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Office of Student Affairs

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Taylor Brigance, *et al.*

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# A Modest Proposal

## Weight of the Work

*The Peer  
Advisors'  
Burden Under  
Residential Life*  
Pages 4 & 5

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*Eat 'Till You Pop*  
Restaurants around Dallas  
are boiled down for your  
culinary convince.  
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*Government  
Scandal!*

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elections result in poor  
reporting and restrictive  
regulations  
Page 6

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*Tooting Their  
Own Horns*

Two professors delve into the  
music that "young rascals"  
should know about.  
Pages 12 & 13





## From the Discussion Boards

[amputd.com/discuss](http://amputd.com/discuss)

I'll take the word of Indians actually from India over you and Indian Americans on what actually offends them. Can anyone show me a blatantly racist and hate filled remark posted there?

Jason, "Subtle Racism" post No. 5

Jason, your claim is "I'll take the word of Indians actually from India over you and Indian Americans on what actually offends them."

That is based on the assumption that an Indian person actually posted something that made a claim against TCM being offensive to Indians. As far as I know, I haven't seen anyone post, "Look at all of the un-offensive material on this page! Way to go TCM!"

No, simply "being" Indian and posting on TCM doesn't qualify as an endorsement. If I am Mexican, and I post a joke about Mexicans on the internet, that doesn't mean that I'm trying to imply that all Mexicans are not offended by the joke.

Nothing's worse than racists who try to justify that their racism isn't racist.

Nick, "Subtle Racism" post No. 7

I disagree with much of this article, but I will limit my criticism to your argument that anti-Muslim sentiments are not a major problem in the United States.

You cite the statistic that 8.6% of the religious-motivated hate crimes were against Muslims as evidence that there is not a significant race/religious problem with Muslims in this country. The American Muslim population is generally estimated to be between 0.4% (American Religious Identification Survey, 2008) and 2.3% (Council on American-Islamic Relations, 2010). That means that violence against Muslims is between four to twenty times greater than what one would expect based on their composition of the American people. So while 8.6% might not be a large percentage, it is quite large relative to the population of the group which is the recipient of the violence.

More anecdotally, where were you during the Ground Zero uproar? Or the numerous similar anti-Islam protests that have occurred throughout the country since then, most recently in the form of the Quran burning in Florida?

In anticipation of your "those are just isolated incidents" rebuttal, here is another statistic for you. Although Muslims make up approximately 2 percent of the United States population, they accounted for about one-quarter of the 3,386 religious discrimination claims filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 2009. This number is 20 percent higher than the same figure in 2008 and up nearly 60 percent from 2005. So much for the "things were bad after 9/11 but everything is cool now" characterization.

I could keep going with both statistical and anecdotal evidence, but suffice to say your "anti-Muslim prejudice is no biggie" argument completely underwhelmed me. I wish you had left it out, because you have a defensible position about the desirability mandatory Arabic classes. Why you felt the need to throw in "Islamophobia is overblown" is beyond me, but it definitely weakens the overall piece.

Benjamin Dower, "Freedom of Speech" post No. 1

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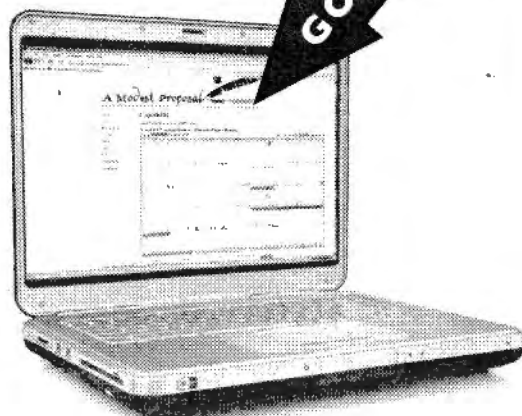
Production Weekend: Aug 26-28 MC 3.612

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*Found only at amputd.com...*

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Cover design by gina pyon.

Uranus cover design by alex garcia topete


Contents images by anastasia konstans and becky aguilar.



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Back

# Who Advises the Advisors?

## *The plight of the PAs on campus*



by taylor brigrance  
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The UT Dallas Peer Advisors, or PAs, are a large, permanent presence at our university, providing advice, enforcing rules, and attempting to give a little bit of guidance to living on campus. They are probably among the very first people you ever met at the start of your collegiate experience.

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"It seemed like they decided to keep upping the ante enough that we would back down. Which is essentially what we did" described one PA.

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The Peer Advisors have a unique situation in their employment: if they lose their job, it means not only a loss of income, but also a loss of residence. They are kicked out of their apartment if their job is terminated. This means the Residential Life office, which runs the PA program, has a large amount of power over their student employees, who are often totally dependent on their job. Consider how much impact being fired could have on a student's life and academic career—especially since many of these PAs don't have nearby family to fall back on.

There is a standing rule for the Peer Advisors forbidding them from discussing their job with any body outside

of Residential Life. While there are some legitimate reasons for this, the result of this rule is that the sources used for this article had to remain completely anonymous just to be able to speak about their job without fear of termination. Therefore, much like Law and Order, the situations discussed are deliberately kept vague to protect the innocent.

The organization has reportedly had a few troubles recently. According to anonymous sources, the students unanimously agreed upon a proposal that would change the nature of rounds, a requirement of the job where two PAs at a time are scheduled to patrol the entirety of the freshman areas of campus on lookout

for rule infringements, safety concerns, or anything suspicious. Rounds would have changed from the current format to a new approach where each PA would patrol their own building everyday.

The reasoning was said to be that the same work would get done, but at the cost of a few minutes per day, rather

than a few hours per week. It was apparently also felt that this would increase the sense of responsibility each PA had for their building and their area. A counter proposal from Residential Life, allegedly changed most of the students' proposals and effectively increased the amount of time spent on rounds.

"It seemed like they decided to keep upping the ante enough that we would back down. Which is essentially

what we did" described one PA.

The disciplinary process for the PAs is also a source of frustration. While there are certain offenses that supposedly guarantee a PA to lose their job, the coordinators actually appear to have a large amount of leeway in determining punishment for infractions.

The reported justification for this leeway is to ensure a "spectrum of options" that the coordinators can take as they see fit. The result, however, is allegations of favoritism and personal relationships having a large influence over what happens to a PA. There are rumors of people getting away with things as dire as underage drinking without anything more than a stern lecture, while something as trivial as losing the phone for a few minutes gets met with termination.

The PAs have a large amount of responsibility over their fellow students. With such high stakes—both for students and PAs themselves—ensuring that each PA is as prepared as possible for their job is an obvious necessity. The application process and the weeklong training all PAs go through is designed towards training the formal duties of a Peer Advisor: the paperwork, the rules and regulations, etc. The PAs also do an exercise where veteran PAs act out these kinds of situations for the new Advisors to get some limited experience.

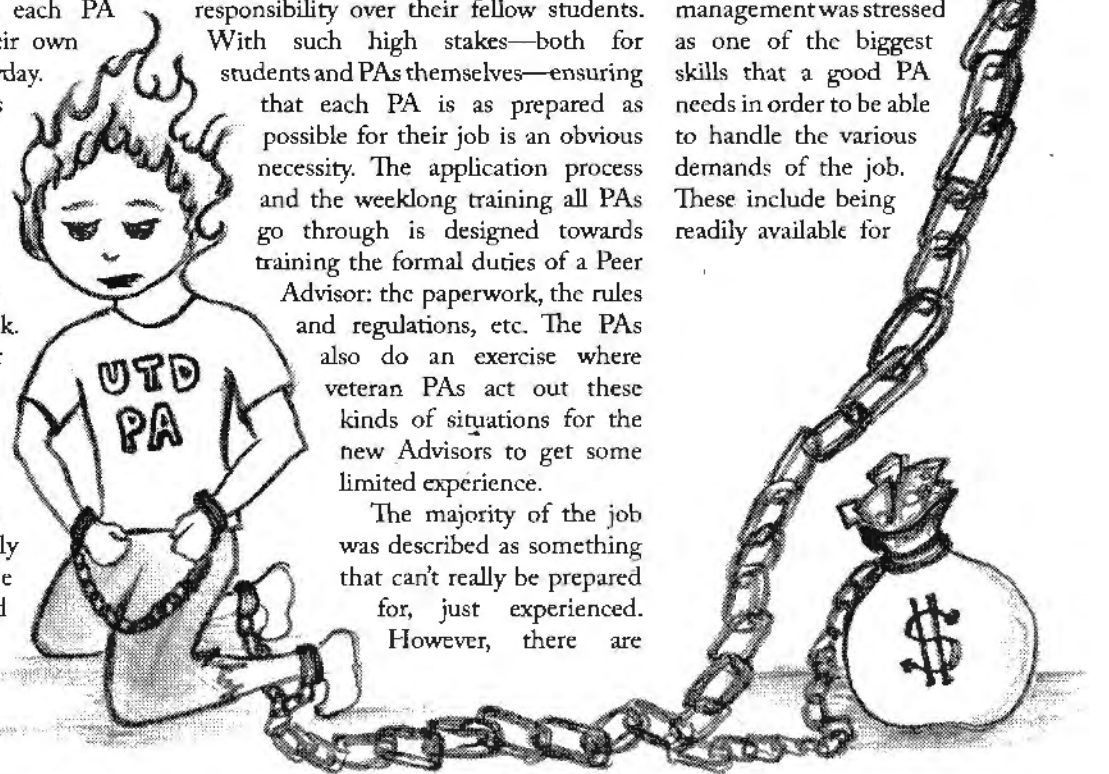
The majority of the job was described as something that can't really be prepared for, just experienced.

However, there are

complaints that PA training has become more and more about building a family-esque bond rather than job preparation.

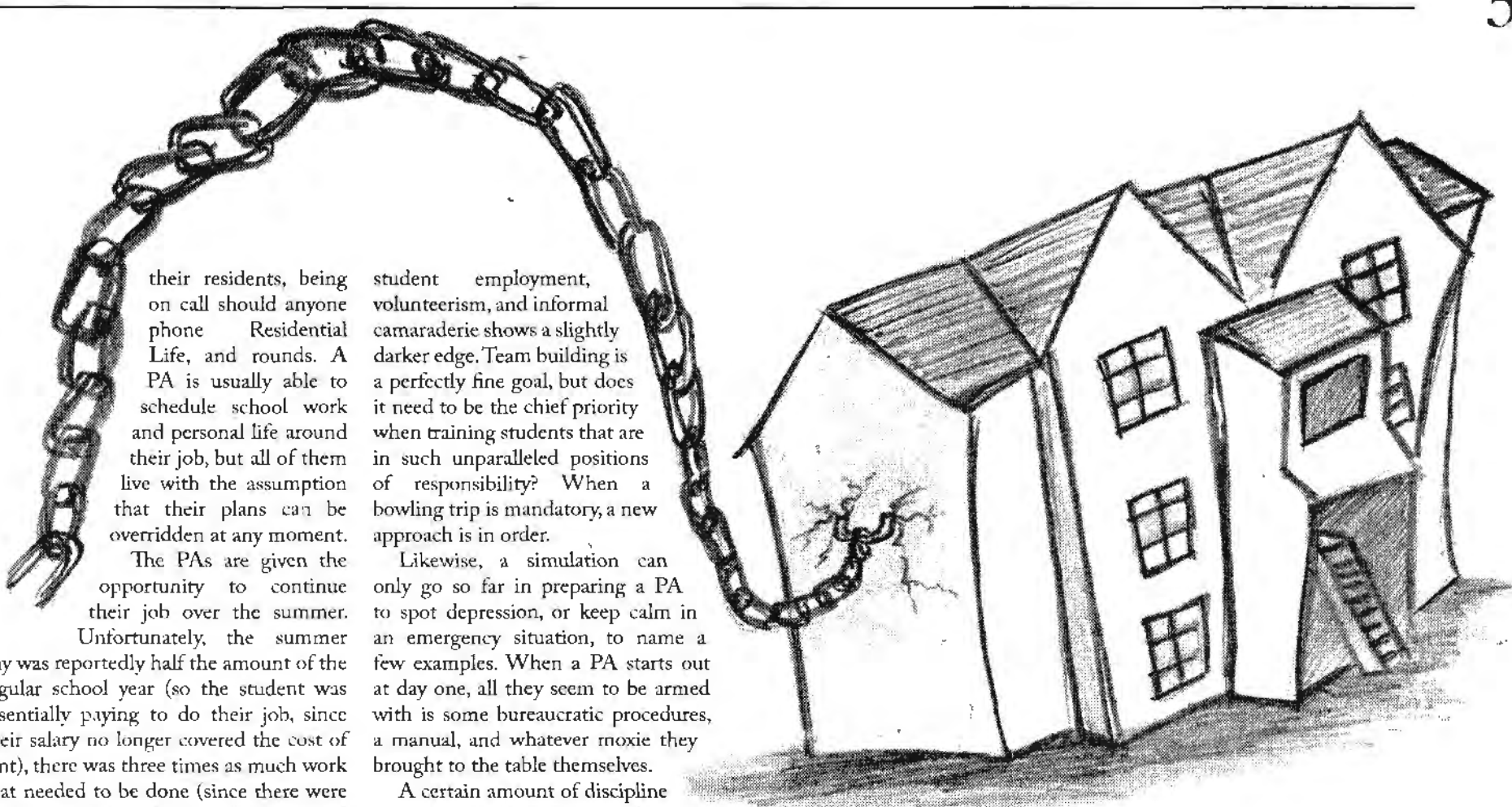
Secondly, there are claims that the PAs are taking care of things on the job that they don't receive training or compensation for. These include assistance with maintenance work, passing out flyers for an entire apartment phase on their own time, or being "highly encouraged" to assist with resident move in... and then not readily offered any compensation should they strain or injure themselves during the move in process.

