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Office of Student Affairs

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Kimberly Allen, *et al.*

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# A Modest Proposal



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# A Modest Proposal

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# Is this Sparta?

*Conquering the differences between Greeks and the rest of us*



by ben dower

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Walking through the Student Union during the first week of school, it's impossible to ignore the wide assortment of Greek recruitment paraphernalia. According to their fliers, Greeks are natural leaders with good grades who love to volunteer to serve the community. And this is undoubtedly true for many fraternity and sorority members.

But what about for the rest of us: the non-Greeks that compose the majority of the UT Dallas student population? Are we, by extension, inactive followers who scorn camaraderie and fun? How wide is the divide between Greek and non-Greek at UT Dallas?

On July 17th, Ana Tavares, the President of Kappa Alpha Theta, was elected Vice President of Student Government by the Student Government. Six days later, *the Mercury* reported the outcome in their pre-back to school issue. Soon controversy exploded on *the Mercury* forum. One poster lamented "another Greek running the school" and claimed that non-Greeks are "consistently overlooked and pushed out of the way." Another individual asserted that the outcome was "pure BS," the result of a straight "popularity contest."

This isn't the first time someone's Greek status has been the source of some election controversy. During the 2006 Student Government election, one candidate was disparagingly referred to as "a sorority girl who has shown little leadership potential" by *A Modest Proposal*. This provoked a storm of controversy that ultimately resulted in hundreds of newspapers being illegally taken out of the stands and deliberately destroyed without AMP's approval. These instances highlight the particularly volatile nature of any conflict involving a fraternity or sorority.

So, returning to the original question, is there really tension between the Greeks and non-Greeks on this campus



Is there really a conflict between Greek and non-affiliated students?

Image from 300

or are these examples of inevitable election pressure?

Certainly it would be a great exaggeration to say that there is blanket hostility towards or against either of these groups. Even categorizing the student body into "Greek" and "non-Greek" is a gross and misleading generalization. Both groups have members from every conceivable background and contain such incredible diversity that often their Greek (or not) status is the only thing they have in common.

However, I also believe that there is strong prejudice both towards and against fraternities and sororities among many students. Speaking badly about any fraternity or sorority to a member's face is bound to provoke a backlash far stronger than if you criticized their political preference, or even religious affiliation. Likewise, the line between healthy pride for one's Greek affiliation and haughtiness or even condescension can often become blurred.

I catch myself becoming frustrated when my Greek friends make obscure references to their secret rituals or songs whose lyrics I am not allowed to hear. These elements, which are important to establishing a strong group identity and trust among fraternity brothers or sorority sisters, sound silly to me and occasionally overly self-important. However, it's easy to become oversensitive when excluded from anything, whether it's

a forbidden song lyric or just an inside joke between friends. I have found that the best way to deal with those situations is to wait for those moments to pass or change the subject.

Student Government elections seem to be a consistent trigger for partisan attacks on both sides of the Greek divide. There are two interconnected reasons for this heightened sensitivity. First, statistically, Greeks are more involved on campus than the average non-affiliated student. Second, Greeks have a natural advantage when competing against non-Greeks in any campus-wide election. In last year's free-for-all sophomore race in which seventeen candidates fought for seven seats, all but one of the winners was a member of a fraternity or a sorority.

Together, these two factors result in an over-representation of Greeks in Student Government, which in turn provokes the perception that Greeks run the school. We have this pattern to thank for the Student Government "political parties." According to Student Government advisor Patty Atchley, the first Student Government political party was formed by non-Greeks to create a stronger voting block for these students. Over time this conception has evolved as different fraternities and sororities have endorsed specific political parties, resulting in the counterproductive partisan absurdity that we see in today's Student Government elections.

This will be my third year serving in Student Government and I have never seen this body pursue anything that could even remotely be considered a pro-Greek agenda. However, having now served as President for several months, I think it is true that Greeks have an inherent ability to lobby for what they want. As a constituency, they are more organized and unified than virtually any other group on campus.

My advice to my fellow non-Greeks on campus is to step up to this challenge. Become more involved in other organizations- increase your visibility on campus and increase your freshman recruitment efforts during the first month of school. Please come to the Student Government meetings to find out what we are working on. If you want to run for a Student Government seat in the spring, appeal to your constituents, whether it is through a club or school, or on a specific issue. Greeks win seats because they run en masse and campaign hard, not because they're innately well-liked.

Ultimately I think both Greeks and non-Greeks could afford to have more empathy towards each other. Sorority girls and fraternity guys, please try to remember the difference between healthy enthusiasm and gratuitous zealotry. It's good to be excited, but sometimes it can be excessive. And non-Greeks: let's try to be more compassionate and less hypersensitive when confronted with claims of Greek superiority. It's OK for them to be proud of their organizations' accomplishments.

This university is filled with talented individuals in both the Greek and non-Greek communities. Anyone, regardless of affiliation, deserves to be lauded to his or her efforts to make UT Dallas a better learning and social environment.

As we continue to grow, it will become even more important to appreciate the great diversity that exists on this campus. Only by practicing tolerance and working together can we continue UTD's outstanding record of service and leadership. ■

*Ben has been demoted from AMP Editor to President of the student body. Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*



# Summer Lovin' on campus

*Surprise! SG gets a new VP who you didn't elect* & *Dr. Daniel evades tough Waterview issues (again!)*



by kimberley allen  
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The dog days of summer should be ones of hot-dog eating, summer-schooling, and interning, but all has not been quiet here on campus. I present an update of the issues that matter to students. Welcome back to the land of petty SG prattle and scandalous real-estate moguls!

The juiciest item of interest is Student Government's new brand of democracy.

Just after his election as SG president, Manfred Mecoy was issued a MIC (minor in consumption) by campus police for drinking alcohol in his Waterview apartment—a Class C misdemeanor, which is the same class as a speeding ticket. And so he faced the SG constitution's wrath which provides that any member who receives disciplinary action by the dean of students must resign.

There was excessive controversy surrounding the question of whether Mecoy should be removed from office—regardless of whether he was issued disciplinary action. The last SG meeting of the spring semester was largely (and absurdly) devoted to this non-issue, and Mecoy was the target of mounds of criticism.

The debate died out once summer began. By mid-June, after Dean of Students Donna Rogers issued Mecoy disciplinary probation, he voluntarily stepped down and then-vice-president Ben Dower succeeded him as president.

Left without an obvious replacement for the vice president position, SG's constitution dictated a senatorial election. Without a quorum at the first meetings of the summer, though, nothing happened. When a quorum was eventually assembled on July 17, the senate nominated a new vice president. Enter Ana Tavares. That meeting, the senate elected Ana Tavares as replacement vice president.

So, while Tavares was never actually elected by the student body for vice president, she's just as legit as anyone who is. It makes me mad to think about all the money and energy we wasted on SG elections. At the end of the day, no one cares that the senators themselves picked someone without student consent. Why bother to motivate the student body to vote when clearly their votes don't matter? Students speak during elections, and it falls on deaf ears.



Ana Tavares,  
new quasi-elected  
SG Vice Pres.

I don't doubt Tavares's ability to lead as VP or her enthusiasm. I do question, however, the validity of the election process at UTD. It encourages too much bickering and useless red tape while simultaneously discouraging students who want to be involved on a campus without the middle school drama.

Year after year, the elections are rife with petty politics, and all for what? Senators adhere strictly to arbitrary political parties, which are little more than opposing groups of friends. They band together in hopes that the group with the most friends wins, placing party loyalty above their own judgment. I'd like to see a showing of sanity in SG—both in the biweekly meetings and in next year's elections. Senators must lose their personal ambition in their dedication to the greater good. Only then will they earn students' respect and be able to accomplish more for students. Despite the problems of the past, I'm optimistic that this year's SG will be able to accomplish the feat. ■

Then there's Waterview. Oh scandalous Waterview. Back in May, an AMP article uncovered questionable financial dealings by the Utley Foundation, which owns Phases I-IV of Waterview Park. The numbers suggest Bob Utley's "Foundation" may have walked off with \$10 million thanks to crafty real estate wheeling and dealing.

Before the Utley Scandal went to press, I offered UTD President Dr. David Daniel the opportunity to respond. In an email, he dodged all my questions but insisted he had not been given the chance to "inform [my] evaluation through direct dialogue." Ironical, given the circumstances. Still, his assertion seemed like an accusation that my article was uninformed. He appeared to have more to say but, due to the "complexity" of the issue, said he would rather discuss it with students directly. Again strange, given my capacity as editor for a campus publication! I decided to chat with him directly.

Not surprisingly, the stonewalling continued. Dr. Daniel neither admitted nor denied anything. He did say that he had been informed before of the "possibility" of the issues discussed in my article. After all, the allegedly suspect transactions occurred prior to Dr. Daniel's arrival at UTD. Clearly though, I'm not the first to smell the rotten fish of the Utley Foundation.

When asked if he'd like to say anything to students, Dr. Daniel said, "Only what

I said before," that he has an open door policy and that any student is welcome to approach him with questions or concerns. He said he didn't know enough to comment on the issue further.

I simply don't believe that. Dr. Daniel is nothing if not meticulous; he makes it his business to know everything. He is intimately involved in many details of the university. This is no exception. I was surprised and disappointed that Dr. Daniel gave not even the assurance that the university was investigating or pursuing some appropriate course.

Obviously, administrators want this to disappear and for me to stop asking questions. They don't want to muddy relationships with deep-pocketed Utley, a supposed friend of the university.

But I won't let it go away because I believe that's not in student's best interest. Waterview is still around, and this summer UTD considered bids for its management contract. Because Utley owns current management company FirstWorthing (surprise?), clear conflicts of interest and imbalances of power exist. As usual, the university won't discuss details, but rest assured I'll be asking questions. As of now, there's no sign that UTD won't continue to do business with Bob Utley. Expect updates as the story develops. ■



Bob Utley,  
First Worthing  
Chairman

Kim hasn't met a scandal she can't get to the bottom of.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)

# Chemistry Student Association

*...excites my valence electrons!*



by liz schmiedel

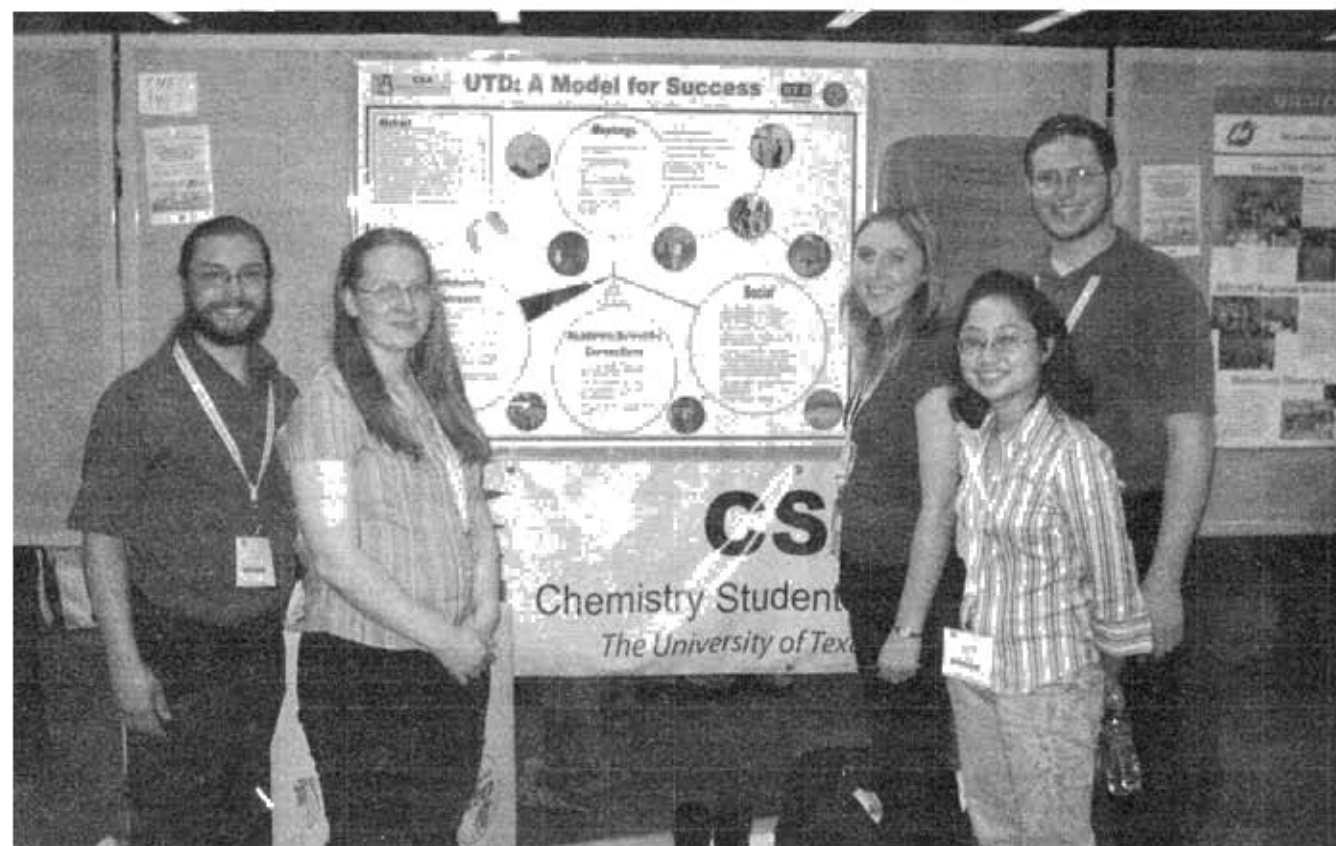
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So we all know UTD has a ton of student organizations—too many to keep track of. A year ago in the Activities Center, I was overwhelmed by the number of tables, brochures, tri-fold display posters, and free pens. I wanted to get involved in a couple of groups, but how could I possibly sift through them and find the right fit for me? The mere sight of all those booths and overzealous recruiters was enough to make a person give up and just play *Battlefield 2* in their apartment. Without sufficient RAM to play *Battlefield 2*, I had no choice but to trudge through the rows of tables in search of an extra-curricular activity...

