63 Peak

- 66 Fruit drink
- 67 Plane commander
- 69 Therapist
- 71 They fall from 26 across
- 72 _____ Fitzgerald
- 73 Mexican coif
- 74 Clay pigeons
- 75 Fishing equipment
- 76 Bitsy partner

DOWN

- 1 Long period of time
- 2 Favorite dog of the Texas State Fair
- 3 Poser surfer
- 4 Mineral
- 5 Collections of maps
- 6 Hawaiian necklaces
- 7 Extreme happiness
- 8 UTD Scholarship amusement?
- 9 Psychic abbreviation
- 10 Doesn't push
- 11 Epiphany words
- 12 Jackie _____
- 13 Fatal baby condition (abbr)
- 18 What you do to what you sow
- 22 UTD fraternity
- 25 Lassos
- 27 Seaweed
- 29 Trinity's partner
- 31 Questions
- 32 Orange or lemon _____
- 33 Pirate's favorite movie rating?
- 34 Quarter, nickel or dime
- 35 Other long periods of time
- 37 55 down's favorite movie rating

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17					18					19					
20					21					22		23			
24				25				26		27					
			28			29		30					31	32	33
		34	35			36		37			38	39			
40					41		42		43		44				
45								46		47		48			
49					50	51	52		53		54				
				55						56			57	58	59
60	61	62				63		64	65				66		
67					68			69				70			
71								72					73		
74								75					76		

- 39 Part of a lot
- 40 Post-degree SAT
- 41 Casual agreement word
- 43 Aged
- 47 Important
- 51 Help (abbr)
- 52 Cup and _____
- 54 _____ and Humanities
- 55 Sex monger
- 57 Fancy parking

- 58 Kelly, Reuben, Carrie and Taylor
- 59 _____ Jenkins
- 60 Resorts
- 61 Hillbilly
- 62 Soft plant?
- 64 Type of spy
- 65 Drug smuggler
- 68 Explosive letters
- 70 Allergy pen

S			2					9	4
U	8	6			9				
D			9	4	7		3		
O				5		4			2
K	4		7				6		5
U	1			6		7			
			6		5	8	2		
				3				5	6
	7	3						1	



by lauren hollis



kim felder



austin edmiston



and micheal donaldson

Last Month's Solution

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

**KINKY LIVES
UP TO HIS NAME!**

Roomie 'violated'



Mom 'intrigued'



Huh?

THE MOST
TRUSTED NEWS
ON THE PLANET

URANUS

It's
Crazy!

**URANUS
EXCLUSIVE**

MARK FOLEY: MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

■ Relegated to Van
Down by the River

■ Congress: 'Lah-
de-Frickin'-Dah!'

■ Foley: 'How kin we get
back on the right track?'

SCANDALOUS!



Temoc Caught Streaking!



**T.O. NOW
SPONSORED
BY VICODIN!**

Only in URANUS...

**N. Korea to
kill us all LOL**



November 1, 2006

\$0.00 US / \$0.01 Canada



A MODEST PROPOSAL

amodestproposal@gmail.com

Federer defeats devil in game of tennis in Georgia

by **Gabriel**
Special Archangel Contributor

ATLANTA – In a stunning turn of events, the devil, the nemesis of humankind after being cast down from heaven eons ago, was defeated by Roger Federer in a game of tennis in Georgia. The game apparently was built around a bet of a golden tennis racket against Federer's soul.

"Ordinarily, this isn't the type of bargain Lucifer, Prince of Evil, would strike with a mortal when he's looking for a soul to steal. However, apparently he was in a bind because he was way behind; thus, he was looking to make a deal," said a professor of theology at Georgia State University.

The devil then apparently came across Federer, who was sitting upon a hickory stump and bouncing a ball off his tennis racket. The devil, who knew of Federer's intense competitive nature, determined to make a dare with him.

"I noticed the devil approaching Federer, and thought I should listen in to the conversation. The devil basically noted that, though you wouldn't know it, he was a tennis player too, and if Federer would care to take a dare he'd make a bet with him," an onlooker told police later. At

this point, the terms of the golden racket were laid out, along with a challenge that the devil "thought he was better than" Federer.

Federer then hopped up from the stump, prepared to take the dare. The tennis player, showing un-Christian-like pride and hubris in this moment of temptation, declared himself "the best that [had] ever been."

"This may be a sin," he said.

The resulting game featured numerous shifts in control of the match, often noted by loud, jarring guitar solos from bands of demons sitting around the court. Federer also fired off a series of non sequiturs seemingly designed to throw the devil off his game, consisting of strange comparisons to "chicken in the bread pan," "fire on the mountain," and questioning a grandmother in the audience if her dog bit people.

Ultimately, Federer triumphed in 5 games, causing the devil to bow his head in defeat. Some people claim to have heard Federer call the devil "a son of a bitch"; others believe he used the cleaner, more family-appropriate "son of a gun."

Reports of the match being adapted into a song by the Charlie Daniels Band are yet to be confirmed. ■

Public: "One more CGI animated animal movie and someone dies"

by **Hammy the Squirrel**
Special Contributor

The general public, in response to the 4th movie in the past six months to feature computer-animated animals in "entertaining hijinks," have offered an ultimatum to the movie studios in Hollywood: one more movie about them, and someone gets their throat cut.

"I'm sorry, but after 'Ice Age 2,' 'Over the Hedge,' 'The Wild,' 'Barnyard,' 'Madagascar,' 'Chicken Little,' this new piece of crap 'Open Season,' and whatever the hell else has come out in the past year or so, I have absolutely no desire to see another animal talk about his nuts, his natural urges, or anything else that no one ever finds hilarious," said one local mother standing outside the Disney studios with a hatchet and torch.