The first month during resident move in was described as the make-it-or-break-it time, and after that the job gets a bit more routine. Time management was stressed as one of the biggest skills that a good PA needs in order to be able to handle the various demands of the job. These include being readily available for



The apartment totally makes it worth it. illustration by lewis chang





their residents, being on call should anyone phone Residential Life, and rounds. A PA is usually able to schedule school work and personal life around their job, but all of them live with the assumption that their plans can be overridden at any moment.

The PAs are given the opportunity to continue their job over the summer.

Unfortunately, the summer pay was reportedly half the amount of the regular school year (so the student was essentially paying to do their job, since their salary no longer covered the cost of rent), there was three times as much work that needed to be done (since there were far fewer people to split up the load), and not as much time to do it (since the PAs usually had to pick up another job just to get the rent paid). While this issue is supposed to be addressed for the 2011 summer, the fact that it was around for

student employment, volunteerism, and informal camaraderie shows a slightly darker edge. Team building is a perfectly fine goal, but does it need to be the chief priority when training students that are in such unparalleled positions of responsibility? When a bowling trip is mandatory, a new approach is in order.

Likewise, a simulation can only go so far in preparing a PA to spot depression, or keep calm in an emergency situation, to name a few examples. When a PA starts out at day one, all they seem to be armed with is some bureaucratic procedures, a manual, and whatever noxie they brought to the table themselves.

A certain amount of discipline is always going to be necessary, and rumors can easily get distorted. Some instances may very well be cases of straws and camel backs. But implications of favoritism continue to linger; even when it finds an official cover story. Imagine being told that you're getting fired for being late 21 times when you never heard a word during the first twenty instances. It's that kind of situation. This disciplinary terrorism is the dark side of camaraderie, since a family spat can result in jobless and homeless students. If gossip can lead to people getting fired, something needs to change.

The PA censorship, while having good intentions like protecting the privacy of the residents or preventing the university from being misrepresented, is still too broad—a bit like using a battleaxe when a scalpel would do. It isn't even necessary: all of those interviewed spoke about how their desire to foster school spirit, give back to their university, and connect with fellow students led them to become Peer

Advisors in the first place. Despite the complaints, the experience was always described as a positive one and the PAs all seem to genuinely enjoy each other and their job.

No organization is perfect, and the Peer Advisor program is going through some understandable growing pains as student enrollment swells. The great service that PAs provide for our school is slowly being made that much more difficult by a situation largely out of their hands. The stakes are so high—both for them, and for regular students—that they and their organization need to be held to stricter standards and scrutiny. This summer, as you leave and return to our campus, keep this situation in mind as you interact with your PA. These passionate and hardworking advisors are here for you. They are provided some excellent rewards for this service, but it's important that all of us, students and staff alike, not expect more than they are able to give. ■

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If gossip can lead to people getting fired, something needs to change.

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so long is indicative of an organizational framework that is unresponsive to the PAs' needs and requests.

Normally, an organization's internal affairs are its own, and if it decides it needs to focus on team building and morale, it's no one else's business. This family atmosphere might seem like a great thing, but think for a bit about the ongoing train wreck that is a usual family, and all of a sudden this complicated mixture of

### Editor's Note

The Residential Life office is in charge of the Peer Advisors Program. ResLife was contacted and asked to comment on the allegations made in this article, but due to some unfortunate miscommunications, their response was not received in time for printing.

Whatever comments or response AMP receives will be made available and attached to this article on our website at [amputd.com](http://amputd.com).

*Taylor is just trying to make up for the hell he put his freshman PA through.  
Discuss this article at [amputd.com](http://amputd.com)!*

# Electoral Failure

*SG elections riddled with incompetence*



by irene morse  
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Observers are quick to condemn UTD students for being apathetic and uninvolved in their campus, and it's true that the first impression many people have of our campus consists largely of serious-looking students walking around quickly with ear buds in their ears.

However, there are reasons that UTD students are uninvolved; the reality is that the culpability for this situation may lie more with campus institutions than with the students themselves.

A perfect case study of this situation can be found in the recent Student Government (SG) elections. For those who don't know (probably the majority of the student population), UTD students were able to vote online in the SG election from March 28-30.

Ignorance of the elections was the norm because of the ineffectiveness of SG's advertising. While SG did put up some flyers, posters and Facebook posts, as well as hosting a few promotional events, many students were still unaware of the elections. It would have been great if someone had painted the Spirit Rocks, or if SG had taken advantage of its exclusive ability to chalk the campus for the election.

Therefore the situation essentially boiled down to this: The few who knew about elections were those who were already in SG and those who have friends who were already in SG. Ironically, even the privileged few who knew that SG elections were happening did not seem to care much.

Students attempted to form tickets and run for office, but the process rapidly became fraught with drama, and in the

end only two tickets actually formed, Students United for Progress (sporting the brilliantly intelligent acronym SUP) and Student Advocates. Of these two tickets, only one was headed by candidates for president and vice president, who ran for their positions unopposed (except perhaps for the occasional Mickey Mouse write-in). This slim participation is unacceptable for an organization that makes so many important decisions about our campus.

It is unfair, though, to pin the blame for these problems solely on SG. Issues within the Election Code, specifically the ticket system, are the cause of most, if not all, of the drama surrounding SG elections, and generate the widespread perception that the elections are a popularity contest.

Tickets hypothetically sound like a good idea, as they provide the same benefits of any political alliance, such as a political party. Nevertheless, like political parties, tickets often prove to be problematic, especially at UTD. This year tickets did not even advance platforms or take stances on controversial student issues.

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Ironically, even the privileged few who knew that SG elections were happening did not seem to care much.

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It seems that all tickets currently do is marginalize those equally qualified candidates who were unable to find a spot on a ticket. UTD would do well to follow the lead of UT Austin and other schools and eliminate the ticket system in their SG elections.

Another botched situation can be found in the MANDATORY (emphasis SG's) candidate meeting that SG an-



It's difficult to applaud with so much red tape. illustration by stephanie chiu

nounced on its website. Perhaps partially because SG never listed a location for the meeting, attendance at this MANDATORY meeting was quite sparse: There weren't more than seven people there.

Some individuals may have asked in advance to be excused from the meeting, but it is difficult to believe that *everyone* who ran for office (minus those seven in attendance) was excused.

These no-show candidates were still allowed to run for office. Those candidates who did show up to the MANDATORY meeting were rewarded by having the Election Code read to them and then emailed to them, in the off chance that they were actually capable of reading for themselves.

The problems continued even after voting was officially over. After a tiny part of the UTD population voted (approx. 700 out of 17,000 students), candidates received an email stating that election results were available in the SG suite.

Students who were not running wouldn't have known the results of the

elections. SG did not publicize them. As of the writing of this article they have not been put on the website. They were not emailed to the student body.

The general student body did not even receive notification that the results were available in the SG suite—only the candidates did. *The Mercury* did publicize some (not all) of the results, but it was not until April 18th, much later than it should have been.

Don't let these past elections make you think that SG is hopeless; it has done many good things for the student population.

Each SG administration will have its deficiencies, but these deficiencies provide opportunities for the next administration to make positive changes. Hopefully our newly elected SG will take advantage of these opportunities and will give us better elections next year. ■

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*There's a party in Irene's pants and attendance is MANDATORY.*

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

# Gratifying Greek

*How a taste of ancient tongues can facilitate learning*



by natasha belknap  
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I was recently disheartened when I googled "ut dallas greek" and came up with only information about fraternity and sorority life. Both are valuable institutions, but is there really no one interested in learning Greek at a school that throws birthday parties for Mario?

The first barrier to adding classes is always money; but the resources needed are quite cost effective in furthering the purpose of a university—promoting an environment of universal learning. We already have professors who know dead languages—who will themselves be dead someday along with that knowledge. We have empty classrooms and money to do what students want. The only question is: are there students who want it?

I could reiterate the litany of arguments for the classics that everyone always pretends to agree with—cultural enrichment, worth of literature, historical significance, sounding impressive—but I doubt you care that this sentence is an example of praeteritio.

It's true that Greek and Latin have few practical applications for those who do not want to study literature, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, Catalan, Romanian, linguistics, other inflected languages, languages like English with Latinate words, medieval liturgy or poetry, Virgil, Ovid, Homer, Sophocles, Plato, mythology, the New Testament, philosophy, law, history, or anything written in Europe before the 18th century. After all, this is a science and engineering school; perhaps these things are irrelevant. Perhaps we should look to the future instead of being bound

by the past. If excluding Latin and Greek from the range of curriculum is what it means to look to the future, perhaps we should also remove those vestiges from our language.

Let's start by revising the Latin taxonomical nomenclature of biology, after which we will replace the words "biology" and "taxonomy" with the non-Greek "lifestudy" and "arrangementmethod".

"Arrangementmethod" though, is Latin; we should instead use "waytoputtogether," which is from Old English. "Species" and "genus" have not even had their spellings changed from Latin and should be promptly replaced with "kind" and "sort". "Family" becomes "kin"; "order" becomes

"row"; "class" becomes "division"—I mean, "subset"—I mean, "set". "Phylum" should be thrown out altogether for such a flagrant violation and for sounding so

much like "phlegm". "Animal" and "plant" need new names, as does "evolution" and, most importantly, "science", a particularly sloppy example of Latin infiltrating our language. We use this word for "the empirical study of the physical world", although the Latin "scientia" means just "knowledge".

Consider this kind of knowledge: there exists a line tangent to a curve because there exists a language in which the word "tangere" means "to touch someone". Consider how much of English you don't

"Phylum" should be thrown out altogether for such a flagrant violation and for sounding so much like "phlegm".

know—the long Latinate or Greek words as well as the ones you say without knowing where they come from. Consider the English word "scop", meaning "shaper", which sounds like it might mean "engineer" but is actually like Greek "poiotes", or "maker". Take the derivative of that and you get "poet", which our production-based philosophy has defined to mean "someone who doesn't make anything".

Consider that if you cannot remember the polysyllabic nonsense words you're learning outside of language classes, you are forgetting not only the answers to the test but those before you who spoke these languages. They, too, looked to the future: they built it, and that future is forgetting them. Eventually, if no one studies what they wrote, it will be lost forever.

I don't mean to say we should regress to blind tradition. Less traditional foreign languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese, are also essential because they introduce cultures that break with traditional western assumptions. However, what modern languages can't offer is a vision of the culture and time period that set the foundation for modern western thought. To understand ourselves as well as others, we need to have some idea of where we came from.

Rome is not an ideal model for America, but it has been our model. Latin has been used in the past to glorify western achievement at the expense of other cultures. But, if we do not understand it we will not be able to see the phantom limbs of that empire remaining in our culture as well as in our language. "Dead languages" are not truly dead—they are worthy scholarly pursuits for everyone. ■



Something was lost in translation here. illustration by anastasia konstans

Natasha speaks Greek to her cat.  
She's not crazy: it's the reincarnation of Plato.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utd.com/](http://amp.utd.com/)



# Armed Amateurs

*More guns doesn't equal more safety*



by camille meder  
cem094020@utdallas.edu

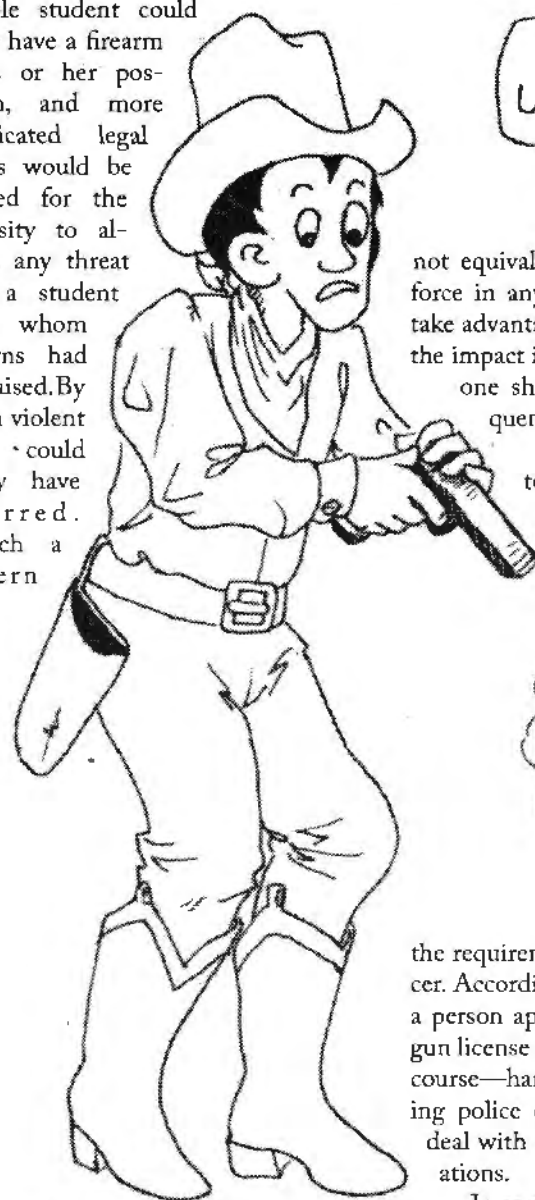
Proponents of a bill that would permit the bearer of a concealed handgun license to carry a concealed weapon on a college campus say that in the event of a dangerous campus shooting situation, students carrying guns would be better able to protect themselves. However, because of the importance of safety on any college campus, the ramifications of such a law are definitely worth consideration. Increasing the number of guns on campuses and adding the irrationality of panicked situations would in fact create more danger.