It was the t-shirt that hooked me: Top 10 Lines to Land Your Lab Partner. Realizing that I'd understood each chemical pun and innuendo, I knew this was the right club for me. They had a sense of humor and, surprisingly enough, they were quite gregarious for an academic organization at UTD.

The UTD Chemistry Student Association is an award-winning student affiliate chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Of the best student groups nationwide, the ACS awarded our CSA an "Honorable Mention." This year the ACS has recognized the organization as "Outstanding"—an honor reserved for only the top 3% of student affiliate chapters. Just a few years ago, the two-member CSA struggled with raising funds. In *Chemistry*, a publication of the ACS will feature an article about our CSA entitled "From Outstanding Debt to Outstanding Chapter" in an upcoming issue.

So how did CSA earn such recognition? Not by lurking around Berkner all day! CSA President Danielle Victor says the group focuses on three areas: service, social, and academic events. More specifically, she says the group focuses on, "service to the community through science; bringing



Five of the officers of UTD's Chemistry Student Association attend the American Chemical Association Conference where they received a national award. Here, the officers stand in front of their poster at the SciMix. Photo Courtesy of Danielle Victor

the chemistry, biochemistry, and biology undergrads together with graduate students and chemistry faculty through social events; and attending ACS local, regional, and national meetings."

When it comes to serving the community, CSA hosts many activities for kids from elementary to high school. CSA members assist the younger science enthusiast in performing density, acid/base, and chromatography experiments—which, of course, is far more entertaining than listening to a science teacher at school. A crowd favorite is making slime; not only is it colorful and, well, slimy, but it's also a souvenir. Throughout the year, CSA both performs demonstrations at the Museum of Nature and Science and attends science and community fairs such as "Kids in Chemistry Day" and "Sounds of Class." For older students at TT's recent family day, CSA set up a crime investigation lab.

CSA members faithfully man booths at activity fairs on the SU mall. They'll be out there again to kick off National Chemistry Week on Mole Day, October 23rd. (Get it? Avogadro's number!) Well, even if

you don't remember dimensional analysis from General Chemistry, you're sure to enjoy liquid nitrogen ice cream as well as their dry ice and oobleck demos. What's oobleck, you ask? Oobleck is a mixture of corn starch and water that acts as a liquid if prodded slowly with a pen. Try to stab it and the pen won't so much as penetrate the surface! No matter your major, CSA's demos are worth closer inspection—well, as close as safety allows.

If you don't want to wait around for the next CSA booth, come to one of the meetings! CSA tests out new demonstrations—last semester they electrocuted a pickle to make it glow. My favorite demo is a classic: the coke fountain. Be sure to do this one outside. Get a 2L bottle of coke, preferably not diet, and a roll of Mentos. Roll a piece of paper so that you can quickly slide the Mentos into the bottle. Open the bottle, dump in six to eight Mentos, and back up! If all goes well, the coke will shoot up out of the bottle like the fountain between Founders and Jonsson.

CSA's most popular social event among its members is the broomball

match—students vs. faculty. Since this usually occurs as exams are ending, students are advised not to beat up on their professors too badly before they grade finals. Less violent social events include the fall and spring barbecues and, of course, the biweekly CSA meetings. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 12th at 5 pm (location TBA). As Victor says, "You don't even have to be a chemistry major or have any previous chemistry knowledge...As long as you love to have fun and show kids really awesome science experiments, you are more than welcome to join!"

CSA will be selling lab goggles, safety glasses, laser pens, and general chemistry software weekdays in Berkner from 9am-4pm through September 5. For more information, check out their bulletin board by the stock room in Berkner or visit their website at <http://www.utdallas.edu/orgs/csa/home.htm>. ■

*Liz Schmiedel only joins groups that have witty t-shirts and a sense of humor. Cough, smile.  
Discuss this article at [ump.utdallas.edu](http://ump.utdallas.edu)!*





The "Spirit Rock" at Case Western Reserve University is used to advertise events but...



...was also used to memorialize the passing of the great Australian wildlife expert, Steve Irwin.

# Let Freedom Rock

*Why this UTD investment would be positively capital*



by ana tavares

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Anti-abortionists carrying crosses. Evangelicals waving Bibles. Screaming war protesters with signs. Improv thespian productions. Any of these public displays can easily be associated with the average college campus. After all, what better place than a university to spread ideas and promote open discourse. But, once again, UT Dallas manages to defy university "norms". Though the campus is a free-speech zone in its entirety, the chances of finding individuals or groups exercising this privilege are slim.

As my years at UT Dallas progress, I hear the same complaint consistently, "I wish UTD was a *real* university". Every time I hear this statement, the same string of "get involved" promotions runs through my mind because, at UT Dallas, change and student involvement are synonymous. However, for some reason this fact, though constantly advertised, is too often ignored and complaints and frustrations continue to run rampant. The time has come to jump-start the individualization process that will make this university unique, quirky, and something to be truly proud of.

The need for a free-speech outlet is one of the easiest to rectify and I have just the

solution. Those who have been keeping up with their UT Dallas current affairs reading have already caught wind of a great project that Student Life is working on known as the "Freedom Rock" project. "What on earth is a 'Freedom Rock'?" you may be asking. Based on examples from schools such as Bowling Green State in North Carolina, the "freedom rock" is essentially just that; a gigantic boulder which is strategically placed and used as a free-speech outlet. Students can paint whatever they want on it from comic-type characters, to marriage proposals, to political statements. The possibilities are limitless.

The beauty of a freedom rock is the other opportunities that present themselves based on its existence. At Bowling Green State, the school mentioned above, their rock is part of a longstanding tradition for school spirit promotions as well as event and game promotions. When a rival school's colors defaced the rock, within hours the student body had banded together in order to repaint the BGS colors over the offensive splattering therefore promoting even more the upcoming football game.

With a few notable exceptions, school pride among the students of UTD is lacking when compared to colleges such as UT and A&M. Although we are already seeing more and more pride for ol' orange and green with each incoming freshman class, there is still much room for improvement. By implementing

an outlet such as the "freedom rock" not only would important games have the opportunity to be more publicly advertised, but our amazing sports teams would get the recognition they deserve, but so rarely receive.

Another useful application for the freedom rock is the inevitable tradition that would spring from it. Traditions are not hard to come by, but they are essential to every university. As a relatively young university, UT Dallas is still in the process of building up its legacy. It is certainly true that many people rub Cecil Green's head come finals week, and students never tire of taking pictures in front of the Love Jack. However, the tradition-fostering opportunities created by having a freedom rock are endless. Marriage proposals (here the hopeless romantic in me dares to dream), annual poetry slams, or even religious services—any of these could develop into lasting traditions and there are countless other ideas which undoubtedly catch the campus completely off-guard.

The censorship issue is one that has been carefully considered. On the one hand, a censored freedom rock is ripe with hypocrisy. On the other hand, swastikas and gang signs are not exactly good recruiting tools for the new freshman class. Most schools address this issue by placing the responsibility for editing on the community. Although anything can go up on the freedom rock, anything can cover it up as well. Provisions might be

added to the student code of conduct to deal with extreme cases, but the primary job of enforcing the community standards would belong to the students themselves.

The location of the potential rock is yet to be determined, but the plan is to place it in a natural and calming area, set aside by grass and trees. This would be the perfect place for the quintessential college student to hang out and discuss current affairs as well as the latest gossip. True this seems a bit fantastical, but the rock and its surrounding areas would undoubtedly develop into a safe haven for public debate as well as public displays promoting any agenda.

Though little about this project is really known, it has already received criticism. The beauty of free speech is the fact that every college student at UT Dallas is entitled to it. Whether you hate a project or love it, you have every right to talk about it. When I look around campus, I see a need for something to bring out the proud, knowledgeable, opinionated Comets that I know exists in open discourse and I think the "freedom rock" would fulfill that need and more.

(If you would like to let us know your opinions on the "freedom rock" or other projects feel free to email us at [sg@utdallas.edu](mailto:sg@utdallas.edu).) ■

Propose to Ana on a freedom rock; she'll say yes.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!



# Fundamentally Flawed

*The Catholic church walls up, but who's still inside?*



by jordan youngblood  
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In mid-June this year, the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace preached to its disciples: stop donating to Amnesty International because it supports a woman's right to abortion after rape and abuse in Darfur. That the Catholic Church gets frustrated with birth control and abortion isn't news, so most publications ignored it. However, this was the opening salvo in a line of conservative actions from a papacy that, instead of embracing change, has built a wall against it.

Jump forward to June 29, when Pope Benedict XVI offered up a restatement of his controversial 2000 edict "Dominus Iesus," written while he was still Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. There, he focused on the long-standing Catholic belief in the importance of apostolic succession through the popes as affirming proof of the one true Church—something that the Protestants, having opened a "wound" in the church, cannot claim. A few days later, Benedict reinstituted the traditional Tridentine mass to normal worship, potentially bringing Latin into the cathedrals on a regular basis for the first time since 1962.

Immediately, groups on both sides of the Protestant/Catholic divide began to spin the pope's actions. Some declared them a tradition-based rebuke by a reform-minded pope to a world that, in his words, has suffered under a "dictatorship of relativism"; others, an abrupt blow to a growing ecumenical approach brought forth after the reforms of Vatican II in 1962. Perhaps most telling were the comments of Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who said that "ecumenism is precisely what it has always been—a dead-end street."

Is this really the case? It's ironic that, at a moment where both churches appear to be sectioning themselves off from each other, the Catholics are doing



Benedict XVI, originally seen as a transition pope, has begun to place more of his own conservative stamp on the church in recent months. Picture from Encyclopedia Britannica.

what the Protestants started off with: reaffirming basic church beliefs against the decadence of society. The discussion between the two churches may not be explicit but underlying, as old ideas shift context—revolution to conservatism.

However, Protestant believers are more successfully buying wholesale into their basic beliefs than Catholics—at least in America. As a result, while evangelicals hit newfound heights of membership, the Vatican appears to grind against congregations split between the liberalism of Vatican II and Benedict XVI's conservatism.

Consider Protestant creation-scientists' 2005 "young earth" museum in Kentucky, where exhibits show people hanging out with dinosaurs and lions, all eating plants and berries. While some find this crazy, some quite literally consider it Gospel; a Newsweek poll this March found 73% of evangelicals believe that the earth is less than 10,000 years old, with humans created in their currently existing form. Other basic Protestant beliefs, such as the Bible being the actual, literal word of God, hold true for 63% of evangelicals. As simple as it might sound, Protestant

beliefs are indeed held by a majority of Protestants.

On the other hand, consider such Catholic stalwarts as priestly celibacy and exclusively male priesthood. A 2005 USA Today poll indicated 55% of American Catholics supported the ordination of women in the priesthood, and 66% found that optional celibacy would be acceptable for priests. That other old chestnut, natural family planning, has reached essentially an end in the minds of most; 80% of Catholics believed church stances on birth control needed to be liberalized. And going back to evolution, even with John Paul II stating in 1996 that recent evidence showed "evolution as more than a hypothesis," that same poll found 41% of Catholics still don't believe in it.

What relevance does any of this have? It's a difficult thing for any faith when its basic tenets are considered either outdated or potentially alterable by more than half of its believers. Yet instead of moving toward the beliefs of the majority, the Vatican moves inward, back to traditions. This isn't a necessarily a bad thing—except when those concepts suffocate growth and

development in a church reeling from scandal and corruption.