The movies, which generally feature an "endearing" group of animal friends traveling on a grand adventure somewhere, have slowly deteriorated in entertainment value to the point that most people over the age of breathing would rather gouge their eyes out with ski poles.

The studios have responded to the threats by offering the mob the heads of Denis Leary, Wanda Sykes, and William Shatner due to their excessive involvement in the movies. The mob was pleased. ■

DAVE COULIER: "Please someone remember me"

by **Mary Kate and Ashley**
Special Rehab Contributors

In the wake of Bob Saget hosting the new NBC show "1 vs. 100" and John Stamos having a prominent guest role on "ER," fellow Full House alumni Dave Coulier has proposed that he host a new show: "Please Someone Remember Me."

"A lot of shows these days rely on a gimmick, a hook that keeps people tuning back in. I don't really have that in my show. I do, however, have the overwhelming desire for someone to please remember who I was and to give me some money," said Coulier.

The show would consist of Coulier

wandering around the streets, asking people if they recognized who he was. If they didn't, he would try to offer up such catchphrases as "Come on now, cut it out!" and act out scenes as his character Uncle Josy. Upon their attempt to escape the clutches of Coulier, he would break down and weep uncontrollably. This would continue until Coulier either found a benefactor to give him money, or the 30 minutes of the show ended.

Coulier has had little success in his career since that Olsen Twin-driven sitcom ended in the early 1990s. His most notable event in the past few years was a citation for public indecency due to a tryst with

singer Alanis Morissette in a movie theater. He also appeared on "The Surreal Life" on VH1, a land of intense despair and darkness from which no one emerges whole – except Flavor Flav, He of the Clock That Knows No Limits.

When asked about Coulier, Saget turned his eyes away and stared into space. "Don't ask me about Dave. He's dead to me," the actor said, tears slowly rolling down his face. Stamos appeared to not recognize the name until a picture was shown to him. At that point, Stamos also broke down into tears. "Just let me be for a moment. Let me be alone with my grief and sorrow for my sweet, sweet Dave." ■

Irish Students Union furious over lack of alcohol in the UTD Pub!



Two things you'll never see together: angry Irishmen(ish) and beer.

by Lucky Charm
Expert Consultant

In an unprecedented unbelievable upset, the U.S. Supreme Court has awarded the sum of fifty million dollars in damages to the Irish Students Union, citing misrepresentation and false advertising by the UTD Pub. The entire case, including witnesses and testimony, lasted 3 minutes and twelve seconds, making it the shortest case in modern history. Judge Antonin Scalia was quoted to say: "Ridiculous! The minute we heard that there was an institution calling itself a pub, and not selling alcohol, we had a verdict. We didn't even need to hear the defense or any witnesses."

It is said that the case, which began and ended on October 13th 2006, will set two major precedents.

The first precedent affecting the judicial system involves verdicts given without trial in cases that are self-explanatory. The expected ripple effects of this precedent are the overturning of *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) which established the "very essence of judicial duty", and *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966), but not *Mohammed Ali v. George Frazier* (1970). The other precedent has already had a profound national effect, as "dry" universities in cities as different as Salt Lake City and Atlantic City have started serving alcohol in their campus restaurants and cafeterias.

"When I first discovered that this so-called 'Pub' didn't sell alcohol I was dumbfounded! It was like going to the movies and watching 3 hours of infomercials. I wouldn't stand for it!" said Matthew O'Shea, president of the ISU. Apparently

the other Irish students felt the same way: cheated and angry. "The four of us got together, had a couple of hundred pints at a local Richardson bar and just before I passed out, I had an epiphany - why not use the legal system?"

When asked what they planned to do with the money, the Union said that they had already spent a large proportion of it at the UTD Pub, which now sells alcohol, and that the rest would be given to a small private investor in Ireland who will keep it at the end of the rainbow. "We are thrilled with the result," said O'Shea. "But this is just the beginning. Guinness vending machines and Harp lager drinking fountains are next!"

In a related story, the UTD Irish Re-PUB-lican Army have agreed to disarm and will surrender their water-balloon and toilet-paper-stockpiles to the UTD police. ■

Energizer Bunny found dead

by Bugs Rogers
Special Contributor

The Energizer Bunny was found dead this morning, electrocuted by a battery powered radio, which appears to have fallen into his bathtub. The body was found when a Mr. Tim Taylor accidentally fell through the roof and discovered the late Mr. Bunny. Last seen with the Taco Bell Chihuahua, the final hours of Mr. Bunny's life remain a mystery. Recently, there have been a rash of cuniculus related killings by a serial killer known only as Alice, though previous deaths all seem to involve "white rabbits." Police are currently looking into the possibility of foul play.

One clue that still has police puzzled is the remaining pieces of a shattered drum found strewn across the victim's backyard. Although such violence is usually a clear indicator of a struggle, authorities have reason to think otherwise. Upon interviewing neighbors and those closest to the deceased, police found that a fit of depression seemed to have come down on Mr. Bunny in the final weeks of his life. One report notes his mentioning of a lack of musical inspiration in recent years, fearing that he would go down in history as a "one-hit wonder."

Authorities vow to keep the investigation going, and going, and going until justice is brought. ■

DIDDY'S NEW "PURCHASE CD/OPEN WRAPPER/REMOVE STICKERS/OPEN CASE/TURN ON STEREO/INSERT CD INTO STEREO/PRESS PLAY/PAY ATTENTION TO LYRICS/MOVE BODY TO RHYTHM/TURN OFF STEREO WHEN FINISHED TO CONSERVE ELECTRICITY" DECA-ALBUM NOT SELLING AS HOPED