Although it is true that "guns don't kill; people do," guns being present and accessible does make unpremeditated instances of violence more possible than if there was not such instant availability of a firearm.

Under current law, if the administration becomes aware that a student has a weapon it can easily be removed from the student's possession, potentially preventing a crime from occurring. The proposed legislation would mean that a mentally

Taking a class and shooting targets in a controlled environment does not prepare someone to use a gun appropriately when emotions run high...

unstable student could legally have a firearm in his or her possession, and more complicated legal actions would be required for the university to alleviate any threat from a student about whom concerns had been raised. By then, a violent crime could already have occurred. If such a concern



This is what fear can lead to.  
illustration by becky aguiar

reaches the ears of the administration, immediate action is imperative and must be legal.

Advocates of concealed carry on campus complain that the presence of police is not enough, as police may arrive too late. However, an armed horde of civilians is

not equivalent to an ever-present police force in any way; should enough people take advantage of this new law to produce the impact its proponents hope for, everyone should worry about the consequences.

First of all, the requirements to obtain a concealed handgun license in the state of Texas are not nearly as strict as

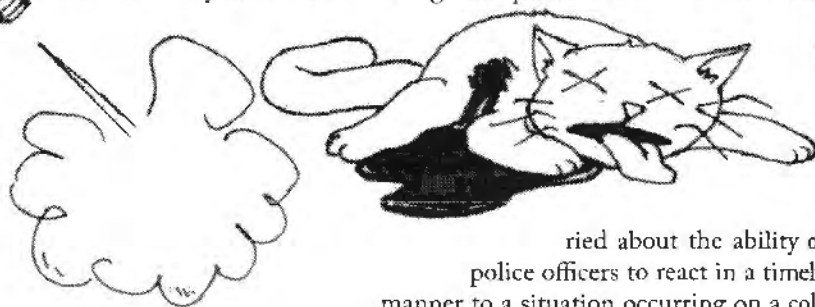
the requirements to become a police officer. According to the Texas DPS website, a person applying for a concealed handgun license must take a ten to fifteen hour course—hardly comparable to the training police officers receive to help them deal with stressful and frightening situations.

In suggesting that arming students would protect them, advocates of such a law completely disregard the emotional context of a school shooting. Such a situation would be characterized by fear, which causes people to behave irrationally. A student with a gun who is aware of a dangerous situation on campus and acting out of fear is a danger to other students he or she might encounter. Passing this leg-

islation would place students who would otherwise not even cross paths with an aggressor in danger of being caught in the crossfire of panic.

The preparation given to bearers of concealed handgun licenses may promote gun safety in general, but is not enough to guarantee or even reasonably ensure the ability of the bearer of a concealed handgun license to cope with the situations that advocates of this bill worry about. Taking a class and shooting targets in a controlled environment does not prepare someone to use a gun appropriately when emotions run high and other people, armed and unarmed, could be harmed by a poor decision.

There are far better solutions to protect college campuses. Texans who are wor-



ried about the ability of police officers to react in a timely manner to a situation occurring on a college campus should focus on how to promote efficient police response—such as increasing the number of campus police officers or the number of emergency telephones on campus.

Allowing guns on campuses would produce a sense of fear more than a feeling of safety because it would bring the feeling that there is a need for self-protection to the forefront. Passing such legislation would not increase safety and in fact could exacerbate an already-dangerous situation and complicate responses. Therefore, Texans should abandon the idea of concealed handgun carry on campuses because of its potential consequences. ■

Camille was disappointed to discover that NRA didn't stand for Naked Run Association.  
Discuss this article at [amputd.com](http://amputd.com)!

# We've Gotta Stay Strapped

*Stripping students of guns weakens campus defenses*

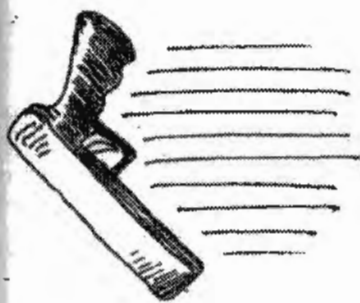


by jason didier

[lindsay.bernsen@utdallas.edu](mailto:lindsay.bernsen@utdallas.edu)

The second and arguably best amendment is the right to bear arms. This amendment, created as part of the Bill of Rights over 200 years ago, states "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

This amendment is supposed to give the right of American citizens the ability to protect themselves with a legally purchased firearm.



Well, that's one interpretation of "gunslinger".  
illustration by becky aguiar

There are, however, some people who wish to infringe on this right by creating gun free zones or by abolishing the right all together. One of the most heavily debated gun free zones is college campuses.

Some people think that guns are a bad thing and that taking guns out of an environment like a college campus will decrease violence. This train of thought has been proven wrong each time a tragic shooting incident claims precious lives.

There is no legitimate reason why a sane, law-abiding American citizen and college student should not be able to carry a legally purchased firearm on campus for protection.

Gun regulation only takes guns out of the hands of responsible people who would only use them if necessary.

People like Seung-Hui Cho (Virginia Tech shooter) who are on suicidal and homicidal rampages could not care less about fines or jail time. If the Virginia Tech students had been allowed to have a gun safely stored in their back packs then they would have been able to protect themselves and a lot less people would have been killed.

One argument against concealed carry on campus is that we are already protected by the on-campus police. While it's definitely true that campus police are qualified to take out a shooter, the police can't be everywhere at once.

If schools had enough money to put a cop in every classroom for every

class then this might be a valid argument, but they do not. College campuses are extremely large and there are many more students than cops. If an incident happens in a class, students should have the right to protect themselves with their own guns during the time it takes the police to respond.

Another misconception is that fewer guns means less violence. There are people (e.g. left-wing hippies) who think that if you got rid of guns or certain types of guns there would be fewer shootings. If guns and shootings always had a direct correlation, then places where a vast majority of people don't have guns (schools and post offices) would have no shootings, and places where everyone is armed to the teeth (gun shows) would host the bloodiest events ever seen.

The actual events in the past 30 years show that there have been countless shootings at post offices (the origin of the slang "going postal" was from numerous post-office shootings in the 1980s and is now used to describe homicidal workplace rage) and schools, like Virginia Tech and UT Austin. At the same time, there has

There has never been a mass shooting spree at a gun show where there were literally thousands of guns.

never been a mass shooting spree at a gun show where there were literally thousands of guns.

Overall there is no legitimate and proven reason to take away the unalienable right to bear arms from law abiding and sane American college students. This is a right that countless people have died for and should not be infringed upon any longer.

Guns don't kill people; guns protect you from other people who want to kill you. ■

*Guns don't kill people—Jason does.  
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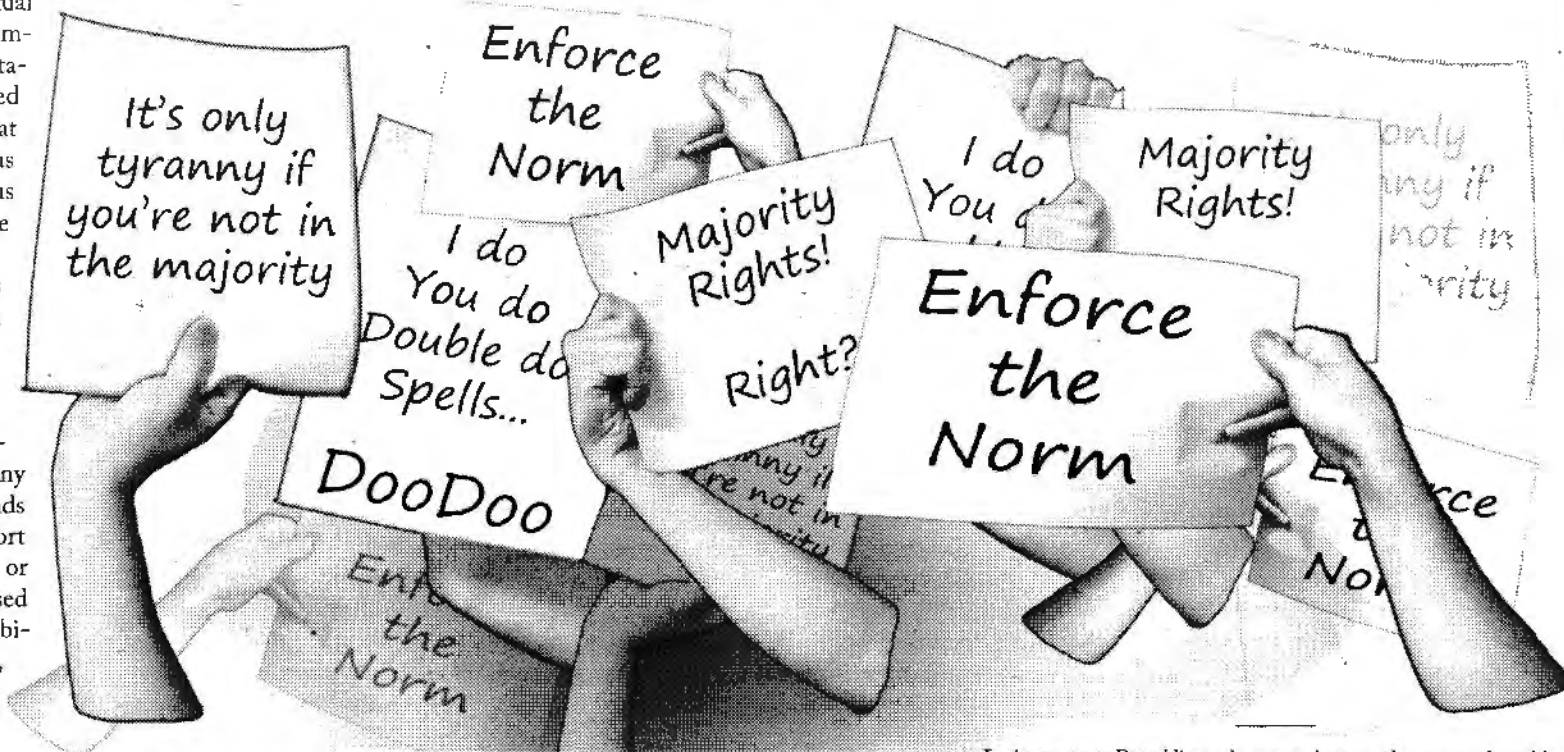
*Texas republicans attempt to force traditional values down our throats*



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Essentially, any public university in Texas that uses state

Gender and sexuality centers work to educate people on LGBTQIA issues. That is, they provide support to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning people. They also help heterosexual people to be allies and reduce homophobia. Perhaps Representative Christian should visit a gender and sexuality center; he could learn something. ■



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# Profitable Professors

*Why dollars are the wrong measure of a professor's worth*



by william dodson  
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One breezy April morning, I woke up to a story in the Huffington Post about professors at Texas A&M University and what they do to "deserve" their salaries. The vice chancellor for the Texas A&M system got tired of being asked what his professors do to warrant their large salaries, so he developed a 265-page spreadsheet naming and ranking each member of his faculty and staff based on how "profitable" he or she is for the university.

Some of the criteria were salary and benefits, research grant monies received, and number of students taught in a day. This spreadsheet was made public after a local newspaper heard of its existence and filed an open records request with the university.

As one might imagine, faculty at Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin have expressed concern that such a ranking does not accurately assess a professor's contribution to the university.

Let me say at the outset that I completely understand the tough economic times we are facing as a nation. As a tuition-paying student with a family, I do not wish to trivialize the incredible financial pressures being placed on our public universities and their administrators. But we must proceed with caution when assessing cost-cutting measures at any level of the educational system.

It is far too tempting to apply a corporate mentality to a system that was never meant to be corporate. In a corporate environment, there are tangible factors that can be evaluated and measured: How many

units produced in a given period of time, how many services rendered over a given time period, etc. But in the collegiate education system, the methods and outcomes are a little more abstract.

The college environment is supposed to teach hypothetical problem solving through critical thinking. To accomplish this, a professor must engage his or her stu-

It is far too tempting to apply a corporate mentality to a system that was never meant to be corporate.