Evangelical Christianity appeals because it offers a no-frills approach: a preacher, the choir, the message. Pick up a Bible and join in. In contrast, Catholicism relies as much on the power of the pope to "bind on earth" the rules of the church as it does on the scriptures. The pope could institute changes whenever he wanted as the Vicar of Christ; indeed, priestly celibacy relies almost exclusively on instituted canon law rather than scriptural backing, since there actually were female Catholic deaconesses up to around the year 400. Instead, Benedict hunkers down behind the edicts of his predecessors, reasserting the necessity of the eternal true church at a time where the situation demands change.

To be fair, he's got his reasons to cling to tradition; consider the Episcopalian exodus after the allowance of gay priests that actually led to many Episcopalians converting to Catholicism. Excessive liberalization could lead the church too far toward the other moderate Protestant denominations always teased as "Catholicism Lite." Identity is essential in a world filled with religious choices, and it's hard to turn back on some of the rules that have made the church one of the most powerful organizations in history.

However, with European church attendance reaching record lows and the American church embroiled in lawsuits from child molestation to embezzling, the time is ripe for the church to move into a new era. This isn't like the Counter-Reformation; the church now finds itself in the minority, faced against a threat that cannot be combated with military force or inquisitions. The choice is up to them to adapt. If not, the apostolic church may find itself in the same situation it was in with Luther: watching the world pass by and reacting only too late. ■

*Jordan may not be Catholic, but he does appreciate drinking wine on Sunday mornings.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*



# Solar Panels Eclipsed

*Our hopes can't outshine the truth*



by liam skoyles  
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We are the generation of the future. We grew up on a steady diet of the Jetsons, taught our parents how to use the internet, and watched computers shrink from the size of rooms to postage stamps. We see the future all around us, but sometimes we are too quick to jump on the shiny new bandwagon and lose focus on what is really going on. And now we have fallen victim to the scam of the century: solar energy.

The fact that humanity must turn to alternative energy resources to quench our exponentially growing need for power has long been high on the list of things that will radically change our future. Any compelling vision of the future comes complete with shiny blue solar paneling and spiffy white windmills to power our robot friends, iphones and hover-cars. Unfortunately, we don't live in the future; we live firmly locked to the road in the present, where things are still powered by dirty earth-besmirching oil.

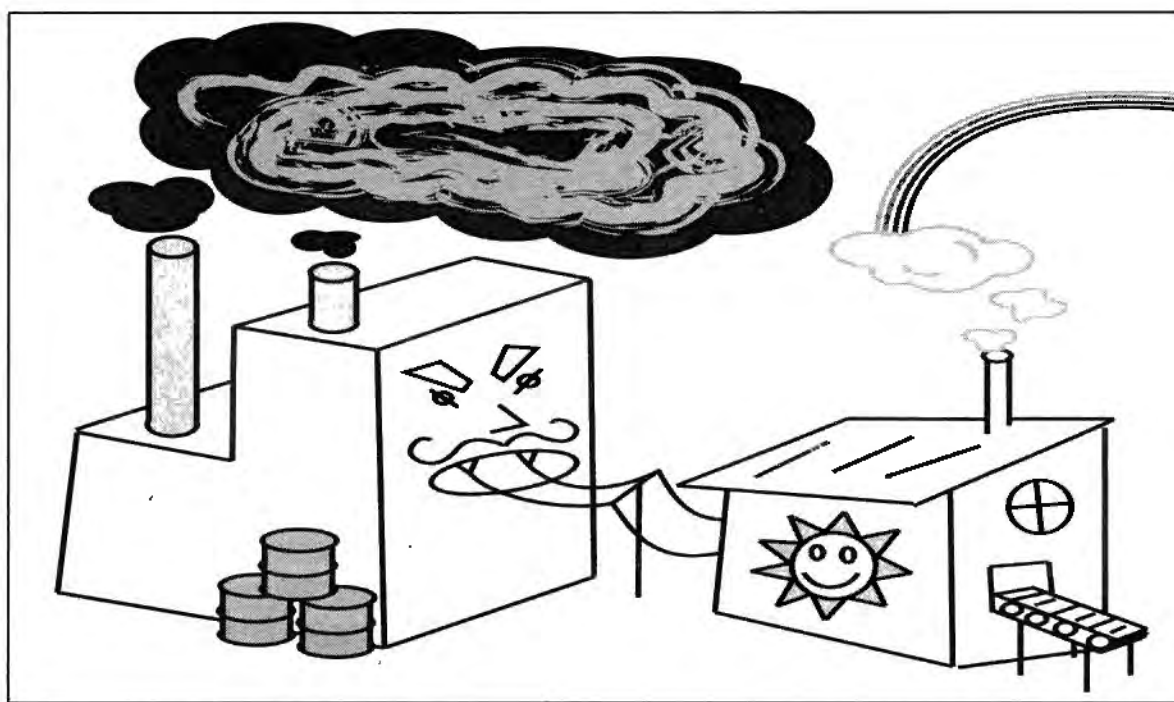
So what's the deal? We have been expecting the future for a while now: why has it taken modern science so long to catch up with our earth-hugging dreams? The answer lies in the fact that oil, and coal for that matter, are just so mind-bogglingly amazing energy sources, and we have spent the last 150 years becoming supremely effective at harvesting that energy.

It is time now for alternative energy sources to under go some difficult growing pains—it is important to remember that the first coal and oil powered plants were a thousand times worse for the earth than today's hyper-efficient giants and that they generated comparatively little energy.

The first attempts at solar energy involved huge fields of mirrors precisely shaped and positioned to heat water, make steam, and power pistons—much the same way that oil is burned to make steam to power pistons. This approach involved a slew of fundamental problems, not the least of which was the sun's constant movement across the sky.

The next step in solar power came from that modern marvel, the silicon chip. It is possible to convert solar waves directly into electricity using the same silicon technology that goes into super-computers. In fact, the bulk of today's solar panels are made using excess silicon rejected by electronics manufacturers.

Since the revelation that "Photovoltaic" power could be created on silicon, billions of research dollars have been poured into its testing. The panels of today are



Some plants look clean but they have a dirty secret behind them. Graphic illustration by Liam Skoyles.

collecting more than 40% of the energy contained in the sun's rays (up from less than 5% with the original models).

So there you have it, Ta-Da! We are yet again saved by technology.

But not so fast! Conventional wisdom says that things seemingly too good to be true probably are, and solar power, unfortunately, is no exception.

Let's examine again why the initial mirrors and steam version of solar power didn't work. It wasn't because the design didn't produce any power; it was because the design was much less effective at creating power than other means. Today's solar-cell technology, although much more impressive, still falls tremendously short of the efficiency of oil-power.

It is true that we must start using alternative energy sources soon to alleviate our dependence on natural resources, but building a load of inefficient shiny blue glass is not going to help.

It turns out that the production of today's solar panels is actually harming today's environment. That's right—harming Mother Nature. Any self-respecting hippy can spout off the benefits of solar power: "Solar energy is the pollution solution- it requires two-thirds less water with negligible air and water pollution emissions." - Solar Development Inc.

But a thorough analysis will prove otherwise.

The most efficient solar panels made today are created by a very complex process involving heating a vat of silicon to the melting point, pulling out a molten chunk,

slicing it into thin sheets, spraying it with high energy atoms, lining it with metal and covering it in glass. Each one of those steps involves electricity, so much electricity in fact, that producing a solar cell uses more electricity than it will ever produce in its effective life-span. So there it is. The oil burned to create the electricity that is used to create a solar cell is more than it will ever create: a net loss of oil and more carbon dioxide to choke Mother Nature.

The insanity of some projects is more visible than others. For example, many people talk about the opportunities to put a huge array of solar cells into space to solve earth's power conundrum. Just imagine the environmental impact of the rockets that would be used to put the satellites into space! With the application of a little common sense, these ideas are shown to be absolutely ridiculous. The electricity that could be generated by using the rocket fuel would eclipse the electricity generated by the satellite.

The problems with solar power are many, especially now in the proverbial throws of their youth. Hopefully, with time and research, they will prove to be the savior of humanity, yet that day is far from now. Research and innovation will bring solar panels up to speed eventually, but until then: You never get a free lunch, no matter how sunny it is.

*Liam may not be bright enough to provide energy, but at least he is smart enough to know that he can't.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# Whistleblower's cover blown

## *Abu Ghraib publicizer wrongly harassed*



by jordon batura  
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Sergeant Joseph M. Darby, the whistleblower of the notorious Abu Ghraib Prisoner of War abuses, has recently come under fire from his neighbors and military peers, many of whom label him a "traitor" for helping put a stop to prisoner abuse in Iraq.

Surprising to Darby, most of the soldiers from his unit shook his hand and expressed their approval to him for what he did. It wasn't till he arrived home in Maryland that the big problems started.

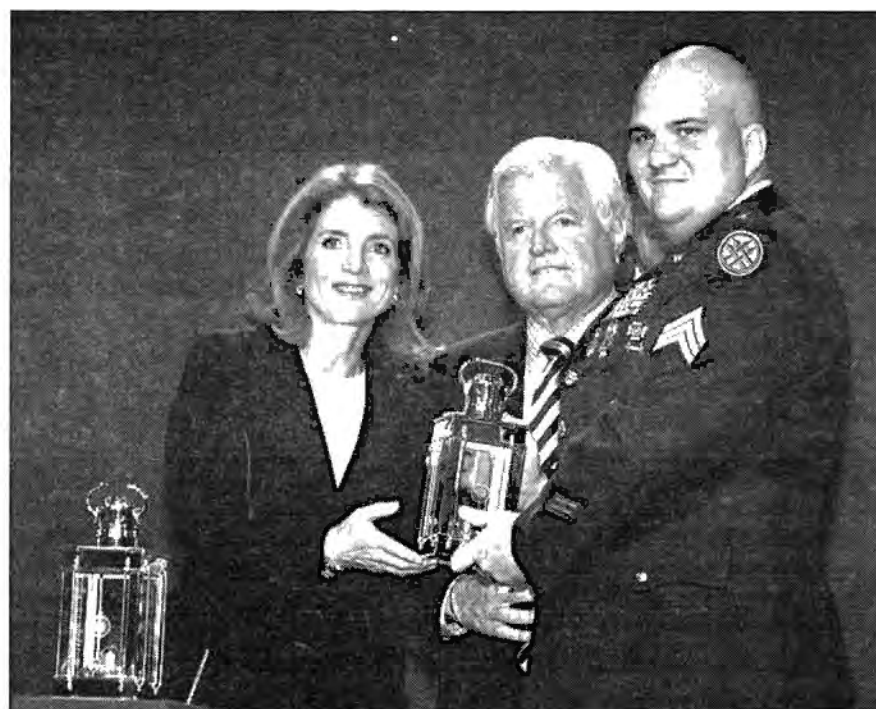
When Rumsfeld named him on television, it was as if a target had been placed upon his family. His house was tagged with graffiti, and his wife was cursed at in town; neighbors "justified" these deplorable actions by suggesting that Darby had put American soldiers behind bars for the sake of some Iraqi criminals. In the end his wife was forced to escape to her sister's house, which was subsequently vandalized as well. Joseph and his wife are now in protective custody in an undisclosed location, safe from any more bigoted attacks.

This reflects poorly on America and reveals an inherent bias—that American lives are more valuable than Iraqis. What happened to our foundational belief that "all men are created equal"? Would some Americans tolerate gross atrocities, justifying the unthinkable because they see the victims as inhuman?

It wasn't until fellow MP Charles Graner gave Darby a CD full of photographs that he inadvertently discovered the gross mistreatment of the detainees.

"The first picture I saw, I laughed — because one, it's just a pyramid of naked people — I didn't know it was Iraqi prisoners," he says, "As I got into the photos more I realized what they were."

"There were photos of Graner beating



Abu Ghraib whistleblower Joseph M. Darby (right) received a trophy from Senator Ted Kennedy (D. Ma. center) for his actions, but was harassed as a traitor after being named on television by former defense secretary Don Rumsfeld.

three prisoners in a group. There was a picture of a naked male Iraqi standing with a bag over his head, holding the head, the sandbagged head of a male Iraqi kneeling between his legs.

"The most pronounced woman in the photographs was Lynndie England, and she was leading prisoners around on a leash. She was giving a thumbs-up and standing behind the pyramid... next to Graner."