SALE SALE SALE! ALL PROFESSORS MUST GO! illustration by stephanie chiu

dents in an essential dialogue that will allow the student to explore different avenues and possibilities.

This is the most essential component of the professor's duties to the university. A professor's performance can't simply be measured with a spreadsheet because the true measure of his or her performance is the impact he or she has on their students.

Have you ever heard a professor speak on a subject so profoundly that it changed the way you thought about it? The job of a professor is NOT to stand in front of a class and regurgitate information on command. If that were the case, I wouldn't need professors. I could get a public library card and save my tuition money.

Professors illuminate the path to understanding by opening students' mind to new possibilities and points of view. The greatest professors are the ones who challenge

our beliefs, question our ideals, and force us to defend and justify our opinions. In doing so, they permanently affect their students.

This dialogue, not only between the students and professors, but also between the students themselves, is the most fruitful component of the university atmosphere. This exposure to different points of view is the most critical function of our higher education system because professors never knows if a student in their class is a future President of the United States, Supreme Court Justice, or cancer-curing scientist.

The conversations that are taking place in the classrooms and lecture halls will help to shape the minds of the leaders and innovators of tomorrow. The true measure of great professors is the impact they have on their students, and this is impossible to quantify. ■

*William once tried to pay his tuition with smiley-face cupcakes.  
Discuss this article at [amputd.com/](http://amputd.com/)*



# Excavating the Past: Forgotten Gems



by edward j. harpham  
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I was a baby-boomer, born in 1951. Graduating from high school in 1969 and from university in 1973 meant that "my music" was that of the 60s and 70s. Three of the fondest memories of my youth are tied to rock and roll: watching the Beatles on Ed Sullivan, convincing my mother to buy me the 45rpm single *Help*, and playing Dylan's *Like a Rolling Stone* at a high school dance. The release of certain albums was a major event for me and my friends: *Sgt. Pepper's*; *Are You Experienced?*; *Let It Bleed*; *Who's Next*; *Tea for the Tillerman*. These were albums that defined my generation and are well known today. But there were other defining albums, ones that are not so well known. They are forgotten gems that I put on the turntable again and again and again—until I knew the lyrics, melody lines, and harmonies backwards and forwards. I still play them today when I want to raise my spirits or touch a moment from my past. I offer you five forgotten gems from my history of rock and roll.



The Kinks  
*Arthur or the Decline and Fall of the British Empire*  
(Reprise; 1969)

I have been a Kinks fan since first playing "You've Really Got Me" and "A Well Respected Man" in my junior-high garage band. "Arthur" is quintessential Kinks. Ray Davies's combines witty social criticism with clear melody lines and distinctively bawdy harmonies to make this album a delight for repeated listening. It is on my iPod for the gym. "Victoria" and "Australia" are hard rocking songs that get your foot tapping. "Some Mother's Son" and "Shangri La" are soft gentle songs that disturb you once you realize what they are all about. The 20th century was a difficult time for common men and women with their dreams of wealth and security. God Bless the Kinks.



Van Morrison  
*Astral Weeks*  
(Warner Brothers; 1968)

This may be one of the best rock albums of all time, that is, assuming it is a rock album at all. In his second solo album, Van Morrison (of "Gloria" and "Brown Eyed Girl" fame) blends together a mystical vision of life, love, and fate that is hard to forget. The rhythms and bass lines are infectious as they are blended together by Morrison's carefully articulated vocals. The album opens with a title track driven by a jazz-like rhythm that grows on you the more times you hear it and leaves you wondering where the album is going. "Madam George" and "Cyprus Avenue" are the destinations. With "Astral Weeks" rock and roll is reaching out to the personal and the sacred.



Jesse Winchester  
*Jesse Winchester*  
(Ampex; 1970)

Winchester is one of my guilty pleasures from the singer-songwriter genre. His sound is simple and bare, with clever lyrics that spin wonderful stories. Robbie Robertson, the lead guitarist for The Band, produced the album and helped provide the funky rhythms that percolate from one track to the next. Highlights include "Yankee Lady", "Snow", and "The Brand New Tennessee Waltz". Two lines haunt me to this day: "Because love is mainly just memories/ And everyone's got him a few."



The Byrds  
*The Notorious Byrd Brothers*  
(Columbia; 1968)

For my dollar, this is the best that the Byrds had to offer, and that's saying something. David Crosby (later of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young) was fired during production, and original band member Gene Clarke was brought back for a few weeks to work with Roger McGuinn and Chris Hillman. The overall sound of the album has been described as almost ethereal, with beautiful harmonies interlaced with experimental studio effects. Two songs by Carole King and Gerry Goffin, "Goin' Back" and "Wasn't Born to Follow" were anthems for me as a young man.



The Beatles  
*Introducing the Beatles*  
(Vee Jay Records; 1963/64)

A Beatles record been forgotten? How possible? Check the Vee Jay was the black company that signed the in the USA after the initially rejected by The album jacket is a the four mop heads short hair and matching Included in this collection early Beatles hits are ("Love Me Do", "PS You", "Misery", "Chains", "I Saw Her Standing as well as some covers ("Chains", "Boys", "Baby Twist and Shout"). If you can find it (and there versions of the original recording) you will see what Beatlemania was all about: simple love songs clean melody lines followed by perfect harmony. This is required listening if you want to play guitar in my band. ■

Edward J. Harpham is an Associate Provost, a Professor of Political Science, and the Director of the Collegium V Honors Program at UTD. He has amassed a sizeable record and CD collection over the years, one that now threatens the structural integrity of his house. He is the proud father of three Martin guitars, a Fender Stratocaster, and a Fender deluxe reverb amplifier.

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# from the History of Rock and Roll



by douglas c. dow  
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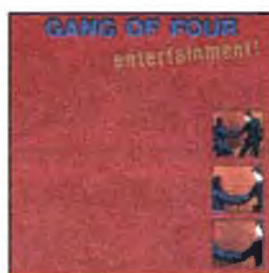
Music, for me, has always been closely associated with the act of searching. My parents were 60's generation boomers, but frankly they were nerds when it came to popular music—they preferred Johnny Mathis over the Rolling Stones. Growing up stuck in a small town just beyond the beckoning glow of Seattle with no older brothers or sisters and no internet, I was left to my own devices, experimenting, hunting, and shifting through the good and the bad. I went to college in Seattle in the years right before *Nevermind* so I'm up to my ears in the tribal sounds of the Northwest. My elementary education in classic rock and heavy metal (the indigenous folk music of rural Washington State) gave way elective courses in rockabilly, doo-wop, garage rock, krautrock, reggae, new wave/no wave, and soul. I would also audit jazz and baroque. Yet music remains for me all about sampling things on my own. The idea of forgotten gems refers to those albums or bands that were always great but never really make it firmly into the canon of rock music. I love following suggestions, and I hope my own prove fruitful. Enjoy.

eth kensinger



Afghan Whigs  
**Gentlemen**  
(Elektra Records; 1993)

Take a template of harmonic discord exemplified by Nirvana and mix in large helpings of the R&B confessional styling of 70s soul superstar Al Green channeled through the persona of Frank Sinatra at his most cynical and sinister. Early on the Whigs were lumped into the "Seattle sound" category, but this set of songs, which revolves around what we'll do to fulfill our darker needs and desires, has a grittiness more akin to the blues or country than to grunge. *Gentlemen* is one of the few classics to emerge out of 90s era alternative rock. Check out the album cover, a parody of Nan Goldin's photographs, funny and disquieting at the same time.



Gang of Four  
**Entertainment!**  
(Warner Brothers; 1979)

Sharp, austere, funky, and theoretical—what's not to love? This post-punk band from Leeds is seriously smart, but they wear it lightly with tales of modern alienation and commodification. Not many bands can claim influence by the dub reggae productions of Lee "Scratch" Perry, the krautrock minimalism of Can, and the cultural critique of Antonio Gramsci. "I Found That Essence Rare" ranks with the Ronnette's "Be My Baby", Black Sabbath's "Paranoid" and Buddy Holly's "Rave On" as the best three minutes in rock. I brought *Entertainment!* with me when I traveled to Czechoslovakia four months after the fall of communism, and this chronicle of our entrapment still feels like liberation to me.



Sleater-Kinney  
**All Hands on the Bad One**  
(Kill Rock Stars; 2000)

At the time, they got too much press just for being an all women trio, but that's not why they're great. Like Hüsker Dü a decade before, Sleater-Kinney helped enrich the basic vocabulary of punk rock: Funny, confidant, flirty, vulnerable, sarcastic and confrontational—a litany of emotional pitches from song to song. Corin Tucker's yelps refuse to be ignored, and Carrie Brownstein reminds me of Pete Townsend circa 1966. You need

to have every one of their seven albums, but I'm choosing this mid-career offering for its balance between those songs that are bouncy little pokes in the eye ("You're No Rock and Roll Fun") and those that are more haroque and emotionally resonant ("Leave You Behind").



My Bloody Valentine  
**Loveless**  
(Creation Records; 1991)

I will never listen to this album in daylight. Not that *Loveless* is a vampire or anything, but I worry the glare of the sun would spoil the inward contemplative mood that this album engenders. Don't ask me to name individual songs, or sing any of its lyrics: No verse-chorus-verse pattern to be found. It's also unclear whether all the vocals are in English, but that's pretty irrelevant. *Loveless* resembles a forty-eight-minute tone poem, its dense layers of guitar and feedback warm and sensuous. Don't think of it as soft, ethereal, or even particularly dreamy, though. Indeed, the lead guitarist Kevin Shields wrecked his hearing as a result of the dangerously high decibel levels at which the band played. Confession: I disliked this album when it was first released because I thought it sounded like "a pod of whales". Either I was just wrong, or I've learned to love whales.



Funkadelic  
**Maggot Brain**  
(Westbound Records; 1971)

If you're like me, you wonder from time to time what musical territory Jimi Hendrix might have explored if he hadn't died. This third album by Funkadelic suggests one possible answer. It combines tight funk rhythms, long psychedelic jams, hard rock pyrotechnics, and gospel style preaching. Figures of brotherly love hold hands with apocalyptic doom. While on later albums George Clinton's over-the-top persona dominates, *Maggot Brain* belongs to lead guitarist Eddie Hazel. The title track contains one of the greatest guitar solos this side of "All Along the Watchtower". ■

Douglas C. Dow is a Clinical Associate Professor of Political Science and Associate Director of Collegium V. For his training as a political theorist, Dow amassed many hours in mosh pits, conducting empirical research on the state of nature. He is now the proud owner of a permanent case of tinnitus.

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# The Menu



by brady spennrath  
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After three years of eating the best of what Richardson and Plano have to offer, it's finally time to say goodbye and thank you to my readers.

For my final review, I've decided to do things a little differently. Instead of sticking to locations close to campus, I've decided to visit such exotic locales as South Dallas and Addison to find some of the best places in the DFW area.



A delectably glorious cross between the choose-it-yourself customization of Subway and the authentic Mediterranean flavors of somewhere much more expensive, Mama Pita is my favorite quick bite to eat among many competitors at the Shops at Legacy. You begin your experience by choosing whether to have a Platter (which comes with a meat or veggie entrée, two sides, two dips, and a side salad), a Salad (which

combines the above choices on top of a bed of salad blend), or—my favorite—the Pita Wrap (which wraps the Platter

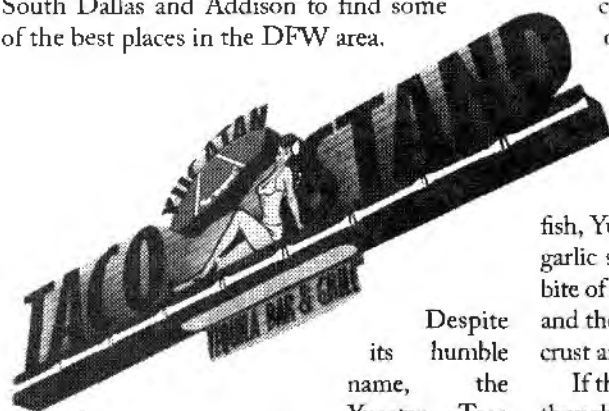
in pita bread like a burrito).

Then you choose from a variety of dips including hummus (traditional, carrot, or beet) and tzatziki, a tangy and robust yogurt sauce. Move on to your choice of salad blends, which include tabbouli, couscous, and a flavorful orzo blend. Next, choose from sides like a savory bean mix, rice, and potatoes, and then choose chicken, steak, shrimp, falafel, grilled veggies, or—my usual—kafta, tender and moist kaboh blend of lamb, beef, parsley and onions.

Mama Pita's is fast, friendly, unique, and affordable. I'm always surprised I don't leave hungry after paying such a low price. If you're in the mood for Mediterranean, Mama Pita's price point and 15-minute drive are always worth it.

## Mama Pita

- 5800 Legacy Drive
- In the Shops at Legacy, south of Legacy Drive
- Inexpensive, customizable Mediterranean food
- Average Price: \$7.00



Despite its humble name, the Yucatan Taco

Stand is anything but a taco stand. With a modern, slightly pretentious interior design and a grand, beautiful bar, Yucatan looks more like a club. Nonetheless, it's still affordable Mexican food. Although you don't get the gigantic plates typical of a Tex-Mex restaurant, you do get great presentation and high-quality ingredients with every choice.

Most of the menu is classic Mexican dishes: tacos, burritos, salads, and burrito bowls with your choice of ground beef, chicken, grilled veggie, pork, chorizo, shrimp, garlic shredded beef, or tempura

fish, Yucatan's specialty. I highly recommend the garlic shredded beef and the tempura fish: Each bite of the tender and juicy beef bursts with flavor, and the tempura fish has just the right amount of crust and a cool, remarkably un-fishy taste.

If there is one thing you have to try at Yucatan, though, it's the nachos. A mountain of thin, crispy chips covered with avalanches of white queso, a light forest of lettuce mix, a snow cap of sour cream, and guacamole—which doesn't lend itself to a mountain metaphor very well.

On top of great food, Yucatan also makes great margaritas. From the classic Frozen Margarita, to the refreshing Frozen Margarita Sangria Swirl, to the uniquely sophisticated Strawberry and Basil, you can't go wrong with a Yucatan Margarita. It's great place to hang out in

style with friends or go on a date without completely breaking the bank.

## Yucatan Taco Stand

- 2809 Preston Rd.
- On the west side of Preston Road between Gaylord Pkwy and 121
- California style Mexican food and great margaritas
- Average Price: \$9.00 (without drinks)

Tucked among pricier options around the swanky University Park neighborhood behind SMU, Bubba's Cooks Country is an affordable choice if you want some of the most tender and juicy fried chicken in DFW.

With the perfect balance of crust, meat, and flavoring, this chicken would have had me hooked even if it hadn't come with hot, homemade biscuits and a bottle of honey.

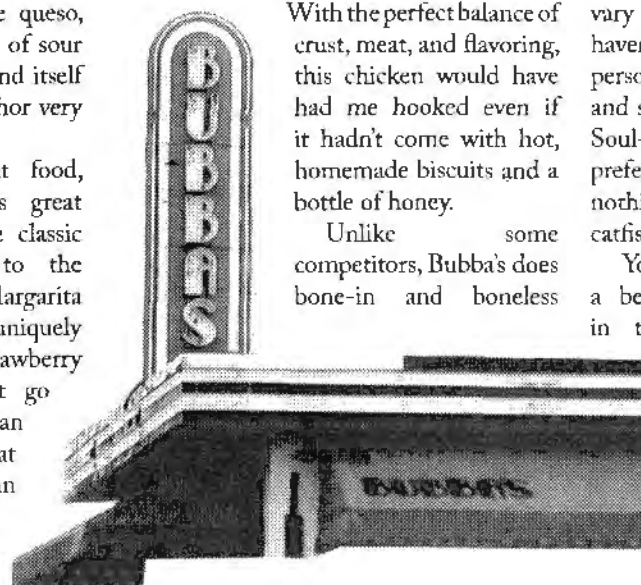
Unlike some competitors, Bubba's does bone-in and boneless

## Bubba's Cooks Country

- 6617 Hillcrest Ave
- SW corner of Hillcrest and Rosedale
- Amazing fried chicken and biscuits
- Average Price: \$6.00

chicken equally well. The sides vary from day to day, but I haven't found one I don't like. My personal favorites are the sweet and smoky baked beans and the Soul-inspired okra gumbo. If you prefer seafood to chicken, there's nothing wrong with the fried catfish, either.

You'd be hard-pressed to find a better restaurant per dollar in this neighborhood. With individual and family-sized combos, Bubba's can fulfill every fried chicken need.



# OUT AND ABOUT



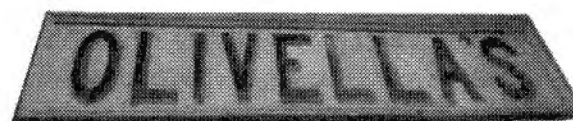
## Fuel City Tacos

- 801 South Riverfront Blvd
- Look for the giant gas station where I-35E crosses the Trinity River
- Cheap street tacos open, 24 Hrs
- Average Price: \$1.40 per taco

Set your GPS or ask The Google for help on this one, because getting there can be tricky, but wow is it worth it. Fuel City is actually a ginormous convenience store, but attached to it is a tiny kitchen assembling astounding street tacos. These little bundles of heaven are so full of flavor, your mouth will hate you for not introducing them sooner. To top it off, Fuel City is open 24 hours, and the tacos are just \$1.40 each.

Choose between Barbacoa (steamed, shredded beef), Beef Fajita, Chicken Fajita, Pastor (spicy pork), or Picadillo (ground beef mixed with small pieces of potato). Better yet, get one of each—they're cheap! All tacos come on soft tortillas (corn or flour), topped with white onions and cilantro, with a lime wedge and two flavors of hot sauce on the side. You probably won't need to use the lime or the hot sauce, though, as every meat is seasoned and spiced to perfection, but they can enhance the experience. The tacos are a bit on the small side, but since they're so cheap, you can easily buy more to match your appetite.

I wondered where this place has been hiding, but it's actually quite huge, well-lit, and fairly popular. I really have no complaints other than that they only accept cash. For your money, this might just be the best choice in DFW. But it's hard to say—I've only been searching out great places for three years.



Admittedly, Olivella's is one of the pricier options in the University Park area, but if you have a friend or two to share the pizza with, then the cost is absolutely worth every penny (and the drive). I have never had more exquisite pizza, with gourmet toppings like pancetta, prosciutto—even truffle oil.

True to Neapolitan style, the pizzas are super thin, floppy, and drizzled with olive oil. It's hard to pick a favorite, but I might have to choose the Pulcino e Porco. Though it literally translates to "Chicken and Pork", Olivella's translates it as "The Dream"—a heavenly combination of grilled chicken, cured

pancetta (über-fancy bacon), mozzarella, gorgonzola, and jalapeños. Split the small pizza with one friend or the large with two, and it's an affordable meal. If you're more in the mood for a sweet snack, then split the Dessert Pizza, and you'll get a gooey crust topped with Nutella, fire-toasted marshmallows, paper-thin pear slices, powdered sugar, and walnuts that come together in sugary harmony.

True, the pizza at Olivella's may not be as filling as cheaper pizza, but one bite drizzled with their homemade spicy oil, and you'll know why it's worth it.

## Olivella's

- 3406 McFarlin Blvd
- North side of McFarlin, just west of Hillcrest
- Authentic Neapolitan-style pizza
- Average Price: \$15.00 per pizza



Bo's Spud and Burger's name tells you everything you need to know: Except for a few side orders, Bo's menu pretty much consists of varieties of baked potatoes and hamburgers. Since I found out about Bo's only recently, I haven't been able to try a burger yet, but if they're half as good as their spuds, then they're half-awesome.

I've tried a couple varieties of the potatoes, and it seems that as long as you go with your tastes, you'll love it. Every potato is fluffed with butter and then heaped with toppings. I've tried the Ranch Spud, which is stuffed with ranch dressing, bacon bits, onions, chives, sour cream, cheddar, and hamburger meat, and the Chicken con Queso, which is topped with chicken, cheddar cheese sauce, sour cream, and jalapeños. Both of them were so drenched with flavor I found myself eating the skins—something I never do. There are tons of combinations, including veggie options

and some unusual ones, like Beef Stroganoff, Cottage Cheese, and Korean BBQ.

Catering to every taste with a friendly ma-and-pa style, Bo's is hard to dislike—but it's probably best not to ask about the calories.

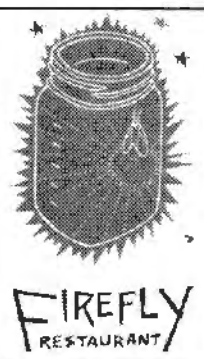
## Bo's Spud and Burger

- 12895 Josey Lane
- On the south side of Valley View, just west of Josey Lane
- Gigantic, loaded baked potatoes
- Average Price: \$5.50

If Firefly were just any other sushi place, I'd still have to recommend its fresh and delicious sushi rolls, ranging from the usual Philadelphia and Spicy Tuna to the unique Dynamite Roll, which is an entire California Roll tempura-fried and topped with a small piece of sashimi and a drop of wasabi mayo. Go in for lunch between 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or any time on Sunday, for \$10.95 all-you-can-eat Happy Hour, and you'll see what makes Firefly an amazing deal!

If you think \$10.95 sounds a bit high, keep in mind that you can easily pay \$8.00 for just one roll at other restaurants. You don't even have to love sushi, either. There are many other items on the all-you-can-eat menu, such as fried and plain rice, salads, edamame, and my favorite, the Filet Mignon Beef Teriyaki. Best of all, it's not a buffet—every dish, sushi or not, is made to order, keeping it fresh and delicious.

I haven't had much luck with Firefly's normal menu, so stick to the all-you-can-eat option. Also, keep in mind that Firefly's charges for any sushi you leave behind in order to prevent over-ordering. So go in, order often—but order small—and have one of the best value sushi experiences of your life. ■



*Brady takes great pleasure from making you hungry while you read.  
Discuss this article at [ampud.com/](http://ampud.com/)!*





# Tequila Twilight

*Is the sun setting on everyone's favorite Mexican liquor?*



by ryan henry  
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In the wake of Mexican farmers' reaction to the 2006 Bush corn subsidies "Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off" may become an outdated reference like records and cassette tapes. Those subsidies provided an incentive for supplementing US gasoline reserves with biofuels (ethanol), made predominantly from corn; although the measure made the U.S. slightly less dependent on foreign oil, the resulting boom in corn prices sent ripples across the world market. This poor policy has exacerbated food crises overseas and caused many Mexican farmers to grow corn instead of their traditional agave, the principle ingredient in tequila, everyone's favorite Hispanic liquor.

In order to understand why these subsidies are bad, we need some rudimentary background in economics and tequila. Let's start with the booze so

that we're more prepared to deal with such sobering issues as food shortages.

Under Bush's subsidy policy, the U.S. began buying up corn for ethanol production and subsidizing corn grown for ethanol. Basically, the huge demand Bush's policy placed on everything corn-related caused a huge spike in the price of corn, sending it over that of agave. Mexican agave farmers burned out their usual crop in order to plant the suddenly more-profitable corn.

As the agave farmers burned their crop, Spring Breakers around the world wept. The ramifications of the burn will be felt for years to come, as blue agave, the type required for tequila, is about as hardy a newborn baby with a compromised immune system. Additional difficulty stems from the fact that tequila is made from the extracted sugars of a twelve-year-old agave plant, so later, renewed attempts at tequila production won't come to fruition for at least that long. When the farmers torched their crops, they were basically saying that the money they would make on corn would be more than they would make on twelve years of tequila.

To make matters even worse, it turns out

that even if others wanted to grow agave for

tequila, they couldn't. Mexico has the international exclusive right to the term "tequila", thereby ensuring that no other country can make extra. On the domestic side of the law, Mexico limits the production of Tequila to Jalisco, one of the western states of Mexico, with some limited production in Guanajuato, Michoacán, Nayarit, and Tamaulipas (it's completely okay to have no idea where any of those places are—just know it's an extremely small part of Mexico). Furthermore, blue agave grows best in the red volcanic soil present in those particular regions of Mexico.

As stated earlier, the ramifications of the corn subsidies run deeper than just Mexican agave farming. The shift in agriculture toward corn production for ethanol made corn and other grains more scarce on the food market as farmers shifted production over to corn for ethanol. The increased expense of corn as a food source increased demand for other grains. As a result, these corn subsidies have played a large role in the food crisis in Africa, as poorer countries cannot pay for the grain necessary to feed their people. By the way, the increased price of corn actually makes it more expensive to make ethanol than it is to buy oil.