If Darby's descriptions don't paint a foul enough picture for you, hear it in a prisoner's own words. According to Ameen Saeed Al-Sheik, detainee No. 151362, "They said, 'we will make you wish to die and it will not happen.' [...] They stripped me naked. One of them told me he would rape me. He drew a picture of a woman to my back and makes me stand in shameful position holding my buttocks." Are you cringing yet? Ameen continues:

"One of them said, 'You are not getting out of here health[y], you are getting out of here handicapped. And

he said to me, 'Are you married?' I said, 'Yes.' They said, 'If your wife saw you like this, she will be disappointed.' Another one said, 'But if I saw her now she would not be disappointed now because I would rape her.' They ordered me to thank Jesus that I'm alive... I said to him, 'I believe in Allah.' So he said, 'But I believe in torture and I will torture you.'"

These terrifyingly insane examples of Graner and England's playtime with the inmates should be enough to convince you that the soldiers' actions in Abu Ghraib were atrocious and beyond the scope of the law.

Sergeant Darby realized he was looking at morally corrupt and legally incriminating images, but found it difficult to turn them in to the appropriate authorities. Darby knew he possessed material that could get US soldiers in serious trouble. On the other hand, they were torturing Iraqi prisoners, many of whom see absolutely no problem with strapping a bomb to their chest, walking into a courtyard full of "infidels," and gruesomely blowing themselves up.

Who wouldn't want to try to punish them for their extreme and dangerous views?

When Darby asked Graner about the pictures, he was told, "The Christian in me says it's wrong, but the corrections officer in me says, 'I love to make a grown man piss himself.'" When he finally decided to turn in the photographs, Darby elected to do it anonymously, and hoped that he had washed his hands of the matter.

However, he was still fearful that the soldiers incriminated by the photographs would attempt to get retribution for his "betrayal." Darby felt relieved when the offending soldiers were removed from the military base, and assumed that he was finally clean from the issue. He felt safe knowing that Graner and England had been sentenced to 10 and 3 years in prison, respectively. That wasn't the end of his troubles, however. His anonymity was blown by none other than the (now former) Secretary of Defense: Donald Rumsfeld. Joe was sitting in a crowded Iraqi canteen with hundreds of military peers when Rumsfeld came on the television to thank Sergeant Darby by name for handing in the photographs. Darby suspects a more malicious intent from the public thank-you:

"I don't think it was an accident because those things are pretty much scripted," Darby says. "But I did receive a letter from him which said he had no malicious intent, he was only doing it to praise me and he had no idea about my anonymity. I really find it hard to believe that the Secretary of Defense of the United States has no idea about the star witness for a criminal case being anonymous."

Perhaps the Abu Ghraib story seems old, outdated. Even so, it's a story we should never forget. We must reexamine the biases that hide within each of us, the prejudices against people whose customs are different from ours. We cannot forget that they are human, that they have rights as fundamental as our own. ■

*Jordon Batura believes if Admiral Akbar were President, these things wouldn't happen.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*



# Generation You

*Invasion of the "Me Monster" must be stopped*



by john keese

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I'm mad. I don't regularly write for AMP, but I'm mad. It's about the only time I do write for a newspaper, when I'm mad. The other times I want to be funny, but no funny today. I'm mad.

Why am I mad? I'm mad because of you. Yes, you. But only if "you" means "you are in my generation." I'm mad at me too, because I was born in my generation. Our generation has a stench hovering over it, constantly. It's a plague, a disease. It has many names, but it's easy to describe.

Entitlement. Selfishness. Egocentricity. Self-centeredness. Self-service.

That is what we struggle with my friends. It's the Me-monster. I want this... I need this... I... I... and it goes on and on. Why can't we stop it and become selfless servants? That would be strange, revolutionary, crazy, ridiculous... authentic, real, enlightening, respectable.

Maybe you've been stuck too long. I know I have been, and may currently be. Sometimes you get in ruts. Maybe this list will help.

John's list of things we are NOT entitled to:

- You do not deserve your car. You do not deserve your cell phone. You do not deserve your iPod. Your stereo. Your clothes. Your shoes. Your computer. Your \_\_\_\_\_. These are all material possessions. Were you born with them? No. Will you take them with you when you die? No. What were you born with? Your family. So stop sacrificing time with your family to obtain these objects that mean nothing.

- You are not entitled to your Freedom of Speech. It is a privilege which has been granted to you. Quit using your privilege to tear others down. How does that improve your life? So what if that guy cut you off in traffic? Do the horrible words that gush from your mouth make you a more mature person? Of course not. Instead, try complimenting someone. If it feels weird, it's because you're out of practice.

- You are not entitled to an A. It is a gift. This is college for crying out loud. To be here you're already supposed to be above average. So an A means you're above above-average. And for crying out loud, your parents should not be calling professors and complaining for you (and yes, it does happen). You stayed up too late partying, so you deserve that D.

- You do not deserve a Get-Out-of-Jail-Free Card. Take responsibility for your actions. Stop believing that the rules don't apply to you. The world does not revolve



around you. How dare you become angry at our school officials for carrying out the rules and laws which you knowingly broke. Which brings me to a corollary...

- Accidents happen. You are not entitled to a worry free life. Our society is so "sue crazy" that we have lost all of our bearings. You got a horrible burn while cooking some eggs. You shouldn't sue the egg farmer, the stove maker, or the pan manufacturer. It was an accident. Life is full of accidents. Furthermore, many times when we have "accidents," we really need to point the blame at ourselves.

- You are not entitled to Love. You cannot go around being selfish and expect to find everlasting love.

A statistic for you: 5 out of every 10 marriages end in divorce, and for those of you who are religious, that statistic doesn't change inside the church. What happened to "Till Death Do Us Part?"

A common lie for you: There is one perfect person for you in the whole world, and it is your job to find that one person. This is a lie! Truth is, there are probably several people in the world you could remain married to for the rest of your life.

Some news for you: Love is a Choice! That's right. Love is not some romantic feeling that comes upon you like a gust of wind. It is a conscious choice. Here's the kicker: You make that choice... You are choosing to no longer be selfish. You are choosing to no longer feel entitled. You are putting everyone else's wants before yours. You are proclaiming to the world how worthless you are and how amazing everyone else is.

Yeah, it may seem weird. You'll feel awkward, but what this world needs is more love. It needs more selflessness, more compassion, more mercy.

Finally, some advice for you: The secret of love is not to find the right person, but to be the right person. Make a commitment to be the right person, not only in your romantic relationships, but in your friendships, your acquaintances, and with strangers.

I'm making this commitment with you. I am the worst of everyone. I commit myself to stop feeling entitled, to stop my selfish ways. Will you join me? Together, we can save ourselves, our cities, our nations, and our world.

We will save it all with Love. ■

*John Keese wasn't entitled to this page in AMP.  
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# Why I'm Pro-BONO

*U2's lead singer deserves gratitude and recognition*



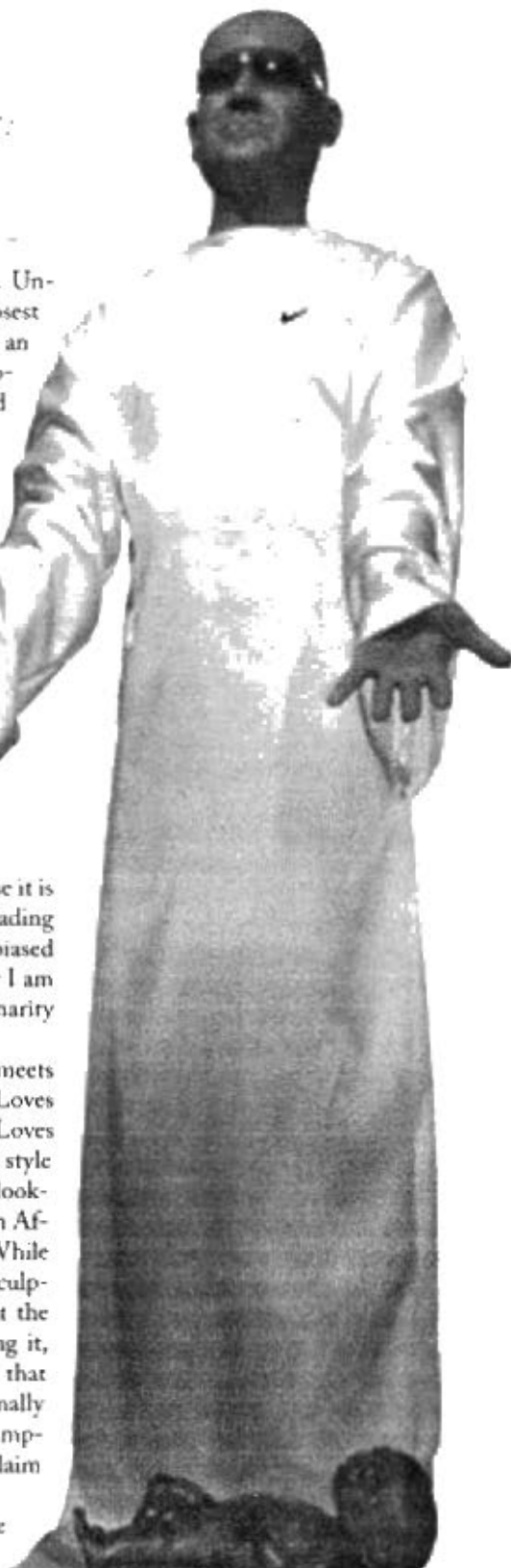
by jonathan coker

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I've got a confession to make. Unbeknownst to all but my very closest friends, I am a U2 fan. If there is an album, book, magazine, movie or obscure item that is somehow related to U2, assume that I own it. So, it follows that I am also a fan of U2's lead singer, Bono, the only person on the planet who has ever made me swoon (long story). Bono is the rare kind of rock star that has remained faithful to his wife, sings about love, God and justice, and is an active humanitarian, championing the elimination of extreme poverty in the world. I confess my adoration of him because it is important that you know before reading this article that I am completely biased in my opinion of this man, but that I am also knowledgeable about Bono's charity works and life.

Recently, Dutch artist Frans Smeets unveiled a sculpture entitled "Jesus Loves You Too" (which can also be "Jesus Loves U2") which depicts Bono in Jesus style garb complete with Nike swoosh looking disinterestedly forward while an African child lays dying at his feet. While I can't say I'm exactly a fan of the sculpture, what bothers me most is that the sculpture, and the buzz surrounding it, are indicative of a hate and distrust that many have for Bono. I have personally talked to many people who use assumptions and false information to proclaim that he is a man to be reviled.

There are two main points people bring up when I ask them why they hate a man who has devoted his life to music and charity work. They argue that if he actually cared about the poor, he would donate all of his



This statue of Bono as Jesus, dressed in a Nike robe, standing over a starving African child inspired Jonathan.

Photo by [www.rollingstone.com](http://www.rollingstone.com)

money to charity. They also argue that he doesn't actually care about the poor, but rather that he is in the charity business for celebrity.

People see Bono as a hypocrite for asking nations and private citizens to donate money to organizations that are trying to end extreme poverty, while he lives a lavish life and doesn't donate his own money to these charities. It is no secret that Bono is incredibly rich. U2's estimated worth is 1 billion dollars of which Bono receives 20%. Furthermore, Bono certainly lives a comfortable life. He owns three homes, drives a Maserati, and enjoys fine dining.

What is not known is the extent of his charitable donations. This is by design. Bono and the rest of U2 are ardent Christians and believe firmly in the idea of not making donations public.

"Tell people you're giving it away then, by our definition, it is no longer charity, in the sense that the right hand shouldn't know what the left hand is doing." Though the amount Bono has personally donated isn't known, there's no reason to believe it isn't substantial.

Furthermore, to a man in Bono's position, time is of much greater worth than money. Bono has spent 25 years studying recent history, visiting Africa, learning American politics, and meeting with and speaking to politicians in almost every western country, all in an attempt to end extreme world poverty.

What people see is the photo op handshake between President Bush and Bono. What they don't see is the long meetings and the frustrating political hierarchy Bono had to trudge through to get to that handshake. It's not easy to convince a seasoned politician that an Irish rock star knows what he's talking about. That took a good deal of time to accomplish.

As for the second point claims that Bono doesn't actually care about the poor and instead he is only interested in his celebrity and uses charity as a means to increase it, who knows. Maybe this is true.

However, if it were, it certainly wouldn't make much sense. Bono was,

and would be, famous even without his charity work. To pick a manner of increasing his celebrity that is labor intensive and to keep doing it for 25 years speaks more to his dedication than anything else. In contrast, look at the Live Earth concerts this summer. This event gives the impression of all talk no walk, as the celebrities flew private jets all across the world to preach conservation. Bono's got the walk.

However, supposing that Bono does intend to increase his celebrity, and he probably does to some small extent, does anybody really care? He's doing it in a constructive manner and his work has undeniably had positive results.