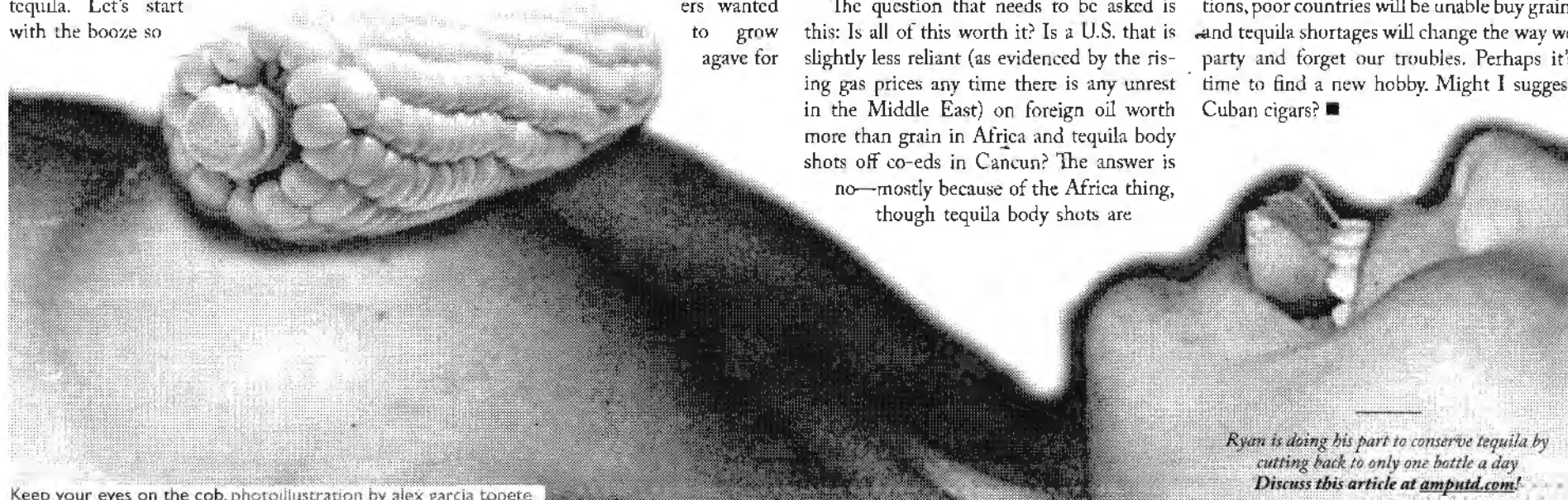
The question that needs to be asked is this: Is all of this worth it? Is a U.S. that is slightly less reliant (as evidenced by the rising gas prices any time there is any unrest in the Middle East) on foreign oil worth more than grain in Africa and tequila body shots off co-eds in Cancun? The answer is no—mostly because of the Africa thing, though tequila body shots are

important too.

What we have here is the ever important balancing act between national interests and the global impact of those decisions. The United States has so much purchasing power that any time we decide to buy something it wreaks havoc on the global commodities market. The double whammy of subsidies and import tariffs has made it extraordinarily difficult for international farmers to compete. Why should the least developed countries pay for our lack of foresight? More importantly, why are we still clinging to a policy that has largely failed?

The best (and least likely) solution would be to repeal these subsidies and let the price of corn go back down: the corn price's depression would be really bad for the recovering US economy. Another solution would be to lower tariffs on corn and sugar (another source of ethanol) coming from the least developed countries: U.S. could thus mitigate the impact of these protective tariffs on those at or below the poverty level while still protecting U.S. farmers. A more long-term solution is to find a form of energy that doesn't convert farms into fuel.

Unless we implement one of those solutions, poor countries will be unable buy grain, and tequila shortages will change the way we party and forget our troubles. Perhaps it's time to find a new hobby. Might I suggest Cuban cigars? ■



Keep your eyes on the cob. photoillustration by alex garcia topete

Ryan is doing his part to conserve tequila by cutting back to only one bottle a day. Discuss this article at [ampud.com](http://ampud.com)!

# Elemental Entropy

*The Earth is running out of technological ingredients*



by peter elliott

pellott@official-sounding.com

The specter of the scarcity of oil looms over anyone who has to fill up his or her car. The price of oil has skyrocketed as supplies have dwindled. Finding more oil means hurdling greater technical challenges, which leads to disasters like the Deepwater Horizon blowout. Environmentalists want to move to alternative energy technologies, like wind and solar. But this move will create new shortages in a number of crucial elements, potentially resulting in a scenario where we use up all of the earth's supply of these essential metals. There are potential solutions to abate the problem, but they are going to be difficult to implement, and their consequences will be difficult to live with.

This is not the first time we've had an "el-

emental crisis". A few years ago, there was much concern about dwindling supplies of both elemental helium and its cousin, helium-3. Beyond the profound impact on open houses and birthday parties, helium is essential for cooling the magnets in MRIs, conducting nuclear fusion experiments, and constructing radiological weapon detectors for ports and airports. But, according to a recent blog post in *Nature*, this trend has been reversed by strong centralized controls and cooperation between scientific agencies and governments. Search for alternatives also yielded success when boron-based solutions were found for radiological detectors.

The helium crisis has abated for now, but the upcoming elemental worries are much more worrisome. Tellurium, atomic number 52, is one of these scarce, essential elements. Tellurium is rare, occurring only 1 part per billion in the earth's crust, and worldwide production tops out at just over 100 tons. Tellurium is used to create efficient solar panels and optical media. At this point, we have reached "Peak Tellurium," where increasing demand has outstripped our ability to find

new sources.

Gallium and indium are in even worse shape. These two elements, in addition to being used in solar cells, are essential for the production of LCD flat panels. In 2002, the price for gallium was \$94 for a kilogram. 5 years later, the price jumped to \$1000 per kilogram. We have gone beyond demand outpacing supply. Armin Reller, a professor at the University of Augsburg, predicts that the earth will simply run out of these elements within the next decade.

Even more common elements are at risk. Zinc, used in such high tech applications as brass and pennies, is projected to disappear around 2037.

These elements carry their own political considerations. Coltan, a metal used to create capacitors and resistors for all types of electronics, is found almost exclusively in Central Africa. This is the root of the issue called "conflict minerals," where purchasing a new computer or television could potentially provide indirect support for warlords and genocide.

Clearly, these disappearing elements pose a critical problem. These elements were created by nuclear fusion in stars billions of years ago, so we can't simply synthesize more of them in a lab. Unfortunately, they are also not naturally replenishing. There is no eleventh hour, magic bullet solution to create more of these metals. Once we run out of these elements, we're boned.

The easiest solution is recycling. As the price of these metals climb, it becomes economically feasible to recycle old electronics for their precious metals. In the coming years, we will likely see ads for shady companies like "Cash4Tellurium,"

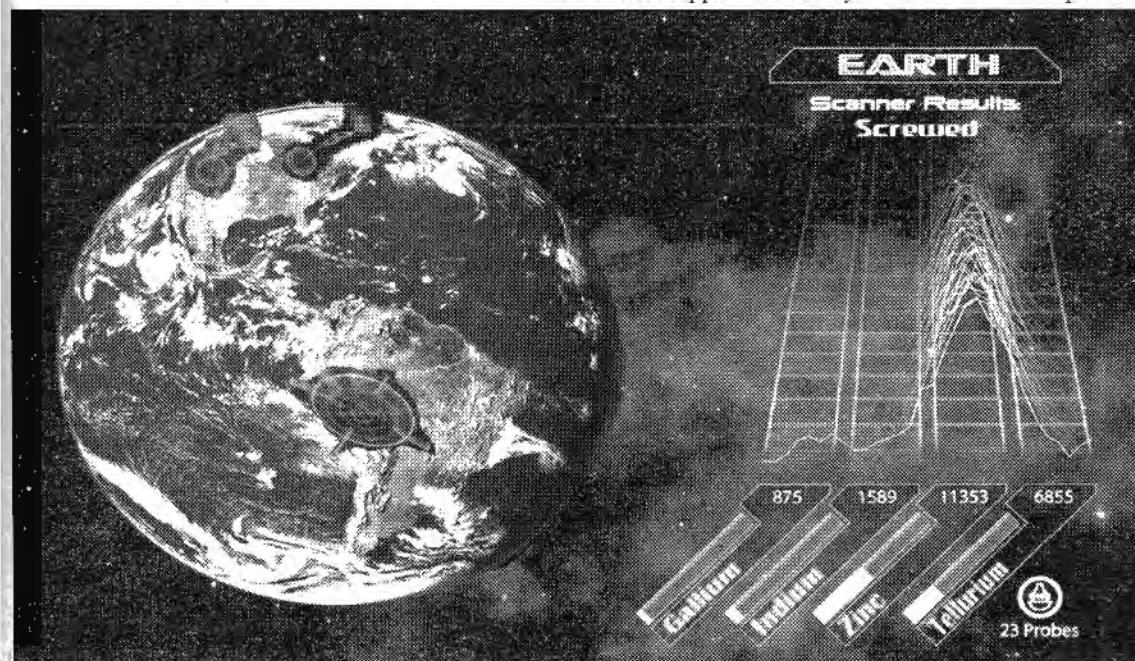
... purchasing a new computer or television could potentially provide indirect support for warlords and genocide.

offering to trade in your laptops, solar-power calculators and old mix CDs for cold hard cash. Additionally, the lack of real recycling efforts means that huge stockpiles of these metals have been created in known locations. Landfill mining will be nasty and dangerous, but also absolutely necessary in the coming years. But the incredible difficulty of extracting trace metals from consumer electronics will mean the price point for these elements will be astronomical.

Next, it stands to reason that if we can't find any more of these elements on earth, we will have to go somewhere else to find them. Private companies are driving down prices to ship things into space, meaning that space-based mining is starting to become a viable option. That said, the pace at which some of our more scarce elements are disappearing means that we will almost certainly run out of them before we can develop and deploy a viable asteroid mining program.

The issue of disappearing elements will pose a serious problem in the very near future. An unintended consequence of a switch to alternative energy will be the massively increased demand for some very scarce elements that will cause prices to skyrocket and may lead to their complete disappearance. We must implement recycling programs, start searching for alternative technologies, and realize that we may soon be living in a world without tellurium. ■

*Peter is hoarding all the rare earth metals to power his secret underground lair. Discuss this article at [ampud.com](http://ampud.com)!*



We require more minerals. photoillustration by alex garcia topete



# Wheels of Fortune

*Spelling out the rules of the road*



by **alice post**  
alice.a.post@gmail.com

The wheel is undeniably the best thing since before sliced bread, as evidenced by carts strategically placed behind horses and exercising hamsters.

For Texans, it appears that the preferred implementation of the wheel involves a combustion engine and plenty of cargo room. Long distance driving lends a sense of freedom and independence that is unique to keeping hands at the wheel and foot on the gas.

But wheeled freedom also comes in the form of the bicycle. When riding, every mile is earned, and all aspects of the bike's movement are controlled directly and without mystery.

Like many fiercely independent groups that encroach on each other's territory, conflict and miscommunication arise as resources (in this case, road space) become scarce. In order to share the road, a little bit of understanding from those behind both the steering wheel and the handlebars is required.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that in 2009 the number of pedalcyclist (yes, the official term is pedalcyclist) fatalities within the US and Texas was 630 and 41 respectively. The independent personalities of these wheel operators are clashing in a deadly fashion.

Even with the known risks, it is easy for bikers to become complacent on the road and view all cars as bullies. In truth, riding atop two wheels without a protective exoskeleton of steel and glass requires defensive cycling.

A cyclist may be thinking, *Pedal one, two, three, four...* I swear my bike knows exactly what I'm thinking. Oh dear, here comes that high-traffic intersection followed by construc-

*tion. Green light, and AAAHHH ADRENALINE! PLEASE, OH PLEASE, DO NOT LET ANY OF THOSE TWO TON METAL BOULDERS CRASH INTO ME!*

Frantic prayer may not be enough. Following all the rules of traffic, as well as staying to the right side of the road, indicating turns, and being as predictable as possible are all actions that help such protective prayers come true. It's a lot to think about, but hey, bikers enjoy lording this sort of higher-level thinking over drivers every day of the week. Stopping at every stop sign and red light may seem like a terrible waste of momentum, but obeying traffic signs on the road is the law, and the extra acceleration is much better training than just rolling through the stops.

Meanwhile, behind a nearby windshield a driver is musing, *Why is the traffic so bad and where did all these people on two wheels come from? Also, how come that skinny bike rider gets an entire lane to himself? He's going 12 on a 40 mph road and "groan" there is construction up ahead.*

It's true, cars are legally obligated not to hit bikes.

Though Texas does not have a minimum passing distance law, it is usually safest if bikes are treated like cars and given plenty of space. Bikes do not have to ride on adjacent bike paths; and asking them to is analogous to big rig drivers telling passenger cars to use roads parallel to the highway.

Yes, those lycra-clad hippies ask that cars pretend they have a protective bubble. Since not everyone behind the wheel can accurately predict what bikers are going to do, allotting space to a cyclist on the road keeps the pedal-pusher unharmed and the paint on the car unchipped. To be fair, the highway is not one huge game of bumper cars (or at least it's not supposed to be), so not hitting vehicles really shouldn't be a problem.

So why are cars hitting cyclists? Some of the problem is that they are just smaller and less shiny than the common metal beast on the road and therefore harder to see. So even though fashionistas may bemoan the neon-colored jackets and silver reflective tape, increasing the visibility of the cyclist keeps quadricycles and bicycles from crashing into each other.

It is up to the cyclist to make sure he or she is visible on the road. It is a legal requirement for bicycles on the road to have front lights and rear reflectors or lights when riding at night. Bright colors of clothing, though completely at the discretion of the cyclist, can help drivers notice the studly cyclophile. The fashion police scorn helmet-hair, but the real police can give a citation to a cyclist not wearing a helmet.

An understanding of both perspectives will hopefully keep the streets free of mangled bikes and busted fenders.