Since the beginning of the ONE campaign and DATA, both non profit organizations set up by Bono to end extreme poverty, 20 million more African children are being educated, the number of HIV patients on life prolonging drugs has increased from 50,000 to 1.3 million according to a report released in 2007. While, Bono certainly isn't responsible for all of this, and while there is still much more to be done to bring third world countries up to a humane standard of life, he certainly should receive some of the credit for opening the world's eyes to the dilemmas of the world's poorest and for trying to help those most in need.

I understand when people think U2's music is terrible or that the band is too old to be relevant or that Bono looks ridiculous in those sunglasses (he does).

The world is full of critics and that is a good thing. It keeps us on our toes. What I can't understand is when a person who knows very little about Bono and an issue as important as world poverty have assigned the basest of intents and thoughts to the heart of a man they do not know.

That kind of unfounded cynicism is unhealthy and leads to the sort of inescapable distrust in a society that can erode a nation from the inside out ■

Jonathan Coker uses his love for U2 to increase his own celebrity status.  
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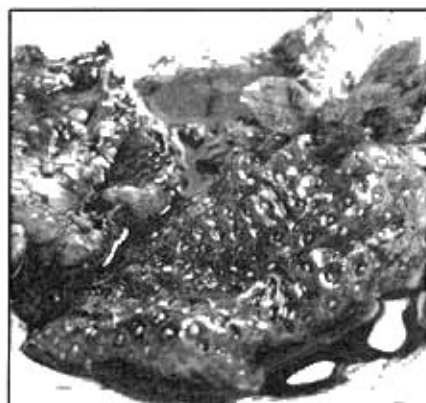


by kaitlin butler  
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# The Spin Cycle



and jordan youngblood  
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Animal Collective  
**Strawberry Jam**  
(Fat Cat Records)

My affair with Animal Collective began in 2004, when I heard *Sung Tongs* for the first time. It was just a summer thing at first, but our love grew stronger with the release of *Feels* in 2005. In 2006, though, the band deserted me! No new albums, a few tours here and there, but for the most part, nothing! Absence, for some reason, truly does make the heart grow fonder—*Strawberry Jam* was my most highly anticipated album... ever.

That being said, I couldn't stand this album on the first listen-through. It was too schizophrenic, too far removed from their previous albums (which, really, I should have expected—their sound changes with each new album). I

was disappointed and more than a little bit heartbroken, but I decided to give it another try that same night.

That's probably the best decision I've ever made. After the second listen, I couldn't stop. I listened to it again, and again, and again; I think I listened to the complete album seven times that night. Absolutely flawless musical moments are rather hard to find, but they abound on *Strawberry Jam*.

The high points of the album, in my mind, are "Reverend Green" and "Fireworks." The raw emotion of the first song, matched with a simplistic, driving beat reminds me of another Animal Collective song: "We Tigers" (which, incidentally, might just be in my top five

songs of all time). The song culminates with someone screaming "FOR REVEREND GREEN!" over and over, turning these words into pure noisy sonic perfection. The beat continues, shifting ever-so-slightly, and dives straight into "Fireworks," a complete stunner of a song. In true Animal Collective fashion, the song has several distinct parts, each blending together to create a song that's more than a song; it's a story with a life of its own.

The album's genius is much more consistent than *Feels*, with just as much creativity and innovation as I've come to expect from the band. Animal Collective and I, I'm glad to say, are still very much in love. —Kaitlin



The New Pornographers  
**Challengers**  
(Matador)

It's usually a foolish thing to assess an album's worth based on the cover; there's been some spectacular records with horrible images on the front. However, the so-awful-it's-awful pastiche of a shirtless man, his psychedelic purple shadow, laser beams, and shaky WordArt that constitutes the front of *Challengers* actually does indicate the mishmash of ideas within. For a band that's always prided itself on power-pop concision, the New Pornographers show an unusual amount of filler on this record: songs grind an idea into the ground, stretch into nothingness, or simply don't

exist to begin with.

Opener "My Rights Versus Yours" features one of the most elegant verses on the album, only to have it abruptly replaced with 2 dull minutes of repeating "A new empire in rags." "Unguided" lives up to its title, stumbling about for six and a half minutes until puttering out unspectacularly. "Challengers" commits the fatal mistake of wasting the pipes of Neko Case on a weak, unexciting melody. Even the normally reliable Dan Bejar falls short, mailing in a set of three Destroyer B-sides.

That's not to say the album's without

merit, as lead Pornographer Carl Newman has too much talent to write crap for a full hour. "All The Things That Go To Make Heaven and Earth" and "Mutiny, I Promise You" recapture some of the energy of earlier efforts, "Adventures in Solitude" successfully mixes a slower tempo with gorgeous harmonies, and the slow-building "Go Places" lets Case actually utilize her voice to some effect. But after three of the best power-pop records in recent memories, there's no mistaking that *Challengers* falls short of the high standard the New Pornos have established. —Jordan



Iron & Wine  
**The Shepherd's Dog**  
(Sub Pop)

From the moment *The Creek Drank the Cradle* appeared in 2002, Iron & Wine's Sam Beam sounded like an anachronism: a fuzzy, sleepy voice out of a Southern tradition of porch-front songwriting, singing about lost love and Gothic landscapes. However, *Our Endless Numbered Days* cleaned up the production around Beam and 2005's *Woman King* introduced a much wider sonic palette, filling the spaces around his voice with pianos and electric guitars. Fans began to worry that Beam had forgotten the simplicity of early songs like "Bird Stealing Bread," marching ever closer to a full studio sound.

God forbid they get their hands on

the absolutely instrument-crammed *The Shepherd's Dog*, which sounds at points more like a lost Talking Heads record than anything resembling Beam's early work. Percussion and exotic instrumentation informs most of the songs, like the vaguely Eastern drone of "White Tooth Man," the Caribbean pulse of "House by the Sea," and the bizarrely funky "Wolves."

When it works, the added instrumentation sounds like a revelation, as on opener "Pagan Angel and a Borrowed Car" where Beam harmonizes with a whole chorus of himself over backwards guitar, piano, violins, and rhythmic drums. Admittedly, there's nothing here with the emotional

impact of "Upward Over the Mountain" or "Passing Afternoon," where the sparse instrumentation put the emphasis squarely on Beam's lyrics and voice. However, in terms of a listening experience, no Iron & Wine album to this point has offered this many distinct sounds, and Beam's skill lyrically and vocally hasn't dimmed over time. His shift from a singer-songwriter to, in many ways, a bandleader, is a successful one; this iteration of Iron & Wine offers its own pleasures. —Jordan ■

Next month Kaitlin and Jordan face the new James Blunt album and run out of synonyms for "shit".  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!

# Summer reading, for fall

*Female insights on society and sex from Saudi to Seattle*



by **laura miller**  
lm052000@utdallas.edu

Many of us are so overwhelmed with exhaustive reading from ambitious classes that leisure reading seems like a strange fish that slips from our grasp when we bring it home from market. Others never make it to the market at all, and so they starve throughout the semester, without brain food even to covet. I hope these reviews provide you a starting point, tiny sardines that eventually grow into wild, delicious salmon and satisfy whatever literary urges possess you. I chose novels that will not strain the already overburdened mind of the student. This is pleasure reading that, at least I hope, will not give you nightmares about Abraham Lincoln dissolving into nothingness.



## **The Girls of Riyadh** The Good, the Bad, and the Dirty

*A crimson-lipped vixen teases her hair in front of the mirror in preparation for her Friday night ritual. She opens her laptop, rests her fingers gently on the keys, and prepares to disclose the most well-kept secrets of an elite society.*

This was *The Girls of Riyadh's* modest beginning 3 years ago. Rajaa Alsanea had no way of knowing that these 50 e-mails would create a scandal throughout Saudi Arabia, the nerve center for her heartbreaking stories of love, loss, and renewal. Rajaa Alsanea only knew that she was full to the teeth with stories that threatened to suffocate her if she remained silent much longer. The suspense-filled e-mails, which were collected into a novel and translated to English in 2007, provide long-awaited insight into the mysterious

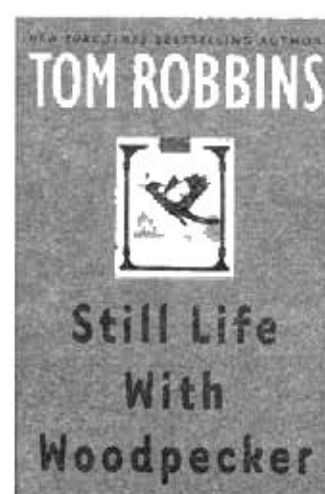
lives of Arabic women.

The e-mails track the lives of four girls, Gamrah, Sadeem, Michelle, and Lamees, as they attempt to reconcile their desires with those of their families and society. Their struggles to define femininity and find permanence in love resonate in American society, but the foreign religious, cultural, and social issues make their situations unique. Over the course of six years, the girls experience trials that range from being caught with bootleg copies of *The Nutty Professor*, to tribal prejudice, to intra marital affairs. Alsanea bares all, the good, the bad, and the dirty, in her portrayal of the thoughts and motives of each dynamic personality she follows.

The web erases barriers of time and space. Readers respond to Alsanea's weekly e-mails instantaneously, which allows her to address criticism the moment it arises. Each chapter is prefaced with either a short reaction to the audience, or a general statement about the author's mood. This is an invaluable tool that heightens the novel's suspense, as the reader is unaware of what the cultural and personal effects of each story will be.

This novel is complex in its simplicity. The language is straightforward and easily understood, but the insights are profound and purpose driven. The women in these stories are real, their rage, fear, jealousy, and compassion genuine. Common conceptions of personal and sexual liberation are turned inside-out as the stories reach their conclusions in a manner that is both empowering and dismal.

Available at Amazon (\$16.47).



## **Still Life With Woodpecker** Chocolate-Covered Sea Bass

Casual and capitalized sex, public urination, and football field miscarriages are a few of the milder episodes encountered in Tom Robbin's third novel *Still Life With Woodpecker*. Although it was published in 1980, it continues to cast a dark shadow over modern erotica.

Buried beneath the "sweet nastiness" and the bizarre theories concerning contraception and red-headed aliens, lurks a fairly predictable love story about a teenage princess and an arsonist on the run.

Elaborated sexual encounters immediately catch the reader's interest, but they soon develop into incomprehensible conspiracies, and a

disappointing lead character. The rather naïve, Seattle-based princess Leigh-Cheri fails to display the strength or temerity required of a heroin. Instead, she simply attaches herself to an over-confident outlaw who doesn't disappoint an audience awaiting a fairytale ending.

The outlaw, who might be a more interesting character if he wasn't sick in love with a cheerleader/princess, eventually loses his intrigue when his signature skill (bomb-making) becomes the only solution to a variety of problems.

What it lacks in the way of substantial plot, it makes up for in style. Reading a Tom Robbins novel is simultaneously revolting and intriguing, like a chocolate-covered sea bass.

His use of metaphor will astound even the most diversified of readers, and his dark and controversial wit will compromise your values, if only for a second. Some of his more recent novels include *Villa Incognito* (2003) and *Wild Ducks Flying Backward* (2005). If you enjoy eating banana splits under the light of the full moon, I suggest you pick up one of these books.

Available at the McDermott Library (free) and Amazon (from \$7.93). ■

*Laura Miller is not the former Mayor of Dallas. Even if she were, writing for AMP would be a promotion.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](mailto:amp.utdallas.edu)!*



# Congress not in the Market for a Solution

*Ridiculous Senate Bill not the way towards smarter energy use*



by benedict voit

benedict.voit@student.utdallas.edu

I was one of the lucky ones. I went to Braum's to pick up a gallon of milk on the right day last month. As I was checking out, the lady informed me that tomorrow they would raise the price 60 cents a gallon. With all of the demand for ethanol production as a possible replacement for oil, the corn needed to feed ole Bessie and family has become more expensive.

Although the consumer is terribly upset about the \$3.00 gallon gas, the \$4.00 mark for a gallon of milk has come and passed with little discussion.

For now, though, let us look at what great advancements our federal government has made this summer in regards to moving this country in a smarter direction on energy.

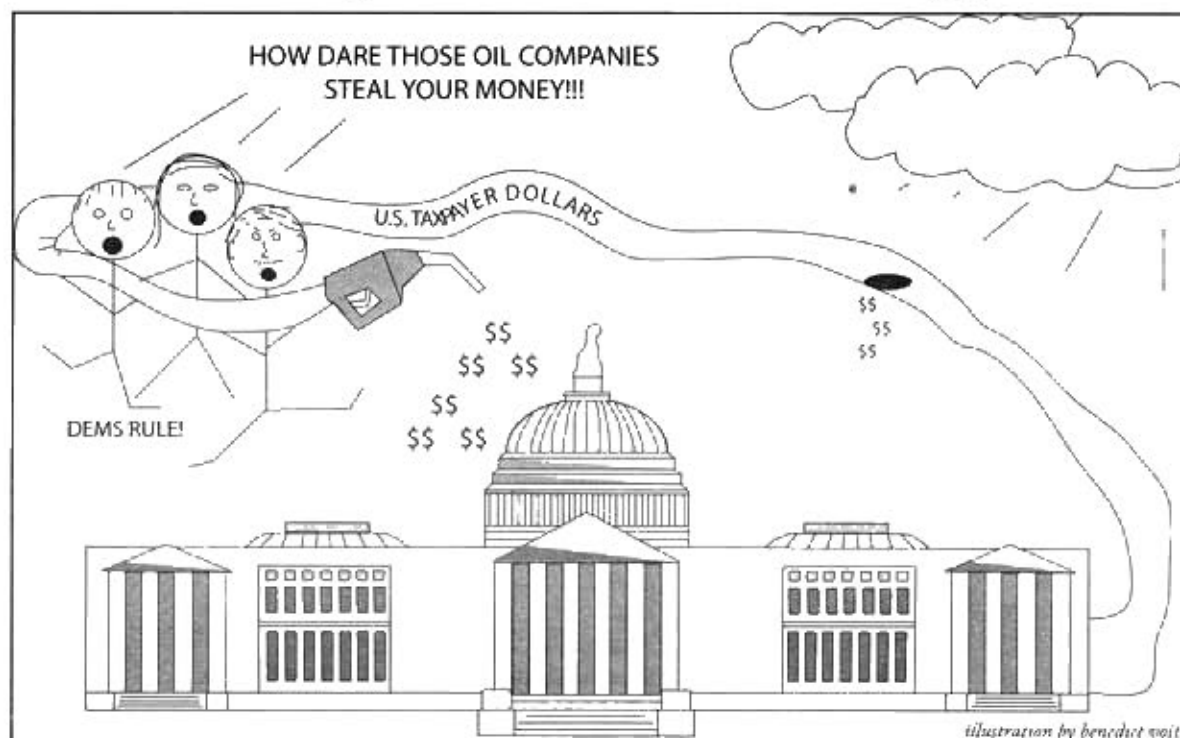
The most noteworthy event involved the Democrats attempting to pass a resolution mandating a specific increase in the MPG ratings for consumer vehicles over at next 15 years (S.1419). Harry Reid and co. apparently believe that they can mandate innovation, and their arrogance is astounding. What they imply through this bill is that the car companies, left to market forces, would not build more efficient cars on their own; Congress, therefore, must save the day and make sure that this change occurs. In the business world, unlike much of the time in Congress, performance matters. To think that car companies do not work tirelessly to improve their fuel efficiency is ludicrous.

What the car companies also know and what many in Congress seem to ignore is the notion of a trade-off. Example: heavier cars require more fuel to propel. If Congress really were to create a law which mandated increased fuel efficiency, the car companies may choose to lighten their cars by substituting steel for lighter alloys, or by creating lighter designs. On the surface this seems like a no-brainer: do it; lighten the cars.

But the trade-off is that lighter vehicles are less safe. According to Charli E. Coon, J.D. of the Heritage Foundation, for every increased MPG that a vehicle receives, the number of fatal car crashes increases: "...since [Corporate Average Fuel Economy] standards were mandated under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, about 46,000 people have died in crashes that they would have survived if they had been traveling in bigger, heavier cars. This translates into 7,700 deaths for every mile per gallon gained by the standards."

To combat this, states could lower speed limits on the highways, but that would increase travel time thereby negatively impacting work productivity and transportation costs among other things.

With vehicles used in heavy transportation,



Harry Reid is the sponsor of Senate Bill 1419 that, if passed, would mandate car companies increase their products' MPG ratings. While cars should have better fuel mileage, the market should dictate the appropriate amount - not Congress.

increasing the MPG rating would force a lower towing capacity. Moreover, there are plenty of consumers (moms especially) that look at a car's crash test rating with more scrutiny than fuel efficiency.

I am not arguing that the status quo on fuel efficiency should be acceptable in the future. It won't be, and it shouldn't be. But the best way to increase standards is not to dictate them.

Government should step in where the market would not on its own. What Congress can do, is support a climate which fosters innovation. President Bush should do his part, too. He should work with Congress to encourage continued research by increasing the budgets of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health - two crucial institutions which fund such needed innovation. As material science progresses and steels become stronger and lighter, it will become increasingly easier to construct vehicles even safer and more efficient.

In the meantime, Congress should follow the California model: there, buying a hybrid car qualifies the buyer for a tax refund. Instead of debating bills which would penalize car companies for not meeting efficiency standards by a seemingly arbitrary date, Congress should offer tax refunds to those companies who do.

It's understandable that an increase in gas prices frustrates the consumer. It pinches the expendable income that may otherwise be spent on necessities or leisure activities. Many Democrats have lambasted the oil companies for their profits, arguing they should be

taxed higher and that their profits should be returned to the consumer. To some degree, they are right - an 18.4 cent profit on every gallon may seem a little excessive. Oh sorry. That is what the federal government takes in taxes.

That of course does not include state taxes. As of March 2007, Barack Obama's Illinois takes 52 cents; Hillary Clinton's New York acquires over 60 cents a gallon - the highest in the nation. And what do the big bad oil companies "steal"? Around 13 cents a gallon. This 13 cent per-gallon profit is helping drive the research and testing required to build better cars that Congress demands. It is almost ironic, then, that Democrats wish to take away their research money, and yet still expect better results.

In short, the public sentiment that a smart national strategy would involve less foreign energy dependence is dead-on. However, the move in that direction will be easiest and most efficient when the government and the private sector are working together. Congress should reward smart business models, and it should allow the market, not itself, to decide what "smart" means.

In the meantime, be prepared to pay extra for your corn and dairy. Eventually, if left to its own devices, the market will equilibrate and corn and oil will relocate to their optimum price. Before that happens, though, it may be okay to cry over some spilled milk. ■

*Although Benedict is currently not in the Market either, he actually has an amazingly high approval rating. I mean, what's not to like? Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# Madness to His Method

*The jury is still out on Ron Paul*



by richard badgett  
rwb032000@utdallas.edu

The world is full of angry people who want to blow you up for no good reason. Haha, just kidding! This article is about Ron Paul.

I heard from a friend that I should look into the candidacy of Ron Paul. As it turns out, Ron Paul is insane. His platform is the most quixotic mess I've ever seen. A quick thirty minute jaunt around his website showed me why third party candidates never get elected.

Ron Paul is technically a Republican, but he's a former Libertarian party presidential candidate, and much of his platform is recognizably Libertarian. Some of it though isn't recognizably anything. He supports, among other things, the abandonment of the modern economy and a return to the gold standard; withdrawal from every international organization; increased border security in the form of some kind of physical barrier to discourage immigration; the relinquishing of all American military bases abroad; and the swearing of allegiance to Seamus a magic leprechaun.

OK, so that last one I made up, but this guy's a complete nutter. Or... is he? Well, it's complicated. When you first glance at his agenda, you get the idea that this man is an unhinged loon—a head-in-the-sand isolationist totally out of touch with historical and political reality; however, when you actually take the time to examine his justifications, you occasionally find yourself agreeing with them.

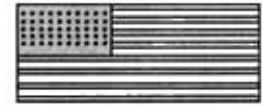
The main crux of Paul's arguments stems from his deep commitment to upholding a fairly strict interpretation of the constitution and his belief in the sanctity of personal freedom. Tough to argue that either of those isn't a noble idea.

For instance, Paul feels that we as a nation should totally withdraw from organizations such as the UN, NATO, NAFTA, and the WTO, just to name a few. This seems, on the face of it, crazy. Why in the world would we abandon all these institutions that we helped to create? Surely something as noble-minded as the United Nations can't pose a threat to American liberty! Only... it can, and it does.

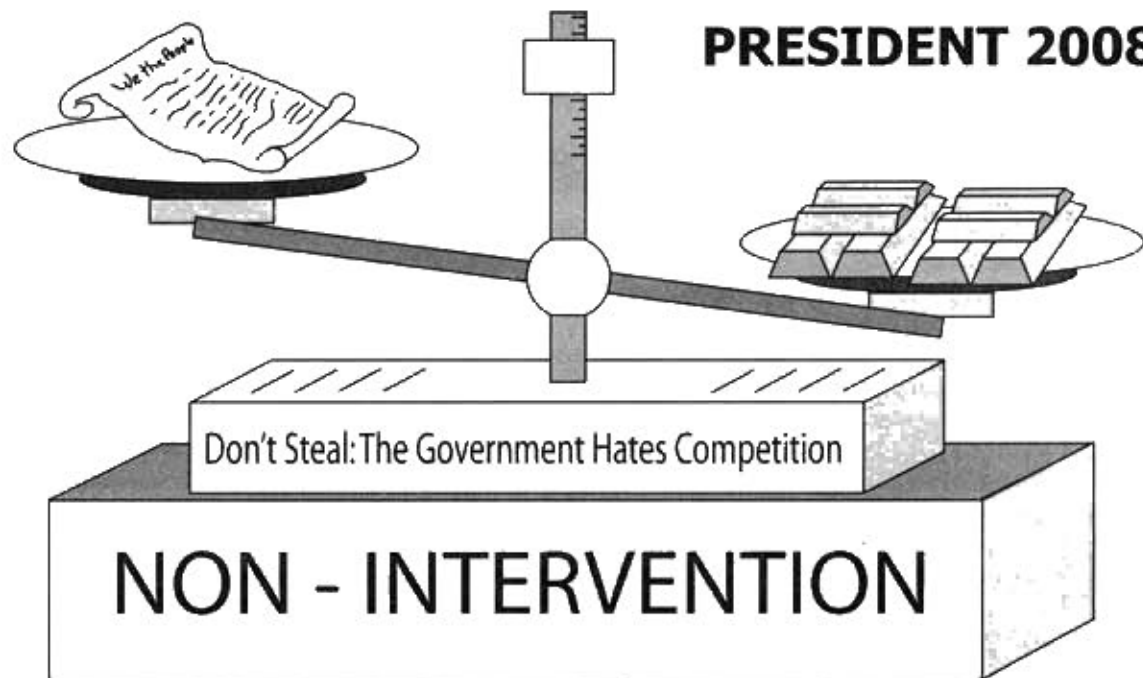
The argument goes something like this: you, as an American citizen, have certain rights. You, as a human being, have certain rights. Among the most basic of these rights is that you CANNOT be forced into service by a government you did not elect.

Imagine Luxembourg and Liechtenstein go to war. To do the fighting, they grab a bunch of kids from

VOTE **RON PAUL**



**PRESIDENT 2008**



Ron Paul has a solid base of non-intervention and libertarian approach. However, voters must weigh his belief in some nontraditional concepts - such as the gold standard - against his other principles. Graphic Art by benedict voigt

Plano, shove rifles in their hands and yell... I don't know, something inflammatory and French. The idea of being sent to fight a war not sanctioned by a government you elected is called impressment, an idea Americans should find no less repugnant today than when we fought a war over nearly 200 years ago.

Another contentious issue Ron Paul takes on is abortion; he's staunchly pro-life. He has no religious motivation whatsoever for believing that abortion is wrong. Rather, he views the issue entirely legalistically.

A child, in this case a fetus, is no less human than its parents, and therefore no less entitled to certain rights, among them the right to LIVE. In an abortion, the rights of the child are consigned to a place beneath those of the parent, essentially making the commitment to the latter's convenience at the cost of the former's existence. Whatever your religious feelings, this argument is difficult to ignore.

When it's all said and done though there's still some stuff that's fairly inexplicable to me. The complete abandoning of our military presence abroad seems pretty whacky. Paul, no doubt addressing an frequent criticism of his position, stresses that we shouldn't be "isolationists" but instead use diplomacy and trade, rather than arms, to achieve our foreign aims. It sounds a bit too Neville Chamberlain for me, and while noble, utterly unrealistic.

While we're on the issue of isolationism, Ron Paul

doesn't want us to withdraw from everything because it may "threaten American sovereignty." His stated reason for wanting to avoid foreign military entanglements is that we don't have enough troops to guard our own country. I'll say that again because this bears repeating. He thinks we need more troops at home guarding our country. Against what?!? If we read further down his site we learn the answer: immigrants.

Ron Paul basically opposes immigration. Not just illegals crossing the border, or as part of a plan to help secure our ports against terrorists. The impression I got from his website is that he genuinely feels people just should not come here. Couple this xenophobia with his complete misunderstanding of a modern economy and it becomes really difficult to support him.

Nevertheless, his platform, while quirky, clearly isn't just the raving of a mad man (a la Pat Buchanan). His positions are actually a thoughtful, systematic attempt to oppose what he views as threats to the sovereignty and freedom of the American public.