So when all goes well, a driver may smugly gaze down from his air-conditioned truck and muse, *That guy must think he looks really good in those tight shorts. Sorry, you are no Lance Armstrong.*

And the cyclist will happily, and smugly think, *I have infinite miles to the gallon, a more active lifestyle than two-thirds of the population... and what is that guy laughing about?* ■

*Alice is so careful that she hasn't hit a cyclist in weeks.*

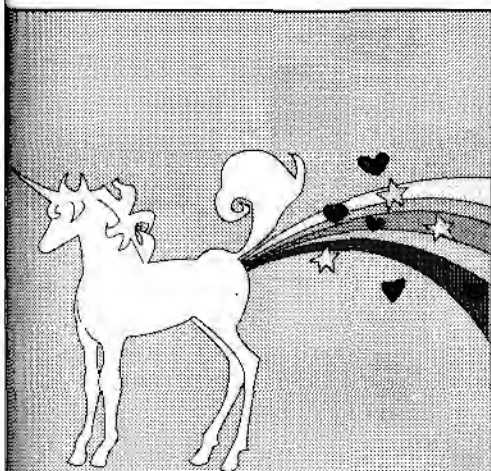
Discuss this article at [amputd.com/](http://amputd.com/)



Talk about road rage. illustration by jeffrey miranda

# Potty Humor

*Throne Testing and Commode Comparisons on Campus*



AMP contributors  
shit rainbows!

Don't you want  
technicolor crap?

Send your comics,  
hilarious jokes, and  
funny stories to  
[amodestproposal@  
gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com)

Don't just taste the  
rainbow—excrete it!



Choosing your restroom/bathroom/water closet/toilet requires just a couple guidelines:

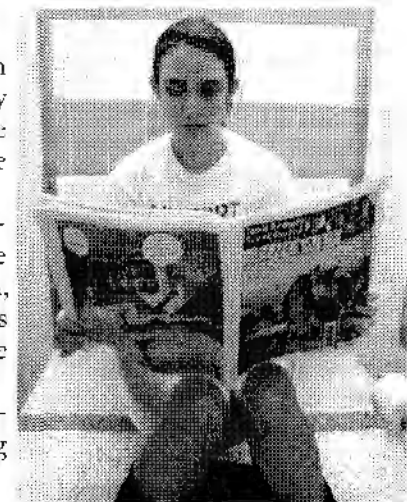
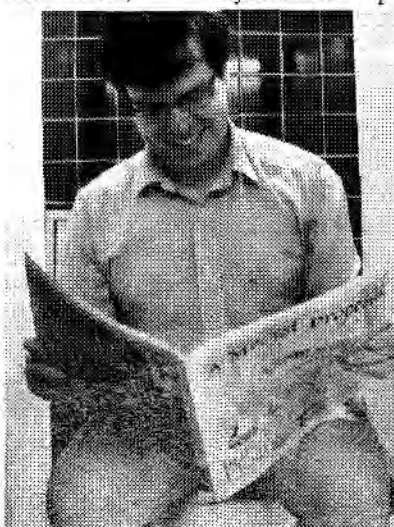
**1. Avoid the ground floor:** This logic is based in the idea that people don't like to climb stairs before vacating their bladders. Primary motives for visiting a higher class of commode include, but are not limited to, attending class, finding quiet places to study, and feeling a sense of superiority over people below your feet. The traffic to these bathrooms is less heavy, and even veteran buildings like Green and Johnson can boast prime potty potential.

**2. Pee where the important people do:** The Student Union facilities are less than stellar over by the Comet Cafe and Pub, but if you go in search of the bathroom outside of the Student Government offices, then you'll be greeted by an ultra-sanitized, many-stalled wonder of a bathroom. The School of Management, McDermott Library, and Conference Center often host outside guests, and therefore qualify under this category as well.

Like a sculpture by Duchamp, each stall in the SLC reworks a fragmentation of the social isolation of postmodern industrialism into art—a glittering medley of porcelain and clear water playing off each other in the light. The clarity of the mirrors engenders a clarity of mind: your solipsistic reverie will never replace the Levinasian ethics of gazing upon the face of the Other.

Of course, the power of the aesthetic is reduced by the cartoonish iconography on the "entrances", which reifies gender and separates eros from filia for the very heteronormative lives it enforces. To get over that as you leave the restroom, lose yourself in the ephemeral: The dryers emit a strong gust of air with hints of Stravinsky, remixed with the rebellious spirit of late '90s grunge, jarring the viewer's expectations by actually drying your hands.

By comparison, the SU was less impressive. Whenever I'm there it's full of janitors. I'm pretty sure they can see me, because I can see them, and can do nothing but freeze, as if I myself were a part of the sculpture.



Mastering commode etiquette can be a challenge. Above all, involving oneself in any way with a stabbing or bathroom groping is ill-advised. For this reason, the bathrooms in ECS should be avoided. Second, while smartphones and tablets have made the dream of computing on the can a reality, one should be aware of one's surroundings and keep the watching of funny cat videos to a minimum. Additionally, while the walls of your stall may seem to present an unparalleled opportunity for artistic expression, political campaigning, or social networking, writing on them should be avoided due to its illegality and high likelihood of revealing one's true scumbag nature. At the very least, make sure you write someone else's phone number under the lewd suggestion.

If you wish to learn more about the intricacies of modern restroom design and etiquette, you should be sure to sign up for Comparative Comodes and Constitutions, PISR 2108, offered this fall by EPPS.





by chelsea and christina wolfe  
iluvthebassoon@aim.com and cmw067000@urdallas.edu



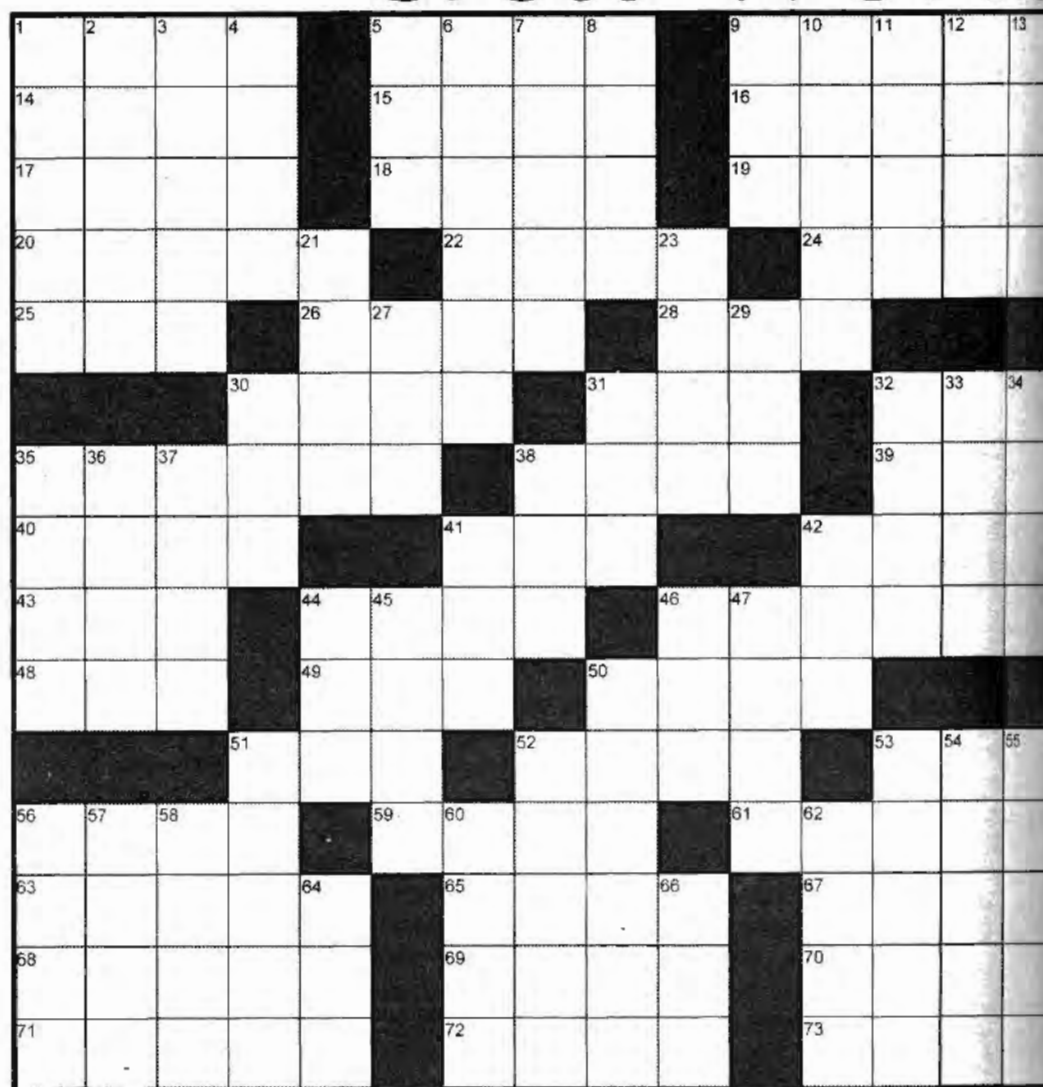
# Cross Words

## Across:

- 1 Mail
- 5 Christina, come May 14
- 9 Pains
- 14 "\_\_\_-boy!"
- 15 Ambience
- 16 Shade of purple
- 17 Brood (over)
- 18 Jessica of 7th Heaven
- 19 Frustrating computer message
- 20 Incisors and canines
- 22 Shaving alternative
- 24 "Get from \_\_\_" (progress)
- 25 Airport abbr.
- 26 Checks out
- 28 Ctrl-\_\_\_-Del
- 30 Pleased
- 31 Eisenhower nickname
- 32 Murder \_\_\_ Wrote
- 35 Whippersnapper
- 38 Contended
- 39 Beige
- 40 Assistant
- 41 Hawaii necklace
- 42 \_\_\_ off (deflect)
- 43 Gene material (abbr.)
- 44 Boogers
- 46 Act divisions
- 48 President Pro \_\_\_
- 49 Titanic lead, familiarly
- 50 Pitching stats
- 51 The Science Guy
- 52 Finger sound
- 53 Rapper \_\_\_ Def
- 56 Captain Hook's mate
- 59 Fender bender evidence
- 61 Pile
- 63 Wagner of baseball
- 65 Hideaway
- 67 "Base times height"
- 68 Oldsmobile model
- 69 Head bng
- 70 Italian car manufacturer
- 71 Greek sandwiches
- 72 Brother of Stephen and Billy
- 73 Manner of speaking

## Down:

- 1 Macaroni or ravioli
- 2 Water mammal
- 3 Maneuver
- 4 Tweety verb
- 5 Chatter
- 6 Soiled
- 7 Plural of 67 Across
- 8 Spanish surrealist
- 9 Soul, in Paris
- 10 Gold unit
- 11 Injured
- 12 Cooking oil, abbr.
- 13 Balkan native
- 21 Aid
- 23 Do a fall chore
- 27 Iranian rapper
- 29 Light type (abbr.)
- 30 Grad school exam
- 31 IX - VI
- 32 Mnsial of baseball
- 33 Tortoise racer
- 34 Finales
- 35 Sour
- 36 Riesling or Zinfandel
- 37 Dntch cheese
- 38 Former soldier, for short
- 41 British toilet
- 42 Scream director Craven
- 44 Sneaky
- 45 Necessity
- 46 Mrs., south of the border
- 47 Keyboard lock
- 50 Seduce
- 51 BBS prefix
- 52 Escargot
- 53 Luigi's brother
- 54 Pacific or Indian
- 55 Type of board
- 56 Screw, in Britain
- 57 "Holy-\_\_\_!"
- 58 Cabinet dept.
- 60 32 Across, in Guadalajara
- 62 US President
- 64 Distress signal
- 66 VCR button



Have a puzzle you want to see? Want to write your own crossword?

Let us know. Send emails to: [amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com)

Shazaam!