Ron Paul is, in his own enigmatic way, more committed to genuine freedom than any modern president, and for that, he shouldn't be simply written off as a fringe candidate. ■

*Richard Badgett, like all good libertarians, could care less about what you think. But tell him anyway!*  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!





# Welcoming an American-French Toast

## When Red, White and Blue equals Bleu, Blanc, et Rouge



by molly wurzer

[molly.wurzer@student.utdallas.edu](mailto:molly.wurzer@student.utdallas.edu)

Freedom fries. French toast. Cheese-eating surrender monkeys. Such comical terms arose with the francophobia resulting from the French opposition to America's involvement in Iraq after the United Nations refused to intervene.

Now, the new president Nicolas Sarkozy promises closer relations with the United States government and President Bush. In fact, they had a successful meeting at Bush's Maine ranch to discuss better relations over a lunch of hot-dogs and hamburgers – there was no mention of French fries on the menu. Today, the French are faced with reconciling their anti-American feelings and their new president.

Under the guise of learning French, I had the opportunity to explore the French culture firsthand this summer. I spent 5 weeks in the Mediterranean beach town of Nice. Here, nearly all my friends were European and I learned quite a bit about the French culture and views on Americans.

First glance seems to imply that I am not American. My hair is not blondish, I am short, I am not fat, and I don't wear an excess of Abercrombie and American Eagle clothing. However, when I opened my mouth, it became obvious that I was indeed American. Almost with a sigh, I would mutter embarrassedly, "oui, je suis americaine," and after further questioning would admit that I was from Texas. No, I don't wear a cowboy hat, don't live on a ranch, don't have a large share in oil, nor do I ride a horse to school.

Inevitably came the barrage of personal accusations blaming me for each shortcoming of President Bush. Among other things, I was told that Americans refuse to talk to anyone who smokes. Yes, we do have a lower tolerance for smoking in enclosed public spaces than the French, who seem particularly lenient in this respect.

Also, I maintain that I am not a barbarian because I defend the right of Americans to possess firearms. (This particular sentiment came about as the result of a vehement argument with a drunk European man – bad idea). It does not mean that I approve of killing people, I promise. Being American occasionally became quite bothersome.

Still, it's no wonder that the French feel this way. American tourists love France, and there are so many of us. Swarming their streets, we speak in our loud, obnoxious American English. We have little respect

for the French language and expect everyone to speak English. We don't learn multiple languages like the Europeans, simply because Americans don't need to.

We are accustomed to immediate and fast service, rather than the laid-back, slow-moving culture of the French. We get frustrated when they close their stores on Sunday, Monday, at lunchtime, at 6 in the evening, and for the entire month of July.

To the French, Americans all seem incredibly rich because – by virtue of the fact that we come on vacation – we are willing to spend tons of money. I have to admit, even I began to resent the "Hawaiian-shirt-wearing, fanny pack-toting, boisterous" American tourist.

For two similar first-world countries, the United States and France find themselves facing several critical cultural divides. However, as we progress into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, these two countries will be competing for the same markets in the global economy and working on the same international crises. It would benefit both the "gun-toting, fat Americans" and the "cheese-eating surrender monkeys" to make a greater attempt at reconciliation. ■

*Molly Wurzer really is a true patriot even if she may not appear to be at first glance.  
Discuss this article at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!*

# LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

19

Hi -

Just thought I'd say that I happened across your alternative newspaper for UTD (old alum here) when Googling something related to the school. What a nice job you guys do. A quick look doesn't indicate a particular rigid left or right viewpoint - just well-written articles & a passionate take on hot-button student topics, organized nicely & apparently with someone on the team having some creative skill on the graphics & website end of things. I have often tended to rely on the online version of the UTD Mercury to occasionally check in with campus happenings, since I live 1300 miles away. It's a tough read though. It seems to be missing the flair, passion and plain hard work (example - the investigative work on the Waterview finances) that is evident with your paper. That doesn't even mention that someone at AMP appears to pay attention to things like spelling and grammar that are a customary focus for journalistic enterprises.

In any case, keep up the good work. It's fun to see that the sleepy little campus has reached a scale that a genuinely lively, student-driven initiative like this has appeared on the scene.

Regards,  
Mike Machin

## From our Website

I'm not defending student government because I don't approve of what they did, but from the comments it is very clear that AMP doesn't give the full story. SG having politics is nothing new; it's been like that since the beginning of time, and it always will be. Every group of people and every organization and every business has politics and drama just like Student Government does, and at the end of the day it doesn't really matter to me. It still does its job. *A Modest Proposal*, on the other hand, does NOT do its job. I can definitely understand people questioning whether it's considered a press organization, because no respectable news outlet should act like this. In my eyes *A Modest Proposal* is no better than the National Enquirer, and I hope that this article will prompt students to read anything AMP publishes with a suspicious eye. Do your own research before you listen to what they say. They might not lie, but they definitely don't tell the whole truth.

(Grammar corrected for readability —Ed.)

AMP is a joke!, "SG Slams door on students" #33

## From our Website

Kim, can you stop writing? Congratulations on bringing to light something that should be obvious to anyone with half a brain: Waterview is a business! Was Bob Utley just supposed to give \$30 million of his money to the University? No... he and UTD did this because he knew he could make serious profit and UTD knew it was the only way to get student housing built. Yeah, a 10% rent increase sucks hardcore, but again, it's business. Why is that so hard to understand? Utley found clever ways to make money and get around the system, good for him, bad for us. I live on campus, I eat the 10% increase and it hurts, but there's nothing we can do about it. But doing all this research into how he does his business and then publishing it to try to stir people up to a cause that is already lost? ...

AMP, you should do an investigative report about why the grass gets watered during rainstorms... I think that's more worthy of our attention.

Layla Emerson, "The Utley Scandal" comment #89

Oh god. You people are full of it... do you really think anyone who makes a difference reads all these comments? I'm sure someone read the article and possibly even passed it on, but not this. A whiny College newspaper is not the forum to bring up changes, and the changes I was specifically talking about before, since again you took my comments out of context, was the policy that International students can not apply for Waterview until they have been accepted or registered for classes. That is something that if you have an issue with it, bring it up with the senate, or the dean. And again, they may not listen to you, because you might not know everything, and if you don't like it, go somewhere else or deal with it.

(Grammar corrected for readability —Ed.)

K, "The Utley Scandal" comment #81

The system needs a massive overhaul. They are all booked out of the weirdest places, often times you can never tell who is actually in charge of that room. If for some reason we are incapable of figuring out an online system (which honestly cannot be that difficult) there should be at minimum a sign in each available room saying who to contact to book it.

Amber, "Room for Improvement" comment #1

This just goes to show that not everyone in positions of power should be trusted. Just because something comes from the District Attorney's office, or from *A Modest Proposal* for that matter, does NOT mean it should be trusted. In this case, the media caused a huge amount of damage to peoples' lives because of how they distorted the truth.

This story should serve as a lesson to everyone that the media (national, AMP, whatever) are NOT here to report news: they are here to sensationalize it so they can increase their readership and generate more advertising revenues.

Let them point out what the issues are, but make your own informed decisions!

Let This Be A Lesson, "Caught in Lacrosse Fire" comment #2

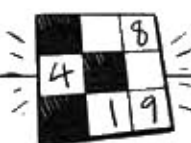
Dear Dr. Daniel:

Thank you for your very diplomatic response. You told us in so many ways that you would give an explanation without ever actually explaining. I would appreciate it if you would write an actual reply rather than discuss the fact that you are indeed willing to reply.

Respectfully inquiring,  
A Student.

E.E. Student in Waterview, "The Utley Scandal" comment #86





by benedict voit

benedict.voit@student.utdallas.edu



and jessie harpham

jessica.harpham@student.utdallas.edu

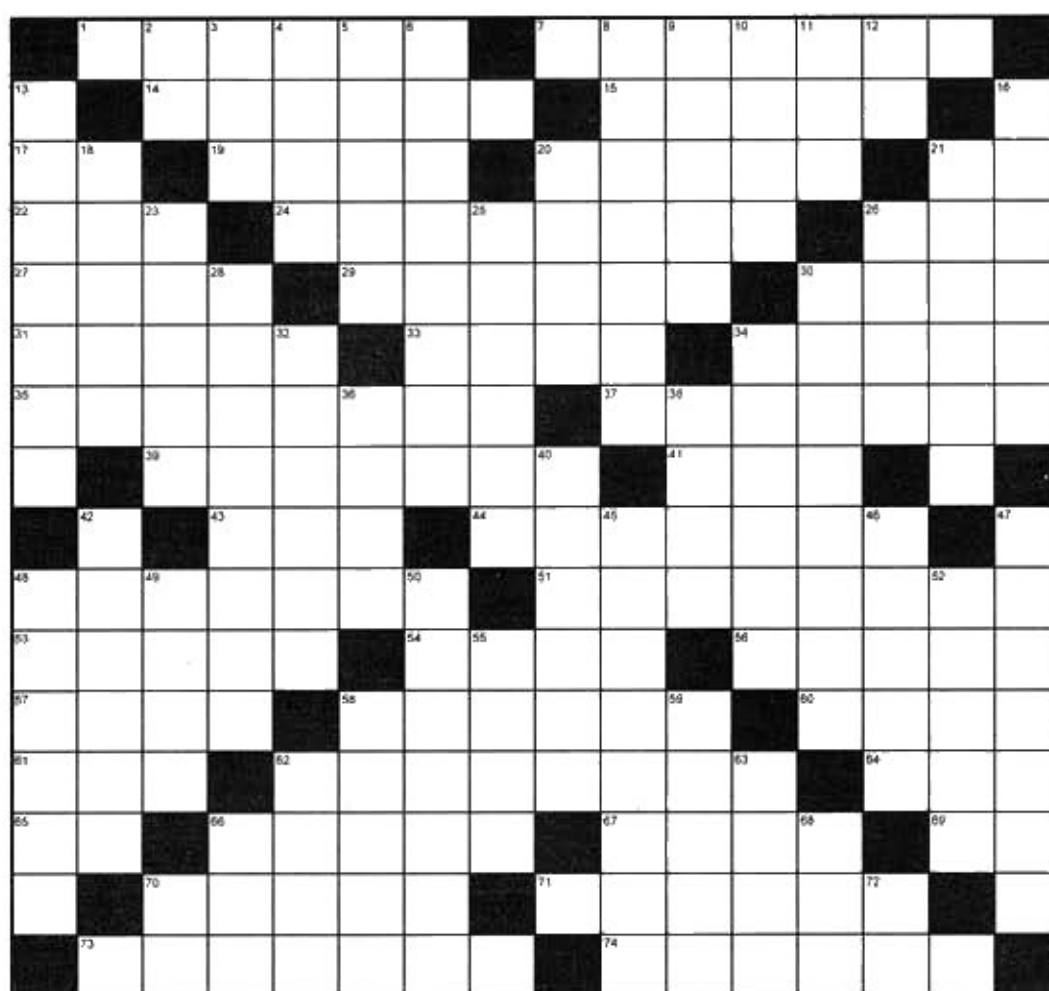
## Gettin' Edu-ma-cated

### Across

1. Mother Superior of Nuns
7. Rand-\_\_\_\_\_, Publisher
14. Position
15. *Iliad* author, or a result of Steroids
17. "How do you like me now?" sing, abbr.
19. \_\_\_\_ - but I'm 'tahler'
20. Pointed towards
21. Green means this
22. Read only storage, abbr.
24. Ancient warrior
26. Early Programming Language
27. Hawaiian Island
29. What our stories should be
30. Something you are shown
31. North of Campus
33. The -stans belonged to this
34. Angel antithesis
35. Keanu Reeves film
37. Inspiring
39. Measure separation
41. A pro or a hotshot
43. Type of bread
44. To be looked at
48. Franklin's Annual Publication
51. Negative subtraction
53. Dateless guys at a party
54. Far-left org.
56. Very small
57. Head-bugs
58. City of Cornell University
60. Digital Library, abbr.
61. Uncle, in Glasgow
62. Deodorant placement
64. Scooby!
65. "\_\_\_\_ Sports - it's in the game!"
66. Provide with permanent income
67. Group with the same goal
69. Bis. is this state's capital
70. Comprises half of AV
71. Over 65
73. Type of Engine
74. Didn't the Lord deliver him?

### Down

2. Offered Type of Degree
3. Unit of Energy
4. What one does for nourishment
5. Alan Rickman character
6. Lists times and places
8. A fanciful mental illusion
9. Wanderer
10. Can I get one of these?
11. Played the first card
12. 103<sup>rd</sup> Element, abbr.
13. Waste away
16. (David) Webb's assigned name (he discovers)
18. Eats eucalyptus leaves
20. Theater, music, paintings
21. Depressing
23. Broken piece of glass
25. Separate theater seats
26. ¿\_\_\_\_ se dice, "how"?
28. Being this is a restriction
30. Abandoned
32. Group of for-female doctors
34. Guile, fraud, trickery
36. The result when pie are squared
38. 5 down's weapon of choice
40. A multiplier
42. "Bless Me, \_\_\_\_" - Anaya novel
45. You hope your professors are this
46. Give in, or a cautious go
47. No specific person
48. Typical body state
49. UTD's is presented at Convocation
50. Garfield's house entrance
52. Has layers, like an Ogre
55. Teeth function
58. The sub-continent
59. Reunion \_\_\_\_ (pre-AA center that is)
62. CTRL-Z
63. Street name in every town
66. European Union Bank, abbr.
68. Me to Sarkozy
70. One of the articles
72. Email header for reply



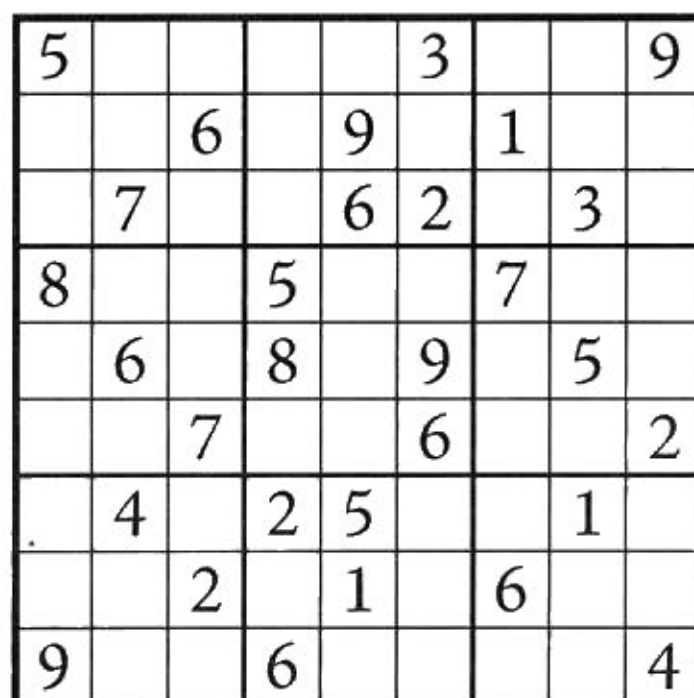
Don't find yourself puzzled? Paying too much attention in class? Send suggestions of other puzzles to [amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com), or check us out: <http://amp.utdallas.edu>

# BAM!

Because we're just this good

# Sudoku

Difficulty:  
Oklahoma (+1)



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

# Kakuro

	4	11		22	17		11	14	6	
6			7	16			8			8
20						23				
	5	12			11			3		
13			24		10				7	17
	9			19	8			21		
						35				
	12	5	17		10	31				
18					9	8			3	7
	13		28					15	5	
			24							
	3	13	10		13	16				
17						14	14			6
	18			7			10			15
			30				10			
	11	7	25				10	13		
			12			9	6		16	9
12					34					
					4					9

Difficulty: UT Austin



# Sudoku

Difficulty: UT Dallas

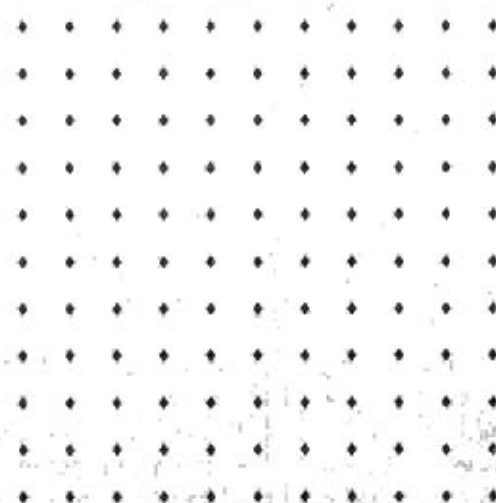


		7	6			8		
					2			
		6		3		4	7	
			3		7		4	8
				5				
6	5		8		1			
	3	5		8		6		
			1					
		4			6	2		

Difficulty: Texas Tech



## Two-player Games



**Directions:** Take turns connecting two dots together with a line. When you create a box by closing the 4th side of it, you get one point and take another turn. (You must take this turn.) Create the most boxes to win!



**Directions:** Place a number (1-10) in each box. Each row of boxes adds up to the number to the left of it, each column of boxes adds up to the number above it. Each numeral is used only once in each series of boxes. This puzzle has only one solution.

AMP is not responsible for GPA loss due to obsessive puzzle solving.  
If your professor catches you in a puzzling state, either frown or ask him to join.  
Discuss these puzzles at [amp.utdallas.edu](http://amp.utdallas.edu)!



# OLD PEOPLE HAVING SEX!

'Not in my chocolate factory'



'For real?!'



This Cruise  
Ship ain't  
rocking  
from the  
waves



THE MOST  
TRUSTED NEWS  
ON THE PLANET

# URANUS

## Student escapes wilds of UTD jungle!

- Evening stroll to Library becomes month long ordeal
- Presence of actual flora, fauna on campus too much to resist
- Ravaged, dirty adventurer confused with typical CS major



NO WATERVIEW ARTICLES THIS ISSUE  
AMP editor "inconsolable"

### Oh Crap!!!



Karl Rove to  
Advise New SG

September 2007

\$0.00 US / \$0.01 Canada



A MODEST PROPOSAL

[amodestproposal@gmail.com](mailto:amodestproposal@gmail.com)

Only in URANUS...

### Chinese Toys



### LOL



## Beckham's ankle better; LA Galaxy not

Los Angeles to throw Beckham a Boston-Style Tea Party

After the Los Angeles poured millions of dollars onto the British hot-star, they were excited about his prospects.

However, taken in by Hollywood's allure, Beckham paused his soccer career to star in "Break it Like Beckham."

Returning to the field last month, Beckham's soccer skills have proved worse than his acting.

## Water Polo Team Mired in Abuse Controversy

Waterview Maintenance declared the Phase III pool out of service upon the discovery of several half-floating horses in the water. The Water Polo Team is suspected to be the culprit.

While most of the Water Polo Team refused to comment, captain Ben Connors did add: "As they say, you can lead a horse to water, but it's awfully tough to drown the son-of-a-bitch."

Maintenance reacted swiftly to the crisis, placing the horses inside a nearby apartment. The air filter was also replaced.

## Huge Construction project planned for Exam Week

Not to outdue the "Welcome Back to School" construction that negated any use of the walkway from ECS to the mall, the manager of UTD construction has announced that they are saving the good stuff for November.

"We're planning to essentially re-pour the entire mall," he added. "Of course it doesn't need it, but it sure will look like we're working hard."

Students will also find their evening study sessions affected, as the team has purchased an enormous jackhammer to run continuously outside the library.

# Harry Potter Spoilers

Caution: Spoiler Alert

After the startling news that Severus Snape indeed kills Dumbledore, fans of the Harry Potter book series have learned to expect the unexpected from author J. K. Rowling. Not one to disappoint, Ms. Rowling unloaded a bevy of surprises in the 7th and final installment of the books.

Though most people called the fact that Cho Chang will still be worthless, many teenage girls and horses were devastated at Harry snogging Ron by page 62. When asked to comment, Rowling simply stated, "Come on, they walk around all day playing with their wands. You had to see it coming."

Continuing, Ginny's the eggman, Ron is the walrus, Hagrid's a cross dresser, one of the twins gets mauled by a white tiger, Hermione cheated on her OWLS, Bruce Willis is dead the entire time, and "Avada Kadavra" is Voldemort's childhood sled.

Furthermore, Ron's pet rat, Scabbers, is the mutant offspring of the Ninja Turtles' star teacher Shredder.

However, in a not-so-original twist, Voldemort devastates Harry when he reveals during an intense duel that he was both Harry's father all along, and an avid Houston Texans fan.

Ashamed of his daddy's horrible taste in sporting teams, Harry leaves the fight to go weep in the corner. Lacking their



Harry and Hermoine promised not to tell when they stumbled across Hagrid (shown above) in the Forbidden Forest.

hero, the Order of the Phoenix wishes back Dumbledore with seven Dragon Balls.

In the climactic scene, Dumbledore kills Voldemort in the library with a candlestick, after exclaiming, "I'm tired of these mother f-ing Slytherins, in this mother f-ing castle!" ■

## Utah votes for 2012 Candidate

"Up Yours, Iowa," commissioner notes

Salt Lake City (AMP) - As the race to define the Presidential Primary Season heats up, a plethora of states have moved their Primary Election voting dates up in the calendar year in attempts to beat out the others.

Some state constitutions even require they hold their primaries before others.

Utah, never a big player in Presidential politics, has been tired of its inconsequential place in the queue.

To "get back at those selfish \*@#s!s," the state commission happily announced it had succeeded in lobbying the legislature to pass a new bill mandating a primary votes "at least four years and 6 days before the national Presidential election."

"We are pleased to stand before you today

and proclaim that Utah will be the go-to State of the Country," the commission's chair Jerry Mander boasted. "On the first Tuesday of 2008, Utah will decide the 2012 candidate."

When asked why the random six days were included, "we like the whole Tuesday thing" was the only reply.

Current 2008 Presidential candidates have already travelled to Utah as a "just-in-case" strategy. "I figure, after I win in 2008, having Utah nominate me again will just make re-election easier," Mitt Romney noted.

Iowa's Legislature, not to be outdone, is currently discussing the potential boycott of the 2012 election.

It remains up to Utah to prove itself, once again, Presidentially inconsequential. ■



# Michael Vick to guest host Blue's Clues

"He'll make a killing in this market," say fans

by D'Brickshaw  
Cunnigham  
Sports Reporter

Hollywood (AMP) - In an attempt to clean up his image after pleading guilty to animal cruelty and high-stakes betting, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick has teamed up with television network Nickelodeon to guest-host their popular series "Blue's Clues" for a few weeks.

"As a quarterback, I spent my Sundays always looking for open receivers and breaks in the defense, and I never gave it less than 100%. I think I can bring that kind of conviction to a kids' show, where the name of the game is finding clues," said Vick, dressed in a sharp suit following a recent court appearance.

"Plus, I think this'll be a nice place to hang my shoes for a little while—you know, take a dunk in some unfamiliar waters and see how it goes."

Vick, who has seen his popularity take a drastic nosedive since evidence appeared of him killing dogs and using others in brutal contests, still thinks he has a chance among a younger audience who idolized him.

"I think it's way too early to say I've kicked the bucket in terms of my career. I'm not the type of guy to cut and run, leave his fans up in the air and out to dry. My young fans, my kids, I'm betting on them to fight for me in the arena of public opinion."

"They've got the kind of stubborn faith in me that can keep you when everyone else seems to be putting their money down on you rolling over and giving up," Vick stated.

The show, which consists of a cute blue dog and a human host attempting to solve various puzzles, has been a staple of children's television over the past few years, but recent times have seen a drop



Michael Vick, Blue, and a sad bucket go to accomplish unspeakable things.

in popularity. Network executives hope that the introduction of Vick will give the show a needed boost in viewers.

"Mike's agents approached us and asked if there was any way to give him an opportunity to help make amends for his actions. While it may be a sort of cruel irony that 'Blue's Clues' was the show we needed a new host for, I think we'll see a side of Michael Vick that has been hidden from most people, a side that wouldn't fly in the NFL," said one Nickelodeon staff member.

Early attempts at promotional pictures featuring Vick playfully strangling Blue met with a strong negative reaction from test audiences. A new advertising theme—"Take a Gamble on Finding Fun!"—has yet to be released.

"For all those people who thought I was through, I got some bad news for you: I ain't dead yet," said Vick with a smile. ■

## Uranus discovers discarded UTD Police Blotter

What's really been happening on campus the past few weeks

June 27

■ A vehicle parked near two stationary police vehicles was issued a citation for totally stealing our thunder in a bitchin' Camaro. Chicks aren't gonna talk to us with that kind of sweet ride nearby.

July 12

■ Residents of Waterview Park Apartments (WP) were informed by officers of their refrigerators running. Upon further questioning, the residents were told they'd better catch up with them.

July 17

■ A student reported the theft of a large amount of marijuana from their apartment. After making sure to bring a camera to our response, we're totally going to be on the next episode of 'World's Dumbest Criminals.' So stoked. Guy looks stunned.

August 10

■ A student reported a disturbance in the Force. It was a presence he hadn't felt since... (dramatic turn)

August 21

■ A report cited skinny dipping in the Phase VIII pool. All on patrol agreed this to be a serious crime and all male officers immediately rushed to the scene. Chess Team quickly fled upon their arrival.