April Answers





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

Difficulty: Shooting Star



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

Difficulty: M-80



# Sudoku Puzzles

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

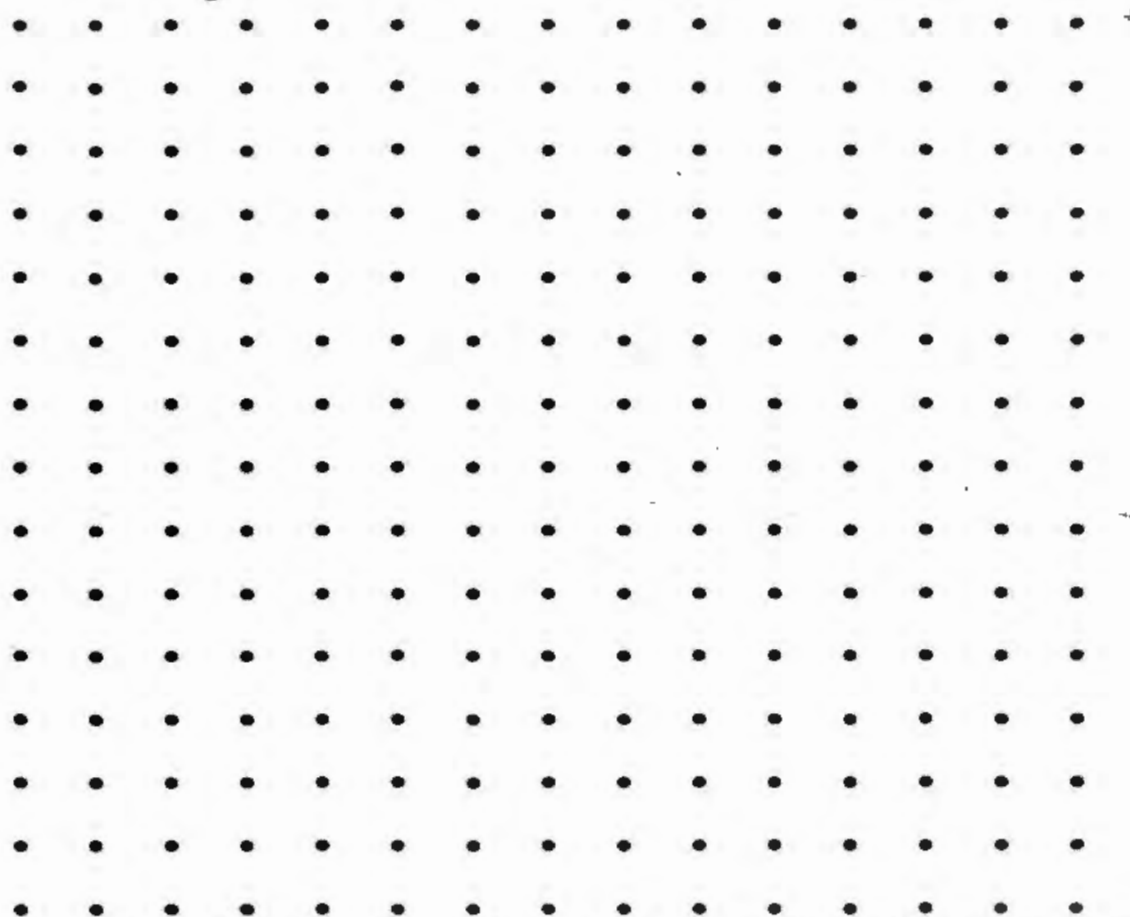
Discuss these puzzles at [amp.utdallas.edu/](http://amp.utdallas.edu/)

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

Difficulty: Sparkler



# Capture



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



# Toupée-gate!

## Is there hair there?

"One patriotic comb over!"

"Where's the hair certificate?"

THE MOST  
TRUSTED NEWS  
ON THE PLANET

# URANUS



## UTD OPENS SHIPPING LANE

- Dr. Daniel: "Suck it, Panama!"
- Bookstore selling flippy floppies, nautical-themed pashmina afghans

■ Desperate students look for mermaids

■ Temoc will never let go

**URANUS  
EXCLUSIVE**

**URANUS ALERT SYSTEM  
THE DANGER LEVEL IS AT**

**Periwinkle**

**Chartreuse**

**Mahogany**

**Tickle Me Pink**

**Mauve Taupe**

**Desert Sand**

**Baby Green**

### Scientists Conclude



### Actually Born This Way

Summer 2011



amodestproposal@gmail.com

Only in URANUS...

**Infinitely Recursive**

Only in URANUS...

**Infinitely Recursive**

Only in URANUS...

**Infinitely Recursive**

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**Infinitely Recursive**

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**Infinitely Recursive**

Only in URANUS...

**Infinitely Recursive**



## Baby Names Get Even Weirder

AMERICA (AMP)- All across the nation, parents are trying harder and harder to find names for their kids that promote "uniqueness", "individuality", and something called "synergistic self determinatude." While these efforts mostly just succeed in setting their kids up to have the crap beaten out of them on the playground, some remain undeterred.

One proud father explained that his new child, Taco Pap Schmear, "has really quite a positive name...there's the diversity/multi-cultural nod towards my favorite flavor of food, an emphasis on women's health, and a bit about cream cheese." ■

## President Obama releases all documents

AMERICA (AMP) - Having finally had enough of constant sniping about his potentially being a Kenyan born Manchurian candidate, President Obama released every single document that has ever referenced him since childbirth.

Among these documents are his elementary school report cards, a complete map of his genetic sequence, the track list of his "Lazy Sunday Afternoon" CD, and a series of unfinished short stories about a team of young boys racing go-karts across America.

Critics are already calling the authenticity of these documents into question, though everyone admits that *Little Speed Demons* will be a timeless classic when finished. ■

## Driver Spotted Enjoying Music, Gets Really Embarrassed

RICHARDSON (AMP) - A driver at the light of Coit and Campbell was spotted air drumming to whatever was playing over his car stereo. He tried to play it off as nonchalantly tapping on his steering wheel when spotted, and spent the rest of light pretending like he was coughing so that his hand was covering up the fact that he was still singing along. No one was fooled.

"The air guitaring made him look like he was playing with himself," said the driver two cars over. "Also, tell him to stop checking out the girls in the car next to him and then act like he was just looking at traffic. We all know what's going on there." ■

# Return of Cat Hands!



Meow what?

by Tabben McOnnerscat  
**Cat About Town**

LAS VEGAS (AMP) - It is once again time for our yearly advice column for those of us with the rare condition of felinis manus, or 'cat hands'. We've read through the meowtains of questions and queries and picked out the best:

*What is the best way to play a guitar with cat hands? - Mr. Mistoffelees*

With the constant yowling of your feline digits, it is common for people to want to add musical accompaniment. We have found that taping guitar picks to the paws of your kitten mitts allows for a soothing, if arhythmic, arpeggio. It should be noted, however, that pianos the classic choice of instrument for cat handed people.

*How can I do a cat hand stand? - Liono*

This is severely discouraged. Cat handed people are unable to perform most types of gymnastics, as legs and paws of the cats will snap under the weight of a human being. Please refrain from doing this, unless you wish to have eight palsied and and contorted limbs hanging from your catpendages.

*I'm having a dinner party and inviting a cat*

*handed person- what preparations should I make for hygiene? - Grandma Garfield*

This is always a difficult question for the feline inclined. A normal person can usually just wash their hands, but a dinner party is no place to have wet pussy at arm's length. Never fear! However dirty their fur might get, they'll always be able to lick it off. Despite the tendency to emit unusual odors, cat hands are quite hygienic.

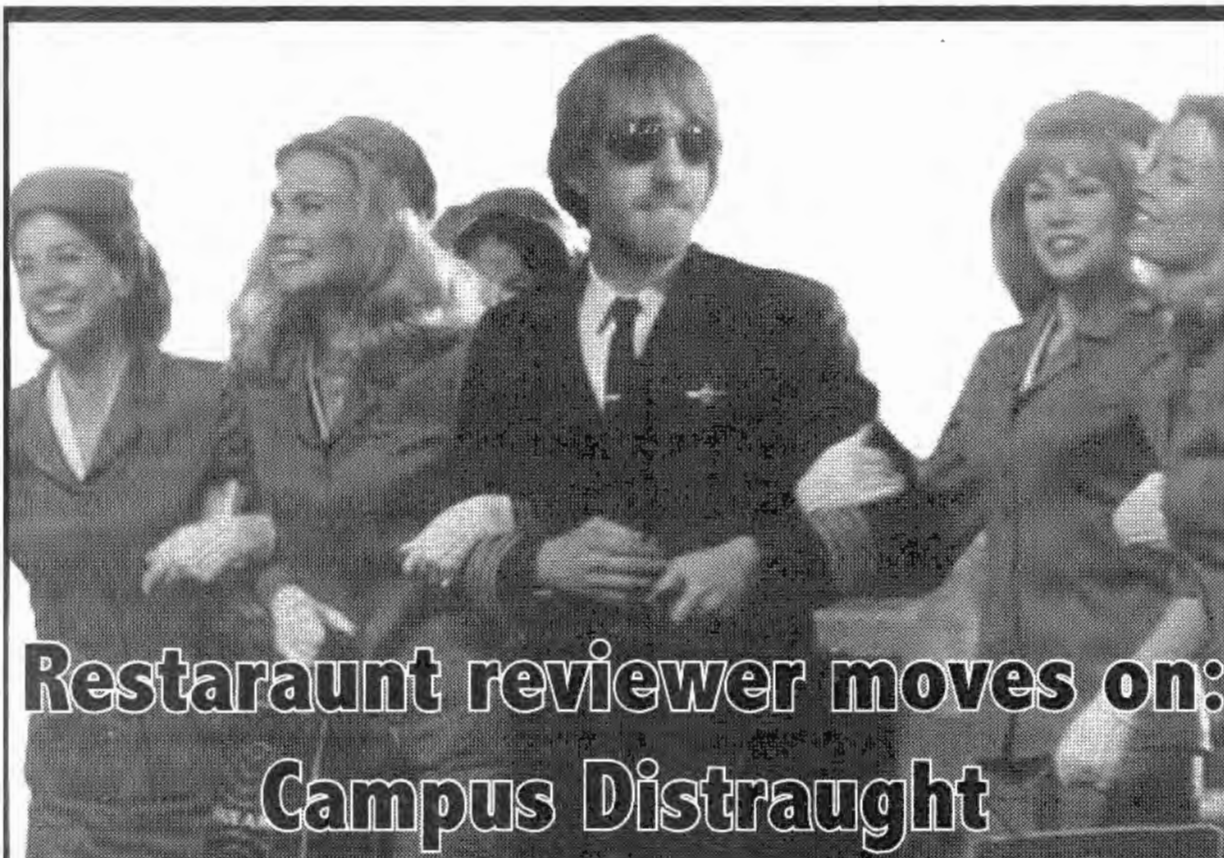
*I'm a cat handed typist trying to get my words per minute up. Any suggestions? - Dr. Suess*

This is one of many areas where cat hands are a distinct advantage over regular hands. The affinity between cats, keyboards, computers, and the internet is well known. Make sure you are using a cat hands keyboard (available at your local Cats, Hands, and Beyond store), and keep your hands away from the nip.

*My cat hands are simultaneously in and not in a box. How do I resolve this? - Schrodinger*

The bad news is that your hands are in an indeterminate state between life and death. Before removing them, ensure that the cats aren't entangled with anything. ■





## Restaraunt reviewer moves on: Campus Distraught

Catch him while you can...

by **D'Brickashaw Cunningham**  
Reviews the Reviewers

**ALL AREA RESTAURANTS (AMP)** - After four golden years of some of the greatest food reviews this generation will ever know, Brady Spenrath will be departing UTD. This has left a horde of ravenous followers bemoaning the flight of their gastrological idol.

The quality of his articles has been enough to inexplicably generate a posse of attractive women, who join him on jet setting adventures around the greater Richardson area to find worthy dining establishments. Always one to coin a phrase, the debonaire author has begun to refer to all of his fans/groupies as "The Brady Bunch." It remains unclear as to which ones are Jan and Marsha, but the older gal is definitely Alice.

Since the Raconteur of the Restaraunts began writing, there has been a noticable upswing in student weight. First Lady Michelle Obama has already issued a statement condemning his contribution to the childhood obesity problem, saying "Mr. Spenrath's articles are so consistently mouth watering, they are responsible for an average increase of 80 lbs per person in the Richardson area."

As the young restauntreviewer strutted through campus, a mob of morbidly obese fans thundered after him. They were immediately mistaken for a herd of buffalo, as calls of "stampede!" rang out through the campus mall.

The new Italian restaunt "Itsa Gouda Pizza!" immediately closed when it heard about Brady's graduation. The owner, Mr. Mario Stereotypi, commented "Witha outa hisa restaunt reviewsa, we hava no chance of staying ina business. Backa to plumbing anda princess saving witha my brother Luigi!"

One of the good things about his departure is that on-campus food, especially what is served in the dining hall, has already begun to taste better.

"I know it's still just as bad as it ever was," explained one student, "but without him reminding me what good food tastes like, I seem to like it better."

The editors of A Modest Proposal, the parasitic growth on the back of Uranus, were despondent when they learned of Brady's departure, muttering that "there goes our only reliably good article every month." before weeping in the corner. One of the campus' resident feral cats has already submitted an application to take over "The Menu" and rename it "the Meownu." ■

## Horrors found in SG Office

**RICHARDSON (AMP)** - With the advent of a new school year, and thus a new SG administration, current SG President Grace Biewlaski and SG Vice President Dina Shahrohki have disappeared amidst suspicious circumstances.

A bomb squad was called in after investigators entered Ms. Biewlaski's office and triggered a dead man's switch to "just a fuckton of C4." After defusing the explosives, a tunnel underneath her desk was discovered, leading to an Orwellian panopticon filled with her political enemies. This explains why the tunnels underneath campus are banned to students. A 3 inch ring binder entitled "Enemies" was found next to an extensive amount of surveillance equipment best described as "something out of the dreams of a paranoid and power mad dictator."

Ms. Shahrokhi's office was even more disturbing. Surrounded by eldritch glyphs, and containing strange angles and dimensions violating the laws of physics, the office is a Boschian nightmare of eternal torment. From atop a truly prodigious amount of skulls, a hell portal glows menacingly, emitting wails of anguish and the distant crying of babies. An ever beating human heart was discovered encased in black crystal- it is believed to have been plucked from her own body and is the source of her power.

UT Dallas' entire endowment has also been transfered to a private off-shore account. Authorities have been unable to establish a link between these two actions, but are still on the case. ■